

8th Plenary Meeting of ELGPN 22–23 February 2011, Budapest

8th Plenary Meeting of ELGPN was held in Budapest 22–23 February 2011. The total number of the participants was 70 coming from 25 different countries

In the beginning of the meeting the Co-ordinator (University of Jyväskylä), Raimo Vuorinen, warmly welcomed everyone to the meeting after which Ms Katalin Kissné Beneze (Ministry for National Economy) gave a presentation on the Hungarian EU Presidency Programme priorities and their interface with lifelong guidance policy development. After Ms Beneze's presentation, Mr Mark Levin and Ms Natalia Popova (ILO Sub-Regional Office, Budapest) presented the International Labour Organisation's work related to career guidance policies, particularly in relation to low- and middle-income countries.

The third presentation of the day was given by Dr Suzanne Kraatz (DG Employment) and Dr Lucie Davoine (DG Education and Culture). They provided updates on the Europe 2020 flagship initiatives and related lifelong guidance developments.

Networking

One of the main themes of the meeting was networking on which both Ms. Zsuzsanna Szvetelszky (researcher, University of ELTE, Budapest) and Professor Ronald Sultana (University of Malta) gave a presentation, with particular reference to network building as a tool.

Development of ELGPN's work methodology and implications for ELGPN governance

In the next session the Co-ordinator reported that 29 member countries had enrolled for the new work programme. New members are Croatia, Ireland and Romania. In addition, two further countries (Belgium and Bulgaria) have observer status. In addition, the Co-ordinator provided information about administration issues (e.g. work programme, dissemination and reporting issues).

The strategic goal of the new work programme was defined as being: to deepen attention to the four themes within the 2008 Resolution; to link this lifelong guidance perspective more closely to sectoral policy development (in schools, VET, higher education, adult education, employment, and social inclusion) at both national and EU levels; and

to produce concrete tools to support these processes.

Polish Presidency programme

In the end of the meeting Ms. Paulina Bogdanska (Vocational Counselling Unit, Labour Market Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Poland) presented aspects of the Polish Presidency programme which were relevant to lifelong guidance.

The meeting themes were supported by fruitful discussions aiming at deepening networking and sharing information.



In the photo Dr. Pál Veres, Ministry of National Resources, Hungary

Hungarian EU Presidency Conference

Adult Learning Action Plan entitled "It's always a good time to learn", 7–9 March 2011 in Budapest

The Hungarian EU 2011 Presidency organised a final conference on the Adult Learning Action Plan entitled "It's always a good time to learn" 7–9 March 2011 in Budapest. Conference web site:

<http://adultlearning-budapest2011.teamwork.fr/>

The conference presented the review of the implementation of the Adult Learning Action Plan (2007–10) and reflected potential actions to enhance policy, practice and participation in adult learning throughout Europe in the period 2011–2020. The agenda of the conference included plenary presentations and discussions in thematic working groups. Among the national delegations the following ELGPN representatives were participating the conference: Concetta Fonzo (IT), Craciela Sbertoli (NO), Tibor Bors Borbely (HU), Dimitris Kulljs (LV),

Jennifer McKenzie (IR), Heike Manschner (DE) and Raimo Vuorinen (FI).

In the keynote presentation Ms. Maria Joao Rodrigues (PT) emphasized guidance as the first priority in the development of adult education in Europe 2011-2020. She stressed that guidance is a crucial element in supporting the European citizens in customizing their individual learning journeys and tailor made careers. In addition to the development of individual career management skills she noted that there is also a need to mobilize different financial instruments to support favorable conditions to adult learning.

One of the working groups focused on increasing participation in adult learning and the role of outreached activities and guidance. The meeting was chaired by the ELGPN Co-ordinator and Ms. Jennifer McKenzie acted as the rapporteur of the workshop.

The discussions in this working group were supported by a background document which can be found at

<http://adultlearning-budapest2011.teamwork.fr/en/background>.

The discussions highlighted the recent lifelong guidance development in EU and recommendations from related Peer Learning Activities. The background document addressed also questions for consideration for the conference participants. The working group identified the fragmented services as a common challenge and proposed actions to improve the situation as follows:

- There is a need for a common conceptual framework for adult learning and guidance
- Within European level there is a need for stronger co-operation with adult learning organisations and other lifelong learning networks e.g. ELGPN
- In the forthcoming EU programmes there is a need on incorporate capacity building elements in addition to operational level projects
- In order to meet the increased demand of guidance there is a need to promote more diverse LLG delivery modes, e.g. outreached services.

The concluding plenary discussions from all the seven working groups proposed a number of priority themes in enhancing adult learning in accordance to EU 2020 priorities (Flash Report Budapest Conference 7-9 March 2011):

- Helping the low skilled and low educated acquire the key competences for life and work, starting with **basic skills** - adequate literacy, numeracy and digital skills;
- A sophisticated **guidance service** to ensure that adults make the right choices, find the right offers and design a lifelong project for themselves;
- Tailor-made responses to **the individual learner's needs**, supported by a range of pedagogies combined with ICTs, and supported by highly competent teachers to guide them in the knowledge society where everyone should make the best of their abilities;
- **Learning centres/ learning communities and regions**, with a strong link to social networks, which should give adult learning a more important place in the community, with robust partnerships across all relevant local actors supporting the central role of the public sector;
- **Vital contribution of higher education institutions** which have the dual role of opening up to adult students and providing research and analysis of the sector;
- Developing a greatly **improved knowledge base on adult learning sector**;
- Improving professional development in order to ensure and maintain **the high quality of teaching staff** in the adult learning sector;
- A vibrant new sector, "**learning for a long life**", and for active, autonomous, and healthy ageing, which cultivates inter-generational learning and solidarity between ages, and using the social, cultural and identity capitals of older people, in addition to their human capital.

A New Member in the ELGPN Co-ordination Team

A new member, Marjo Halmiala, started in the ELGPN Co-ordination team on 1st March 2011



Marjo attended the 8th Plenary Meeting in Budapest. Development of communication strategy is one of her main tasks. Her contact information can be found below in contact information section.

She graduated from the University of Jyväskylä in 2000 and is a language teacher by profession. Her major subject was Romance philology and her minor subjects were Italian language and sociology. Due to her love to learn new since her graduation she has continued her

studies as a PhD student. In 2006 she completed advanced studies in English and this year she is about to complete advanced studies in sociology as well. She aims at becoming a Master of Social Sciences in the end of this year. Her present interests of study focus on discourse analysis and the role of language competence in formatting power status in Internet Relay Chat but in the near future she will concentrate more on policy making processes from a linguistic and sociological viewpoint.

Since her graduation she has worked as a language teacher in several Adult Community Colleges, Elementary and Secondary Schools, Savonia University of Applied Sciences, and University of Jyväskylä. She has also worked a couple of years as an adult trainer and project designer in Pohjoisen Keski-Suomen Oppimiskeskus which is a vocational school in Central Finland. In the project, web based material of Business Studies was produced for several upper secondary schools in Central Finland. In addition, she has worked as an interpreter in several occasions and has done several translations. She has also produced the vocabularies of Italian language study books' called Cari amici. From autumn 2008 until February 2010 she worked as a Researcher within the Faculty of Information Systems in the team of Global Information System.

Up-coming Meetings and Events

WP1 Field Visit 1

Place: Portugal

Time: 28–29 March 2011

WP2 Field Visit 1

Place: Netherlands

Time: 18–19 April 2011

WP3 Field Visit 1

Place: Cyprus

Time: 10–11 May 2011

WP4 Field Visit 1

Place: Estonia

Time: 22–23 May 2011

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