



Development of a National Forum on Lifelong Guidance in Cyprus

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The Council of Ministers

- at the meeting of 3 June 2009 and after discussion of the proposal of the Ministry of Education and Culture on the above subject, decided to
- authorize the Ministers of Education and Culture, Labour and Social Insurance to study the issue of setting up and running a National Forum for Lifelong Guidance and
- submit a new proposal to the Cabinet about the format, composition and responsibilities of the Forum.

The Ministers of Labour and Social Insurance & Education and Culture

- After studying the work of the Joint Technical Committee set up by Officers of the 2 Ministries - set up on 14 December 2009 for the preparation of the proposal,
- Have concluded a new proposal for the establishment of the Cyprus National Forum for Lifelong Guidance
- The proposal is currently under review (any suggestions of the WP3 and will be taken into consideration)

The Basic Structure of the Forum

Three Main Bodies

- the Ministerial Committee,
- the Guidance Council / Forum and
- the Secretariat (Executive committee).

Ministerial Committee

- Minister of Education and Culture
- Minister of Labour and Social Insurance

The two Ministers will be advised by the Forum and co-decide on the major policy priorities that the Forum will suggest

Will also have the final saying on the Budget allocation for the operation of the Forum

Members of the Forum/Council

Co-chaired by the

- Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Culture
- Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance

Members

- Representative of the Ministry of Education and Culture – Expert on Guidance
- Representative of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance – Expert on Guidance
- Representative of the Human Resource Development
- Representative of the Cyprus Youth Organization
- Representative of the Higher Education
- Representative of the employers' organizations
- Representative of the labour organizations
- Representative of the educational organizations

The Secretariat (Executive Committee)

- Head of Career Counseling and Education Service (Ministry of Education and Culture)
- Director of the Department of Labour (Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance)
- Counselors of CCES, MOEC
- Officers of ED, MLSI

The staff (at least for the start) will be working part time for the forum

The physical structure of the secretariat will be at the MOEC premises

The coordination of the processes (logistics) of the secretariat will be taken by only one Ministry (MOEC)

Aims of the Forum

- The Forum will be an advisory body to the Government,
- It will have the duty to promote a shared national policy on lifelong guidance.
- All final decisions will be made by the two ministers.
- The Forum will act as a platform to exchange information, views and positions on the issues of lifelong guidance.
- The Forum will contribute with suggestions to the development of policies, systems and practices
- It will have the responsibility to promote lifelong guidance through proposals and initiatives.
- The Forum will be involved in European projects and will participate in working groups / networks, etc.
- The Forum will manage the European funds of lifelong guidance.

Objectives of the Forum

- Coordination and communication between services that provide guidance.
- Development of a national system of quality mentoring.
- Increased public access to guidance services.
- The promotion and implementation of research in counseling.
- Quality assurance and evaluation of the services that provide guidance.
- Representation of Cyprus at meetings and working groups at European and international level on lifelong guidance.
- Promote Ethical Standards

Cost

- The budget of the the National Forum will be covered equally by funds that will be included into their annual operational budget.
- The budget will be covering organisation of meeting, seminars, dissemination of information, the creation of a web site, traveling expenses, etc.

Final Comments

- It will most probably be established by the end of this year 2011
- The final proposal will have to take into consideration the constructive comments made by the German Experts during the coaching activity in Athens and any other comments by the partners during the WP3 Study visit in Cyprus
- A new joint meeting by the two Permanent Secretaries is foreseen in order to discuss the new developments

The Coaching/ twinning Activity

- Power Play: How do we overcome the power games? How is it decided who leads the National Forum? Who are the major stakeholders? The major decision makers?
- Communication: How is the communication done at all levels? Among European level, Ministries, Departments?
- Outcomes: How the decisions are made and who decides what? Who does the research? Who is responsible to write reports, set targets and develop and implements a strategic plan

Critical questions asked

- *Power Play*: How do we overcome the power games? How is it decided who leads the National Forum? Who are the major stakeholders? The major decision makers?
- *Communication*: How is the communication done at all levels? Among European level, Ministries, Departments?
- *Outcomes*: How the decisions are made and who decides what? Who does the research? Who is responsible to write reports, set targets and develop and implements a strategic plan

Thank you for your time