

European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network

Work Package 2: Widening Access

Synthesis meeting, Warsaw, 11-12 April 2012

Report by Füsün Akkök,

Members present: Austria, Cyprus, Finland (the coordinator), France, Germany, Iceland, Latvia, Norway, Poland, The Netherlands, Turkey (the consultant)

Goals for the Meeting: To review the Tool-kit and the Progress report, to have an overview of the WP 2 activities in this term, feedback on the Glossary and proposals regarding the next phase. In addition, Germany, Austria and Poland had presentations on new initiatives on provisions for different target groups; at-risk students, people over 50 and/or in transition to retirement and unemployed adults.

1. Background and Introductory notes:

1.1 Irena Mazek, the head of the Vocational Counselling Unit, Labour Market Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy had a brief introduction on the actions taken for youth and people over 50 in Poland based on the Act of Employment 2004. Special measures for youth at-risk of unemployment and social exclusion were taken. Specialised services were developed for the activation of the elderly in the labour market. ICT tools have become part of the guidance provisions.

1.2 Raimo Vuorinen, ELPGN coordinator, provided information on the past, present and future coordination of the network. He summarised the key EU documents that guidance has been integrated and the key initiatives that the ELGPN has been related to (e.g. the New Skills, New Jobs, Youth on the Move and Europe 2020 strategy). The coordinator also outlined the important agenda items for the meeting and the decisions to be made at the next network Plenary Meeting in Copenhagen (24-25 April 2012).

1.3 An overview of the WP2 activities were also in the agenda, the voice of the user, the quality dimension in access and the competences of the practitioners and consideration of the social justice were some of the highlights.

2. Tool-kit has been reviewed thoroughly and the first discussion was related to the title of the tool-kit. The title of “Developmental Framework” was suggested and was

welcomed well. The tool-kit was found to be “premature” at its present state and needed further testing to become a validated tool. Instead of a “Short version”, an “Introductory version” was suggested to persuade the policy makers for the value of the tool-kit. In relation to the WP2 section on the tool-kit, some rephrasing of the chapter was carried on.

3. **Progress report** was also reviewed by the group and further rephrasing on some parts of the chapter was suggested.

4. **Proposals from WP2 for the next phase of ELGPN: 2013-2014**

It is more realistic to consider the tool-kit as a "developmental framework" that needs to be further tested and validated at the national level in different countries in the first year of the next term. After this process of testing, the "tool-kit" or the Developmental framework as suggested could be finalised. Member States could work in clusters or in twinning to test and validate the "tool-kit". The "tool-kit" and the process of testing it could be a tool to develop awareness on the policy makers on LLG and convincing them on the guidance provisions. Building national teams which should cooperate with other countries and allocating resources accordingly is critical for this process and the member states need to be invited to make clear commitments in advance for this process of working together in clusters.

We need to initiate new fields of guidance the next term, like active aging, at-risk groups, ethical standards, sub networks of countries working together. Thematic fields rather than work packages are suggested. Study visits, peer learning events are considered as of value.

5. It was an initial suggestion to relate the existing definitions to guidance and the terms and definitions used in the tool-kit and the report of the last term. The most relevant terms to LLG need to be in the Glossary. It is supposed to be a contextual Glossary and translated into our own national languages to be presented and validated by national levels but also understandable by all practitioners.