

The 2nd ELGPN Policy Review Meeting in Tallinn, Estonia 6–7 June 2013

The Network gathered in sunny Tallinn on 6–7 June for the 2nd ELGPN Policy Review Meeting. The meeting was jointly organised by the Foundation Innove and the European Commission and was attended by 77 delegates from 29 countries, including observers from Kosovo. Representatives of ELGPN partner (Cedefop) and parallel organisations (IAEVG, EAIE, ICCDPP and ETUC) also participated in the meeting.

The meeting began with the lighting of the ELGPN candle by the meeting chair Ms Margit Rammo (Foundation Innove) and the host of the previous meeting Ms Jennifer McKenzie (National Centre for Guidance in Education, Ireland). The meeting also heard music performed by artists from the Estonian National Opera.



Margit Rammo, head of unit at Foundation Innove chaired the meeting (Photo: Kadri Eensalu, Foundation Innove).

The main focus of the meeting was concrete next steps in using the ELGPN Resource Kit and adapting it at member country level. Meeting delegates spent most of their time in the Policy Review Clusters (PRCs), sharing their plans and first experiences of using the Resource Kit and making plans for future work together. The Thematic Task Groups (TTGs) also met to review the progress made since the Dublin meeting in February 2013. More detailed summary of the meeting discussions is available in the meeting minutes circulated to Network members.



ELGPN members, representatives of parallel organisations and observers met in Tallinn, Estonia in early June 2013 (Photo: Kadri Eensalu, Foundation Innove).

At the end of the meeting Ms Aleksandra Sokolova, deputy head of the Vocational Education and Guidance Division at the Lithuanian Ministry of Education and Science, invited ELGPN members to the 13th ELGPN Plenary Meeting and the third Policy Review Meeting to be held in Vilnius, Lithuania on 12–13 December 2013.

Appointment of consultants to support the implementation of the 2013–14 ELGPN Work Programme

The ELGPN Steering Group, in consultation with the PRC lead countries, has appointed the consultants to support the implementation of the 2013–14 ELGPN Work Programme. The consultants were sought and selected through an open call and a competitive bidding process in April 2013.

Two consultants, Professor Tony Watts and Dr Tibor Bors Borbely-Pecze were appointed to support strategic development of ELGPN activities (Prof Watts) and implementation of the transversal elements of the ELGPN Thematic Activities and the links with key EU policies (Dr Borbely-Pecze). Consultants were also appointed to support the work of each of the Policy Review Clusters (PRCs). Professor Peter Plant will work with PRC1 (All ELGPN Resource Kit Priorities), Annemarie Oomen will support PRC2 (Career Management Skills), Professor Füsün Akkök will facilitate the

work of PRC 3&4 (Access and Co-ordination) and Dr Deirdre Hughes will work with PRC5 (Quality and Evidence).



Consultants to support the 2013–14 Work Programme have been selected. From left to right: Dr Deirdre Hughes, Professor Füsün Akkök, Ms Annemarie Oomen, Dr Tristram Hooley, Professor Peter Plant and Professor Tony Watts. Dr Tibor Bors Borbely-Pecze is missing from the photo. (Photo: Kadri Eensalu, Foundation Innove).

Dr Tristram Hooley was also appointed to support the work of Thematic Task Group 1 on producing a handbook on evidence on the impact of career development services. The consultants began their work in May and were introduced to Network members in the Tallinn Policy Review Meeting 6–7 June 2013 (see a separate story above).

Seminar on Validation of Non-Formal and Informal Learning 9–10 April 2013, Mechelen, Belgium

The Commission organised a joint seminar on the key issues highlighted in the Council Recommendation with Cedefop and the Irish Presidency of the Council of EU. The aim of the conference was to examine the revision of the 2009 European guidelines¹ in light of the principles enshrined in the Recommendation.

The seminar workshop conclusions noted that information and guidance during all four stages of

validation of non-formal and informal learning is a necessity. It is important to provide citizens information about possibilities for the validation process and also support the processes of documentation and assessment of non-formal and informal learning. In the phase of certification there is a need to develop plans for next steps for one's own career. Thus the competences of assessors and guidance practitioners involved in the validation processes should be revisited in the revised European guidelines. More information about the Council Recommendation on validation can be found at http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/informal_en.htm

PES to PES Dialogue Conference 17–18 April 2013, Brussels, Belgium

The fifth conference under the PES to PES Dialogue programme – the European Commission's mutual learning programme for public employment services (PESs) – took place on 17-18 April 2013 in Brussels.

The conference explored how to optimise the delivery of front-line services through effective Human Resource Management for employment counsellors, building on the findings of the analytical paper on job profiles and training, the Dialogue Conference on Individual Action Planning and the dissemination conference discussions in 2012. The conference discussed the following questions:

- **Job entry:** What are the key ingredients/aspects to be considered for recruitment and initial training of PES counsellors?
- **Continuing professional development:** What leadership concepts and on-going learning and improvement processes are in place?
- **Staffing concepts and leadership:** What are the implications of a more diverse client base and changing requirements?

The conference materials are available at the PES to PES Dialogue website at

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

¹
<http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/publications/5059.aspx>

Meeting of the EARLALL Network's Lifelong Guidance Working Group, April 2013

by Emmi Kallio

The Lifelong Guidance Working Group of EARLALL network had the pleasure to invite Ms Claire Kagan to its meeting in April for an exchange regarding the ELGPN Tools.

Close contact between the ELGPN and EARLALL (European Association of Regional and Local Authorities for Lifelong Learning) was established in the beginning of 2012. More recently, the EARLALL Business Manager, Ms Flavia Buiarelli, was invited to participate in the 11th ELGPN Plenary Meeting in Cyprus to present the network and particularly its Lifelong Guidance Working Group to ELGPN members.

In April this year it was the turn of the Lifelong Guidance Working Group of EARLALL to invite Ms Claire Kagan, the Belgian contact person for ELGPN, to its meeting in Brussels. The objective of this exchange was to deepen the synergies between the two networks in the field of lifelong guidance. The Working Group members heard a presentation about the work of the ELGPN and in particular about the two recently developed tools: *Lifelong Guidance Policy Development: Glossary* and the *Lifelong Guidance Policy Development: A European Resource Kit*.



Ms Claire Kagan presented ELGPN at the EARLALL meeting in April (Photo: Kadri Eensalu, Foundation Innove).

The meeting participants, who represented six regions and two universities, had the opportunity to discuss in detail some of the definitions given in the

Glossary to key concepts, both in terms of professionals working in the field of guidance and services provided by guidance structures. The members of the Working Group considered this exchange on common vocabulary particularly useful for their own future activities, such as drafting of working documents and preparation of study visits to the member regions. They also expressed their interest to have a further exchange regarding the good practice examples identified in the Resource Kit.

The second part of the meeting was dedicated to Ms Kagan's presentation on the Belgian guidance system. Her detailed insights as a director of the Belgian guidance structure called *Centre PMS de la Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles* provided the meeting participants with an interesting and useful point of comparison.

Peer learning activity on the contribution of validation, guidance and the use of indicators to quality in adult learning, Valletta, Malta, 15–16 May 2013

The Directorate for Lifelong Learning (DLL) within the Ministry for Education and Employment, Malta, hosted a Peer Learning Activity (PLA) in Valletta, Malta on 15–16 May 2013. All together 38 participants from 15 countries (AT, BE, CZ, EE, ES, FI, FR, HU, LU, MT, NO, RO, SI, TR, UK) participated in the PLA. The overall aim was to explore good examples of policies and practices in validation, guidance and the use of indicators in relation to quality in adult learning.

The PLA identified lessons and case studies for consideration in participating countries and institutions. In addition, PLA outcomes will contribute to the forthcoming policy guidance document on quality in adult learning by the end of this year.

Day 1 included presentations on how validation of prior learning contributes to the quality of adult learning with examples from the host country, Luxembourg, Romania and France. In addition, Hungary and the ELGPN representative at the meeting Mr Jos Noesen presented current policy developments & practices in guidance and how guidance contributes to quality of adult learning. On Day 2, after a summary of the results of Day 1, the discussion focused on how the use of indicators can

contribute to the quality of adult learning. The discussion also provided a means of embedding these results in the policy guidance document. This work was supported by a contribution from Slovenia, the Thematic Working Group Sub-group on Indicators and by an input on EQAVET.



Ms Kairi Solmann and Mr Jos Noesen introduced the Malta PLA conclusions to the participants of the 2nd ELGPN Policy Review Meeting in Tallinn 6-7 June 2013 (Photo: Kadri Eensalu, Foundation Innove).

“Educational and Vocational Guidance in Germany – Policy Review and European Benchmarks”, German national conference, Berlin, Germany, 11 June 2013

by Judith Frübing

Do we need and do we want a Policy Review Process in Germany? If so, what could it look like, how could it be realised and who should be involved? What is the added value of such a process? These were the key questions which 120 experts and stakeholders from all sectors discussed at the national ELGPN conference “Educational and Vocational Guidance in Germany – Policy Review and European Benchmarks” (Bildungs- und Berufsberatung in Deutschland – Policy Review und Europäische Benchmarks) on June 11th, 2013 in Berlin.

The conference marked the starting point for the implementation process of the ELGPN Resource Kit in Germany. For this purpose the German adapted translation of the Resource Kit, the Short Version of the Progress Report and two of the Concept Notes were presented to the public and

launched at this event. The organisers, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research and the National Guidance Forum, were particularly pleased to welcome Mr Koen Nomden (European Commission, DG EAC) who highlighted the political importance of guidance in the context of EU politics. In addition, representatives from the neighbouring countries Austria, Denmark, Luxembourg, and Switzerland participated in the conference and shared their perspectives and experiences with the German participants in the discussions.



Koen Nomden speaking on the significance of guidance and the ELGPN in the EU context (Photo: nfb)

The participating experts from politics, economy & social partner organisations, the employment agency and practitioner’s and provider’s associations expressed their support for a policy review process and their willingness to participate in such a process on the basis of the Resource Kit. The tool was acknowledged as a suitable instrument to reach comparable results across the different sectors. Nevertheless, to take into account the federal structures of the country and the specific legal responsibilities and characteristics of the different policy fields, more conceptual work will be required prior to further adaptation of the ELGPN Resource Kit.

The German language versions of the 2011-12 ELGPN publications can be downloaded from the ELGPN website and printed versions can be ordered from info@forum-beratung.de. Further information is available in German at www.forum-beratung.de.

ISER 2013 Conference in Jyväskylä, Finland, 11–14 June 2013

The purpose of the International Symposium on Educational Reform (ISER) is to provide venues for university graduate students, educators, professors, practitioners and policymakers to examine educational reform from a global perspective, discuss common issues facing educational leaders, and to promote international understanding. The annual ISER Conference reflects a shared commitment to scholarship and engagement with practitioners, policymakers and the private sector in launching and sustaining educational reform.

The ISER annual conference was hosted by the Institute of Educational Leadership in the Faculty of Education in Jyväskylä, Finland on 10–14 June 2013. The themes of the symposium this year were *Social justice, Future creation, Ethical leadership, The Finnish School system compared to other countries, Lifelong guidance and counselling, Leadership challenges and solutions, and Introducing present school leadership research*. The ELGPN Co-ordinator Dr Raimo Vuorinen was invited to give a key note presentation with the topic “Lifelong guidance 2020”. Dr Seija Nykänen also introduced a research based model of regional networked guidance services. More information on the conference can be found at <http://www.jyu.fi/iser2013>

The seminar also hosted a network meeting of the European Policy Network on School Leadership (EPNoSL), which aims at improving school leadership in Europe through a collaborative network in which members co-construct, manage and share knowledge intended to inform policy in the area of school leadership. The ELGPN shares common interest with the EPNoSL in promoting quality education and the ELGPN Resource Kit was introduced during the conference. For more information, please see at

<http://www.schoolleadership.eu/>

The 22nd annual conference of the Career Development Association of Australia (CDAA), Sydney Australia, 22–24 May 2013

The CDAA National Conference entitled: “Leading Career Development in Uncertain Times: Implications and impacts for career development practitioners, individuals and for business” was held in Sydney, Australia on 22–24 May 2013. The conference examined the development of workforce skills development when many sectors are experiencing transition and restructure.

During the Conference, the Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth, the Hon Peter Garrett AM MP, released the National Career Development Strategy. The Strategy sets the direction for future approaches to career development that will benefit both individuals and the productivity of Australia. The ELGPN Co-ordinator, Dr Raimo Vuorinen was invited to reflect on this national strategy in the light of the European lifelong guidance policy perspective. The development of measures to meet the challenges of youth guarantee provides opportunities for mutual co-operation between the ELGPN and the CDAA.

In conjunction with the conference the CDAA organised a symposium on the use of technology in guidance. Dr Deirdre Hughes, OBE and Ms Jaana Kettunen from the Finnish Institute for Educational Research contributed to the symposium by providing a European perspective to this event together with Ms Tannis Goddard from Canada.

More information about the conference and the symposium is available on the CDAA website at <http://www.onqconferences.com.au/CDAA13/index.html>

European Academic Network for Career Guidance and Counselling Goes into Second Phase

by Johannes Katsarov

The Network for Innovation in Career Guidance and Counselling in Europe (NICE), founded in 2009, involves 45 partners from 28 European countries. Most of the partners are higher education institutions that offer degree

programmes in career guidance and counselling or are engaged in related research.

Supported financially through the Erasmus Program of the European Commission, the members of NICE engage in several activities to enhance academic cooperation in the field from 2012 to 2015. After successful collaboration in 2009-2012, this is the second phase of funding which NICE receives from the European Commission. NICE has already published a handbook for the academic training of career guidance and counselling professionals, which includes an innovative framework of professional roles and core competences, and the basis for development of training curricula.

Important projects within the “NICE 2” program include:

- The formulation of a joint Memorandum on the need for higher education and research in career guidance and counselling,
- The further development and testing of common points of reference for the academic training of career guidance and counselling professionals (including the NICE Core Competences and the NICE Curriculum),
- Activities to support the exchange of lecturers, researchers and students between the participating institutions,
- The development of a sustainable infrastructure for future networking, including an online community and database.

The NICE 2 programme will be accompanied by several international workshops and three large conferences. A wide range of actors interested in the academic training and research in career guidance and counselling (including policy-makers, members of professional associations, and representatives of research and training institutions) will be invited to a large international conference to be held in Canterbury on 3–4 September 2014.

More information about the NICE network can be found at www.nice-network.eu.

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The staff at the Co-ordination unit would like to thank all ELGPN members, partners and consultants for the energetic start to the 2013-14 Work Programme and wish everyone a sunny and relaxing summer break.

Summer greetings from Jyväskylä



Please note that the ELGPN Co-ordination unit will be closed for summer break on 15–26 July 2013.

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