

Title: Competencies of Dual Career Support Providers (DCSPs) - A Scenario-Specific Perspective

Author(s): Defruyt, S., Wylleman, P., Stambulova, N., Cecić Erpič, S., Graczyk, M., & De Brandt, K.

Year: 2019

Keywords: Dual career support; competencies; challenges; Gold in Education and Elite Sport; student-athletes

Sport(s): N/A

Journal: International Journal of Sport and Exercise Psychology

Main Theme: Dual career support provider competencies

Secondary Theme(s): Dual career scenarios

Aims: The current research was part of the Gold in Education and Elite Sport (GEES) project and had the following aims: (1) examining how well dual career support providers (DCSPs) managed specific challenges (called scenarios) within the European context, (2) identifying the competencies DCSPs need to manage the scenarios, and (3) exploring which variables influence how well they manage these scenarios

Method: The Dual Career Competency Questionnaire for Support Providers with Scenario extension (DCCQ-SPSc) was completed by 288 DCSPs from nine European countries. The scenarios were: (1) Managing a non-supportive environment, (2) Supporting a student-athlete to cope with relocation, (3) Supporting a student-athlete in developing a study plan, (4) Helping a student-athlete to cope with a challenging year, (5) Referring a student-athlete to other professional help, and (6) Dealing with wrong expectations of a student-athlete.

Results and Practical Implications: Results revealed that each scenario was experienced by more than half of the DCSPs (range 55%–87%) and that in general, they managed these scenarios average up to good. DCSPs prioritised different competency factors depending on

the specific scenario. Frequency of experiencing (for the first four scenarios) and possession of the prioritised competency factor (for all scenarios) were significant predictors for the management of the scenarios. DCSPs prioritised different competencies depending on the specific scenario. These findings confirm the importance of investigating competencies of sport practitioners from a context based and situational perspective. This study shows the importance of scenario-specific competency development and can be used in the development of educational curricula for DCSPs. Findings of this study can help DC stakeholders and employers to get an insight in the challenges DCSPs encounter and the scenario-specific competencies they require.

TASS have produced this lay summary. The full article is available (permissions may apply): <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/1612197X.2019.1655773>