



# Hybrid Conference

## Enhancing Career Readiness and Transition Competencies

**Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> 2022**  
8:30-13:45

**Jean Monnet Amphitheatre**  
University of Nicosia

Organisers:



# PROGRAMME

8:30–9:00	<b>Welcome – registration</b>
9:00–9:15	<b>Opening speeches</b>
9:15–9:45	<b>Dr Maria Siopacha</b> , Director, UNIC Career Success Centre <i>Freshmen students' career readiness and the UNIC approach</i>
9:45–10:30	<b>Fotini Vlachaki</b> , Careers & Social Inclusion Expert – Researcher MSc, PhDc, Greece <i>Career-Ready? Career readiness competencies in the globalised labour market</i>
10:30–11:15	<b>Anthony Mann</b> , Senior Policy Analyst (Education and Skills) – OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (France) <i>What works in career guidance? Insights from new international longitudinal evidence</i>
11:15–11:30	<b>Discussion</b>
11:30–12:00	<b>Break</b>
12:00–12:45	<b>Dr Mika Launikari</b> , Career Guidance and Knowledge Development Expert at Laurea University of Applied Sciences, Helsinki, Finland <i>CREAR – Career, Resilience, Education, Agency and Readiness digital tool enabling career transitions</i>
12:35–12:55	<b>Cynthia Harrison</b> , Cedefop CareersNet coordinator, lifelong guidance project expert and <b>Ernesto Villalba</b> , Expert Department of VET and Skills, Cedefop <i>Systems and policies supporting adults' career readiness</i>
13:15–13:45	<b>Panel Discussion – Q&amp;As</b>
13:45	<b>End of the conference</b>

# SPEAKERS



**Maria Siopacha**

Director, Career Success  
Centre, UNIC  
BSc, MSc, PhD

Maria Siopacha (Director, Career Success Centre, UNIC): BSc studies in Mathematics, MSc and PhD in Financial Mathematics. She studied in Greece (where she comes from), UK and Vienna, Austria. She started her banking career in Athens, before she was promoted and joined the Treasury Department. After working for a German bank in Market Risk Management, she joined for four years the Raiffeisen Bank International in Vienna, where she was developing the Internal Market Risk Model. After that, she joined the UBS AG headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland, in 2011, as a Director and spent a couple of years in model development of statistical economic capital models. She was promoted to Head Model Confirmation & Governance within the statistical risk aggregation methodology team becoming responsible for confirming the output figures of the Pillar 2 economic capital models and monitoring that model performance and model output is fit-for-purpose so that the statistical models can be used for risk measurement/equity attribution/risk appetite framework. From January 2018 to June 2018 she was appointed as the Local Supervisor of the Risk Methodology team in Krakow, Poland. In July 2019 she joined the University of Nicosia as the Director of the Career Success Centre.



**Fotini Vlachaki**

MSc, PhDc, Greece

Careers and Social Inclusion Expert – Researcher and Adult Trainer MSc, PhDc at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens – Department of Psychology with long experience in career practitioners' training as well as the development of career guidance services and tools targeted to students, young people and adults. She has been the Director of Career Guidance at the National Center for Vocational Orientation (EKEP) and at the National Organization for the Certification of Qualifications and Vocational Guidance (EOPPEP) in Greece. Currently she works at the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in the field of social and labour market inclusion of vulnerable groups. She is a Cedefop CareersNet expert for Greece and a Member of the Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues (ADI-ROM) – Council of Europe.



**Anthony Mann**

Senior policy analyst,  
Organisation for Economic  
Co-operation and  
Development

Anthony Mann is a senior policy analyst at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development where he leads work on how schools can best prepare young people for their transitions into work. The OECD Career Readiness project has drawn on international longitudinal datasets to identify career-related predictors of better adult employment outcomes: [oecd.org/education/career-readiness/](https://oecd.org/education/career-readiness/). He is currently working on how guidance systems can respond effectively to social inequalities, enable progression towards green jobs and make best use of digital technologies. Previously, he led the OECD's work on Vocational Education and Training and worked for many years at the UK Department for Education. On twitter, he is @AnthonyMannOECD.

# SPEAKERS



**Mr Mika Launikari**

Ph.D. and M.Sc.Econ.  
Career Guidance and  
Knowledge Development  
Expert at Laurea University  
of Applied Sciences,  
Helsinki, Finland

Mika Launikari (PhD and MSc Econ.) has been working in the field of career guidance and competence development since 1995. Currently he is employed at the Laurea University of Applied Sciences in Finland. There his duties include research, innovation and development in the areas of lifelong guidance and digital skills. During his professional career he has been involved in international cooperation in the fields of education, training and employment (policy, research, practice, professional development) with European Union institutions (European Commission, Cedefop, European Training Foundation, etc.) and European networks (Euroguidance, European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network, European Employment Services, Europass, etc.). For five years (2007–2012) he worked for the European Union agency Cedefop, where he was in charge of lifelong guidance and entrepreneurship learning, and in 2019 he worked in Brussels on the European Commission's new Europass online platform on lifelong learning and career development. In 2019, he successfully defended his doctoral dissertation entitled 'Homo interculturalis – Identity, interculturality and career learning within EU institutions' at the University of Helsinki (Faculty of Educational Sciences). See also [www.launikari.eu](http://www.launikari.eu)



**Cynthia M. Harrison**

Project manager, network  
coordinator, Cedefop

Cynthia is responsible for lifelong guidance project at Cedefop, part of a team of experts working in career guidance, validation of informal and non-formal learning, and financing VET and adult learning, within the VET support policy area, Department for VET and Skills at Cedefop – the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training. She coordinates CareersNet, Cedefop's network of independent experts in lifelong guidance and career development. Cynthia has also been engaged previously in research and project activities in social inclusion, civic competence, career aspirations and school leadership.



**Ernesto Villalba**

Expert Department of VET  
and Skills, Cedefop

Ernesto Villalba is an expert at the European Center for the Development of Vocational Education and Training (Cedefop) since 2011. He is working in the area of career guidance and on validation of non-formal and informal learning. Before joining Cedefop he worked as a scientific officer at the Center for Research on Lifelong Learning (CRELL) at the Joint Research Center of the European Commission, contributing to the Education and Training Monitoring (former, progress report towards Lisbon objectives) and carrying research in the area of transversal skills and its measurement. Ernesto has served in different committees and working groups of the OECD, UNESCO and the European Commission. He holds a Ph.D. in International and Comparative Education from Stockholm University. He is in the editorial board the European Journal of Education.