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### **European projects and Covid 19: A call to resilience**

It is undeniable that the pandemic has affected everyone's lives in many ways. Also European projects founded by EU are strongly affected by the impossibility for the various teams to meet in person and carry out the activities as planned. Researchers are called to be resilient and find new way of interacting online to achieve the expected goals. This is what I'm experiencing in the EU project *Connect!*. This project aims to connect career guidance and counselling (CGC) on the one hand and human resource development (HRD) in enterprises on the other hand for higher education and training in practice. Based on the project outcomes as defined by the project partners (Germany, Italy, Austria, Nederland, Serbia, Greece), the most fruitful resources developed will be retained, categorized and shared with individuals in academia and in the private sector over a three-year period. The project is expected to enhance career guidance, counselling and coaching, as well as related forms of support for employers and their employees.

Despite the pandemic the teams are continuing to work by setting up a series of online meetings that have a shorter duration than face-to-face meetings but are more frequent. This allow the groups discuss the steps taken, plan the next ones and be effective in moving forward expected goals.

At the moment the groups, after having defined the research protocol, are committed to interviewing HR and career counsellors. Creating a network of interested stakeholders during the pandemic was not easy for many teams, and each had to adapt the data

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collection methods to their country situation. As regards the Italian team, for example, we are proceeding with interviews via zoom. Giving a voice to professionals and gathering their point of view in this difficult moment seems to be very appreciated as, as one participant said, 'it makes us feel less alone and values people'. This is true also for researchers who had the opportunity to start and maintain resilient relationships from their homes.

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