



The joint 13th ELGPN Plenary Meeting and 3rd Policy Review Meeting, Vilnius, Lithuania on 12–13 December 2013

The joint 13th ELGPN Plenary Meeting and 3rd Policy Review Meeting was held in Vilnius, Lithuania on 12–13 December 2013. This associated event of the Lithuanian 2013 EU Presidency was organised by the Lithuanian Ministry of Education and Science and the European Commission, in cooperation with the ELGPN. The meeting was attended by 110 delegates from 32 countries, including observers Switzerland, Kosovo and Serbia. Representatives of ELGPN partner (Cedefop, ETF and Euroguidance) and parallel organisations (IAEVG, EAIE, ICCDPP and the PES Network) also participated in the meeting.

Rector of General Education Dr Saulius Zybartas welcomed the participants to Vilnius on behalf of the Ministry of the Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania. He spoke of the challenges facing the European countries and highlighted the importance of guidance and of the ELGPN in meeting the aims of the Europe 2020 strategy. The meeting also received briefings from Ms Chiara Riondino (European Commission DG EAC), Ms Susanne Kraatz and Ms Barbora Novotna (European Commission DG EMPL).

Ms Aleksandra Sokolova, the Deputy Head of Vocational Education and Guidance division at the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania, introduced the recent policy developments in lifelong guidance in Lithuania. She outlined the legal base, the strategies and guidelines shaping guidance policy in Lithuania and introduced the bodies, both in education and employment, involved in delivering guidance services. The meeting acknowledged the recent progress and also the active contributions of Lithuania in the ELGPN activities.

The printed version of the latest ELGPN Concept Note entitled “The Youth Guarantee and Lifelong Guidance” was launched at the Plenary Meeting. The co-authors, Dr Tibor Bors Borbely-Pecze and Ms Jo Hutchinson noted that the Concept Note was designed to help member countries in the implementation of the YGI by presenting practices from coun-

tries that had already made progress on relevant initiatives and from countries working on developing such practices and policies. They also urged the members to work with their stakeholders to imbed lifelong guidance in youth guarantee policies in their countries.



Plenary meeting participants gathered for a family photo at the joint 13th ELGPN Plenary Meeting and 3rd Policy Review Meeting (Photo: Aurelija Petrikaite).

The Plenary agreed on the development of European Guidelines on Lifelong Guidance Systems and Policy Development. The meeting noted that content of the guidelines needs to include references to key EU policies in education and employment sectors and show the evolution since the 2004 and 2008 Council Resolutions on lifelong guidance. The next Plenary Meeting in Athens in February 2014 will allocate time to discuss the structure and content of the guidelines with an aim to develop a final draft to be discussed in the ELGPN Policy Review Meeting in Zagreb in June 2014. After the consultation among the Network members and relevant stakeholders in Member States the aim is to endorse the guidelines in the ELGPN Plenary Meeting in Rome in October 2014. The Plenary Meeting in Rome will also agree on the process in seeking political acknowledgement and recognition as well as the implementation plan during the ELGPN Work Programme 2015 and onwards.

The meeting also decided that on behalf of the ELGPN the Finnish Institute for Educational Research at the University of Jyväskylä will submit the grant application to the Commission in October–November 2014 and will co-ordinate the work of the ELGPN in 2015. The aim of this transitional work

programme is to position lifelong guidance in the Europe 2020 strategies and examine optional ways for structured European co-operation in lifelong guidance systems and policy development.

At the end of the meeting, Ms Fotini Vlachaki, Fotini Vlachaki, Director of the Career Guidance Directorate from the National Organization for the Certification of Qualifications and Vocational Guidance (EOPPEP) invited ELGPN members to the joint 14th ELGPN Plenary Meeting and 4th Policy Review Meeting to be held in Athens on 19–20 February 2014.

ELGPN Youth Guarantee Concept Note available as an e-book

The ELGPN Steering Group agreed on 22 October 2013 to publish ELGPN publications as e-books in an ELGPN app, accessible via the Apple App Store and Google Play.

The new Youth Guarantee Concept Note is a pilot to test how ELGPN publications can be developed through this new publishing venue and how this is received by the potential users. The ELGPN app was launched in the Google Play store during the Vilnius Plenary Meeting on 12 December 2013 and the Apple AppStore app will be available in early January 2014.

The mobile apps will not replace the printed and web versions of the publications but complement them. It will also be possible to publish different language versions of the ELGPN publications in one single ELGPN app.

ELGPN congratulated the NCDa for its 100th Anniversary

The International Symposium on Career Development and Public Policy (Budapest, 5–7 December 2011) invited the European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network, ELGPN to strengthen links between European Union member-states and parallel international initiatives in lifelong guidance policy development.

The strong collaborative structures and processes within ELGPN could be enriched by practices from countries outside Europe, for mutual benefit; such links could include, but extend beyond, global shar-

ing of ELGPN publications and tools – recognising that good practice is based on sharing learning, not importing models.



During the centennial celebration of the National Career Development Association in Boston 10 July 2013 the ELGPN Co-ordinator, Dr Raimo Vuorinen congratulates the NCDa by sharing the European Resource Kit with Dr Rich Feller, President, National Career Development Association.

Meeting of the neighbouring ELGPN members from Denmark, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland, and Germany

by Judith Fruebing

The meeting of neighbouring ELGPN members initiated and hosted by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (FMER/ BMBF) in Berlin, Germany on 13–14 November 2013, focused on mutual learning and exchange concerning the application of the Resource Kit on the one hand, and research approaches and projects on quality development, professionalisation and evidence based policy and practice, on the other hand. The working language in the meeting was German.

Welcoming the participants, the host Heidemarie Stuhler, Federal Ministry of Education and Research underlined the importance of guidance for lifelong learning, social inclusion and equality. Guidance should be applied as a preventive not as a curative measure. This implies a change in paradigm which is driven by the federal government alongside with the federal states (Länder). The European Resource Kit is a valuable tool to support this dialogue on lifelong guidance between the Länder and the federal government.

The participating member countries agreed that the Resource Kit has provided an inspiration for further developments of guidance systems and strategies. After having concluded the phase of translation and adaptation, all participating member countries started disseminating and discussing the application of the Resource Kit. This process has had a positive impact on cooperation and coordination between the different sectors. However, the complexity of policy development and particularly of cooperation between sectors and stakeholders remains a challenge, even though numerous initiatives and structures have been established with the use of the Resource Kit in different ways. Frequent changes in administrative responsibility and government are slowing the process down in some countries. Additionally, guidance is often not a topic of political priority.

On the second day the German hosts presented examples for quality development and evidence base: Results from the Open Process of Coordination for Quality Development in Guidance in Education, Career and Employment, a project funded by the FMER/ BMBF (Prof Dr Christiane Schiersmann, Universität Heidelberg), report on quality assurance of vocational and employment guidance and counselling in the Federal Employment Agency (Gerhard Müller and Frank Roth, Bundesagentur für Arbeit, Nuremberg), information on outcome measurement within the evaluation system of educational guidance provisions in Berlin, (Henning Kruse, Arbeit und Leben e.V. (DGB/VHS), LAG Berlin) and the design and structure of a cost-benefit model for educational guidance in Dresden (Arlette du Vinage, Landeshauptstadt Dresden, Bildungsbüro „Dresdner Bildungsbahnen“) designated to measure economic benefits in monetary figures. The representatives of the participating countries were satisfied with the structure and the outcomes of this kind of a cluster meeting.

Genoa Fair – ABCD + Orientamenti: National and International Forum for Orientation 2013

by Tibor Bors Borbély-Pecze

In Genoa provincial and regional governments jointly with universities and ISFOL organised the 2013 national conference on lifelong guidance policy alongside the Genoa Career Expo in mid-November 2013.

The proposed draft national guidelines were presented during the conference with strong emphasis on the future development of the Italian youth guarantee scheme as a compulsory national task until end of this year. Later in December in Rome, there were further discussions on different initiatives of the labour and educational administration in relation to these national lifelong guidance policy guidelines.

The first day of the conference was dedicated for Information and Communication Technology in guidance. Alongside with several foreign speakers Ms Jaana Kettunen from the Finnish Institute for Educational Research at the University of Jyväskylä introduced recent research findings on career practitioners' varying ways of experiencing Social Media in guidance. During the second day the European youth guarantee initiative was introduced not only for the provincial, regional administrations but also for the wider public. During open discussions young visitors of the fair addressed different EU and national politicians on the topic. At the afternoon two workshops took place. One was dedicated for the development of national lifelong guidance strategies and guidelines. In his role as ELGPN consultant, Dr Tibor Bors Borbély-Pecze described how different European countries are coping with this issue. The subsequent roundtable discussion was led by Mr Furio Truzzi. Another parallel meeting focused on operational level of guidance services where Dr Tristram Hooley discussed the links between evidence, evaluation and continuous improvement of guidance services and service providers.

“Contemporary challenges of work and organizational psychology”- 21st Annual Conference of Croatian Psychological Association with international participation, Zagreb, Croatia, 6–9 November 2013

by Ivana Drobac and Monika Ivanović

Around 500 participants from Croatia and abroad attended the conference “Contemporary Challenges of work and organizational psychology”, the purpose of which was to provide examples of professional experience and scientific research results regarding dramatic changes occurring in the world of work in recent years.

During the conference a qualitative analysis of human resource management in Croatian organisations was presented along with other topics such as the

role of career counselling in different settings, the effects of economic crisis and possible interventions, women in the labour market, prevention of consequences of stress in the workplace, professional development and increase of employability of helping professions, etc.

Following the guidelines for implementation of the *Europe 2020* strategy, proposed by the European Commission, Croatia has been working this year on establishing National Forum for Lifelong Guidance, made proposals of the draft legislation in the field of vocational guidance and national strategies for lifelong career guidance, and set up eight new career guidance centres across the country as a result of the project *CES Services to Clients: Improving Lifelong Career Guidance and ICT Support*, carried out by the Croatian Employment Service.



21st Annual Conference of Croatian Psychological Association gathered together around 500 participants from Croatia and abroad. (Photographer: Tvrtko Maras)

As an important contribution to the conference, representatives of the Croatian Employment Service presented their experiences and activities on different subjects regarding lifelong career guidance such as European lifelong guidance policy and career development in the national context, the possibilities of ICT technology in career development and guidance (e.g. Portal for career development - www.cisok.hr), as well as the role of career guidance in the context of trends and challenges young people are facing nowadays. For more information please see <http://konferencija.psihologija.hr/>.

Season's Greetings from the Co-ordination unit

The staff of the Co-ordination unit would like to thank all ELGPN members, partner and consultants for a busy ELGPN year 2013 and look forward to an exciting and inspiring 2014 with you. Enjoy your hard-earned break!



Please note that the ELGPN Co-ordination unit will be closed 23 December 2013 – 1 January 2014 for a Christmas break.

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