

Declaration on Mentoring in Europe

Having met at the European Mentoring Summit in Leeuwarden, the Netherlands on 16th-18th of March 2016, we, as a group of practitioners, funders, researchers and scholars, working at different institutions from over ten countries, declare that we will participate in and contribute to the

European Center for Evidence-Based Mentoring.

Aim of the Center

The Center is dedicated to appraising and using the evidence we have, and to conducting rigorous and practice-oriented research on mentoring programmes and practices. In doing so, we seek to advance the production, dissemination, and uptake of evidence-based practices in ways that improve the effectiveness of practice and, ultimately, create stronger, more enduring mentoring relationships.

Mentoring helps deliver positive outcomes

Mentoring is applicable in diverse cultural settings. It is a practical approach:

- Voluntary and responsible contribution to the development of a person;
- Mentee-Mentor relationships with reciprocal value;
- A new form of apprenticeship.

Mentoring is scalable and has social impact

Effectiveness increases with implementing proven methods and tools. Quality improves through scaffolding, specific training, and good programme management. There are best practices and methods available that can be turned into training and implementation approaches for regions and cities that want to become more vital and productive.

Mentoring creates direct and potential value

Mentoring can play an important role in tackling diverse urgent societal and economic challenges, such as:

- Social inclusion and cohesion
- Active and responsible citizenship
- Decrease of school drop-outs
- Talent development
- Utilizing experience expertise
- Sustainable employability
- Strengthening entrepreneurship
- Intercultural and intergenerational cooperation
- lifelong learning

Goals in five years

We strive to accomplish the following goals:

- Develop a strong network of mentoring programmes and research institutions;
- Conduct rigorous research on mentoring programmes and practices, in order to improve our understanding of when, why, and for whom mentoring does (not) work;
- Improve the translation of evidence into programme, practice, and policy;
- Use multidisciplinary and multilevel research approach.