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Lessons from an Erasmus Plus Project

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The Power of the Network



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Research Careers

Declaration on Sustainable Researcher Careers

- 24th February, 2019: MCAA symposium on career paths of researchers
- 400+ researchers discussed key issues and factors influencing sustainable research careers
- Internal consultations within MCAA, and Eurodoc
- Published on 27 May 2019







http://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3194228

1. Provide sustainable career prospects for researchers

Problem:

- Short-term, doctoral and postdoctoral research funding
- Limited long-term career options in academia
- Decision to leave academia often postponed until the last minute

- Long-term, predictable, and sustainable funding
- Early involvement of potential future, non academic employers
- Implementing career progress tracking systems







2. Deploy career management services at organisations employing researchers

Problem:

- Little guidance on (alternative) career opportunities
- Institutions and research supervisors need to be transparent about potential employment opportunities
- Stress: available organizational support is still far from sufficient

- Deploy services for career management to support individual career pathways
- Career guidance should be present early in the doctoral program
- Researchers need to be trained to reflect on their own skill set







3. Put more emphasis on transferable skills training and recognition

Problem:

- Mismatch between academic and non-academic skill sets
- Transferable skills are critical to strengthen integrity and employability
- Researchers need to speak the non-academic language

- Enrich researcher training with transferable skills training
- Excellence in transferable skills and community engagement should be part of researchers' regular performance evaluation
- Dedicated deliverables in research projects









4. Provide wide variety of networking options and services in and outside of academia

Problem:

- High level of specialisation results in mental and physical isolation
- Building networks outside academia often depends on individual proactivity
- Non-EU researchers working in the EU are in a particularly difficult situation

- Support researchers' inter- and intra-sectoral mobility
- Systematic organisational support
- Support in bridging cultural differences











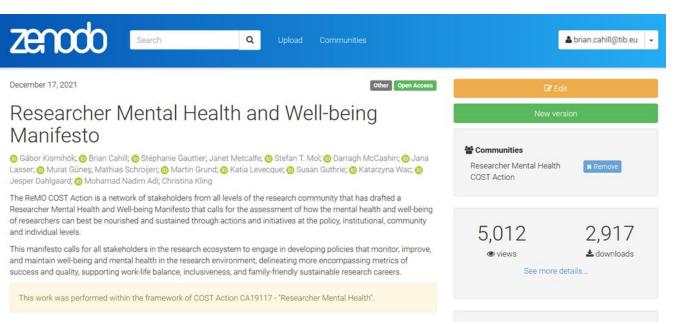
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Researcher Mental Well-being



Researcher Mental Health and Well-being Manifesto





https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5559806



Recommendations and Action Plan on three levels



https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5559806



Call for Researcher Empowerment



https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5559806



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OSCAR

Online, Open Learning recommendations and mentoring towards Sustainable research CAReers (OSCAR, E+ KA203)

Budget: 450k Eur Duration: 36 months Start: 09.2020



Providing personalised training on researcher mental health and career development by using Al based learning recommendations and online mentoring



Intellectual Outputs (IOs)



- IO1: Online training and mentoring principles for mental health and career management
- IO2: Open, Dynamic, Labour Market Information Based Curriculum and Learning Content Recommendations
- IO3: Researcher Mental Health Training and Mentoring Programme
- IO4: Researcher Career Development Training and Mentoring Programme
- IO5: Online Researcher Mental Health and Career Management Training and Mentoring Pilots
- IO6: Learning and Mentoring Evaluation and Exploitation



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Results



https://projects.tib.eu/oscar-ai/results/



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Personal Learning Environment



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http://edoer.eu/

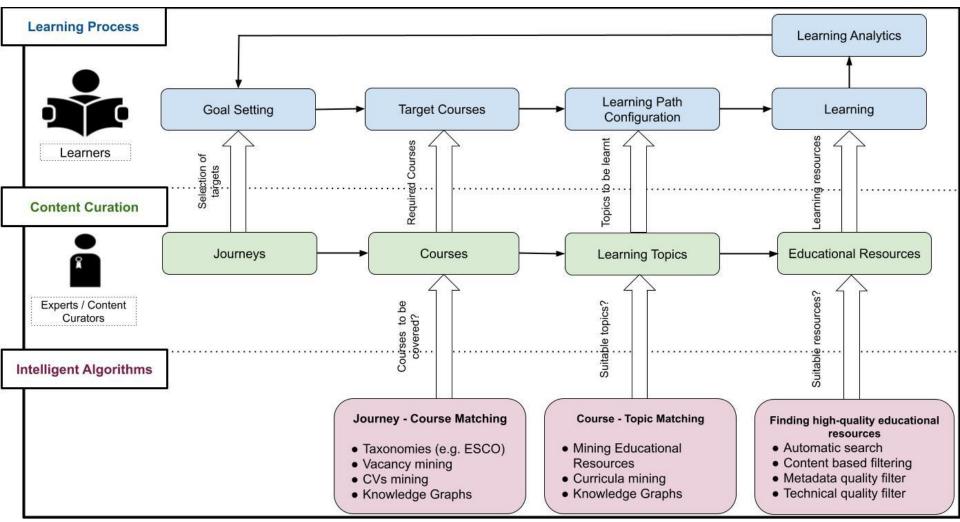
Open, community based, Al-driven learning platform

Concept Overview



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http://oscar-ai.eu/

Online, open learning recommendations and mentoring towards Sustainable research CAReers;



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Learning Content Recommendations

Hasan Abu Rasheed (Uni-Siegen)

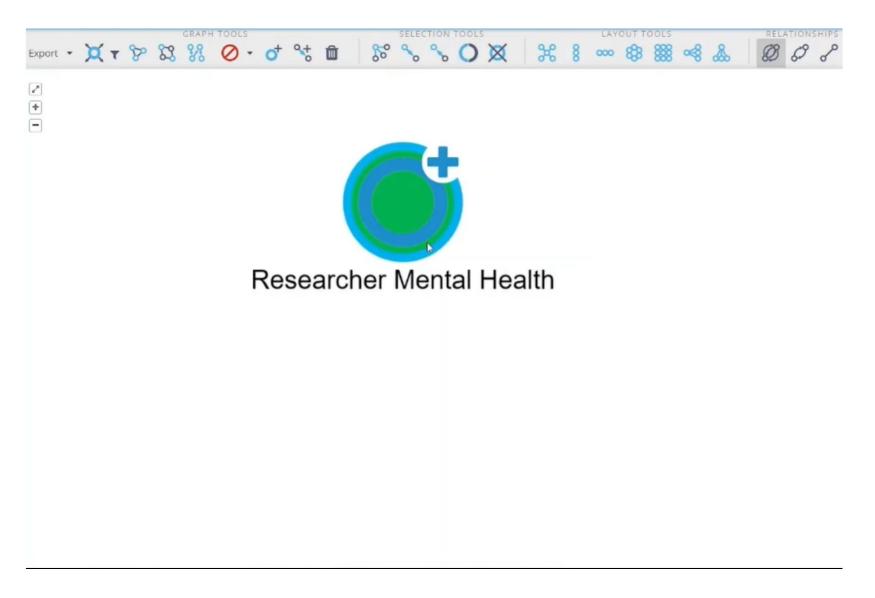


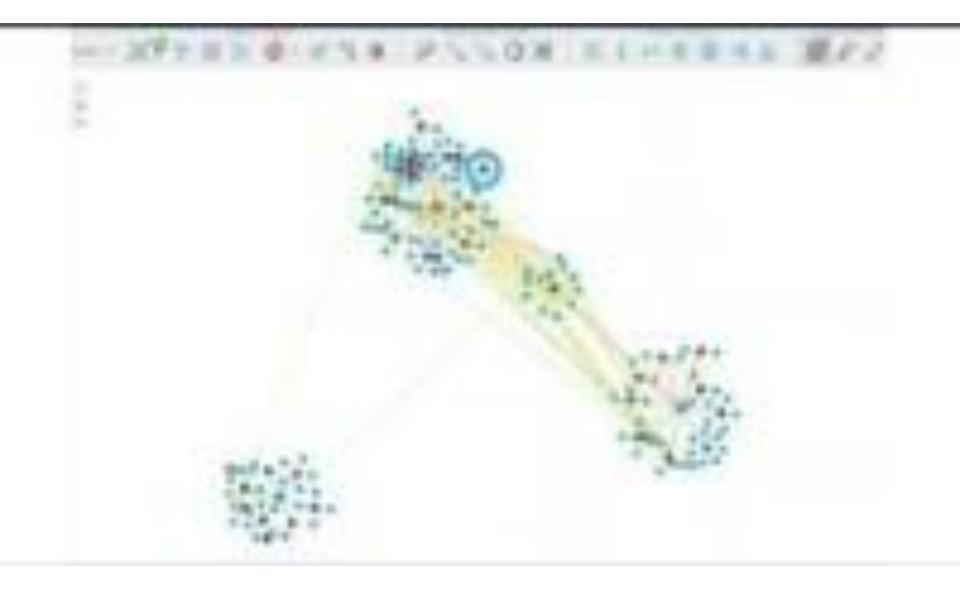
OSCAR Knowledge Graph and Graph-based Recommender System



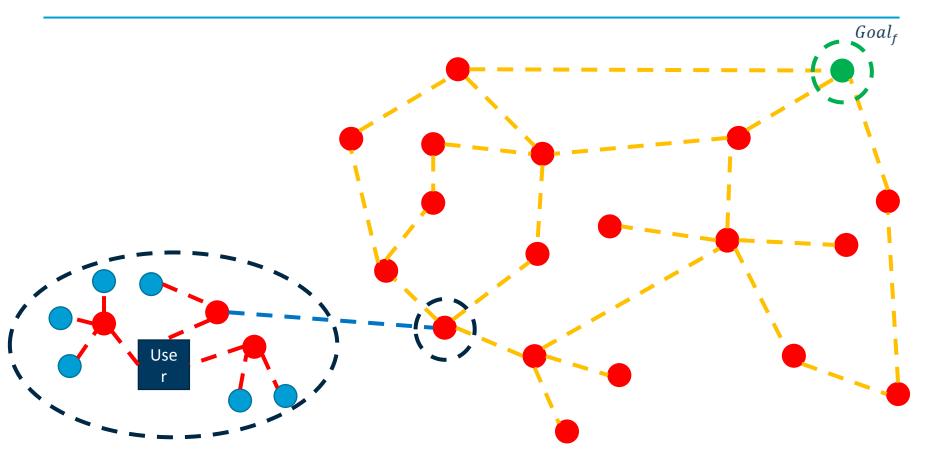


OSCAR Knowledge Graph

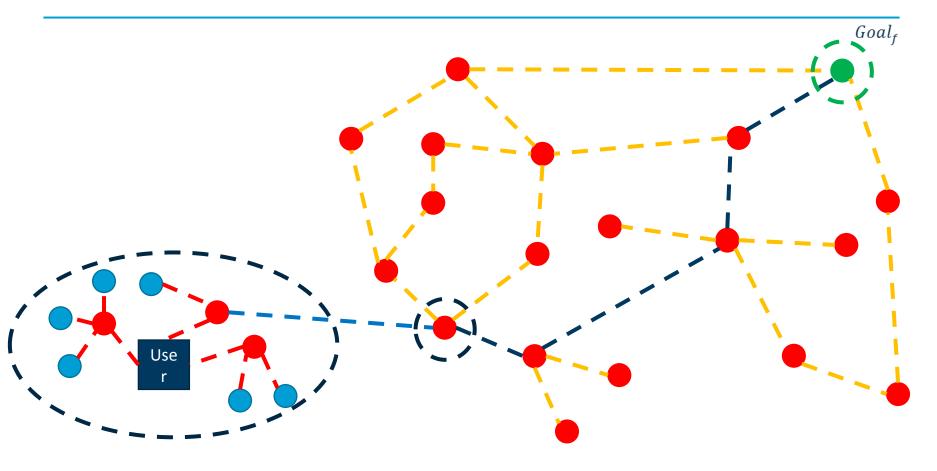




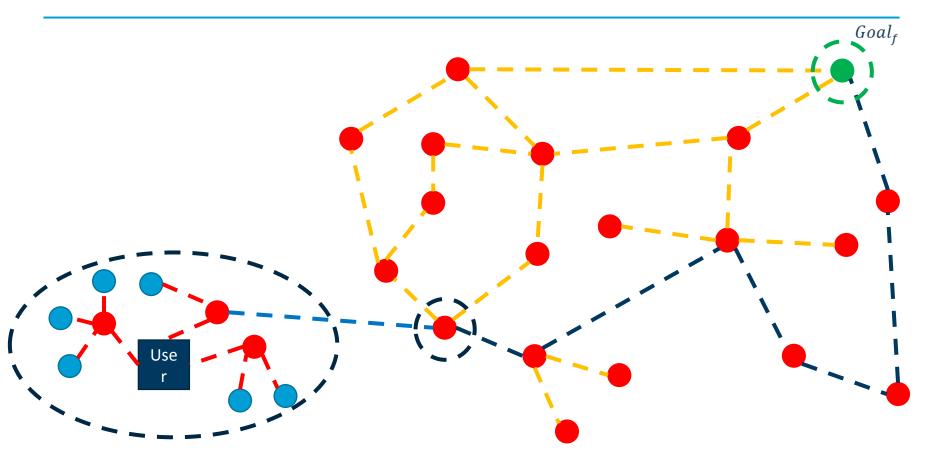
Knowledge Graph-based Learning Recommendations

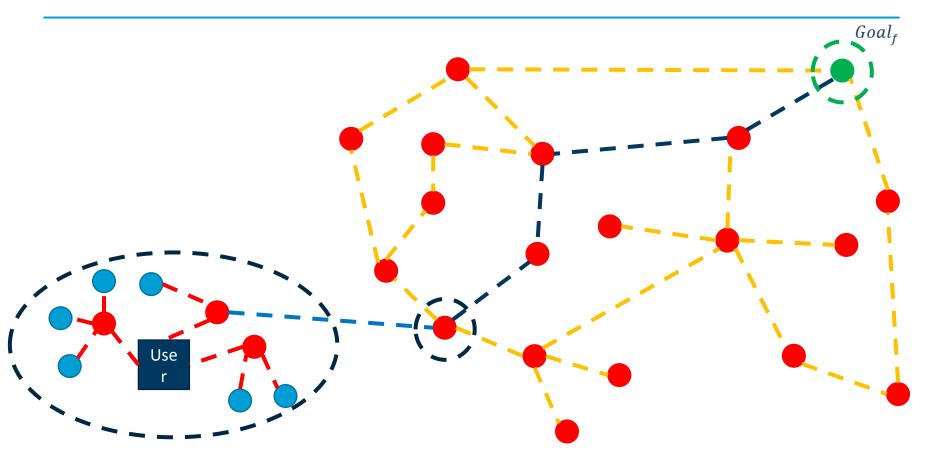




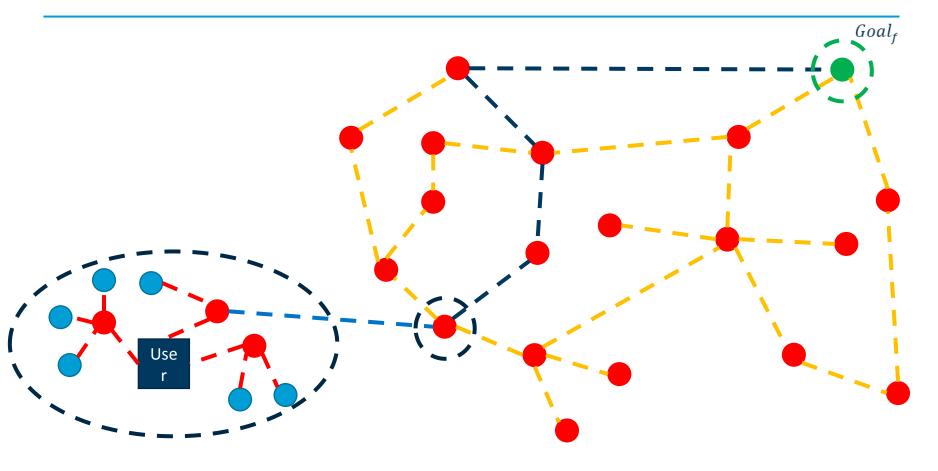




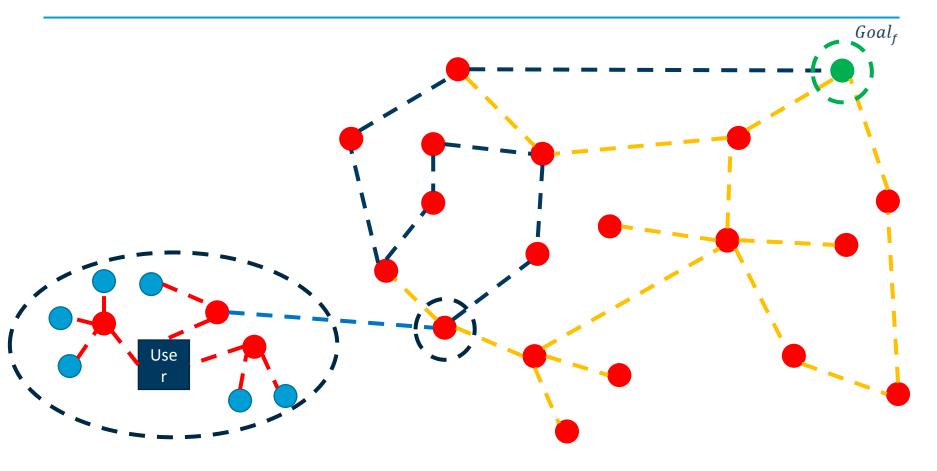




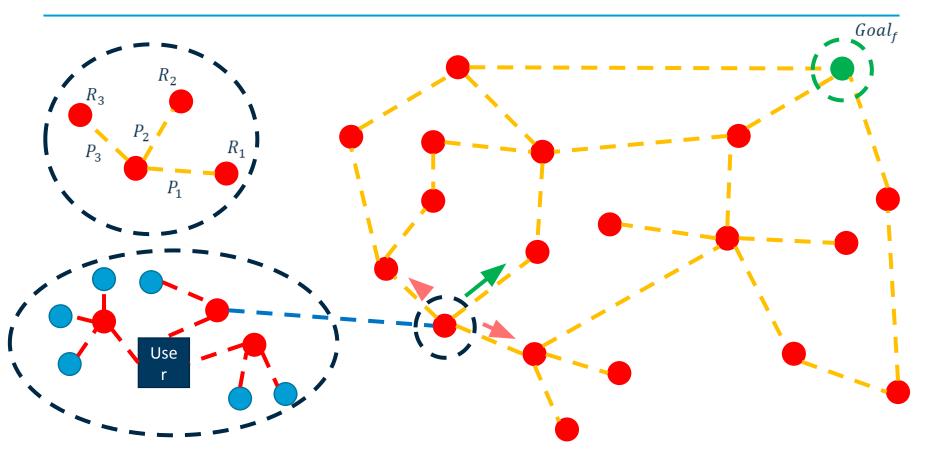


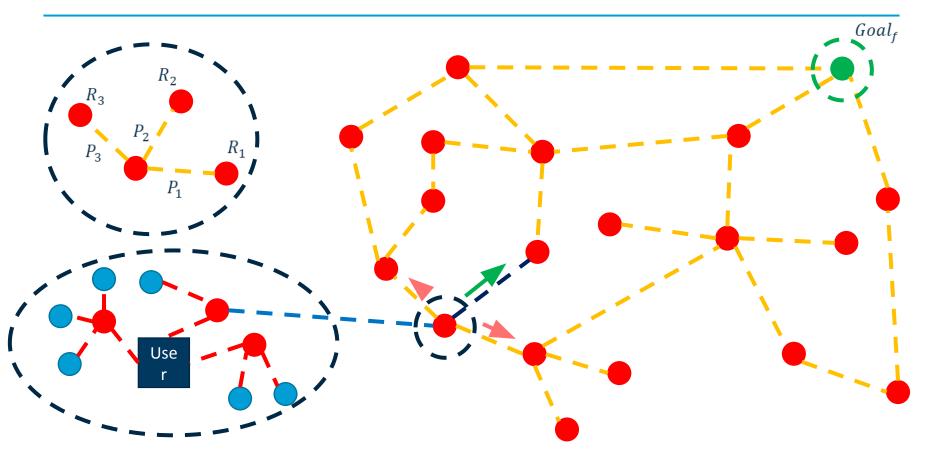


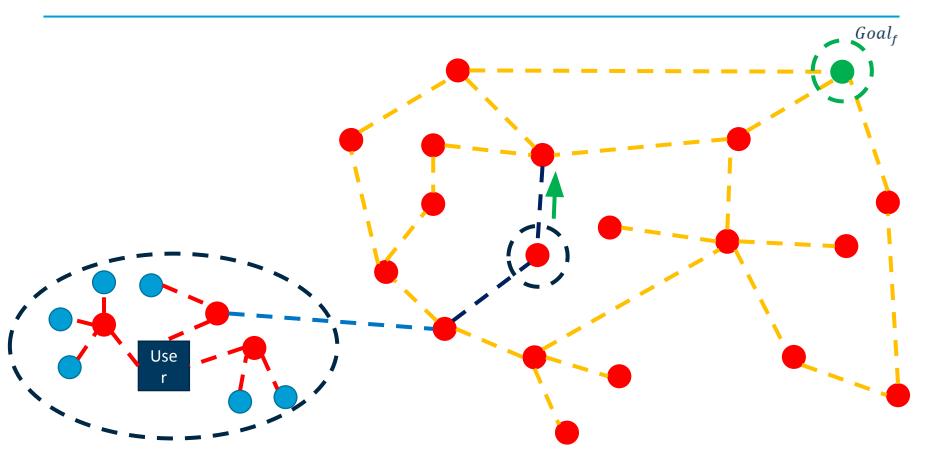


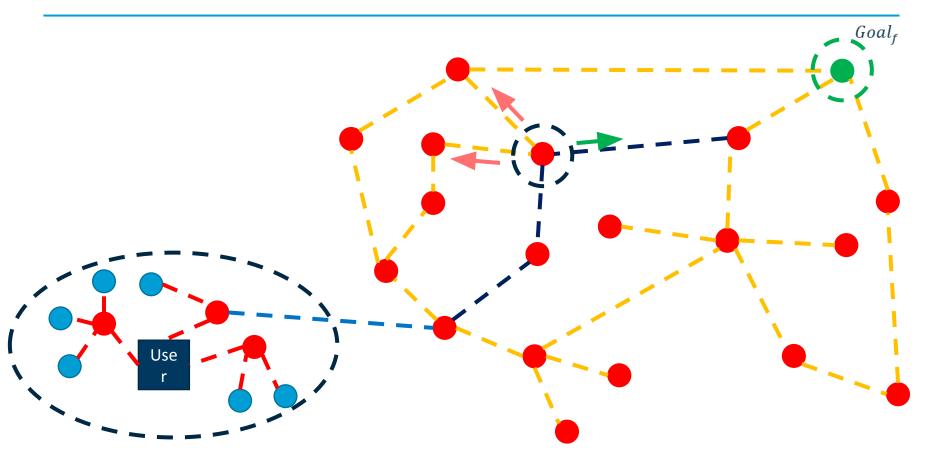






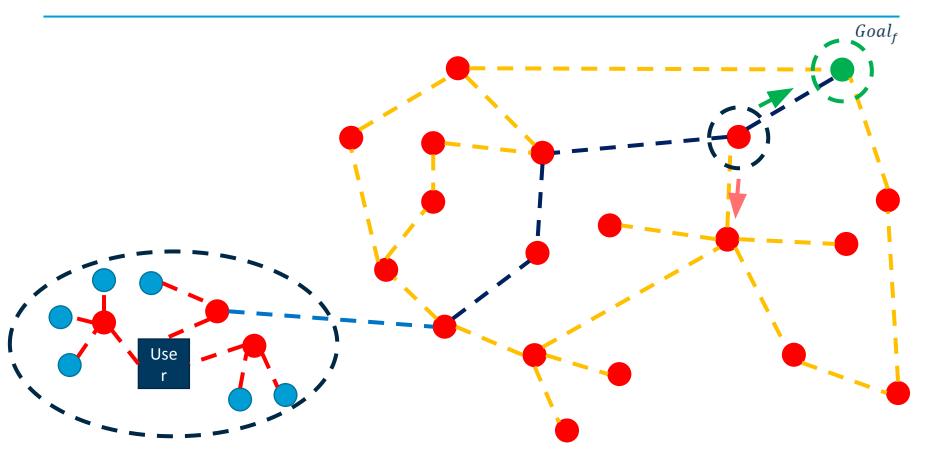








Graph-based Learning Recommendation





Evaluation

Evaluation

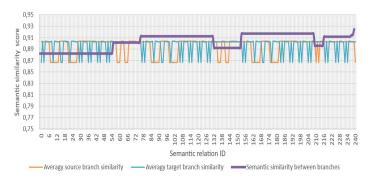
Quantitatively

- Evaluating text similarities between the relation extraction algorithm and the relations defined by experts.
- Evaluating knowledge graph structure against the pedagogical objectives of the recommendation.

Qualitatively

- Focus groups with experts.
- Focus groups with learners.





Evaluation Metric	Hierarchical data model	KG	Preferred value trends
Average Degree Centrality	1.079	2.262	increasing
Clustering Coefficient (Number of communities)	253	541	increasing
Clustering Coefficient (Average modularity score)	0.779	0.636	decreasing
Weakly Connected Components	63	35	decreasing
Betweenness Centrality	1.57	15.1	increasing

Lessons Learned

Lessons Learned

Role of learning context

- □ Learning happens in a context, which should guide the recommendation.
- Learning path recommendations correspond the through the selection and order of path elements.

Skill combinations

- Skills are not usually individually sufficient, but rather useful in combinations, e.g., transferable skills.
- The selection of skill combinations needs to correspond to the learning goal, and the learning context.

Learning-goal setting the human-machine collaboration

- Learners differ in the way they define their goal.
- Tools to support more human-system collaboration and support the learner in the *search*,
 description, and *discovery* of the suitable learning goal for their use-case.

Thank you!



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Mental Wellbeing Mentoring

Francisco Valente Gonçalves (RUMO)



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Lessons learnt Mental Health Mentoring Experiences

Inês Gaspar | ines.gaspar@rumo.solutions Francisco Valente Gonçalves, PhD | francisco@rumo.solutions

Brussels 2nd July 2023



MENTORING SESSIONS

Insights from participants

- Higher participation in career management than mental health sessions
- Potential of OSCAR acknowledged for autonomous work
- Value of mentoring session recognised as a positive complement of OSCAR
- Career needs usually linked with mental health problems OR mental health problems developed due to stress from career challenges

MENTORING SESSIONS

Opportunities to improve

- Keep fighting the mental health stigma
- Lack of structure of mentoring contents
- Lack of understanding of the role of the mentor
- Confusion between what is supposed to happen in a mentorship session and a psychology session







Save the dates! June 2023

Fridays at lunch time (12:30 - 14)

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	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
	26	27	28	29	30			
								-
May 8 2023								

YERUN lunchtime series on early career researchers:

- 9 June: Early career researchers & intersectoral mobility.
- 16 June: Mentoring early career researchers.
- 23 June: Funding schemes and their implications for early academic careers.
- 30 June: Virtual roundtable on the practical challenges of implementing policy for early academic careers.

MENTORING SESSIONS

Identified needs

- Mentors should have some prior preparation to deal with more difficult situations
- Mentors should need to understand when to recommend a mental health professional

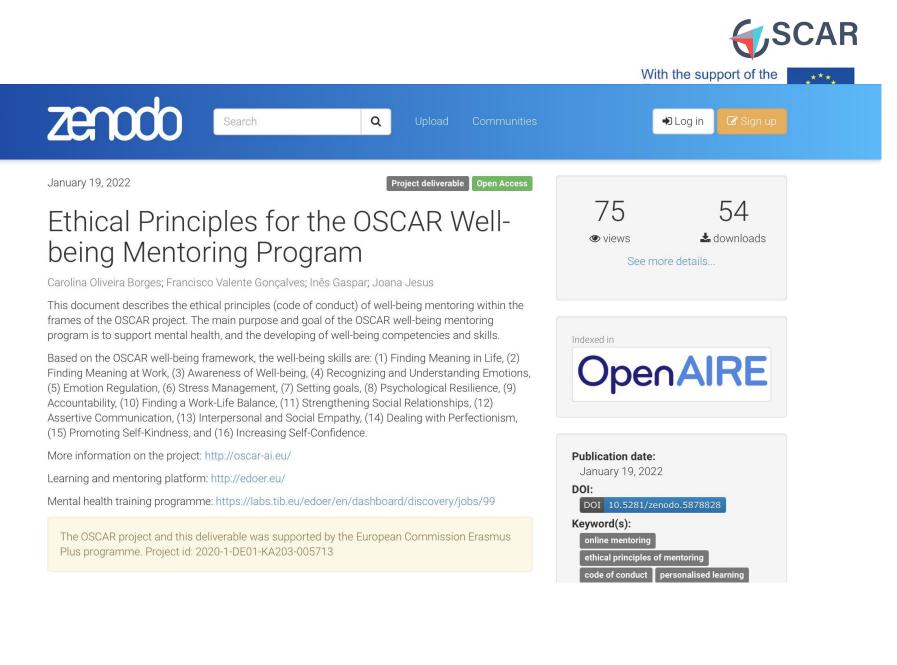


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How to prepare mentors

- Define the scope of mentoring tasks (and their limits)
- Clarify expectations between mentor and mentee
- Problem solving and goal setting
- Engage in open, direct and collaborative communication (and other soft skills)
- Boundaries, confidentiality and ethical guidelines
- Crisis intervention and referral
- Self-care for mentors (avoid mentors emotional dysregulation)





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Limits

For the mentoring sessions

- Mentor (who is not a Psychologist): uses his/her own experience to guide the mentee through their difficulties
- Mentor (also a Psychologist): professional help, uses his/her expertise to guide the mentee through their difficulties

MENTORING SESSIONS

Opportunities to exploit within the field of mental health for potential mentors using OSCAR

- Training on mentoring

 4 week program to train
 mentors into ethical principles
 and mentoring skills
- Training on psychological first aid
 - 4 week program to train mentors to recognise psychological symptoms that <u>must be</u> addressed by professionals



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Lessons learnt Mental Health Mentoring Experiences

Inês Gaspar | ines.gaspar@rumo.solutions Francisco Valente Gonçalves, PhD | francisco@rumo.solutions



Brussels 2nd July 2023





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Career Development Mentoring

Joe Delaney (CALP)



Career Management & Mentoring Framework



Positive steps towards your future

What road do I take?

Well where are you going?

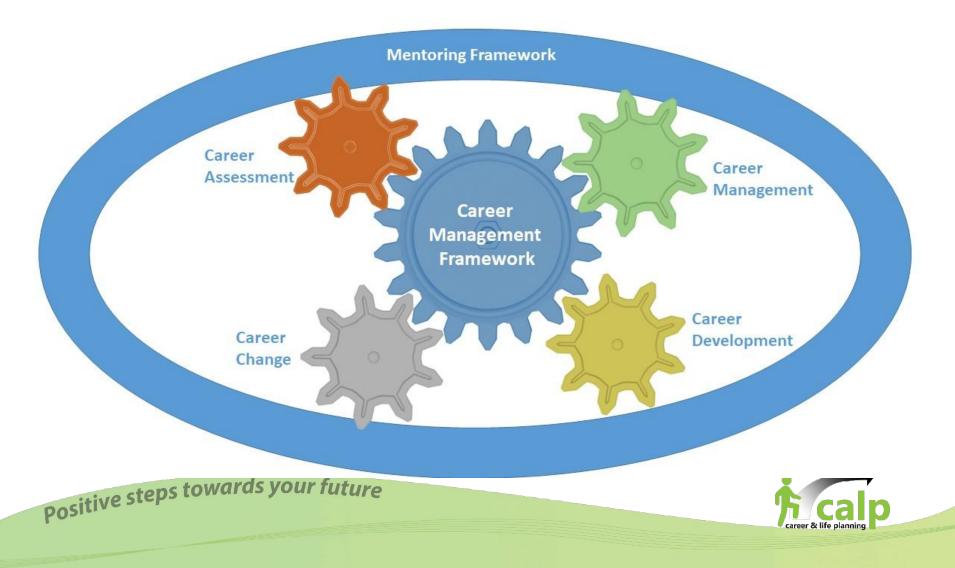
I don't know

Then it doesn't matter. If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there.



Positive steps towards your future

OSCAR Career Management & Mentoring Framework



Dual Lens Approach

Exploring & Supporting an individuals career based on;

- 1. Personal Goals & Motivation (Individual)
- 2. Professional Goals & Organisation (Employee)



Positive steps towards your future

Career Assessment

- Evaluation of present and future career choice & performance
- Allows for various stages in personal and professional development.
- Includes both objective aspects and subjective interpretations
- Additionally, we include motivation and mind-set as important drivers for career engagement



Positive steps towards your future

Career Management

- Planning and Management of work-related experiences across the professional life span which is focused on job performance outcomes mostly.
- Skills Gap Analysis includes the assessment of skills and competencies needed to optimise their current job performance aligned to job descriptions and tasks.



Career Development

- Assessment of both present and (desired) future skills
- Includes techniques such as; visualization exercises mind mapping personal reflection resource planning goal setting barriers Actions that improve awareness, skill levels & performance
- Development of IDPs (Individual Development Plans) & ITPs (Individual Training plans) Positive steps towards your future



Career Change

- Process of thinking, investigating and deciding on career transitions, often triggered by a certain event (Career Shocks) and the subsequent process of sense-making.
- Change can occur in many forms relative to one's career, including both voluntary and involuntary changes with their current employer and/or external opportunities available to them in similar or different sectors.



Positive steps towards your future

Key Mentoring Tools (Summary)

- CALP REP Matrix
- Future Skills Spider Diagram
- Widening Horizons Funnel
- GROWTH Model



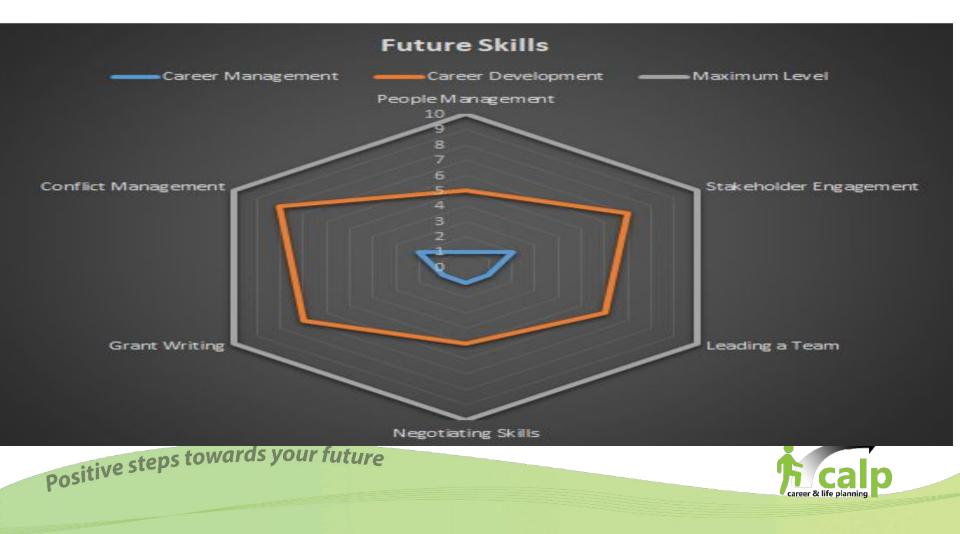
CALP REP Matrix

Pillar	Component	Assessment
Resource Planning	Character	Employees Attitude & Motivation to Work Plus Organisations Resources Available to Complete a Project or Task(s)
	Competency	Technical & Professional Skills Assessment to complete Task(s) or Project
Employee Engagement	Capacity	Physical & Mental Capacity Available to Complete Project or Task(s)
	Clarity	Clear Identification and Alignment of both Employee & Employer goals required to complete Task(s) or Project
Project Management	Completion	"Habit of Completion" to focus on delivery of Task(s) or Project aligned to milestones and Completion Dates

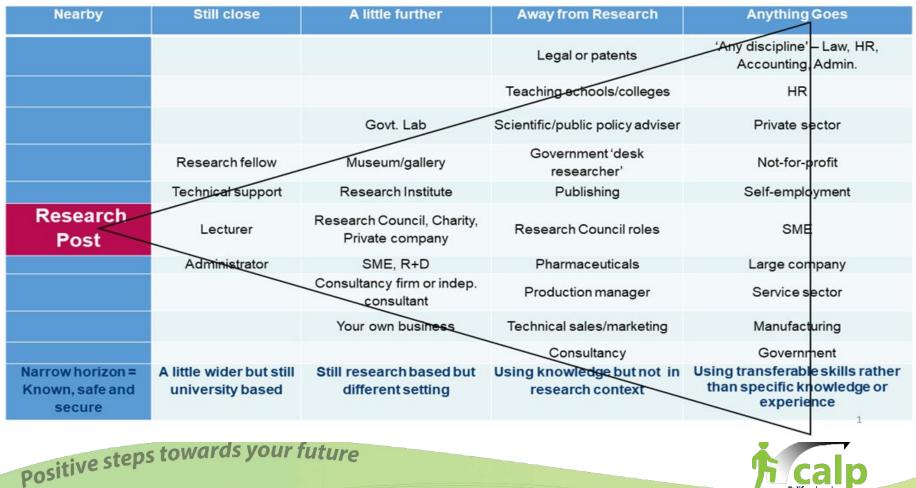




Spider Diagram on Future Skills



Widening Horizons Funnel

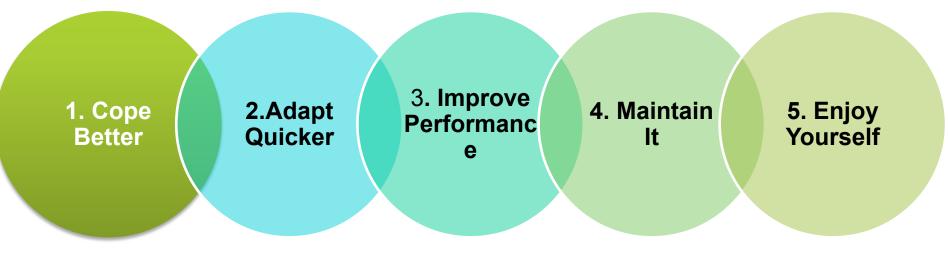


GROWTH Model



Mentor Framework for working with Clients

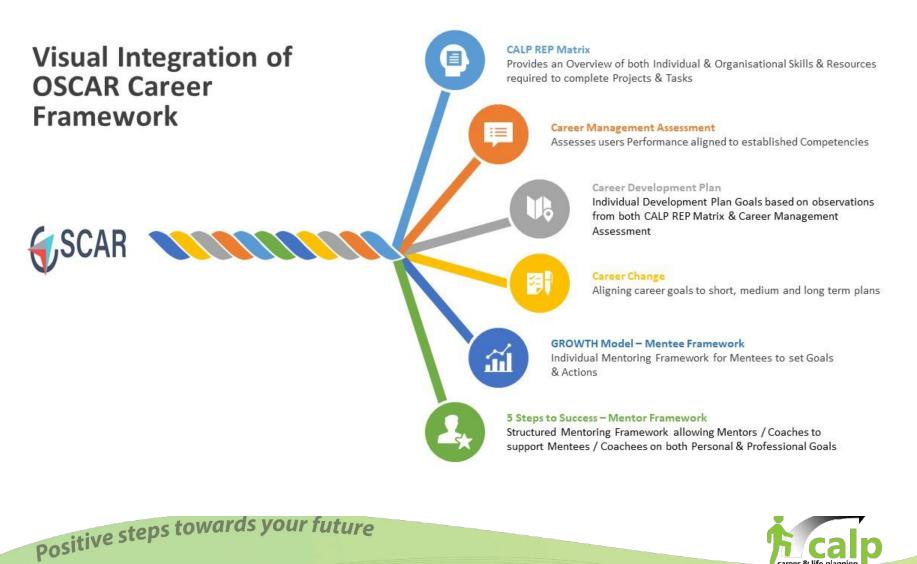
5 Steps to Success



Process works for all aspects of coaching services



Positive steps towards your future





Further Information Available

OSCAR Conceptual and Technical Framework





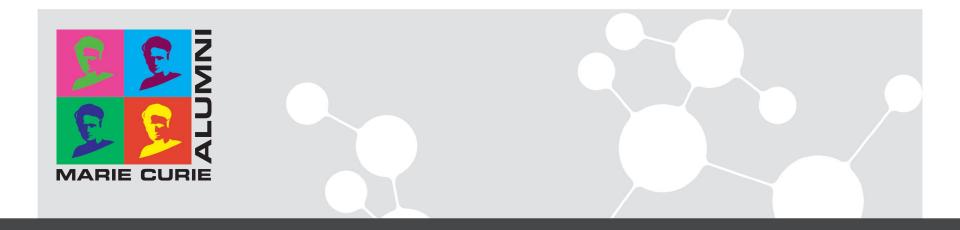


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Evaluation

Scott Harrison (MCAA)



OSCAR: IO5 – Pilot Days Evaluation



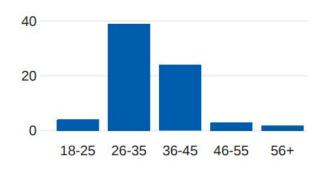
Evaluation Objectives

- Understand needs of workshop registrants
- Evaluate the eDoer application
 - Obtain feedback from real user experiences
- Evaluate the implementation of workshops
 - Did they foster positive learner experiences?
 - Did the online workshop format work?

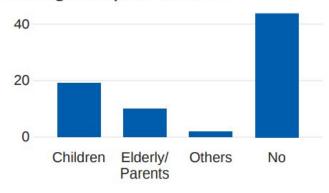


Pre-Workshop Registration Survey

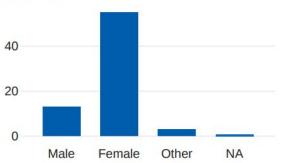
Age



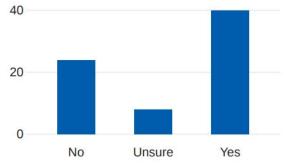
Caring Responsibilities



Gender

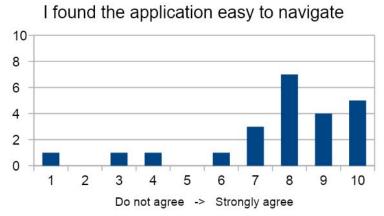


International Researchers

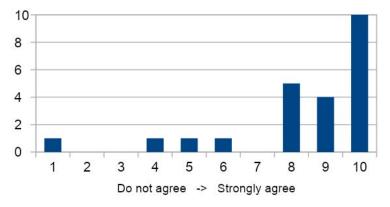




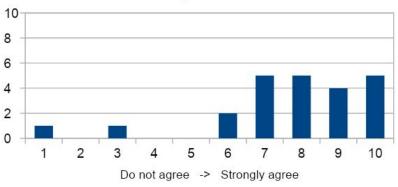
Post-Workshop Evaluation: eDoer



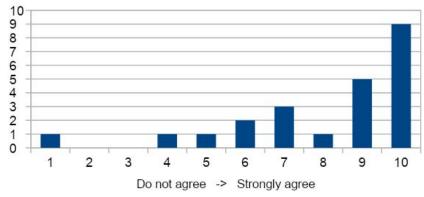
The learning topics selected covered my needs



I found the application instructions clear and easily understood



I would recommend the eDoer application to others





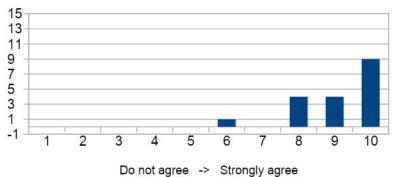
Post-Workshop Evaluation: Workshop Quality

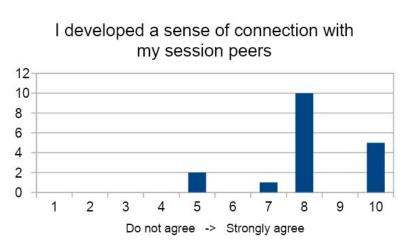
14 12 10 8 6 4 2 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 Do not agree -> Strongly agree

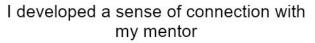
The sessions fostered positive

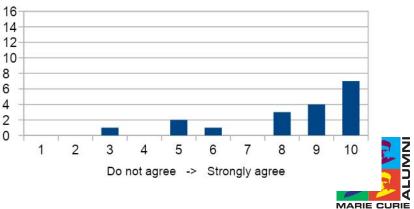
conversations

The amount of communication with our mentor was sufficient

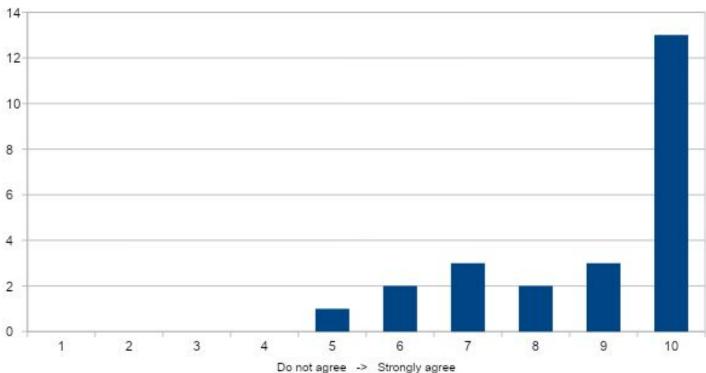








Post-Workshop Evaluation: Workshop Quality



I would recommend these workshops to others



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



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Q&A

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