

18th ELGPN Plenary Meeting, 28–29 September 2015, Luxembourg

The 18th ELGPN Plenary Meeting was held in Luxembourg on 28–29 September 2015. The meeting was jointly organised by the Luxembourg Presidency and the European Commission.



18th ELGPN Plenary Meeting family photo. Photo: Richard Falchero

The Plenary Meeting discussed the implementation and dissemination of the Guidelines for Policies and Systems Development for Lifelong Guidance. Time was also allocated for discussions on future systemic European co-operation in Lifelong Guidance policy development. During the meeting, the Commission representative Ms Ana-Carla Pereira proposed a Commission-led working group as a mechanism for future EU co-operation in the field of lifelong guidance policy beyond December 2015. The proposal was well-received by ELGPN members with several positive comments. The meeting noted that the achievement of a common understanding of LLG Policy and Systems in the Member States but also within the Commission and the European Parliament is a challenge. A key outcome of the ELGPN activities in most member-countries is the significant increase in the communication and co-operation processes and activities between different ministries and with other policy stakeholders (e.g. social partners and non-governmental organisations).

According to the meeting participants, any future work in LLG policies and systems requires similar well-established common understanding within the Commission, especially in the relevant Policy Units.

The Network submitted its suggestions on the themes of future structured co-operation in the field of lifelong guidance policies and systems in Europe to the Commission on 8 October 2015.

Promoting ELGPN outcomes in Asia

The 4th International Career Education Forum (ICEF) for Comprehensive School Career Guidance System: towards career education that provides every student with customized support for each individual's dream and talent, 10 September 2015, Seoul, South Korea

The Korea Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training (KRIVET) and the Ministry of Education (MOE) organised the 4th International Career Education Forum (ICEF) on 10 September 2015 in Seoul in order to disseminate Korean career education policies and seek advanced countries' best practices. Korea is currently developing a framework of Comprehensive School Career Guidance System, in which various school resources support students to practice reasonable career design. This framework is seeking a paradigm shift in Korean education from the holistic perspective by involving not only career teachers but also classroom teachers, subject teachers, principals and parents to form a supportive career guidance system. Accordingly, the framework will help students to explore and develop their career design corresponding to their own dreams and talents. During the forum, the ELGPN Co-ordinator introduced the ELGPN tools with specific focus on the added value of career education in the curriculum.

Asia Pacific Career Development Association 2015 Conference "Workforce of the Future?", 15–17 September 2015, Tokyo, Japan

The APCDA annual conference focused on public policy and advocacy, the development of culturally relevant career assessments and on the work with clients in a variety of specific settings.

The ELGPN Co-ordinator provided an overview of recent global policy initiatives and different models

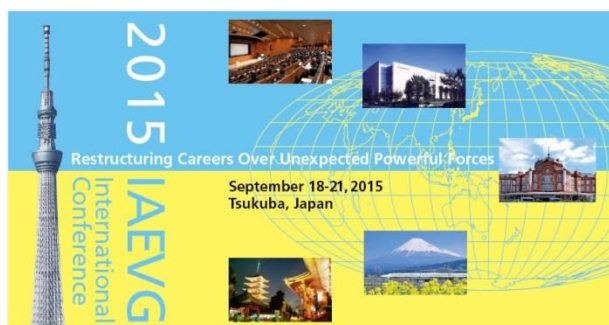
of representative structures which bring together all relevant partners in the field of education, training, employment, youth and social inclusion, including relevant ministries, agencies, experts and employers. He noted that with the ELGPN Work Programmes 2007–2015, communication with national stakeholders has led to continuous processes of exchange of information on guidance-related initiatives and resulted in developing measures which make co-operation between ministries more efficient, improve the consistency of service provision across sectors and strengthen the professionalism of services, tools and products.

All the conference materials are available on the APCDA website

<http://www.asiapacificcda.org/2015-Conference-Presentations>

IAEVG Annual Conference, 18–19 September 2015, Tsukuba, Japan

The IAEVG Annual Conference held in Tsukuba, Japan on 18-19 September 2015. The conference hosted 500 delegates from 40 countries. The conference theme “Restructuring careers over unexpected powerful forces” reflected the Japanese response to the recent earthquake and tsunami in the region.



The key note address by Prof Nancy Arthur on culturally infused career guidance and social justice introduced practical tips to professionals. Dr John McCarthy and Dr Raimo Vuorinen gave a joint presentation on the symposium on public policy and diversity with reference to priorities within the ELGPN Work Programmes 2007–2015

After the conference, the IAEVG board also launched a communique on career guidance for migrants and this communique was also sent to the

ELGPN members by the ELGPN Co-ordination Unit.

Earlier, the IAEVG also elected a new Board and the Executive Board. The ELGPN Co-ordinator was elected as one of the Vice-Presidents and Dr Tibor Bors Borbely-Pecze was elected to the IAEVG Board.

After the IAEVG annual conference, during the 18th ELGPN Plenary Meeting in Luxembourg, Ms Karen Schober, as the designated IAEVG representative to the ELGPN, noted that the IAEVG appreciates the efforts of the ELGPN member-countries. The IAEVG will continue to support the dissemination of the ELGPN tools also beyond European countries and support any further co-operation on lifelong guidance practice and policy development in Europe.

More information and the presentations are available on the IAEVG conference website: <http://jssce.wdc-jp.com/conf/iaevgconf2015/>

Development of professional orientation system in Armenia in 2012-15

The Armenian Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Education and Science organised a national workshop on the development of national lifelong guidance system in Armenia in Yerevan, Armenia on 13 October 2015. The workshop was jointly organised with the European Training Foundation and the Global Developments Fund.

Ms Haykuhi Gevorgyan, Director of Methodological Center for Professional Orientation from the Ministry of Labour and Social Issues introduced the workshop agenda. Photo: Lilit Beglaryan





Table discussions during the national workshop in Yerevan on 12 October 2015. Photo: Lilif Beglaryan

The workshop participants discussed the draft national strategy for lifelong guidance and the role of national pilot projects in establishing coherent career services both in education and employment sectors. During the workshop, Mr Helmut Zelloth (ETF) reflected on the process from the ETF perspective and the ELGPN Co-ordinator introduced the ELGPN tools as additional reference materials for the future development. The workshop also discussed the use of Information and Communication Technology in integrated career services.

24th Annual EfVET International Conference, 21–24 October 2015, Paphos, Cyprus

The European Forum of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (EfVET) held their annual conference in Paphos, Cyprus on 21-14 October 2015. The conference focused on the attractiveness of VET and explored examples of good practice and case studies on how VET institutions and stakeholders can continue to build on this success.

The ELGPN Co-ordinator presented the ELGPN outputs with specific reference to the role of lifelong guidance in VET programmes. The outcomes of the round table discussions emphasised the importance of good quality advice and guidance in linking the learning programmes and continuous professional development with the opportunities in the labour market. The delegates also noted the importance of career guidance services to guardians.

The presentations and outcomes of the roundtable discussions are available on the conference website: <http://www.efvet.org>



Ms Eva Borin Dahlberg (Career Guidance Centre, Gothenburg) discussing the importance of guidance in VET. Photo: EfVET

19th ELGPN Plenary Meeting, 24–25 November 2015, Jyväskylä, Finland

The 19th and final ELGPN Plenary Meeting was organised in Jyväskylä, Finland on 24–25 November 2015. The meeting was jointly organised by the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture and the Ministry of Employment and the Economy in co-operation with the ELGPN Co-ordination Unit hosted by the University of Jyväskylä and the city of Jyväskylä. The Network celebrated the completion of the ELGPN 2007-15 Toolbox and discussed options for future systematic European co-operation in lifelong guidance practice and policy development.

In his opening speech Minister Jari Lindström (the Finnish Ministry of Employment and the Economy) emphasised the role of comprehensive guidance services in helping the individual in the current unpredictable labour market. He also informed the meeting about the establishment of new One-Stop Guidance Centers and integrated online guidance services in 2014-20 as an example of the current co-operation between the ministries in charge of lifelong guidance practice and policy development.

In addition to the launch of the ELGPN Toolbox, the Plenary Meeting discussed success factors in promoting the national lifelong guidance policy development and the use of ELGPN tools on national and regional levels. The inputs to feed the table discussions were delivered by country teams from Austria, Germany, Latvia, the Netherlands, Serbia and Sweden.



Minister Jari Lindström (the Finnish Ministry of Employment and the Economy) gave the welcome address. Photo: Martti Minkkinen

The Network also discussed options for further systematic European co-operation in lifelong guidance practice and policy development beyond 2015. The members noted that lifelong guidance policies can be viewed as a strategic response and partner in the implementation of EU policies in education, training and employment such as worker and learner mobility, the development of a common EU labour market, and addressing the needs of early school leavers and the NEETs. Lifelong guidance has an integrative policy role to support lifelong learning and lifelong guidance systems support the achievement of policy objectives. The mutual learning on the development and implementation of EU Lifelong Guidance policies between the EU Member States needs to be supported by the Commission.

The Plenary Meeting noted that lifelong guidance is not just about the work of guidance practitioners. European co-operation in lifelong guidance policy development should be distinguished from the co-operation on the promotion and usage of the European tools, such as Europass and Euroguidance. Euroguidance, for example serves a different mission, role, responsibilities, and target groups in the promotion of learner mobility. The Commission-led Working Group and EU synergy should promote interactive communication between lifelong guidance policy and practice and provision of systematic information to all guidance stakeholders (ministries, education, higher education, training, youth and employment), policy makers, social partners, guidance practitioners (education and employment), trainers and researchers, information officers, and end users (students, parents, trainers of guidance practitioners, other educational professionals). The Euroguidance Network could then help to disseminate the working group outputs on national level. These complementary approaches -

strategic work and actions - support the continuous development and enhancement of Lifelong Guidance as a priority in the process of improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the implementation of lifelong learning and employment strategies, policies and practices in the Member States. This policy practice dialogue can act as a thorough and integrated “tool” at European level to ensure complementarity and coherence between policy and practice across the Member States.



19th ELGPN Plenary Meeting family photo. Photo: Martti Minkkinen

“Ohjaamo” One-Stop Guidance Centres: Developing Policy and Practice for Co-careering - Finnish National Lifelong Guidance Policy Seminar, 26 November 2015, Jyväskylä, Finland

The Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture and the Finnish Ministry of Employment and the Economy hosted a national lifelong guidance policy seminar in Jyväskylä, Finland on 26 November 2015.



Dr Raimo Vuorinen and Ms Jaana Kettunen introduced the summary findings of the ELGPN member-country responses to the survey on the use of ICT in One-Stop Guidance Centers. Photo: Martti Minkkinen

The seminar focused on practice and policy of cross-ministerial co-operation in developing regional one-stop-guidance centres and the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in the service delivery and management of the services. Examples of policy and practice from Finland, Scotland, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia and Norway were introduced as a basis for discussion among the

participants. The ELGPN tools were also introduced as an agenda item of the conference.



Ms Margit Rammo introduced the e-Estonia strategies to the conference delegates. Photo: Martti Minkinen

The conference materials and video presentations are available at: <http://www.evokes.fi>

Launch of the new ELGPN Tools in National Forum meetings

Special Delivery of the 2015 ELGPN Tools in Dublin, Ireland, 3 December 2015

Written by Shivaun Gallagher (National Centre for Guidance in Education, Ireland)

Undeterred by the torrential rain outside, Dr Raimo Vuorinen was warmly welcomed back to Dublin by members of the National Forum on Guidance (Ireland). It marked a full circle for both Dr Vuorinen and stakeholders in guidance for many of those gathered had first met Dr Vuorinen at the ELGPN Plenary meetings held in Dublin as part of the EU Presidency in February 2013. The focus of the ELGPN programme when he last visited was supporting member-countries to test the ELGPN Tool No. 1 *Lifelong Guidance Policy Development: A European Resource Kit* and it also marked the launch of the Irish National Forum on Guidance 2013 - 2016

This time, Dr Vuorinen was invited to attend the final meeting of the Forum for 2015 and took the opportunity to formally present the recently published ELGPN Tools No. 4 - 6 to Breda Naughton, of the Irish Department of Education

and Skills. The Forum meeting hosted by the National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE), gave the NCGE Director Jennifer McKenzie a chance to share with Irish stakeholders the importance of their input into the each of the three new tools and to announce with the support of the Department of Education and Skills, that the Forum would continue its work into 2016 with a call to set up a working group to focus entirely on the QAE guidelines.



Launch of the new ELGPN Tools in Ireland by Ms Jennifer McKenzie (left), Dr Raimo Vuorinen and Ms Breda Naughton in Dublin on 3 December 2015. (Photo: William Farrell Photography)

Dr Vuorinen strengthened this case by outlining that these tools brought guidance policy and practice together by providing clear definitions of Career Management Skills and the need for it to be linked to National Quality Frameworks. He also provided examples of how the Guidelines for Policies and Systems Development for Lifelong Guidance: A Reference Framework for The EU and for the Commission would have an impact on stakeholder discussions and actions at every level. He stressed the importance of future systematic European co-operation in Lifelong Guidance policy development and the need to develop a common set of benchmarks and indicators for measuring the achievement of lifelong guidance policies and systems. His presentation and words of encouragement led to a lively discussion among guidance representatives about how each of the Tools 4-6 could be used at local, regional and national level in Ireland.



Family photo of the Irish National Forum on Guidance. (Photo: William Farrell Photography)

Launch of the 2015 ELGPN Tools in Helsinki, Finland, 8 December 2015

The Finnish National Lifelong Guidance Working Group meeting on 8 December 2015 focused on the update of the work of the 15 regional guidance fora and the locus of lifelong guidance in the current government priorities.

The meeting also discussed the role of guidance services in validation of prior learning among refugees and migrants. One of the agenda items was the launch of the new ELGPN publications. The ELGPN national delegation and the ELGPN Co-ordinator presented the tools to the co-chairs of the National Working Group: Ms Teija Felt of the Finnish Ministry of Employment and the Economy and Mr Mika Tammilehto of the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture.



Launch of the ELGPN Tools at the meeting of the Finnish National Lifelong Guidance Working Group on 8 December 2014. From the left Mr Ari-Pekka Leminen, Dr Raimo Vuorinen, Ms Ulla-Jill Karlsson, Ms Raija Meriläinen, Mr Mika Tammilehto and Ms Teija Felt. Photo: Juhani Pirttiniemi

Four new ELGPN Publications

During its 19th Plenary Meeting held in Jyväskylä, Finland on 24-25 November 2015, the ELGPN launched four new publications. A key design principle for the 2015 Work Programme was to bring together the existing ELGPN products into a coherent Toolbox with strong cross-references between all the products. In doing so, the Network examined the implications of the evidence collected on the impact of the existing ELGPN products.

ELGPN Tools No. 4: Designing and Implementing Policies Related to Career Management Skills (CMS) is addressed to policy-makers who wish to further develop a comprehensive national guidance policy with the focus on the acquisition of CMS. It proposes 11 questions to be considered by policy-makers and provides elements of answers to those questions based on the combined knowledge and experience of ELGPN members and other international sources. The CMS Tool is intended to support policy-makers in considering each of these important questions by sharing insights, good practice and conclusions across the ELGPN member-countries.

The aim of the *ELGPN Tools No. 5: Strengthening the Quality Assurance and Evidence Base for Lifelong Guidance* is to stimulate stakeholder discussion and action for the continuous improvement of lifelong guidance policies and practices, focusing on strengthening quality assurance and evidence-based policy systems development. Five key quality elements, criteria, indicators and examples of possible data emerged in 2008–12 from extensive ELGPN reviews of national, EU and international quality assurance and evidence-base frameworks, including global professional standards. These key quality elements include:

- Practitioner Competence
- Citizen/User Involvement
- Service Provision and Improvement
- Cost benefits to Governments
- Cost benefits Individuals.

By drawing upon these, it is possible to identify common language, to examine opportunities and challenges with a collective ambition for continuous improvement, in line with regional, national and European targets on education, employment, poverty and social exclusion.

The ELGPN Tools No. 6: *EU Guidelines for Lifelong Guidance Policies and Systems: A Reference Framework for the EU and for the Commission* cover transversal issues, such as funding and ICT, and sector issues, such as, schools, unemployed and disadvantaged groups. Each guideline explains its importance and gives suggestions for improving policies.

The use of the ELGPN Tools by the Member States will support all engaged partners of the European Semester to have an even stronger and cross-cut impact on different and related policy areas: education, training, employment, youth and social policies. The ELGPN Tools are designed to help policy-makers and other stakeholders at EU and national levels to:

- Enhance the efficiency and comprehensiveness of EU and national education, training, employment, youth and social inclusion policies, and their interactions, *by providing them with expert knowledge and inspiration*
- Review existing national and regional lifelong guidance provision with a view to their improvement, and
- Identify policy issues requiring attention and gaps that need to be addressed at EU, national and regional levels, drawing on the experiences of other European countries.

The fourth new publication, *ELGPN Summative Report 2007–15*, describes the work undertaken by the ELGPN in 2007–15, including the progress of policy adaptation and implementation processes of the member-countries at national, regional and local levels. In an evaluation of ELGPN's work, members report that participation in the Network has enriched their awareness of possible responses to common challenges and given them fresh perspectives and new insights into their national provision. A key strength of the Network has been the strong ownership of its activities expressed by the national delegations.

All ELGPN Tools and their translations to different languages are available on the Network website <http://elgpn.eu>.



Three new ELGPN Tools, which complete the ELGPN Toolbox, were launched during the ELGPN 19th Plenary Meeting in Jyväskylä, Finland on 24 November 2015.

Thank You Note from the Co-ordination Unit

Milestones of the ELGPN

- In 2002, the European Commission created an Expert Group on lifelong guidance.
- At the end of 2005, the Commission initiated a discussion with its Expert Group for Lifelong Guidance on Member-State-driven European Network as a suitable mechanism to take forward work on guidance at EU level.
- On November 2006, during Finnish EU Presidency Conference on Lifelong Guidance Policies and Systems, first exchange of views on the future mandate took place and the participating Member States expressed their interest to set up a network of interested countries.
- On March 2007 the Commission invited representatives of the countries eligible for assistance under the Lifelong Learning Programme 2007-13 for a preparatory meeting to explore the potential for the Network.
- On May 2007, the inaugural meeting of the ELGPN agreed to establish a European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network and expressed their willingness to participate in the network as members or observers.

- The inaugural meeting of the ELGPN agreed [the underlying principles](#) of the ELGPN.
- The role of the ELGPN was strengthened and described in more detail in the EU Council Resolution on 'Better Integrating Lifelong Guidance into Lifelong Learning Strategies' passed in 2008 under the French EU Presidency.
- The ELGPN Resource Kit and Glossary were published in 2012.
- The ELGPN Evidence Guide was published in 2014.
- The complete ELGPN Toolbox was launched in 2015.

Since the launch of the ELGPN in 2007, over 300 designated national delegates from 33 countries have contributed to the Network activities in 19 Plenary Meetings and in over one hundred peer learning activities or field visits. The Co-ordination Unit has sent 19 100 emails and received over 27 000 emails from the Network members. The ELGPN website has been visited over 30 000 times from 145 countries and 66 900 copies of the ELGPN English language publications have been printed and distributed to members, partners and other stakeholders around the world. The ELGPN Tools, Concept Notes, and Policy Briefings and their translations to 24 languages can be found on the Network website (<http://elgpn.eu/publications>) which will remain online as a repository of ELGPN Tools and other publications. Based on this evidence, the final ELGPN Plenary Meeting delegates agreed on 24–25 November 2015 that the ELGPN is truly a NETWORK.

The Co-ordination Unit wants to thank the European Commission for its support to the ELGPN and the Network members, partners and consultants for their commitment and invaluable work between 2007–15.

All in all, the ELGPN as a Member-State-driven network has been an agent for innovation and peer learning in the field of lifelong guidance policy development and implementation, helping its member-countries as well as European stakeholders in human resource policy development. This feature needs to be sustained in whatever model for systematic European co-operation in lifelong guidance policy development evolves in the future.

Season's greetings from the Co-ordination Unit

The staff of the Co-ordination Unit would like to thank all ELGPN members, partner and consultants for a busy ELGPN year 2015 and wish everyone a relaxing holiday season and a happy and successful New Year!



Photo: Tarja Vänskä-Kauhanen

Please note that the ELGPN Co-ordination Unit is closed 22 December 2015 – 3 January 2016 for a Christmas break.

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