

Spanish guidance dialogue for vocational education

Introduction

Hernán Rodríguez is 18 years old, comes from Granada, Spain and lives there. In approximately 3 months he will finish the high school with the level of “Bachillerato” and would like to go abroad for a practical vocational education. He doesn't really know where he would like to go, though he has friends in Germany, and hasn't a clear idea of what type of vocational education he would like to do there.

José Fernández is EURES counsellor, working with graduates, and will help Hernán to find the proper vocational education as well as the country which suits him best. In the following dialogue, both counsellor and client will go through the steps of guidance counselling and the contents of international youth mobility.

Career Choice and Orientation

- In the beginning of this dialogue, you will identify, together with your client, the **vocational education, study or work your client wants to go abroad for and** if he/she knows where he/she would like to go abroad. Therefore, you have to establish the **preferences, interests and competencies** of your client.
- In this session you help your client to develop a set of **career options** and put them in a **priority order**. In addition, you should focus on the further career choice and orientation activities of your client by developing **targets** and support their **implementation** by giving information and advice.



Good morning Mister Rodriguez. How are you today?

Opening

Don't worry about it, I'm fine thank you. I hope that you had a pleasant ride to my office. You told me that you live about 50 kilometres away. Did you get here by car?

I'm glad, now please tell me, what would you like to discuss about today?

Good morning Mister Fernández, I'm fine and you? By the way, thank you for meeting with me on such short notice, according to our last phone call, I remember that you are very busy.

Yes I did. The train connection is not so good but the highway was empty so everything fine.

Very well then. Please don't feel uneasy if I take some notes - I just want to make sure I don't forget anything that is mentioned during our conversation. You will also receive a copy of the notes after the session.

I would like to talk to you about my future and my career options.

You already mentioned during our phone call that you need guidance with your future career after your high school studies, especially since you would like to go abroad. **Please tell me what you have in mind and what you expect!**

Yes of course, I agree to that. It's nice to have some minutes at the end to make sure I don't forget anything.



Situation Analysis

Yes, that's correct. I'm almost done with high school and I really don't have any clear idea on how to proceed and what options are good for me. I just know that I would like to go abroad.

Well, regarding this matter, I am pretty sure that I can be of help to you. First of all, it's important that we find out more about your personal preferences and wishes. **Why do you want to go abroad?**

I decided to go abroad because I would like to broaden my horizon and to know all the options I could have in Europe.

That's a good idea. **So, what country do you have in mind for going abroad?**

Some of my friends are in Germany and are doing a vocational education there but I'm not quite sure if I want to do that and what I can do exactly.

That's interesting. Would this mean that you would like to go to Germany as well or **which country would you prefer to go to?**

Yes, Germany would be my first option but if there are other good options maybe you can help me with my decision.

I would be glad to do that. So if you want to go to Germany it would be nice to have some knowledge of the language. **How would you describe your language knowledge of German? How well can you read, write or speak?**

Well, I would say that I'm quite good at it. At least I can read well since I spent some time with my friends in Germany and travelled there a lot. Writing is not really good and speaking even less because I didn't get to practice a lot. But of course, if I get the chance to stay there for a longer time, then I would definitely improve it.

That's already a good start. Now that we have established more or less where you would like to go **we can focus on the "what"**. I would like to know: **what are you**



Interests

especially interested in?

I'm really interested in informatics and programming. I like working with computers very much.

Well, there is a difference. Are you rather interested in computing yourself or just working with it to create a design?

I would say that I'm more interested in creating something myself, so computing on my own.

Alright then, this is good to know. Let's go back to the time in school. **What subjects did you like at school?**

I actually liked mathematics and computer resources. So basically, both in school and in my free time.

I see a bright future ahead of you as a hacker. No, just kidding. (laughing)

(laughing) That's indeed very funny. Maybe a Plan B then.


All jokes aside. This sounds already like a good idea and I am sure that there are many good options for you with your skilled background.

That's very reassuring.

If I may ask additionally, what other options do you have in mind?

Well, I don't really know about other ones to be honest.

Don't worry about that. I'm here to offer you many options which can help you make a decision. We are already narrowing down the options. **How well would you say are your ICT competencies since they are important for you to start with a vocational education or study in this field?**



Competencies

Well in school I always had the best mark in the ICT subjects and am even very good in mathematics.

That sounds like a good match. **What about your degree? What kind of degree is it?**

Well, it's a "Bachillerato". I will get it in a couple of weeks after finishing high school.

Congratulations then. Yes, your degree allows you to **both have a vocational education and study at a university** in Europe.

Great, good to know.

Now that we have this information it's important to know if **you would prefer to have a vocational education in a dual system or to study at a university and why?**



Preferences

Well, I definitely know that I would like to do something practical, but what's the difference exactly between these two?

Good question. **The difference is that the vocational education in the dual system allows you to learn by doing.** This system combines time spent in the classroom with work at a company. Vocational training offers a high degree of job security. More than half of apprentices stay on as full-time employees at the businesses where they were trained.

Furthermore they even get paid during their studies. The monthly payment for the training in the vocational education of informatics is higher than the average and the chances of being employed are also higher than the other vocational educations.

Wow, that sounds great. If you put it like this, then I definitely prefer the dual vocational education. But what happens if I decide to study after that? Is that still possible?

Of course it is, **after your vocational education you can study the same subject of informatics or even a different one at a university.** One of the options that you have, once you finish university, is that it will provide an insight into the field of research.

Good to know. I will think about it.

So far so good. If you would indeed prefer to do a vocational education there is still to decide what education you want to do exactly. **In your case, depending on what we talked about, I would recommend the education as a “Fachinformatiker” which is the term for an “informatics professional” in German.**

I can print the brochure of specifically this field of education for you, if you want. **In the end, you would have to decide what option is best for you. That’s why I would like to provide you with more options than only this one.**

Alright, the education you are recommending sounds interesting and yes, I would like to have a closer look at it. That’s a good point. I would need more to think about then already focus on one thing.

Exactly, but before we move on, **I would like you to summarize what we have discussed so far to make sure that we didn’t miss anything.**



Oh yes, right, well ... let me think, we established that I would like to go abroad, especially to Germany since I have friends there. But I’m not sure if I could also go to other countries.

That's correct. This would be something to think about: to focus on the vocational education options in Germany, but I would recommend you also weigh the options of going somewhere else. For example, the countries of Switzerland and Austria also offer a dual vocational education. Maybe you have more suitable offers there.

I didn't know about the other countries and to be honest I would probably need more information on that.

Of course you do. I am going to provide you the information once we have established all your targets. So one of your To-Dos would be, to make sure, that you want to go to Germany and not one of the other countries. **Maybe we can move on with the summary.**

Great, sounds like a plan. Yes, so besides of going abroad, especially to Germany, or maybe other countries, I decided more or less that I would like to do something practical so that would fit to the vocational education of "Informatikfachkraft" in the dual system. But the studying thing also sounded quite interesting; so maybe I will also have a look at that.

Yes, exactly. These are also the things I wrote down. **Now, what would you say, what the targets are that you should focus on next?**

Hm, I'm not quite sure what my targets would look like.

Well, **first target** which you can derive from your summary would be to have a look at the dual vocational education of "**Fachinformatiker**" in Germany.

Oh, I understand. Yes of course, I will definitely do that.

Great. Now the **second target** would be to take a look at other options in the field of dual vocational education as an informatics in Germany.

There are for example some, such as: certified information scientist ("Staatlich anerkannter Informatiker") telecommunication informatics ("Telekommunikationsinformatiker") and information clerk ("Informatikkaufmann").

I would recommend that you look into them to see if you are interested.

Ok good, I didn't know that there were so many options in this field. Sounds like a good way to go. And I probably can have a look at the other countries as well.

Exactly, this would be the third target: To look at the other countries as well which offer a dual vocational education.

Alright then; and the **fourth target** that you might take into consideration would be, since you already mentioned that studying might also be interesting, that you also have a look at the study options in the field of informatics in Germany.

Great; maybe I can find some offers that could be of interest to me there.

Great, now that we have established the targets, we can think about how to find the solutions to each one. **Do you know how and where to get all this information from?**

Yes, indeed. I also had that in mind that it would be wise to keep studying as an option.

Implementation

Yes, Google is always an option (laughing), however, I must admit, not always a good one, since you would have to spend a lot of time searching and you might not even get the proper information.

Well, I can google them. Google is god-like you know (laughing)

I can offer you some links concerning the dual vocational education for informatics in Germany. I remember you saying that you can read them. **Do you think you can manage that?**

True, Google is the only thing I could think of right now. Yes, of course, I can read well and I don't think that I will have any problems with the web pages.

Great, then let me give you the following links **which will help you in your decision-making process:**

www.berufenet.arbeitsagentur.de,
www.it-berufe.de,
www.ausbildung.de.

These pages provide you information on the dual vocational education as a "**Fachinformatiker**" in Germany, but as well on the other options in this field which I mentioned before.

Great, I am looking forward to browsing through all of them.

But as I said before you also have the option of studying the same vocation. Here are some links that will help you find the right university and field of study in the area of informatics:

www.informatik-studieren.de,
www.informatik-studium.org,
www.studieren-studium.com.

Great, thank you for that. I will definitely go through them and I hope that they will help me with my decision.

And last but not least, here are some good search strategies for a dual vocational education in the countries of Switzerland:

www.swisseducation.educa.ch and Austria:

www.wko.at.

Wow, that's a lot to go through. I'm sure that I will find something there to my liking. This way I definitely have more options for both a vocational education and studying in Germany ... and of course, the neighbour countries.

Perfect, so in conclusion **what would be the next steps to do from your point of view?**

I would say that I will have to go through these options and try to find the ones I like the most.

Great, regarding this, we can make another appointment where we can discuss about the outcome of your research and how to proceed from there, once you have made a decision.



Sounds like a good plan. Thank you very much.

You are welcome. Once you have reviewed all the information you can contact me, by phone or email, and let me know when you would like to meet again for our follow-up meeting.

Yes of course, I will let you know. Thank you very much and have a nice day.

Thank you! You too, see you next time.