



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNITWIN Network
• “Life Designing Interventions
(counseling, guidance, education)
for decent work and sustainable development”

MINUTES OF UNITWIN UNESCO NETWORK MEETING: 2 JULY 2019

Present: Jacques Pouyaud, Gabriela Aisenson, Jonas Masdonati, Kobus Maree, Valérie Cohen-Scali, Michelle Vital, and Christian Heslon.

1. Round table.

All participants elaborated on matters related to their networks, including participants and their activities.

a. Jacques Pouyaud (University of Bordeaux) is the sole project and network member at his University. He collaborates with colleagues from other institutions and recently initiated a new project with colleagues affiliated with the Baptist University of Hong Kong. They use a community-based approach in the social work field with NEETS youth with disabilities and social difficulties. They are endeavouring to develop the idea of “expanded work” to build a capability society; an idea that is closely related to the decent work perspective. They may be interested to join the network in the future. It may be a great idea since the UNITWIN Network has no partners in Asia.

b. Guðbjörg Vilhjálmsdóttir (University of Iceland) also mostly works alone most of the time but she does involve coworkers from time to time. Her network may be extended to drop-out-specialists and social workers in the future. The topic of working youth with low education levels is of interest to her and she believes that many of research opportunities related to this field may arise in the future. Likewise, new members (unions or firms) may be interested in participating with her.

c. Gabriela Aisenson (University of Buenos Aires) works with a team of eight people as well as with PhD students. Her group runs a program with young people in correctional facilities (aged 18 and leaving home), attempting to help them find work. They have several projects that relate their network.

d. Jonas Masdonati (University of Lausanne) is the ESVDC representative. He participates in several projects related to his network. Jonas represents Jerome Rossier at this meeting.

e. Kobus Maree (University of Pretoria) explains that while the idea of decent work is embraced by many in (South) Africa, some people are inclined to doubt the applicability of the construct in African contexts and have recommended a rethink of aspects of the definition of the construct “decent work”. Kobus collaborates with a number of colleagues on two projects that relate to the application of life design-based intervention with first-year applicants as well as adult women from disadvantaged communities. A third project is underway, involving life design-based intervention with adult workers in the merSETA sector. All three projects have provisionally yielded extremely promising outcomes.

d. Christian Heslon (Western Catholic University, France) reported that two people are involved in their network (the other being Laurence Cocandeau). He works on subjective age and identity. Jointly with Jérôme, Gabriela, and others, Christian recently contributed a chapter to a UNESCO book titled *The Futures of Education* (to appear at the end of 2019). Moreover, in March 2019, he presented a workshop for vocational counsellors in Madagascar.

e. Louise Michelle Vital (Lesley University) is an Assistant Professor of International Higher Education. She is one of eight participants from her university involved in their network. Her research includes global student access, persistence, and success in higher education and the Haitian context. She would be willing to integrate Haiti and her partnerships in the Caribbean as a context to be studied in the network.

f. Valérie Cohen-Scali (Cnam) collaborates with two colleagues at Cnam, mainly on research related to the representations of work of low-educated youth. They have conducted and adapted the “decent work questionnaire” and have voiced new concerns about an educational approach to career counseling in secondary schools.





United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNITWIN Network
• "Life Designing Interventions
(counseling, guidance, education)
for decent work and sustainable development"

2. Unitwin Website

The group perused the website.

Some suggestions that were made include that the list of publications should be updated regularly. Each time a new publication sees the light, authors should convey details to Mégane Pittet. In fact, the entire website must be updated regularly. The same applies for the News section.

3. Projects

Valérie Cohen-Scali reported on her project on representations of work and the presentation of the special Issue in the *Emerging Adulthood Journal*. The participants shared ideas about how to go ahead with this project. Some ideas include: Increase the number of interviews per country; involve more countries; elaborate on the interview guidelines by requesting more information on reasons for precariousness; and conceptualize a book project aimed at gathering all possible information on this specific population as well as on the role of the quality of work on identity construction.

Kobus Maree reported that the *African Journal of Career Development* is inviting more manuscripts for its inaugural issue on decent work (authors do not pay page fees). The deadline for submission has been extended to 1 November.

4. Bylaws

Seven from the eight participants participated in the voting process (Jonas abstained from voting)

The bylaws were read and the first suggestion that was made was that delegates must be clearly identified on the website.

Some other suggestions were made regarding inactive partners, leading to a vote being taken on two points:

- **The first related to article 7 (point 3).** A unanimous vote was cast. Additions appear in **bold**. **Article 7.3 now read as follows:** "At *the request of the coordinator*, all members shall submit annual reports on actions taken to achieve the goals of the network. The partners shall submit brief annual reports on actions taken to achieve the goals of the network. **These reports are compulsory. Non-compliance will result in automatic exclusion from the network after a period of four years**".
- **A second vote was cast in relation to article 2 (point 2):** Here, too, a unanimous vote was cast. **Article 2.2 now reads:** "The role of the AD will be to develop the program of activities, promote the Network, and create a research agenda as a work-in-progress"

A vote was then cast on the whole document titled "Bylaws" (including the modifications listed above). Here, too, a unanimous vote was cast.

5. Working groups

Several working groups have already been proposed and it is expected that few more will be added.





United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



UNITWIN Network
• “Life Designing Interventions
(counseling, guidance, education)
for decent work and sustainable development”

6. Next meetings

The next meeting will take place in Lausanne. A provisional program was presented and the AD agrees with its contents.

Two proposals were considered regarding the possibility of a meeting during a scholarly Congress in 2020, namely Prague (July 19-24) and Cancun, Mexico (December 14-17). The majority of the ADs seemed interested in attending the Mexico Congress instead of the Prague one.

