

ELGPN Plenary Meeting in Riga, Latvia, 3-5 March 2015

The 17th ELGPN Plenary Meeting was held in Riga, Latvia on 3–5 March 2015. The meeting was organised by the Latvian ELGPN delegation in cooperation with the ELGPN. The meeting was attended by 109 delegates from 32 countries, including observers Kosovo, Serbia and Switzerland. Representatives of ELGPN partner (ETF) and parallel organisations (EAIE, Euroguidance, ICCDPP and the PES Network) and the European Parliament also participated in the meeting.



ELGPN members gathered for a family photo at the Riga Plenary Meeting in March. Photo: Valsts izglītības attīstības aģentūra

Mr Uldis Augulis, Minister of Welfare of the Republic of Latvia, welcomed the meeting participants to Riga. He noted that inclusive participation in the labour market was one of the priorities the Latvian presidency. He also recognised the work of the ELGPN by acknowledging the significance of active networks of experts in policy-making processes. Mr Augulis further noted that he was aware of the European Guidelines for Policies and Systems Development for Lifelong Guidance the ELGPN was finalising and expressed his support for them. Mr Imants Lipskis and Ms Aleksandra Joma introduced the Latvian lifelong guidance system and the recent developments in lifelong guidance policy. The meeting also received briefings from Dr Susanne Kraatz (European Parliament), Ms Nina Ahlroos (Euroguidance) and Dr Wolfgang Muller (PES Network).

The Plenary Meeting focused on completing the work of the ELGPN Work Streams on CMS and

QAE Framework. Time was also allocated to discussion on future systematic European co-operation on lifelong guidance policy development

At the end of the meeting, Mr Jos Noesen invited ELGPN members to the 18th ELGPN Plenary Meeting to be held in Luxembourg on 28-29 September 2015.

Lessons learnt: Results of an ELGPN Peer Review Workshop, Berlin, Germany, 26 March 2015

By Judith Langer

What were the aims, processes and outcomes of our ELGPN participation? How have we used the results and in which way has our participation in the ELGPN impacted on Lifelong Guidance policies and practices in Germany?

These questions were the focus of a Peer Review Workshop held in Berlin on 26 March 2015. With the aim to prepare an analysis of the ELGPN process and its results in Germany, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the National Guidance Forum (*nfb*) invited German-speaking ELGPN member countries and a number of European partner networks to discuss experiences and outcomes.



Opening the workshop: Heidemarie Stuhler (BMBF) and Karen Schober (*nfb*) light the ELGPN candle. Photo: *nfb*

In her presentation Ms Judith Langner (*nfb*) provided a conceptual framework for the analysis of the German participation in the ELGPN process and its outcomes. Dr Tibor Bors Borbely-Pecze (ELGPN consultant) then introduced the results of the ELGPN evaluation.

The participating member countries (AT, CH, LU)¹ and networks underlined that the ELGPN process and its cross-sectoral approach as well as the conceptualisation of guidance as a lifelong policy issue have impacted particularly positively on co-operation and co-ordination among the various professional and political actors and on a common understanding of guidance as a basis for this co-operation. In addition, it was argued that the conceptual foundations of the ELGPN and the preceding EU Resolutions (2004/2008) so far have had a greater impact on national policy development than the single ELGPN tools, although these have proved to be very useful for policy reviews and investigations in some countries.



Tibor Bors Borbely-Pecze, Jos Noesen and Gerhard Krötzl at the workshop. Photo: *nfb*

The representatives of the invited Partner Networks (Euroguidance, PES, NICE, EAIE) emphasised that ELGPN has positively impacted on the transversal and cross-sectoral understanding of lifelong guidance in their networks. They also highlighted the importance of ELGPN in reaching EU 2020 policy goals both in the education and employment sector.

In general, the participants agreed that the adaptation and integration of the ELGPN tools in the member countries remains a challenge for any “process of open co-ordination”. Therefore, it is important to find appropriate ways for future co-operation to successfully continue the discourse on ELGPN tools and concepts.

National Lifelong Guidance Policy Conference, Helsinki, Finland, 27-28 April 2015

The Finnish National Board of Education hosted a lifelong guidance policy conference in Helsinki on 27-28 April 2015.

The conference focused on the new core curricula and quality criteria for career education. The second theme was access to education and the new national project on the development of one-stop guidance centres as part of national Youth Guarantee priorities under the European Social Fund programme 2014-20.

During the conference workshops the delegates discussed different approaches to quality assurance and evidence in career education in order to feed the development of national feedback mechanism in guidance. The ELGPN Co-ordinator presented the ELGPN Research Paper on Career Development Items in the PISA 2012 study and a more detailed analysis of the national data which has been published by the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture.

The 1st National Lifelong Guidance Policy Conference, Torshavn, the Faroe Islands, 4 May 2015

Co-operation within the Nordic Network for Adult Learning (NVL) and the European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network (ELGPN) has acted as a catalyst for national lifelong guidance policy development in the Nordic countries. This catalytic effect has been evident during the NVL-supported Nordic conferences and network meetings which have raised awareness of the transversal nature of lifelong guidance policies and the common understanding of shared terminology and goals for a coherent national lifelong guidance system.

One of the recent examples of this co-operation has been the development of a Master’s Degree programme for guidance practitioners in the Faroe Island, as a joint Nordic effort. The design and implementation of this programme within the Department of Education at the University of the Faroe Islands is supported by the Faculty of Social

¹ Unfortunately Denmark and the Netherlands could not participate in the workshop this time.

and Human Sciences of the University of Iceland in co-operation with the VALA Network².

As one of the assignments during the training programme the students organised the first national lifelong guidance policy conference in co-operation with policy-makers and key local stakeholders on 4 May 2015. Over 120 delegates discussed the key policy drivers which have impact on the first national strategy for lifelong guidance. The ELGPN Co-ordinator presented the ELGPN tools to support the discussion. During the second year of the training programme the students will examine potential action steps in implementing the strategy priorities. The first steps will include raising awareness of lifelong guidance among the stakeholders, development of local networks spanning all levels of education, and strengthening the links between education and the labour market.



Discussing the national lifelong guidance priorities in the Faroe Islands. Photo: Anna Katrin Matras

“Skills for planning successful career”, Bratislava, Slovakia, 18–19 May 2015

The conference “Skills for planning successful career” was organised in Bratislava on 18-19 May 2015 by the Slovakian National Lifelong Learning Institute.

During the conference over one hundred delegates from Slovakia, Czech Republic and Hungary shared experiences of national approaches in promoting lifelong Career Management Skills from basic education to adult learning. Other national examples

were presented by Dr Peter Härtel from Austria and Ms Sandra Cheyne and Ken Edwards from Skills Development Scotland. The ELGPN Co-ordinator discussed career management skills (CMS) in the context of ELGPN documents.

PES Network Stakeholders’ Conference ‘Working together for a stronger European labour market’, Brussels, Belgium, 26–27 May 2015

The first stakeholders' conference of the PES Network held in Brussels on 26-27 May 2015 brought together public employment services (PES) and diverse labour market stakeholders, including social partners, private employment services, international organisations and NGOs with the aim of strengthening existing partnerships and developing new ones to work together for a stronger European labour market. The participants developed concrete ideas and proposal for working together in different areas, including PES modernisation, the implementation of the Youth Guarantee and bridging career transitions.

The collaboration ideas focused on capacity-building of PES and social partners and joint design and delivery of initiatives as well as working with private employer services in sharing labour market intelligence. In addition, the conference discussed PES and Contribution of the PES Network to the European Semester and how PES can improve its work with private employment services and guidance, education and training providers to deliver the Youth Guarantee. An overall theme was how to improve the PES role as conductor of partnerships between labour market actors in improving the functioning of the labour market and facilitate the transitions that people make throughout their working lives. This role involves initiating and managing partnerships between a wide range of labour market organisations.

The European Network of Public Employment Services (PES) was established following a decision by the Council and the European Parliament to maximise efficiency of public employment services. The network comprises all 28 EU countries and the European Commission. It is governed by a Board, where each Member State and the Commission are represented by two members. For more information, please see

² VALA is a network of Career counseling and guidance programs at higher education institution in the Nordic and Baltic countries.

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=1100&langId=en>

Guidance Crossing Borders in Retz, Austria, June 9 – 10, 2015

By Agnes Cserkuti

To celebrate the 10th anniversary of the cross border cooperation of the Euroguidance network, the annual Cross Border Seminar "Guidance Crossing Borders" was co-organised by the original founding countries: Austria, Czech Republic and Slovakia. The event took place on 9-10 June 2015 in Retz, Austria, with an optional field trip on 8 June to Brno, Czech Republic, to literally cross borders and visit local counselling centres, meet Czech guidance practitioners and share ideas.

The original idea of the Cross Border Seminar is to benefit from the co-operation, similarities and good practices of the participating countries. This year's event intended to cross the borders in the field of guidance and focused on overcoming boundaries that might exist between countries, different sectors and disciplines or guidance practitioners and stakeholders. The seminar also recalled previous Cross Border events with a special poster exhibition where the former hosting countries were invited to present their Cross Border-related materials and results.

For more information on this year's seminar and conference documents please visit the following link, where additional information on the history and documents from previous Cross Border Seminars are also available: <http://euroguidance.eu/news-events/cross-border-seminars/>

7th International Symposium on Career Development and Public Policy, Des Moines, Iowa, USA, June 15-17, 2015

The 7th International Symposium on Career Development and Public Policy held in Des Moines, Iowa, USA on June 15–17, 2015 was attended by 103 policy-makers, researchers and leaders in the field of career development from 20 countries and 6 international organisations.

The ELGPN was represented by member country representatives from Austria, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, and Norway as well as the ELGPN Co-ordinator. The meeting was jointly organised by Kuder, Inc. (Kuder) and the International Centre for Career Development and Public Policy (ICCDPP).



Building the Talent Pipeline and Providing Youth with Hope for the Future: IS 2015 delegates. Photo: <http://is2015.org>

Country teams prepared country papers prior to the event and articulated a plan for country action following the event on the following Symposium sub-themes:

1. Engaging employers
2. The role of emerging technologies
3. Why return on investment matters
4. Integrated policies: creating systems that work

The Symposium discussed the current challenges in the global community: demographic pressures, increasing automation, and complex and changeable labour markets. The purpose of the Symposium was to consider how governments, researchers and career development leaders could best ensure the talent pipeline and provide youth with hope for the future. The Symposium explored the economic, social and demographic issues impacting on youth under/unemployment in developed and developing countries and the policy, research and practices required to address these challenges. The European co-operation in lifelong guidance was presented in a

panel discussion by Pedro Morena de Fonseca (Cedefop), Helmut Zelloth (ETF) and Raimo Vuorinen (ELGPN).

The Symposium Communique presents the summary of the discussions and recommendations for the countries and the ICCDPP. The participants agreed that career development is a powerful tool of public policy which can nudge the way in which people act and education and employment system functions. Career development serves also as a critical bridge between education and employment and should be included in government strategies to ensure the talent pipeline. Countries were encouraged to invest in evidence and include evaluation as a routine part of the service delivery. The symposium was acknowledged as a vital opportunity for international co-operation around career development policy and it was recommended that the ICCDPP should continue to co-ordinate this discourse in co-operation with the hosts of the next Symposium in 2017.

The country papers, synthesis papers, Symposium presentations and the Communique are available at the Symposium website <http://is2015.org>.

Forthcoming meeting dates

The 18th ELGPN Plenary Meeting will take place in Luxembourg on 28-29 September 2015 and the ELGPN delegates are invited to arrive in Luxembourg on Sunday 27 September 2015 for a welcome dinner. The registration for this meeting will open during the summer and close in mid-August.

The 19th ELGPN Plenary Meeting will take place in Jyväskylä, Finland on 24-25 November 2015 and the ELGPN delegates are requested to arrive in Jyväskylä on Monday 23 November 2015 for a welcome reception (at 7pm). The ELGPN delegates are also invited to join the Finnish national LLG seminar (held in English) which will take place on 26 November 2015. Registration for both Finnish events will open in September and close on 30 October 2015.

Summer greetings from Jyväskylä



Please note that the ELGPN Co-ordination unit will be closed for summer break on 6 July –3 August 2015.

Contact information:

Raimo Vuorinen
Project Manager, PhD
Mobile: +358 50 361 1909

Outi Ruusuvirta
Senior Project Designer, BA, MSc, PGCertHE
Mobile: +358 40 801 0835

Marjo Halmiala
Senior Project Designer, BA
Mobile: +358 40 805 4796

Tellervo Ahlholm
Finance officer
Mobile: +358 50 336 5408

Finnish Institute for Educational Research
University of Jyväskylä
P.O. Box 35
FI-40014 University of Jyväskylä
Finland

Fax +358 14 617 418
Email elgpn@jyu.fi