

## 11th ELGPN Plenary Meeting, Larnaca, Cyprus 25–26 October 2012

**The 11<sup>th</sup> ELGPN Plenary Meeting, held Larnaca, Cyprus on 25–26 October 2012 was organised by the Cyprus Ministry of Education and Culture and the Cyprus Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, in cooperation with the ELGPN. The meeting was attended by 88 delegates from 31 countries, including observers from Belgium and Switzerland. ELGPN partner (Cedefop, ETF, Euroguidance, and ETUC) and parallel organisations (IAEVG, EAIE and ICCDPP) were also represented in the meeting.**

The meeting began with a welcome address from Mr Panayiotis Mavros, the Chief Education Officer of the Ministry of Education. Ms Lena Nicolau, Inspector of Guidance at the Ministry of Education and Culture then provided an overview of recent developments in lifelong guidance policy in Cyprus. The meeting also received briefings from Mr Koen Nomden (European Commission DG EAC), Mr Mik Woolley (Employment Committee), Ms Fotini Vlachaki (Euroguidance Strategy Working Group Leader) and Ms Flavia Buiarelli (European Association of Regional and Local Authorities for Lifelong Learning). The new ELGPN 2011–12 products were also presented by the authors (see separate piece in this newsletter).



ELGPN Co-ordinator Dr Raimo Vuorinen presented the 2011–12 ELGPN products to Ms Lena Nicolaou (Presidency Chair) and Mr Koen Nomden (DG EAC) at the 11<sup>th</sup> ELGPN Plenary Meeting in Larnaca, Cyprus. (Photo: Stalo Papageorgiou Afxentiou)

The main aim of the meeting was to discuss and approve the 2013–14 Work Programme. The Work Programme was approved with a revised Policy Re-

view Cluster (PRC) meeting structure (for a summary of the meeting discussion and precise decisions, please see the meeting minutes distributed to ELGPN members and meeting participants). The meeting also agreed that the Finnish Institute for Educational Research (FIER) at the University of Jyväskylä will continue in the substantive co-ordination role for 2013 and financial management for the 2013–14 Work Programme.

At the end of the meeting, Ms Jennifer McKenzie, Director of the National Centre for Guidance in Education, presented the Irish Presidency Programme concerning Lifelong Guidance. She also invited ELGPN members to the 12<sup>th</sup> ELGPN Plenary meeting to be held in Dublin, Ireland on 27–28 February 2013.

The Plenary Meeting documents, presentations and photographs from the meeting can be found at the meeting website:

<http://ktl.jyu.fi/ktl/elgpn/policymakers/cooperation/events/pm11>.

## Launch of the ELGPN 2011–12 Publications

**The ELGPN 2011–12 publications were launched during the 4<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Lifelong Guidance Policy – Lifelong Guidance 2020 in Larnaca, Cyprus on 24 October. These include the Progress Report on the Work of the European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network 2011–12; its short version; the European Resource Kit for Policy Makers on Lifelong Guidance Policy Development; and the Concept Notes on flexicurity, on youth unemployment and on career management skills policy implementation. The ELGPN Glossary developed by the Network is available online.**

The production of the publications is a joint effort of all Network members, consultants, the ELGPN Co-ordination Unit and the Publishing Unit of the Finnish Institute for Educational Research. During the 11<sup>th</sup> ELGPN Plenary Meeting the publications were formally presented to Ms Lena Nicolaou as the

representative of all ELGPN member countries and to Mr Koen Nomden as the representative of DG EAC (please see the photograph on previous page). Both the printed and online versions are available to use for promoting lifelong guidance at European and national levels, in line with the overall aims of ELGPN.



The publications are available on the ELGPN website:

[http://ktl.jyu.fi/ktl/elgpn/policymakers/publications/2011-12\\_publications](http://ktl.jyu.fi/ktl/elgpn/policymakers/publications/2011-12_publications)

### **Lifelong Guidance 2020 – 4<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Lifelong Guidance Policy, Larnaca, Cyprus, 24 October 2012**

The 4<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Lifelong Guidance Policy – Lifelong Guidance 2020 – was attended by 121 representatives from 29 countries. The main objective of this Cyprus 2012 EU Presidency Conference was to examine the transversal role of lifelong guidance in meeting the Europe 2020 priorities. The agenda covered selected national examples and European-level syntheses of lifelong guidance policies, structures and services.

The conference conclusions identify key areas for further action at EU and national levels to take forward lifelong guidance issues and the respective roles and contributions of key stakeholders (ministries of education and employment, social partners, etc.). The conference conclusion invite the EU Member States to strengthen the transversal role of lifelong guidance in the areas of education and training, VET, higher education, employment and social inclusion, in order to reach the EU headline targets of the Europe 2020 Strategy, within the Flagship Initiatives (in particular, New Skills for Jobs, and Youth on the Move) and other initiatives (e.g. Youth Guarantee), and to attain the ET 2020 benchmarks.



Conference participants gathered for a family photo at the 4th European Conference on Lifelong Guidance Policy (Photo: Stalo Papageorgiou Afxentiou)

At the European Union level lifelong guidance should also be considered as a cross-cutting policy area within the existing key policy documents and processes. The conclusions represent a summary of the collective conclusions of those present at the event and are addressed primarily to policy-makers to inspire the lifelong practice and policy dialogue.

The conference conclusions are available on the ELGPN website:

<http://ktl.jyu.fi/ktl/elgpn/policymakers/cooperation/events/4eullgpolicy>

### **Presidency Conference on Job creation and Youth Employment: *Developing sustainable youth employment policies in an era of fiscal constraints*, Nicosia, Cyprus, 22–23 October 2012**

The Presidency Conference on Employment Priorities brought together members of the Employment Committee and Public Employment Services, together with representatives of Social Partners, educational training institutions, other relevant Employment stakeholders, the Commission, and other European Institutions. The intended objectives of the conference were, *inter alia*, to review the problems and barriers in employment, to encourage the EU Member States to initiate strategic activities in employment, and to establish proposals for directional operation policy.

The conference also discussed issues related to training opportunities, such as apprenticeships, traineeships, working conditions as well as the matching of the qualifications and expectations of young persons with the needs of the economy and the needs of enterprises. Dr Deirdre Hughes and Dr Raimo

Vuorinen introduced the ELGPN Work Programme outcomes and the ELGPN Concept paper by Dr Deirdre Hughes and Dr Tibor Bors Borbély-Pecze: *Youth Unemployment: A Crisis in Our Midst*.

The conference documents are available at:

<http://www.cy2012.eu/index.php/en/political-calendar/areas/employment-social-policyhealth-consumer-affairs/presidency-conference-on-employment-priorities>

### New national strategies for lifelong guidance in Estonia and Kosovo

**Since the beginning of 2012, a cross-ministerial initiative has been preparing a strategy on Career Services for the 2014–2020 development period in Estonia. The process has been led by the National Resource Centre for Guidance at the Foundation Innove. Innove is currently responsible for delivering and tendering some elements of the European Social Fund (ESF) measures concerning lifelong learning and guidance in Estonia.**

The national strategy paper has been prepared by a national expert group linked to the work of the national guidance forum. The paper builds on the national developments that have taken place over the last decade since the last ETF country report (2002–2003) and has strong references to the European level key initiatives.

The strategy gives an overview of the present situation and environment of activities of career services, strategic challenges and future prospects until the year 2020; presents strategic goals, means, indicators and target levels; outlines the actors in the career service system and their roles, and describes the execution and evaluation of the concept. The Foundation Innove conducted a national consultation and a national workshop on the draft Strategy in June 2012 with the input from Dr Tibor Bors Borbély-Pecze and Dr Raimo Vuorinen, the ELGPN Co-ordinator.

The national strategy gives an input for executing international and national documents of guidance, one of the more important of which would be the goals mentioned in the Competitiveness Plan Estonia 2020. The external comments on the national strategy are available on the Innove website at <http://www.innove.ee/en>.



Dr Raimo Vuorinen and Dr Tibor Bors Borbély-Pecze contributed to a national workshop on the draft Strategy on Career Services for 2014–2020 in Estonia in June 2012 (Photo: Margit Rammo)

### National workshop in Pristina, Kosovo, 17 September 2012

The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of Kosovo organised a national workshop on lifelong guidance policies in Pristina, Kosovo on 17 September 2012. The workshop discussed recent lifelong guidance policy developments in Kosovo and reviewed the plans for the new national strategy on lifelong guidance. Career guidance is believed to be a key service to achieve policy goals in the sectors of education, employment, and equity, thus contributing to the economic and social development of the country. The new strategy will be complemented with an action plan. The ELGPN Co-ordinator attended the workshop and introduced the progress and key outcomes of the Network together with preliminary plans for the 2013–14 ELGPN Work Programme.

In conjunction with the national workshop, Deputy Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Nehat Mustafa hosted a meeting with representatives of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) on 18 September 2012. The GIZ has an active role in promoting the Centres of Competence within the Reform of Vocational Education and Training in Kosovo. Deputy Minister Mustafa introduced the current processes in the field of education in Kosovo, including *Curriculum Framework* and other legal aspects that regulate education and inclusion of career education in the educational system. The meeting participants noted the opportunities they had been given to attend ELGPN meetings as observers and expressed their interest to participate in ELGPN meetings in 2013–14 as associate members.

## The use of ICT in guidance; opportunities and goals - national workshops in Reykjavik, Iceland 24–25 September 2012

The Iceland Ministry of Education, the Public Employment Services and the Centre for Lifelong Guidance Expertise (University of Iceland) in partnership with key national stakeholders hosted two national workshops on the use of Information and Communication Technology in Guidance in Reykjavik on 24–25 September 2012.

The first workshop was attended by career and school counsellors from different settings as well as master's degree students in counsellor training programme at the University of Iceland. The workshop discussed the current use of technology and the necessary competences of the practitioners in the use of ICT.

The second workshop took place in the Ministry of Education with key stakeholders and policy makers. The focus was on the development and the implementation strategy of a new system. The meeting concluded that the first step in developing a national system would be a memorandum of common understanding with the key stakeholders and a development of a system framework before developing actual tools for the end users. The discussion was supported with inputs by Professor James P. Sampson (Florida State University) and Dr Raimo Vuorinen (ELGPN Co-ordinator).



A national workshop on the use of ICT in guidance was held in Reykjavik, Iceland in September 2012 (Photo: Ingibjörg Hanna Björnsdóttir)

The participants noted that Iceland's membership in the ELGPN had encouraged the promotion of a national development project and had also given opportunities to benchmark the different approaches used in other ELGPN member countries. One of the catalysts for this process had been a national workshop with policy makers which was organised in conjunction with the ELGPN WP2 Field Visit in March 2010.

## Consultation on Quality Standards in Lifelong Career Guidance, a national conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia, 19 September 2012

by Alja Rupar

Over the course of this ESF funding period, Slovenia has conducted a national development project on lifelong guidance. The project has focused on co-ordination and quality standards of the services as well as professionalisation of the guidance practitioners.

The national development project organised a seminar as a Consultation on Quality Standards in Lifelong Career Guidance, with a concluding round table of relevant policy makers on 19 September 2012.

In his presentation, Mr Saša Niklanovič highlighted examples of career guidance in EU countries and noted the significance of quality standards in lifelong guidance. Coming from different departments, different specialists use different terminologies for the same issue which is why the national project has collected all basic expression on the topic, supported with definitions, and issued a short vocabulary. Ms Tanja Vilič Klenovšek gave a presentation on national case studies on quality in adult guidance. Dr Deidre Hughes and Dr Raimo Vuorinen presented European examples and introduced the outcomes of ELGPN Work Package on quality and evidence-base in lifelong guidance.

The Consultation was concluded with a round table of representatives from the Employment Service of Slovenia, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport, Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs and the National Education Institute of the Republic of Slovenia. The round table agreed that:

- Quality assurance and assessment of effectiveness of Career guidance is needed and a common national framework should be developed for this purpose;
- Learning is a lifelong process, which is included in all periods of life and various ways of education. Life and work decisions give meaning to learning, and this is why career guidance is important;
- Vocational guidance is an important ingredient of education;

- Co-operation of policy makers from the fields of labour and education is necessary because guidance crosses different sectors.

The seminar delegates noted that these conclusions are a very good starting point for further work on building unified frames for career guidance in Slovenia, covering both areas of education and labour.

### ETF international workshop on career guidance and counselling in Moscow, Russia 11–12 September 2012

The European Training Foundation (ETF) organised an international workshop on career guidance and counselling at the EU Delegation in Moscow, Russia on 11–12 September 2012. The workshop was arranged as the Duma of the Russian Federation is expected to approve a new law on education, which will put an emphasis on vocational education and training (VET) as an opportunity for the adult workforce at the end of this year.

In her opening speech, Ms Nataliya Zolotareva, director of vocational education and training (VET) policy department at the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation, referred to vocational guidance and career counselling as being as important as education and training. During the workshop, the ELGPN Co-ordinator Dr Raimo Vuorinen presented recent lifelong guidance policy developments in the European Union and Mr Helmut Zelloth from the ETF gave an introduction to the progress of these themes in the EU neighbouring countries.

The workshop also examined the key challenges for career services in the current labour market in Russia and made recommendations for further development. The conclusions of the workshop include a proposal for an evaluation of guidance and counselling services which would take into account the federal policies and realities in almost 90 autonomous regions.

More information on the workshop can be found at:

[http://www.enpi-info.eu/maineast.php?id\\_type=1&id=30607&lang\\_id=450](http://www.enpi-info.eu/maineast.php?id_type=1&id=30607&lang_id=450)



From left to right: Natalia Zolotareva, Olga Oleynikova, Nicola Scaramuzzo, and Petri Lempinen (Photo: Raimo Vuorinen)

### PES to PES Dialogue Dissemination Conference: Innovative and effective approaches for the strategic management of PES in Brussels, Belgium, 19–20 September 2012

by Dr Tibor Bors Borbély-Pecze

The 2<sup>nd</sup> PES to PES Dialogue Dissemination Conference on Innovative and effective approaches for the strategic management of PES took place in Brussels, Belgium on 19–20 September 2012. Dr. Tibor Bors Borbély-Pecze and Dr. Raimo Vuorinen represented the Network in the meeting. The heads of the EU/EEA Public Employment Services meet twice a year and between these high level meetings, the assistants of the Director Generals meet regularly.

Since the beginning of the *European Employment Strategy* in 1997 - from 2010 integrated into the *Europe 2020 Integrated Guidelines* - the Open Method of Coordination model has played an increasingly important role in the field of employment policy. This event was the closing conference for the second year of the 'P2P Academy' which was established two years ago for the service providers level.

The Conference covered the following topics:

- PES services for employers: key findings from the Peer Review in France;
- PES and older workers: key findings from the Peer Review in Germany;
- Individual action planning: key findings from the Dialogue Conference;
- Performance measurement and target-setting;
- Job profiles and training for employment counsellors;

- o Organisational development, improvement and innovation management.

Guidance services are often not explicitly mentioned in employment strategies or at the service levels of the PES and private providers but are one of the emerging applied human services for the job-seekers and employers. During the first year of the P2P Dialogue Forum, an analytical paper on the profile of the career counsellors versus the employment counsellors was commissioned (written by Watts & Borbély-Pecze, 2011). One of the consistent messages arising from the first year of the PES to PES Dialogue was the importance of competent PES counsellors. However, little is generally known about the job profiles of PES counsellors at national level and the availability and quality of training for PES staff. As a follow up, a new survey was conducted within the European PESs. The final report will be available at the P2P Dialogue web page later.

### **International conference *Motivation for Development, Sofia, Bulgaria, 10–12 October 2012***

*by Lachezar Afrikanov*

**The conference, which was a common effort of Europass and Euroguidance Bulgaria in cooperation with Business for Education Foundation, focused on what skills and competences will be needed by the career guidance practitioners to offer quality services in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.**

The participants from 16 countries heard about the trends in the development of career guidance systems in Europe (Prof. Ronald Sultana) and USA (Ms Shawn O'Brien) and 'tasted' practical and innovative group career counselling methods (Ms Tania Terziiska and Mr Teodor Vasilev).



A national conference on Quality Standards in Lifelong Career Guidance was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia in September 2012. (Photo: Marko Zupančič)

The conference was a continuation of the annual meeting of European Board for Certified Counsellors (EBCC) which took place in Sofia earlier, with representatives of national boards of Bulgaria, Romania, Greece, Macedonia, Cyprus, Germany, Portugal and Hungary. The countries presented their progress and discussed opportunities for future development of the certificate programs Global Career Development Facilitator, Mental Health Facilitator and Certified Coach.

Presentations from the Motivation for Development conference are available online:

<http://www.youtube.com/webhrdc>

### **Network of Observatories on Skills Needs and Skills Mismatches - Third Meeting, Brussels, Belgium, 11–12 October 2012**

*by Dr Tibor Bors Borbély-Pecze*

**As a parallel professional network, the ELGPN was invited to the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the European Skills Panorama (EUSP). During the meeting, the draft EUSP website to be launched by the end of the year was introduced. The website, which has been designed for labour market and skills professionals, will have four entry points: occupations, countries, sectors and skills. Forty-seven indicators have been collected for the portal; the ELGPN was consulted on the "customer-friendliness".**

A traffic-light system (red/yellow and green) coupled with arrows will signal the position of the different branch occupations in the labour market. At this point of the development, five most-needed branch occupations will be introduced in the portal with three digit ISCO levels. Eighteen medium-term trend occupation highlights and five transversal skills papers will also be made available.

Representing the ELGPN, Dr Tibor Bors Borbély-Pecze facilitated one of the analytical highlights working groups during the two-day event. Member states also introduced their own skill prognosis systems. Among them, the Irish Government's <http://www.skillsireland.ie/> and the Fequenz network (<http://www.frequenz.net/>) from Germany, which uses a different methodology for modelling the future structures of the labour market and occupations.

## REACHING QALLity - The 3<sup>rd</sup> and final QALL Conference on Quality Assurance in Vocational Education & Training and Adult Education, Vienna, Austria, 5-6 November 2012

by Dr Tibor Bors Borbély-Pecze

**The final conference on quality assurance in Vocational Education & Training and Adult Education took place in Vienna on 5-6 November 2012. 170 participants from 15 European countries attended the conference and 39 projects were introduced. Fifteen national LLL agencies<sup>1</sup> and two silent partners (PL, EACEA, Brussels) were involved.**

One of the horizontal elements for REACHING QALLity is guidance, which is why ELGPN was invited to the final dissemination conference. The newly published QALLitative Report<sup>2</sup> also uses several outcomes of the ELGPN 2008-2010 developments on quality and guidance.

The head of the host agency, Mr Ernst Gesslbauer welcomed the participants and Ms Alison Crabb (deputy head of the unit for vocational training/ Leonardo da Vinci, DG EAC) and Ms Maike Koops (Policy Officer, DG EPML) thanked the Co-ordinator and the network for the three years' work.

During the meeting, a special learning island was dedicated to guidance and work-based learning, with eight projects on Guidance and Quality. Participants received a so-called QALL Treasure Seeking Manual with the description of the 4 themes (EQAVET quality cycle, methodologies and procedures, quality management systems, special areas: guidance and work-based learning). The last learning island was hosted by Dr Tibor Bors Borbély-Pecze from the ELGPN and Mr Kim Faurschou (DK).

Based on the LLL project evaluation, the network drafted 10 policy recommendations;

1. joint approaches in adult education and VET
2. quality culture
3. EQAVET quality cycle
4. quality management models and indicators
5. methodologies
6. work-based learning
7. guidance – Built upon existing QA models for Guidance and Counselling
8. professionalization and staff development
9. dissemination and valorisation
10. innovation in QA



Dr Tibor Bors Borbély-Pecze from the ELGPN and Kim Faurschou (DK) hosted the last learning session (Photo: Austrian National Agency for Lifelong Learning/APA Foto Service/Pauty)

For recommendation No.7, ELGPN 2008-2010 outcomes and the Council Resolutions from 2004 and 2008 were referred to several times. Eight projects were introduced in this special field;

1. EGUIDE- Quality Assurance Framework for Guidance and Initial Training (IE)
2. Quality Assurance in Youth Career Consultancy (BG)
3. AQOR- Amélioration de la Qualité en Orientation (FR, Rhone-Alpes)
4. MEVOC, - Quality Manual for Educational and Vocational Counselling
5. QUINORA- International Quality Assurance Programme in Vocational and Orientation and Guidance Measures for Job-Seekers on the System Level
6. RESYFAC- Reference System for Facilitators of Learning (DE)
7. Guidance from School to Job
8. GEMS- guidance for Educators, Mentors and Students

<sup>1</sup> AT as the Co-ordinator (Barbara Höeller; Carin Dániel Ramírez-Schiller); BE, CZ, DE, FI, IE, IS, IT, LU, NO, SE, SK, SI, TR

<sup>2</sup> [www.qall.eu](http://www.qall.eu) QALL Recommendations; Project Compendium; QALLitative Report (2012)

From the LLG Policy perspective, two projects were particularly interesting. In the *AQOR- Amélioration de la Qualité en Orientation* (FR, Rhône-Alpes, Aline Grimand, head of the unit), European regions have developed quality criteria for guidance services, led by France, Region of Rhône-Alpes in collaboration with CH, ES, PL and IT. The Austrian-led *MEVOC, - Quality Manual for Educational and Vocational Counseling* has developed a framework for guidance practitioners. This framework has already been used at an Austrian university as a validation frame of the applicant's prior learning and experiences at the field of career guidance.

### **IAEVG Homecoming - International Career Guidance Conference, Mannheim, Germany, 3-6 October 2012: *Career Guidance for Social Justice, Prosperity and Sustainable Employment - Challenges for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century***

*by Karen Schober and Judith Frübing*

**After the Association's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year and a series of conferences in the southern hemisphere the International Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance (IAEVG/ AIOSP) returned to its roots in Europe celebrating its annual conference in Germany.**

The event was organised in cooperation with the University of Applied Labour Studies (HdBA) of the German Federal Employment Agency in Mannheim – the institution where career counsellors working in the Federal Employment Agency are trained and which celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the conference. 500 participants from 40 countries and all continents contributed in 18 symposia and more than 40 paper and poster sessions to the excellent and diverse scientific program.

In his opening keynote Professor Ronald G. Sultana (Malta) gave an inspiring introduction into the complex relationship between career guidance and social justice from philosophical and sociological perspectives. Further keynotes by Professor Nancy Arthur (University of Calgary), Professor Walter Müller (Mannheim Centre for European Social Research) and Professor Joachim Möller (Institute for Employment Research, Nuremberg) provided political, economic and professional perspectives on the matter.



Participants listening to keynotes in IAEVG's International Career Guidance Conference in Mannheim, Germany in October 2012 (Photo: the HdBA)

The red threads lead out were taken up in panels and symposia: In the context of social justice and beyond, guidance is increasingly viewed from a contextual stance. Particularly, concerns for quality and professionalism were viewed from this broader perspective whereby a culture of evidence-based policy and practice has been called for involving research, practitioners and policy makers. Repeatedly, researchers and practitioners addressed the social responsibility of the guidance community to engage in advocacy and in challenging social structures.

The ELGPN proved to be a strong European partner for the International Association – several delegates from ELGPN presented the outcomes of the Work Programme 2011–12. A joint workshop with the International Centre for Career Development and Public Policy (ICCDPP), the Canadian Research Working Group (CRWG) and representatives from NCDA (USA) and Australia focused on further collaboration on the question of outcomes and impact of career guidance in order to produce a handbook on “what we know for sure”.

In the final IAEVG-Round Table under the lead of Professor Anthony G. Watts panel speakers from India, South Africa, New Zealand, Finland and Italy stated that IAEVG-Conferences proved to be a strong vehicle for advocacy in guidance matters in their countries as they not only provide new insights and ideas but often act as a facilitator for change. Thus, they impacted guidance structures and policies in numerous countries as the experiences presented from previous IAEVG conferences showed.

We are looking forward to the next IAEVG Conference to be held in Montpellier, France, September 24–27, 2013 which will further elaborate and con-



tinue the social justice issue under the theme: *Career counseling: a human or a citizen's right?*



Prof Ronald Sultana giving his opening keynote (Photo: the HdBA)

**In an effort to deepen the synergies between the ELGPN and Euroguidance, the two networks will publish articles in each other's newsletters. In this first piece, the leader of the Euroguidance Strategy Working Group, Fotini Vlachaki introduces the Network to the readers of the ELGPN Newsletter.**

### **The Euroguidance Network: 20 years of supporting guidance and mobility in Europe**

*By Fotini Vlachaki*

**Since its establishment in 1992, the Euroguidance network has gradually developed into a powerful platform for the enhancement of career guidance systems in Europe. The first Euroguidance centres were established in 1992 by the European Commission within the Petra Programme. Today, Euroguidance celebrates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, linking together the careers guidance systems in Europe in a network of 68 National Resource Centres for Guidance in 34 European countries.**

Euroguidance, which is currently supported by the Lifelong Learning Programme, promotes mobility by helping guidance counsellors and individuals to better understand the opportunities available to citizens throughout Europe. In this respect, the realization and systematic support of PLOTEUS (Portal on Learning Opportunities throughout the European

Space) was assigned to the Euroguidance network by the DG Education and Culture in 2002. Another major objective of the Network relates to the promotion of European dimension in guidance, mostly by enhancing the knowledge and skills of guidance practitioners and dissemination of quality information on lifelong guidance issues.



The Euroguidance Network was established 20 years ago. (Photo: Stalo Papageorgiou Afxentiou)

Euroguidance is connecting all major guidance stakeholders at national level – from career guidance practitioners to academic researchers and policy makers. The majority of the Euroguidance centres are situated within the Ministries of Education or Labour, or National



Employment agencies which further enhance the Networks' capacity in supporting the development of guidance practice. The main target group of Euroguidance is guidance practitioners but the network is also addressed to students, teachers, and parents, policy makers from both the educational and employment sectors. The Euroguidance Centres' implement annually a wide range of activities at national level that may reflect specific national needs closely relating to the process of the development of national guidance systems but at the same time following the European lifelong guidance priorities and supporting the overall functioning and good performance of Euroguidance as a learning network. Several innovative guidance practices & projects from different Euroguidance Centres across Europe as well as descriptions of National Guidance Systems in EU countries can be found at [www.euroguidance.net](http://www.euroguidance.net)

## Update on the Finnish ELGPN Co-ordination Unit

Ms Marjo Halmiala restarted her work in the ELGPN Co-ordination Unit on 5<sup>th</sup> November. Her main tasks are evaluation and development of the ELGPN webpage, database, and other activities related to communication.

## Upcoming events

- French National Lifelong Guidance Conference, 26–27 November 2012
- Steering group meeting, 11 December 2012

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Please note that the ELGPN Co-ordination unit will be closed on 6–7 December 2012 for the Finnish Independence Day.

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