

6th International Symposium on Career Development and Public Policies

The 6th Symposium on Career Development and Public Policies 5-7 December 2011 in Budapest, Hungary was attended by 127 representatives from 31 countries. The ELGPN was represented by 18 countries in the Symposium.

The Symposium was organised by the Hungarian Lifelong Guidance Council and the International Centre for Career Development and Public Policy (ICCDPP) provided those ELGPN representatives present with a valuable opportunity to link ELGPN's work to parallel developments in other parts of the world.



IS 2011 Family Photo (Photo: IS2011 team)

The Symposium aimed to build closer dialogues and linkages between career guidance policy makers in the fields of education, employment, economic development and social inclusion, and with strategic professional leaders and researchers. The four sub-themes for IS2011 were:

- Political, economic and social changes and the changing role of career guidance and career guidance policies.
- Lifelong guidance policy as a part of integrated human resource development policies – challenges and opportunities.

- The changing world and the changing role of career guidance – skills and competencies for lifelong guidance practitioners.
- Evidence-based practice; evidence-based policies.

Each country team prepared a country report in advance of the event, covering the four themes. Theme syntheses provided the basis for round-table discussions, the conclusions of which were fed back and synthesised at plenary sessions. A Communiqué was prepared by Prof. Anthony G. Watts as a summary of the collective conclusions of those present at the event.



Dr. Tibor Bors Borbély-Pecze was leading the IS2011 organising team (Photo: IS2011 team)

The Symposium Communiqué had recommended that, through ICCDPP and the International Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance (IAEVG), links should be strengthened between ELGPN and other symposium countries, to enable the strong collaborative structures and processes within ELGPN to be enriched by practices from countries outside Europe, for mutual benefit. It had also recommended that such links should include, but extend beyond, global sharing of ELGPN publications and tools – recognising that good practice is based on sharing learning, not importing models. In addition, it had recommended that the ELGPN in its next work programme (2013-14) should be encouraged to include the development of a handbook for

policy-makers which would pull together the key existing evidence on the impact of career development services, and provide a guide to the possible elements of accountability frameworks (with examples); and to do this in collaboration with ICCDPP and other relevant research networks outside Europe

More information about the symposium at: <http://eletpalya.munka.hu/web/eletpalya-folyoirat/iccdpp1>

New skills for new jobs - New challenges for vocational education and training in the 21st century

The European Network of Education Councils, EUNEC had their annual conference 23-26 October in Lisbon, Portugal. Ms. Anna Bakiewicz from the Polish Ministry of National Education represented the ELGPN in the Conference.

The EUNEC aims are to discuss the findings and recommendations of all European projects in education and training as well as to determine standpoints and to formulate statements on these issues. EUNEC wants to disseminate these statements proactively towards the European Commission, relevant DGs and other actors at European level, and to promote action by EUNEC's members and participants at national level.

The conference discussed on the challenges to Vocational Education and Training in the light of the Education and Training 2020 Framework and the renewed Europe 2020 Strategy. Also the OECD programme 2010 "Learning for jobs" (www.oecd.org/edu/learningforjobs) was introduced to the conference participants. This OECD study of vocational education and training was designed to help countries make their VET systems more responsive to labour market needs. It expands the evidence base, identifies a set of policy options and develops tools to appraise VET policy initiatives.

The conference conclusions identified the following challenges for VET. Education systems should create high quality career pathways for all young people also beyond the established frames. Vocational

Guidance system should be supported and developed with special emphasis for large numbers of young unemployed people. The relationships with the labour market should be strengthened and the labour market information should be made available for the students. On the local level there is a need for promotion of partnerships which could foster gaining qualifications. The teachers/trainers should also have an opportunity to update their skills and knowledge according to changes in the labour market.

More information on the conference is available at the EUNEC website <http://www.eunec.eu>.

High-Level Stakeholder Conference on Flexicurity 14 November 2011 in Brussels.

The high-level Stakeholder conference in Brussels on 14 November provided a forum for EU institutions, EU countries and social partners to share their past experience and explore ways to adapt flexicurity to the current institutional and economic context.

The aim of the conference was to re-launch a comprehensive debate on strengthening the four components of flexicurity in line with the terms of priorities identified, so that a "new momentum for flexicurity" could be the result of a common approach by EU institutions, Member States, social partners and other relevant stakeholders.

Besides taking stock of the lessons learned from the implementation of flexicurity so far, the conference analysed two key questions concerning the way ahead, namely how flexicurity can be best used to tackle employment challenges in the context of tight budgetary constraints and high unemployment and what governance is needed for further development and implementation of flexicurity. The ELGPN was represented in the meeting by the Co-ordinator. The ELGPN contributes to the debate on flexicurity with the commissioned paper by Prof. Ronald Sultana.

More information about flexicurity: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=102&langId=en>

“Forging Career Policy for the Greater Good”

The Society of Vocational Psychology organized their 10th Biennial Conference entitled “Forging Career Policy for the Greater Good”, November 4-6 2011 in Boston, USA.

The aim of the conference was to create a conversation and common understanding about quality and evidence base in lifelong guidance practice and policy development by bringing together a broad range of career development researchers, policy experts, and graduate students. By the invitation of the SVP the ELGPN was presented by the Co-ordinator as an example structured co-operation between EU member countries in the LLG policy development. The meeting discussed also about possibilities to establish a lifelong guidance policy network in North America and how to strengthen the interface with the ELGPN.

First steps of vocational guidance and counselling in the USA



The city of Boston in Massachusetts in the USA hosts also a significant mile stone in the global de-

velopment of Lifelong Guidance. The Civic Service House was founded 1901 to provide services for local residents and newly-arrived immigrants in Boston. In 1905 Frank Parsons founded the Breadwinners' College here to provide educational opportunities of members. He also founded the Vocational Guidance Bureau here in 1908 by offering organised vocational guidance and counselling services to young adults. Parson's initiative was the first systematic process for providing vocational guidance and counselling and laid the cornerstone for the American counselling movement. Later the facilities of the Civic Service House were converted to this current restaurant. (Photo: Raimo Vuorinen)

<http://www.bu.edu/sed/2011-svp-biennial-conference/>

10 years of the Genoa Charta - International Forum on Guidance in Italy 16-17 November 2011 in Genoa, Italy

The International Forum on Guidance in Italy was celebrating the 10th anniversary of the national guidance Charta (so-called Genoa Charta) in Genoa 16-17 November 2011. The meeting was organised by ISFOL - the Italian Institute for the Development of Vocational Training for Workers.

This year the annual meeting had more political and institutional orientation. The meeting discussed the policy priorities proposed by the Italian Regions. The original Genoa Charta was issued in 2001 November and it has four pillars; a) creating a guidance system, b) developing and acknowledging guidance careers (for professionals in the field of guidance), c) diversifying actions and evaluation their efficiency and d) ensuring continuous debate on guidance policy. The renewed Genoa Charta has two main objectives a) cooperation and coordination, and b) access and quality assurance of lifelong guidance services.

Currently the ISFOL is producing a three volume follow-up national research on guidance practice and policy development. The second volume titled Guidance supply and demand in Italy was published in 2010. Dr. Tibor Bors Borbély-Pecze represented the

ELGPN in the Conference and provided reflections on the results with the reference to lifelong guidance policy development in the European Union. A Danish project on youth mentoring in the VET schools by Charlotte Gjermandsen was also introduced as a good example against early drop-out.

More information is available on the ISFOL website <http://www.isfol.it>

Career Education for South-Eastern Europe - Investment in Youth for Sustainable Economic Growth

National Agency for Lifelong Learning Programme – Bulgaria (HRDC), ETF and ELGPN organised jointly a conference 8 November 2011 in Sofia entitled: "Career Education for South-Eastern Europe - Investment in Youth for Sustainable Economic Growth". The current progress of the ELGPN and the promotion of Career Education in Europe were presented by Prof. Anthony G. Watts, Helmut Zeloth from the European Training Foundation and the Co-ordinator. The materials and proceedings of the conference are available at:

<http://www.slideshare.net/hrdc05/tag/career-education>

http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL87D939035C8E79E3&feature=view_all

Network of observatories on skills needs and mismatches

The first meeting of the Network of observatories on skills needs and mismatches was organised by the European Commission 15-16 December 2011 in Brussels.

The network is launched to support the implementation of the objectives of the EU Skills Panorama prior its launch by the end of 2012. The main goal is to develop the responsiveness of education and training systems to labour market demands and to improve transparency and mobility in the labour market. Given that guidance services are seen as one of the priority target groups of the Panorama, the ELGPN was presented in the first meeting by the Co-ordinator.

Second round of ELGPN Field Visits

The second round of ELGPN Work Packages' Field Visits continued with WP4 Field visit on 2-4 November 2011 in Luxembourg.

Representatives from 14 ELGPN member countries attended the WP4 second field visit in Luxembourg 2-4 November 2011. The meeting took place in the Ministry of Education, Luxembourg, where the national government is currently establishing a 'one-stop shop' in the field of lifelong guidance (LLG) from 1st January 2012 onwards. This involves four guidance services working closely together i.e. school guidance; HE guidance; apprentices; and the school transitions service.

The aim of the field visit was to assess the progress made in the initial testing phase of the draft Quality Assurance Framework in lifelong guidance as well as to review and discuss the piloting arrangements for the learning outcomes development

The WP3 Field visit 10-11 November 2011 in Oslo, Norway

The WP3 second field visit took place on 10-11 November 2011, in Oslo, Norway. The meeting was jointly organized by the ELGPN, VOX, Norwegian Agency of Lifelong Learning, the Directorate for Education and Training and the Directorate of Work and Welfare. The Nordic Network for Adult Learning, NVL, also contributed to the program of this field visit and Nordic members of ELGPN and members of NVL career guidance network were invited to the meeting

The hosts presented the current status and challenges for national and regional co-ordination for guidance provision in Norway. The director Ms. Ingerd E. Gaarder presented also the newly established National Unit for Lifelong Guidance in VOX. The unit focused on co-ordination of guidance in different sectors, widening access and developing the evidence base and quality development for the services. In addition to guidance the unit works also on quality related to validation of prior learning.



The members of the Norwegian National Lifelong Guidance Unit from left to right: Hanne Christensen, Camilla Alfsen, Tonje F. Gravås, Randi Storli, Margrethe Steen Hernes, Mari Thorbjørnsrud, Ingjerd E. Gaarder (Director), Ingjerd Lorange, Line W. Engh (Photo: Vox)

The WP1 Second Field Visit 14-15 November 2011 in Toulouse, France

The field visit, which brought together 23 Work Package 1 participants from 17 countries, together with two ELGPN consultants as well as several French presenters, focused on policies and practices used in different contexts and sectors in order to assess the learning of Career Management Skills.

The programme for the field visit consisted in a series of presentations, discussions and workshops on the use of portfolios as a tool to assess learning, with particular attention being given to the elaboration of examples of interesting practice. The programme also included a visit to the Career Guidance services at the University of Toulouse 3, permitting the WP1 members to extend their understanding of the implementation of career programmes within the higher education sector—a concern that had also been addressed during another WP1 field visit in Lisbon, and which has been consistently promoted by the FEDORA representative who also participated in the Toulouse peer learning event.

The field visit programme included further development of the WP1 contribution to the ELGPN tool kit, with presentations being made by the two task forces responsible for the development of a CMS Catalogue, as well as of a study of the factors that impact on the successful implementation of career guidance policies.

The materials of the Field Visits as well as the Briefing Notes and the Reflections will be available in the ELGPN website. The Synthesis meetings for all the WPS will take place in February-April 2012 prior to the 10th ELGPN Plenary meeting in Copenhagen.

Recent publications

Working and ageing, Guidance and counselling for mature learners

The new Cedefop publication reviews factors contributing to successful active ageing from various angles. It examines contemporary approaches to guidance and counselling and presents several good practice examples of measures and practices launched in EU Member States. The report is available at:

<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/publications/19076.aspx>

Recent EU Policy documents

Erasmus for All

On 23 November the Commission proposed the Erasmus for All programme, in order to succeed to the current Lifelong Learning programme.

Erasmus for All would start in 2014 and would significantly increase the funds allocated for the development of knowledge and skills. Erasmus for All is based on the premise that investing in education and training is the key to unlocking people's potential, regardless of their age or background. It helps them to increase their personal development, gain new skills and boost their job prospects.

<http://ec.europa.eu/education/erasmus-for-all/>

Adoption of renewed European Agenda for Adult Learning

The Education Council adopted a Resolution on a renewed European Agenda for Adult Learning on November 28 2011. The new Resolution consolidates policy in the field of adult learning under the four strategic objectives of "ET2020", the framework for European cooperation in education and training.

The EU vision for adult learning systems in 2020 is characterised by increased demand for access to high

quality learning opportunities at any time in life and an enhanced role for local authorities, employers, social partners, civil society and cultural organisations. The new agenda emphasises autonomy of the learner but also responsibility for his/her learning pathway and outcomes.

http://ec.europa.eu/education/news/news3142_en.htm

Changes in the ELGPN Co-ordination unit

The ELGPN member countries are invited to propose their candidate for the new ELGPN Co-ordinator 2013-14 by 15 January 2012.

The current Co-ordinator informed the 9th ELGPN Plenary meeting 13-14 September 2011 in Warsaw that the forthcoming 10th ELGPN Plenary Meeting in Copenhagen in April 2012 should nominate a Co-ordinator for the fourth phase of the ELGPN in 2013-14. It was agreed that the current EU Presidency (Poland) with the support of Spain and Denmark would take responsibility for managing this process. On November 4 2011 Poland has sent an invitation to the ELGPN member countries to propose their candidate. With the support of the current Co-ordinator, the new Co-ordinator should take responsibility for preparing the ELGPN Grant Application and Work Programme for 2013-14.

A message to the ELGPN members from Ms. Outi Ruusuvirta, the new team member in the Finnish ELGPN Co-ordination unit.



As the newest member of the ELGPN Co-ordination unit, I would like to introduce myself. After ten years of working and studying in London, I am returning to my old home city of Jyväskylä to continue Marjo's work. I am currently finishing a PhD in electoral behaviour at the

London School of Economics and Political Science but have developed an interest in education policy. Therefore, the work of the ELGPN is of great interest to me personally. I look forward to working with you over the coming months.

Upcoming events

- 7 February 2012, Steering group & Task group meeting, Brussels, Belgium
- 21-22 February 2012, WP3 Synthesis meeting, Istanbul, Turkey
- 21-23 March 2012, WP4 Synthesis meeting, Dublin, Ireland
- 27-28 March 2012, WP1 Synthesis meeting, Malta
- 11-12 April 2012, WP2 Synthesis meeting, Warsaw, Poland
- 23-25 April 2012 10th ELGPN Plenary Meeting, Copenhagen, Denmark
- 24-26 October 2012, 11th ELGPN Plenary Meeting, Larnaca, Cyprus

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