

Coaching-research for what, for and with whom?

Insights on the 1. International Coaching-research Congress
in the German-speaking area of Europe

More than hundred participants from Switzerland, Germany and Austria visited on the 9th and 10th of June 2010 in Olten (Switzerland) for the 1. International Coaching-Research Congress in the German-speaking area of Europe. They all wanted to know what Coaching-research is, what it serves and where it stands.

"Coaching meets Research ... for the practice of the future¹" was the title and the credo of the research congress in Olten. A vitalizing meeting and an enriching dialogue between research and practice were designed to support the common advancement of Coaching. The School of Social Work of University of Applied Sciences Northwestern Switzerland HSA FHNW presented itself as a professional platform for the exchange between all relevant players in the field of Coaching. Present on the event were beginning and seasoned coaches, HR-managers, searchers, trainers as well as professional associations - all of whom sought to develop Coaching in the common exchange to strengthen it in its own professionalization.

The congress was opened by a challenging contribution of Dr. Beate Fietze of the Humboldt University to Berlin (D). She derived the chances and risks of the Coaching-research from a sociological perspective looking at the development of professions and made clear the rising meaning of the Coaching-research as an adjustment factor with the function of legitimation (e.g. research on the effectiveness of Coaching) and orientation (common understanding of what Coaching is or should be) of Coaching activities. Prof. Dr. Siegfried Greif of the University Osnabrück (D), a leading German scholar in the field of coaching and change pursued the current state of Coaching-research and made clear above all the innovation potential of research in the advancement of Coaching. The description of the worldwide development of Coaching activities based on an investigation in 162 countries linked to relevant research questions and trends was content of the presentation of Frank Bresser, a globally active Coaching-consultant and author of the European Coaching Survey. The panel discussion at the end of the first day with the official congress partners - the eight Coaching associations BSO, DBVC, DGSv, EAS, EMCC, ICF, ÖVS, SCA - was moderated by Cornelia Schinzilarz - a philosopher, theologian and humor coach. The discussion was on account of the commitments of the associations to the Coaching-research another highlight of the congress.

The second day began with an excursion in the experiences and knowledge of the Coaching-research in the English-speaking area." Learning from others?! Researching Coaching in Anglo-Saxon Countries" was the maxim of this morning. Two contributions dealt with principle questions to the Coaching-research. Prof. Dr. Bob Garvey, one of Europe's leading academic practitioners of mentoring and coaching, working at the Sheffield Hallam University (UK) concentrated on the question of whether or not coaching was an eclectic mix or a common ground and 'alethic pluralism' as a way to look at Coaching-research. Dr. David B. Drake (AUS), founder and Executive Director of the Center for Narrative Coaching in San Francisco and Sydney widened up the perspective on Coaching-research with his innovative understanding of Coaching-evidence, four epistemological perspectives on Coaching-research, and the application

¹ Original title in German: "... für die Praxis der Zukunft"

of this understanding in the daily business of coaches. Dr. Elaine Cox, Director of the world's first doctorate programme in Coaching and Mentoring at the Oxford Brookes University (UK) showed three innovative, qualitative Coaching-research methods and their implementation based on concrete research projects at her University. Thursday afternoon was devoted to the presentation of current Coaching-research projects and the transfer of these research-results in the Coaching practice. Amongst the 20 presentations were topics such as the demarcation of psychotherapy and Coaching, action research illustrated by the introduction and evaluation of Coaching in the Swiss army as well as the linguistics of Coaching and the use of new media in Coaching.

Looking back, it was the intensive and constructive discussion atmosphere among the practically oriented searchers, the research interested coaches, the representatives of the eight Coaching associations and the other participants who lent the congress a quite special ambiance. Thus there were challenging discussions about the still unclear future of Coaching as well as stimulating talks and ideas for cooperation within and outside the German-speaking area of Europe. The Congress-Think-Tank, available to all participants during the congress, the stimulating breaks and the Social-Event in Olten's municipal theatre on Wednesday evening all promoted this exchange. The atmosphere was good and the feedback to the organization of the event as well. Moreover, it became clear that the advancement of Coaching is possible not by individual initiatives, but requires the dialogue between all relevant players in the field of Coaching. The congress in Olten was a contribution to this advancement and the primary goal of the congress to build up a platform for the dialogue between research and practice has been achieved. The decision of the School of Social Work FHNW to carry out a 2nd International Coaching-Research Congress in the late summer 2012 was welcomed with applause.

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You find information on the congress here

Congress documentation (publication, clip, photos, recordings of the keynotes)

<http://www.coaching-meets-research.ch/kongressdokumentation>

Interesting links

<http://www.coaching-meets-research.ch/links>

News to the advancement "Coaching meets Research ... für die Praxis der Zukunft "

<http://www.coaching-meets-research.ch/kongress-news>

Media

<http://www.Coaching-meets-research.ch/medien>