

9th Plenary Meeting of ELGPN on 13–14 September 2011, Warsaw

9th Plenary Meeting of ELGPN was held in Warsaw 13–14 September 2011. The total number of the participants was 98 coming from 29 different countries.

In the beginning of the meeting Ms Hanna Swiatkiewicz-Zych (Director of Labour Market Department) warmly welcomed the meeting participants on behalf of the host country, Poland. Further opening speeches were given by the Under-Secretary of State in the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (Ms Czeslawa Ostrowska); by the Deputy-Director of International Co-operation in the Ministry of National Education (Mr Jerzy Barski); by the Head of the Vocational Counselling Unit (Ms Irena Mazek), who co-chaired the meeting with Ms Hanna Swiatkiewicz-Zych; and by the General Counselor of the Ministry of National Education (Ms Elzbieta Majchrowicz-Jopek).

JACEK SZCZEPANIAK



MS HANNA SWIATKIEWICZ-ZYCH AND MS IRENA MAZEK CO-CHAIRFD THE MFFTING

The first speech by Ms Czeslawa Ostrowska highlighted demographic issues and flexicurity in terms of social policies. In the second opening speech Mr Jerzy Barski presented the Polish priorities in the field of education and youth. Key themes included improved language and cultural competences, mobility of adults, informal education, and the quality of

education. In the third speech, Ms Hanna Swiatkiewicz-Zych presented recent developments relating to national and regional co-operation and co-ordination mechanisms for lifelong guidance in Poland.

In the last opening speech Ms Elzbieta Majchrowicz-Jopek presented the Polish approach to the implementation of the concept of lifelong guidance, as a key element of lifelong learning. She also presented future plans relating to the shift from occupations to qualifications, including the validation of non-formal and informal education.

Introduction of the Council Resolution on renewal of the adult learning plan and communications from the European Commission

In the next session Stefani Wilkiel presented the draft Council Resolution on a renewed action plan for adult learning (2012–14). The plan has a particular focus on adults with low vocational qualifications. It has been designed to promote flexible learning paths for adults, validation of non-formal and informal learning, and mobility through improving learning of foreign languages.

Mr Koen Nomden from DG EAC informed the meeting about recent developments relating to the “Youth on the Move” and “Agenda for News Skills and Jobs” flagships under the Europe 2020 Strategy. In addition, he covered the development of ESCO, the Recommendation on Early School Leaving adopted by the EU Council on 20 May 2011, and the Communication on the Modernisation of Higher Education which was to be adopted on 20 September 2011.

Mr Manuel Hubert from DG EMPL presented the “Agenda for New Skills and Jobs” and an “EU Skill Panorama”. He noted that the Commission proposed to concentrate its employment policies on four priorities: better functioning of EU labour markets and flexicurity, right skills for right jobs, improving the quality of work and working conditions, and job creation.

The objectives of the EU Skills Panorama are to develop the responsiveness of education and training systems to labour market demands and to improve transparency and mobility in the labour market. Given that guidance services are seen as one of the priority target groups of the Panorama, the ELGPN should be consulted in the course of development of the Skills Panorama prior its launch end 2012.

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AUDIENCE IN THE FIRST DAY'S OPENING SPEECHES OF THE 9TH ELGPN PLENARY MEETING

Danish presidency programme

In the end of the meeting Mr Steffen Jensen presented the priorities of the Danish 2012 EU Presidency programme. He mentioned that the next generation of mobility programmes should concentrate on simplification of administration, strengthening links to the labour market, and motivating young people in VET to engage in mobility. More general themes for the Danish Presidency would include encouraging young people to be innovative and entrepreneurial, validation of non-formal and informal learning, closer linkages between education and the labour market, and strengthening the attractiveness and quality of VET.

Dissemination conference of PES to PES dialogue

A dissemination conference of PES to PES dialogue has been held in Brussels on 8–9 September 2011. One of the main aims of the conference was to examine the contribution of lifelong guidance to public employment services. Presentations were made by the ELGPN Co-ordinator

Raimo Vuorinen and by the authors, Dr. Tibor Bors Borbély-Pecze and Professor Anthony G. Watts, of a DG EMPL commissioned analytical paper on lifelong guidance.

The conference identified the following interfaces between PES and the ELGPN Work Packages: shifting the focus in lifelong guidance from remedial services to empowering job-seekers to better manage their pathways to employment (WP1); focusing on integrated multi-channeling, with web-based service at a first level, with telephone back-up, and face-to-face employment guidance for those needing it (WP2); the need for local flexibility of services to enable regional partnerships (WP3); and the development of a more solid evidence base as a joint interest of PES and educational sectors (WP4).

It was also noted that the challenge for ELGPN is to translate the lifelong guidance concept to policy-makers in terms of structures, resources, staffing and return on investment, and to clarify how it could be implemented in PES settings.

More information about PES to PES dialogue at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=964>

Presidency conference related to Lifelong Guidance during the Polish EU Presidency

On 23rd September 2011 under the Polish 2011 EU Presidency a conference entitled “Developing cooperation between VET, higher education and adult learning in response to the challenge of lifelong learning” was organised.

Foundation for the Development of the Education System in partnership with the Ministry of National Education in Poland and the Ministry of Science and Higher Education in Poland supported by the European Commission organized a conference on cooperation between different sectors of education in the end of September. Raimo Vuorinen and Tibor Bors Borbély-Pecze from ELGPN participated in the conference by presenting lifelong guidance related issues.

Other conferences and events dealing with education

The Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union pl2011.eu/en includes several conferences and events dealing with education and youth such as

- Conference on Mobility as a tool to acquire and develop competences from childhood to seniority, 17th October 2011, Warsaw;
- Effective policies for the development of competencies of the youth in Europe, 16th November 2011, Warsaw.

According to the Programme, the Polish Presidency will aim to advance work on developing competencies among young people and adults in the context of lifelong learning, including language competencies, thereby helping to make studying or working abroad more widespread.

PARES – Partnership between Employment Services

Ms. Paulina Bogdanska represented ELGPN in the PARES Launching Conference in Brussels on 28–29 September 2011. PARES is a strategic integrated initiative of the Commission to encourage an EU-level strategic dialogue between Employment Services on policy implementation and delivery issues.

Its results will notably contribute to the discussion for the new momentum of flexicurity as announced in the Europe 2020 flagship initiative 'An agenda for new skills and jobs' while further elaborating on how to 'Make Transitions Pay'. Objective of the conference was to organise a discussion between public, private, third sector employment services as well as service providers in voluntary and community sectors on the PARES agenda, deliverables and envisaged time horizon.

At the conference current models of co-operation and partnership between employment services have been presented with case studies, hence designing

the "starting and factual picture" for what PARES will be doing. On this basis the areas of common interest, challenges for co-operation and potential for further co-operation have been identified. Main output of the conference is a list of topics that can be further discussed in PARES Strategic dialogue in 2012. The list of topics will be further fine-tuned by conducting an online survey among PARES stakeholders. Afterwards the Commission will invite interested EU level representations of all types of employment services to join the PARES Strategic Dialogue. The participation in this Strategic Dialogue will be limited to a smaller number of participants in order to remain operational.

A New National Lifelong Guidance Forum in Sweden

A Swedish national conference on lifelong guidance policies entitled "Samhälle och Karriärutveckling – Society and Lifelong Guidance" was organised in Stockholm 29–30 September 2011.

The Swedish government perspectives for Lifelong Guidance policy development were presented from both educational and employment sectors. Hillevi Engström, the Minister of Employment and the General director Angeles Bermudez-Svankvist from the Swedish Public Employment Service informed on the forthcoming initiatives in Lifelong Guidance in Sweden. The State Secretary Amelie von Zweigbergk from the Swedish Ministry of Education and Research and Helén Ängmo, Deputy Director General, National Agency for Education introduced how the government is planning to respond to the increased demand of guidance. The seminar provided also an overview of the current evaluation of the services and the training of the practitioners.

The ELGPN current activities and different models for national co-operation in LLG policy development were presented by the Co-ordinator Raimo Vuorinen. Annette Ernst Lauridsen, the chair of the Danish national dialogue forum of guidance introduced the development of the national co-ordination mechanism in Denmark.

JOHANNA MÖLLER



IN THE PHOTO ANNETTE ERNST LAURIDSEN, NINA ALHROOS AND RAIMO VUORINEN TOGETHER WITH SWEDISH ELGPN COUNTRY TEAM KLAS TALLVID, JORGE MANCO AND JAN LINDBLOM

Within the concluding session Jan Lindblom from the National Agency for Education and Nina Ahlroos from Euroguidance Sweden at the International Programme Office informed the conference on the establishment of the Swedish National Lifelong Guidance Forum. More information and the presentations at the conference are available at:

<http://eventus.trippus.se/karriarutveckling>.

A National Forum on Guidance in Ireland

The Minister of State for Training and Skills, Ciarán Cannon, T.D., launched the National Forum on Guidance, in the Department of Education and Skill in Ireland.

In his opening speech, the Minister noted the importance of guidance in light of enabling people to make informed choices not only in their professional but also in personal lives.

In Ireland, there have been guidance services in post-primary schools for many years, but at a time of rapid change guidance plays a crucial role in all educational settings. The Forum aims at sharing practice, promoting quality and enhancing co-ordination.

In his speech, minister Cannon acknowledged the benefits of being part of the European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network: "NCGE's membership of the network provides an opportunity for Ireland to inform developments and to be informed by developments at EU level".

More information at:

http://www.ncge.ie/national_forum%20on%20guidance.html

Second round of ELGPN Field Visits

The second round of ELGPN Work Packages' Field Visits initiated with WP2 Field visit in 10–11 October in Denmark where a special focus was given to eGuidance system and transition practices.

In the beginning of the WP2 Second Field Visit Steffen Jensen (Head of Division for Guidance, Danish Ministry of Education) briefly presented Danish Guidance policy after which the Danish Guidance Portal www.ug.dk was introduced to the participants. Guidance in different transition phases was emphasized in the following presentations given by Lotte Kraeutler from Studievalg Sjælland and Jan Svendsen from Studievalg Copenhagen. Studievalg is an autonomous organization under Danish Ministry of Education which provides guidance on the field of higher education and vocational training.

The use of ICT was highly present in the field visit presentations and discussions. Kirsten Hahn Larsen from eGuidance Denmark introduced the new e-guidance system in Denmark and cooperation between the centres and the eGuidance was discussed.

The next up-coming Field visits will be in November when WP4 will have its second field visit in Luxembourg, WP1 in Toulouse and WP3 in Oslo. In WP1 Field Visit in Toulouse a special focus will be given to different portfolio practices and WP3 will have a view of the Nordic aspect of guidance.

Recent publications

The European Vacancy Monitor provides an overview of recent developments on the European job market. The European Job Mobility Bulletin focuses on the analysis of vacancies posted on the EURES portal by national public employment services.

These two quarterly bulletins were launched within the Europe 2020 flagship initiative 'An agenda for new skills and jobs'. The new number of the European Vacancy Monitor and of the European Job Mobility Bulletin are online now at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=1079&furtherNews=yes>).

Labour market integration of immigrants in Europe – Implications for guidance policy, practice and research

A Cedefop Peer Learning Activity on labour market integration of immigrants in Europe took place on 29–30 September in Thessaloniki, Greece. The peer learning event focused on the current state of affairs in the area of guidance provision for immigrants. It provided also directions and inputs for the forthcoming Cedefop review on guidance measures to support the labour market participation of immigrants. More information and the presentations are available at:

<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/events/18527.aspx>

Lifelong guidance across Europe: reviewing policy progress and future prospects

A new Cedefop guidance review on Lifelong Guidance was published in August 2011. The report introduces the recent development on the collaboration between policy makers, guidance professionals and researchers. The review makes also proposals for future steps in creating comprehensive lifelong guidance system across all sectors, life situations and countries. The report is available at:

<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/publications/18625.aspx>

Supporting growth and jobs – an agenda for the modernisation of Europe's higher education systems

The European Commission launched 20 September 2011 a Communication for modernisation of Europe's higher education systems. The Commission invites the Member States to increase attainment levels to provide the graduates and researchers Europe needs, to improve the quality and relevance of higher education and strengthen quality through mobility and cross-boarder co-operation. The Communication sets also goals for the development of guidance services in Higher education. The communication is available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/higher-education/doc/com0911_en.pdf

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