

Presidency events related to Lifelong Guidance during the Hungarian EU Presidency

During the Hungarian 2011 EU Presidency ELGPN was involved in several events. Lifelong Guidance (LLG) issues were connected and further mapped out to (1) the *European Qualifications Framework (EQF)*, the *Public Employment Services*, (2) *Forthcoming PES 2020 strategy* as well as (3) the *new action planes in the field of LLL*.

Development of the Hungarian Lifelong Guidance (LLG) policy system has generated great professional importance in the past few years both in national and international levels. Therefore several events were organised concerning lifelong guidance during the Hungarian Presidency. Furthermore the Hungarian LLG model was introduced at several programs on behalf of developing the policy synergies.

Events dealt with LLG

Under the Hungarian Presidency www.eu2011.hu the following events dealing with LLG were organised.

The 8th Presidency Plenary Meeting of the European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network (ELGPN) had took place 22-23 February 2011. 150 participants of 25 countries attended the Plenary Meeting of the Network. Ministry stakeholders, experts and researchers had been invited to the event.



Participants of the 8th ELGPN Plenary Meeting

During the event the Network, priorities of the Hungarian EU presidency, the Hungarian Lifelong Guidance system, the 2011–12 work programme of the Network and its thematic activities were introduced.

Before the Plenary Meeting, Hungary as the hosting country organised a *national pre-conference*. 100 Hungarian participants interested in lifelong guidance attended the national pre-conference of the ELGPN 8th Plenary Meeting. Aim of the meeting was to introduce the linkage between the 2011–12 work programme of the Network and the Hungarian lifelong guidance developments (SROP 2.2.2.) to the participants. The ELGPN presented also the outcomes of the four Thematic Activities 2009–10.

Detailed information about the Plenary Meeting is available at:

<http://eletpalya.munka.hu/web/eletpalya-folyoirat/plenary-2011>

In March 2011 DG EDU (Grundtvig) has organised its final conference "It is always a good time to learn" on implementing the Action Plan on Adult Learning. The conference was organised to mark three years of intensive European cooperation in the field of adult learning policy, around the priorities of the Action Plan on Adult Learning and to review the results achieved through their implementation and to discuss future needs and actions. Participants were those stakeholders are responsible for the policy. Dr Raimo Vuorinen the coordinator of the ELGPN and Dr. Tibor Bors Borbély-Pecze the Hungarian correspondent of the Network participated. One workshop was designed around guidance and lifelong learning. The Hungarian, English and Irish developments in the field of career guidance were introduced. The proceedings of the meeting are available at the conference website: <http://adultlearning-budapest2011.teamwork.fr>.



Presentation by Marta Ferreira from the European Commission in the opening session

In May *Euro Guidance - National Resource Centre for Vocational Guidance* has organised its *Central European Cross Boarder Seminar „New methods and tools in lifelong guidance”*. Central European Cross Boarder Seminar was organised with the participation of Slovakia, Germany, Slovenia, Poland, Austria, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

Other events during the Presidency

Other events during the Presidency where developments of the Hungarian lifelong guidance system and general LLG policy issues were introduced such as

- *Informal EMCO (Employment Commission) session* was held 5-6 April 2011 with the title *Youth Employment*. Organiser of the informal Employment Commission session is the Ministry for National Economy. Aim of the event was to support youth to integrate into labour market and reduce unemployment amongst them. Dr Raimo Vuorinen the coordinator of the ELGPN and Dr. Tibor Bors Borbély-Pecze the Hungarian correspondent of the Network participated a panel discussion dedicated for guidance and youth activation;
- *Hungarian National and International Lifelong Learning Conference* was organised by MELLearn Association, Pannon University and Embassy of Finland. The

event was held on 21–22 April 2011. Main themes of the conference were the role of the Hungarian higher education in achieving knowledge triangle (education – research – innovation) and Europe 2020 and Education-Training 2020 strategies. LLG system was mentioned as a tool which could make the Hungarian and European post-Bologna System more transparent for the end-users also prevent drop-outs and overstaying in the higher education system. Dr. Tibor Bors Borbély-Pecze represented the ELGPN;

- *The Presidency Conference of Public Employment Services (PES)* was held 28–29 April 2011. The theme of the conference was „Labour market integration of youth”. The workshop under the theme of PES’ and lifelong guidance programs’ was examining the role guidance in supporting youth to integrate into labour market. The Hungarian practise (SROP 2.2.2.) was also being introduced. Dr. Tibor Bors Borbély-Pecze represented ELGPN
- *European Qualification Framework Conference* was organised 25–26 May 2011. The aims of the conference was to review the realization of the European Qualification Framework protocol from the year 2008, evaluate the ongoing progress, experiences, and the further challenges, identify the difficulties and determine the tasks for the future. Dr. Tibor Bors Borbély-Pecze represented the ELGPN in this event, in workshop 3. EQF and NQF were mentioned as tools in the implementation of LLG services.

Brief summary of four field visits organised in spring 2011

During spring 2011 four different field visits were organised around the Europe. The first one of WP1 was organised in Portugal in March. The first field visit of WP2 was organised in the Netherlands in April. Two last field visits of WP3 and WP4 were organised in May. WP3 visited Cyprus and WP4 Estonia.

Key issues raised at the WP1 meeting in Lisbon were the following: (a) Framing of the Lisbon meeting within the overall ELGPN goals and process; (b) Career management skills with adults; (c) Methodological issues – the policy-makers' tool kit; (d) Reflections on WP1: next steps.

20 persons in total from 14 different countries/organisations participated in this peer learning event. The event had three guest speakers from Portugal. The goal for the first round of field visits was to gather members' views on (a) the overall structure, (b) changes for the CRTs, (c) glossary and on (d) additional tools.

WP1 has two main foci: (a) consideration of some thematic issues that have not been addressed at great length in the first phase and (b) consideration of methodological issues such as development of Common Reference Tools.

Especially in Lisbon, the focus was *CMS with adults* (in the context of PES, but also from the perspective of employers, and possibly trade unions); *CMS in higher education settings*; and the *training of guidance professionals* and others involved in delivering CMS.

WP2 field visit was attended by representatives from 14 countries. The Utrecht study visit was organized around the theme of the *provision of guidance and support, role of existing information, advice and guidance networks/institutions for the validation of non-formal informal learning policies and practices* in countries of WP2 (brief pres-

entations of Iceland, and Spain) and review the case study of Netherlands.

During the field visit members were asked to describe the process of guidance in the validation process in their countries, specify the services provided (face-to face, ICT tools, etc..), describe the practitioners who provide the service and their qualifications and training and 1-2 interesting practices. The conclusion was that validating non-formal and informal learning is increasingly seen as a way of improving lifelong and lifewide learning. More European countries are emphasising the importance of making visible and valuing learning that takes place outside formal education and training institutions, for example at work, in leisure time activities and at home. All national experience reflected in national projects, the work of the peer learning cluster for the recognition of learning outcomes and the 2007 European inventory¹ indicate that potential candidates and those in the process of receiving validation should have access to impartial and informed advice. It is not possible to establish a single process for validation that will accommodate the needs of all individuals, It is widely accepted that the system needs careful tailoring to the needs of the individual and this is, at least partially, achieved by providing information, advice and guidance at the right times. In WP 2 countries, it seems that there is now recognition of the role validation has to play and a commitment to introducing, implementing, or consolidating systems of validation thus the actual scale of implementation varies. Although the need for the guidance services are well understood, the guidance support within the validation process seems to be in

¹ Cedefop (2009). European Guidelines on the validation of informal and non-formal learning. Luxembourg:

Publications Office. Available from Internet: http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/Files/4054_

progress, not well-structured and defined in many States.

WP3 field visit was attended by representatives from 8 countries. The focus of the event was on different case studies such as (a) Education, lifelong learning and guidance strategies in Greece; (b) Development of a national forum on lifelong guidance in Cyprus; (c) Discussion platform for lifelong guidance in Poland; (d) Current situation of lifelong guidance in Norway; (e) Career counselling and education services in Greece.

WP4 field visit was chaired by Hungary and was attended by representatives from 13 countries. The Tallinn study visit was based on the theme of building a coherent EU approach to quality assurance and evidence-base policies and practices. The aims of WP4 are two-fold: (a) To further map out, compare and develop quality assurance systems in the field of LLG; and (b) To analyse and develop evidence-based LLG policies.



WP4 participants visited the ethnographic outdoor museum in Tallinn

During the Tallinn meeting, members focused on:

- learning from contrasting and complementary quality assurance and evidence-based policy developments in six countries (Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Ireland and Lithuania);
- reviewing and assessing the efficacy of existing common reference tools (CRT) and producing draft recommendations for improvement;

- identifying a framework for the possible content of the chapter on WP4 of the manual/toolkit;
- reviewing appropriate frameworks designed to capture evidence on impact of careers services;
- agreeing the second draft Glossary (listing and draft content) for discussion at the next ELGPN Steering Group meeting.

National lifelong guidance policy conferences in Montenegro, Italy and Croatia

Within a national lifelong guidance policy conference 5-6 May 2011 in Podgorica both the national ministry of Education and Sports and Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare endorsed a new national joint strategy for lifelong guidance in Montenegro. The national conference presented also EU strategies on lifelong guidance and outputs of the national guidance related projects. The conference collected also feedback from the participants on the strategy which was prepared within the an EU-funded project managed by the Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro. This IPA 2008 project entitled “Labour Market Reform and Workforce Development in Montenegro” is a good example of national consistent lifelong guidance policy development.



The outcomes and working methodology of the ELGPN were introduced at the national seminar by Prof Ronald Sultana and the ELGPN Co-ordinator Raimo Vuorinen.

Croatia celebrated their 80 anniversary of guidance services in a national seminar “80 Years of Lifelong Career Guidance in the Republic of Croatia: New Challenges and Approaches” 16 June 2011 in Za-

greb. The seminar was organized by Croatian Employment Services and presented also forthcoming initiatives to improve the national guidance systems. National guidance systems were introduced from Finland, Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovenia. Dr. Tibor Bors Borbély-Pecze presented key EU policy initiatives and ELGPN outcomes.

The the Italian Institute for the Development of Vocational Training, ISFOL organised a national seminar in relation to their national initiative in life-long guidance 26 May 2011 in Bologna, The interface with EU level policy development was presented in this seminar by Jasmin Muhic, the Lead Country representative of the ELGPN WP1.

Up-coming Meetings and Events

9th ELGPN Plenary Meeting

Place: Poland

Time: 13–14 September 2011

WP1 Field Visit 2

Place: France

Time: 14–15 November 2011

WP2 Field Visit 2

Place: Denmark

Time: 10–11 October 2011

WP3 Field Visit 2

Place: Norway

Time: 10–11 November 2011

WP4 Field Visit 2

Place: Luxembourg

Time: 3–4 November 2011

6th International Symposium on Career Development and Public Policies

Place: Budapest

Time: 5-7 December 2011

Changes in contact information

The University of Jyväskylä has transferred to mobile phones, and the current landline telephone service is closed down on 31 August 2011.

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