



Ministry of National Education

LIFELONG GUIDANCE IN TURKEY

İbrahim BÜKEL
Board Member of the Board of Education

Vienna, 09.04.2008

Current Situation

- Guidance services in Turkey are implemented by **Ministry of National Education (MoNE)**, **Turkish Employment Organization (İŞKUR)**, **universities**, **private sector**, **unions** and **associations** at various levels.

Activities and actions taken within the context of Lifelong Guidance

- Workshop on Vocational Guidance and Counselling Services (April 2004)
- Collaboration Protocol on Vocational Information, Guidance and Counselling Services (October 2004)
- Workshop on National Policy and Action Plan on Vocational Guidance and Counselling Services (May 2005)
- Conference on the Support of the Development of Vocational Education and Training in Turkey in the context of Copenhagen Process (November 2006)
- Lifelong Learning Policy Paper under the SVET (Strengthening Vocational and Technical Educational System in Turkey) Project (2006)
- Conference on Vocational Guidance and Counselling Services in EU harmonization Process of Turkey (November 2007)
- Turkey's Lifelong Learning Strategy Paper (December 2007)

Roles of Stakeholders in Process of Lifelong Guidance

1. Ministry of National Education (MoNE):

- The guidance and counselling services of MoNE are based on pedagogical, vocational, individual and social concepts.
- These services are implemented by Guidance and Counselling Services in schools within the context of guidance curricula.
- An orientation portfolio prepared in cooperation with School Management, Guidance Teacher and parents is given to primary school graduates.
- Additionally guidance services in secondary education differs from primary education. That is;

Secondary education consists of 4 years and 9th grade is a common grade. In 9th grades, there is an “Introduction and Orientation Lesson”. This lesson covers 2 different modules one of which is related to vocational fields and the other one is related to academic fields. These modules enable students to familiarize with occupations and help them do a right choice of field for their future.

Guidance Research Centers (GRC)

- 192 GRC have been established in Turkey.
- These centers provide services on guidance, counselling and special education fields.
- Target groups:
students, parents, teachers and adults.
- Some projects implemented within the context of guidance services by MoNE such as Vocational Guidance and Counselling Component of Secondary Education Project.

2. Turkish Employment Organization (İŞKUR)

- The main role of İŞKUR is to support the human resources within the context of employment by vocational guidance and vocational counselling services.
- Guidance services facilitate to obtain information about the occupations, work life, employment opportunities, to assess the obtained information and to develop self-identity.
- Target Group:
 - People at the preliminary stage of career choice,
 - young people who will begin vocational education (primary and secondary school students),
 - people who will take up a position for the first time,
 - hard-core workers,
 - the unemployed who benefit from supplementary allowance,
 - people who want to develop their professional skills,
 - young people and adults who want to change their professions.

3.Higher Education

- There are “Guidance and Physicological Counselling Centers” and “Career Planning Centers” in universities.
- The aim of these centers is to support individual and vocational development of students.

4. Private Sector and Social Partners

- Various institutions procure services from private consultancy companies for career development of their staff.
- Besides, employers and trade unions furnish services within the context of vocational guidance and counselling.

- **A Protocol on “Vocational Information, Guidance and Counseling Services Cooperation”** was signed by the Ministry of National Education, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Turkish Employment Organization, State Planning Organization, and also some of the partners such as The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges of Turkey, Turkish Confederation of Employer Associations, The Confederation of Turkish Tradesman and Craftsmen, Confederation of Turkish Trade Unions, on **26 October 2004**, to provide coordination and cooperation on vocational information, guidance and counseling.
- Studies on the determination of the qualifications are carried out by the related partners as it is defined in the protocol.

FUTURE PLANNING

- The provision of lifelong guidance is a priority on the Turkey's agenda for access to lifelong learning, creating economic prosperity and social inclusion.
- The importance of collaboration between guidance providers to ensure sharing of expertise and the effective use of resources is well recognized by the authorities and therefore a national guidance forum can be held to experience on policy and practice dialogue and to create more common understanding of the reflection of guidance within the context of lifelong learning.

Some of the Planned Specific Activities

- Preparation of an inventory on lifelong guidance in Turkey is planned as a prior activity.
- Preparation of action plan on lifelong guidance in Turkey is planned under the “Secondary Education Project” and “Protocol on Vocational Information, Guidance and Counseling Services Cooperation”.
- Support of lifelong guidance in Turkey by EU-funded IPA project.

Thanks for your
attention!