

6th European conference on lifelong guidance policy

13-14 June 2016 | Haarlem | the Netherlands

Background information

The Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) organises together with Euroguidance the Netherlands on 13 and 14 June 2016 the *6th European conference on lifelong guidance policy*. Euroguidance is the Dutch career knowledge point EU and works on national (policy) issues of career guidance in education and employment.

Previous European conferences on lifelong guidance policy

The Dutch conference is a follow-up on conferences organised by the European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network ([ELGPN](#)), namely:

- 2006 Lifelong Guidance Policies and Systems: Building the Stepping Stones - 6-7 November 2006, Jyväskylä, Finland;
- 2008 Career Transitions and Lifelong Guidance: Building a European Response - 17-18 September 2008, Lyon, France;
- 2010 Valuing VET competences, 4-5 May 2010, Zaragoza, Spain;
- 2012 Lifelong Guidance 2020 , 20 October 2012, Cyprus;
- 2014 5th European Conference on Lifelong Guidance Policies 20 October 2014, Rome, Italy.

With this conference the Dutch Ministry of Education Culture and Science wants to proceed the tradition of a two year European conference on lifelong guidance policy to maintain and strengthen international cooperation and networks in this field. The outcomes will be shared with the European Commission and contributes to their considerations to establish a commission-led working group on lifelong guidance.

Background and context conference

The overarching theme of the conference is cross-sectoral regional cooperation in career services. Cross-sectoral cooperation in career services especially take place in the region. This might be regional cooperation between school sectors, between education and Public Employment Services or other guidance related services, between education and labor market or a combination of all of these.

This is both of interest in the Netherlands and elsewhere in Europe. The cooperation of different sectors is essential: "Linkages across sectors are pivotal to efficient and coherent guidance services." ([Resource Kit ELGPN](#), p. 66).

Examples of initiatives include the regional career centers in [Denmark](#) and [Finland](#) and Learning and Work Desks in the Netherlands. Guidance on these valuable partnerships is of great importance, not only from the region but also in the national context. There has already been established that the regional level is important for the approach of career services, such as the Dutch approach of ESL, which was successfully applied from a national policy in the region.

Analysis examples in Europe

To identify the powerful features and points of interest of such partnerships, Euroguidance Netherlands carries out along with Finland, Estonia and Cedefop an exploration in which the EU countries provide data on national and regional cooperation in career services.

The study is of great importance for the preparation and planning of the conference: it allows the organisation of the conference to focus on the powerful features or the limitations which are under discussion. With the outcomes the conference participants will be able to optimally learn from the examples in Europe of regional cooperation in career services.

Country information on cooperation in career services is essential for this; therefore we stress the importance that participants / countries fill in the questionnaire.

More information on the analysis and the url to the questionnaire see [here](#).

Goal and proceeds conference

The overall goal of the 6th European conference on lifelong guidance policy is:

Gaining insight from different European contexts over cross-sectoral regional career services in the context of lifelong learning, to realise in this way quality and accessibility of career services for all citizens in Europe.

To this end, the sub-goals of the conference are:

- Identifying strong regional partnerships in career service within lifelong learning and provide policy stakeholders input on the success factors and limitations of these partnerships;
- Inspiring, motivating and activating EU countries with the aim to implement cooperation in the region;
- Reaching recommendations which are relevant and shared by European countries for the Commission Led Working Group on lifelong guidance policy, both on the substantive agenda and the organisational structure.

Outcomes of the conference:

- A report with examples of regional cooperation in career services in Europe that are discussed at the conference;
- Recommendations for the Commission Led Working Group on lifelong guidance policy;
- Strengthened networks among policy stakeholders in the field of career services in different EU countries;
- Insight into the building blocks of strong regional partnerships in career services;
- Linking insights from recent research (including [Cedefop](#), Deirdre Hughes), in order to optimise the impact of regional cooperation.