

NEW SKILLS AGENDA FOR EUROPE: THE ROLE OF LIFELONG GUIDANCE POLICIES

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POLICY DEPARTMENTS in the European Parliament

support **parliamentary bodies** (President, Committees, Delegations, the Secretary General)

POLICY DEPARTMENT FOR ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC POLICIES

-> analyses, briefings for 6 committees including the

Employment and Social Affairs Committee:

55 members representing the political groups

Responsible for employment policies, social policy, working conditions, vocational training, free movement of workers and pensioners

... and for relations with **4 European agencies:** European Training Foundation, Cedefop, Eurofound, OSHA

Tasks are co-legislation, supervision of the European Commission, reports, opinions



Selected recent studies and analyses:



- ❑ Labour market integration and social inclusion of refugees
- ❑ Precarious Employment in Europe: Patterns, trends and policy strategies
- ❑ Unemployment and Poverty in Greece and other post-programme countries

Skills development and guidance

- ❑ Skills Development and Employability in Europe: The New Skills Agenda (Workshop report)
- ❑ Encouraging STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) Studies
- ❑ Assistance for Entrepreneurship
- ❑ European Lifelong Guidance Policies

1. New Skills Agenda for Europe



2. ... the role of lifelong guidance

3. Europass revision and European LLG policies





1. New Skills Agenda for Europe

“Skills development is crucial for a competitive European economy and the quality of skills will determine social fairness in the long run”
(Michel Servoz)

Main objectives of the New Skills Agenda for Europe:

Reduce skills gaps and skills mismatches

1. Improve the quality and relevance of skills formation
2. Make skills more visible and comparable
3. Improve intelligence and information about available jobs

 **Combining skills development policies with technical tools**

1 NEW SKILLS AGENDA FOR EUROPE – 10 KEY ACTIONS

Key actions	Actions
Council Recommendation on a Skills Guarantee for low-skilled adults	2016
Council Recommendation on the revision of the EQF	2016
Skills Profile Tool for Third Country Nationals	2016
Decision of European Parliament/Council on revision of Europass Framework	2016
Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition	2016
Blueprint for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills	2016
VET modernisation and making VET a first choice	2017
Review of Council Recommendation on Key competences	2017
Proposal on Graduate tracking	2017
Analysis / exchange best practices to address brain drain	2017

Package of skills policies, cooperation and technical tools





2. New Skills Agenda and lifelong guidance (LLG)

Mixed picture: Value of guidance services acknowledged in specific actions and supporting analysis

- **Productivity:** requires i.a. investment in guidance services
- **Upskilling low-skilled adults:** Lack of guidance provision as major obstacle (Skills Guarantee)
- **Higher education:** good guidance needed to reduce skills mismatches
- **Work-based learning and apprenticeships:** expert working group ET2020 - > Guidance a key area to be tackled
- **Labour market and skills intelligence** should be improved for end-users such as guidance counsellors

... no reference to European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network results

2 NEW SKILLS AGENDA - CAREER GUIDANCE– EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTIONS

European Parliament resolutions of 2015/2016 made a strong case for developing guidance systems, calling for

- good quality guidance and support at all stages of education
- anchoring it in school curricula, improving career guidance in particular in schools and public employment services
- lifelong guidance on professional career development over the whole working life to maintain and develop skills
- European lifelong guidance policies

... while pointing out “**a lack of high quality career guidance in the Member States**” despite progress having been achieved through European Lifelong Guidance Policies and cooperation structures.

Discrepancy between awareness and policy/service delivery:

24 % have used career guidance service
(Portugal: 13 %)

Lack of access as main reason (45 %)
(Portugal: 59 %)

Discrepancy: 60-70 % consider career guidance useful
for finding a job / further studies (PT: 68 / 76 %)

Challenges:

- Delivery gaps
- Fragmentation
- Quality
(professionalism)

Source:
Eurobarometer 417
(2014)

A recent workshop for the European Parliament stressed in addition:

- Career management skills and careers education as relevant transversal skills, a key competence to support skills policies.
- **Governance:** Need for European cooperation for policy development, complementing operational networks.

European cooperation for lifelong guidance:

What is the state?

3. Europass revision and European LLG policies



3 EUROPEAN GUIDANCE POLICIES SO FAR IN A NUTSHELL

Council Resolution 2004 -> Lifelong guidance concept, European cooperation
Strengthening Policies, Systems and Practices in the field of Guidance
Expert Group 2002

Council Resolution 2008 -> Focus on policy priorities, implementation
Better integrating Lifelong Guidance into Lifelong Learning Strategies

1. Career Management Skills,
2. Access (+ validation of non-formal, informal learning),
3. Quality Assurance and evidence,
4. Cooperation / coordination among stakeholders

European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network



More operational EU-funded networks / projects

Network Euroguidance / Projects: NICE – Network for innovation in career guidance, counselling in Europe, Leonardo projects



3 EUROPEAN GUIDANCE NETWORKS IN A NUTSHELL – COMPLEMENTARITIES BETWEEN ACTIONS & STRATEGIES

Euroguidance

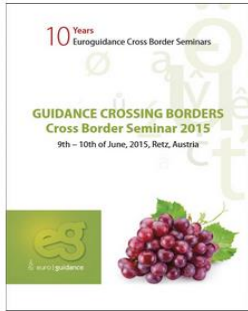


- Established in 1992
- to support implementation of EU policies and lifelong guidance in education and employment, **mobility making use of EU tools** (Europass, EQF etc.)
- 34 countries - 68 National Centers in (mostly hosted under Ministries of Education or Employment)
- Enhancing **professionalism of practitioners** through exchange -> working methods, new tools (e.g. Academia network visits to other countries, training)
- Outputs: Information, training, exchange and reports
- **Strategic working group** (planning, connection with guidance policies, liaising with ELGPN)

ELGPN



- **2007-2015**
- to implement Council Resolutions on Lifelong Guidance 2004, 2008
- 30 countries, bringing together representatives from education and labour ministries, some NGOs
- Focus on **policy and systems development** (1. Career Management Skills, 2. Access + validation of learning, 3. Coordination/cooperation (national guidance fora), 4. Quality Assurance – Evidence base)
- Outputs: Tools, concept notes, policy briefings
- Outcomes: **17 countries – significant impact, all others – some impact on national LLG policies**



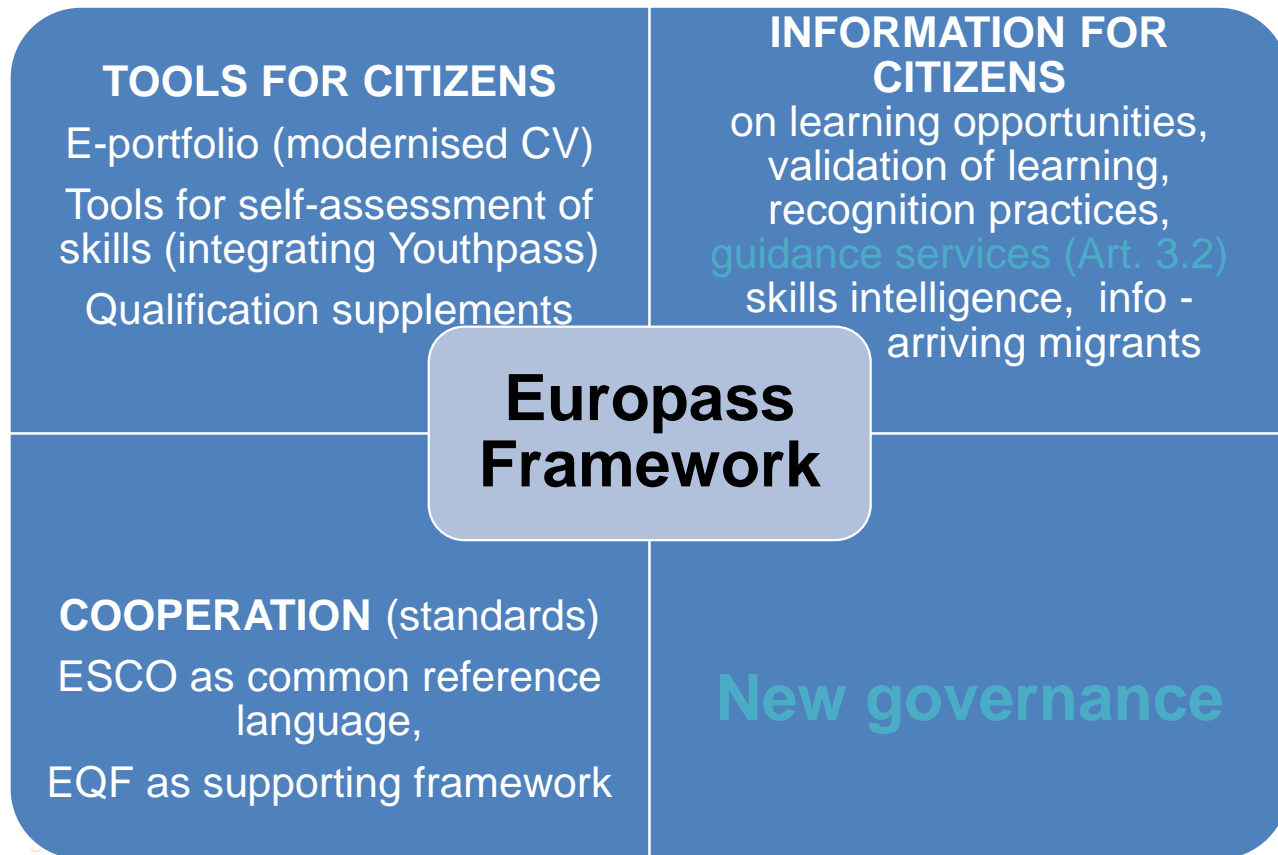
Key outputs include, e.g.

- *Compendia of results from Cross-border seminars* (e.g. competence diagnostics, counselling methods to fight youth unemployment, career management skills)
 - *Newsletter and annual highlights report*
 - *Platform with country information on Guidance systems*
 - *Collection of publications on guidance policies (ELGPN) and practices*
 - *Exchange of guidance practitioners (Academia exchange visits)*
- ... reaching also representatives from ministries (ELGPN members)



Key outputs include

- *Lifelong Guidance Policy Development: A Resource Kit (2012)*
System development in the 4 priority areas, covering main sectors for LLG
- *Guidelines for Policies and Systems Development for Lifelong Guidance (2015)*
Reference framework for policymakers including career guidance concepts for all sectors
- *Designing and Implementing Career Management Skills (2015)*
examples to teach these in educational and other contexts
- *Strengthening the Quality Assurance and Evidence-base of Lifelong Guidance and The Evidence Base of Lifelong Guidance (both 2015)*



Europass will become a “Common Framework for the provision of better services for skills and qualifications”



National Skills Coordination Points as main interface and beneficiary of Union funding

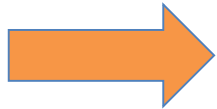
- Better coordination between national services
- Better reach-out of EU services and tools to users
- Simplifying administration and reporting (24, Art. 8)

1) Art. 7 Implementation and monitoring

*“The Commission shall, in cooperation with Member States ... **support the development of guidance policy and services**” – new: legal status*

How?

2) Recital (27): *“The Commission will guarantee **a platform of cooperation** (Member States, relevant stakeholders) to ensure coherence of implementation and monitoring of this decision.” = Europass as a whole*



Concrete cooperation on LLG policies?

- **Euroguidance** is mentioned together with National Europass Centres and EQF National Contact Points without specifying organization / tasks, room for “national arrangements for implementation and organization” (Recital 24 + section on stakeholder consultation)
- The proposal defines **common Europass activities** including information on guidance services for learning and career purposes to be provided by Member States through the National Skills Coordination Points (Art. 3, 8)
- **Results from stakeholder Consultation** with Europass centres, EQF national contact points and Euroguidance network (2014): *“need to focus more on guidance issues which cannot be addressed using web-based tools and services”* [...] *“some Member States would prefer to maintain the current situation”* = EQF, Europass, Euroguidance mostly as separate entities.

ELGPN - last Summative Report 2015

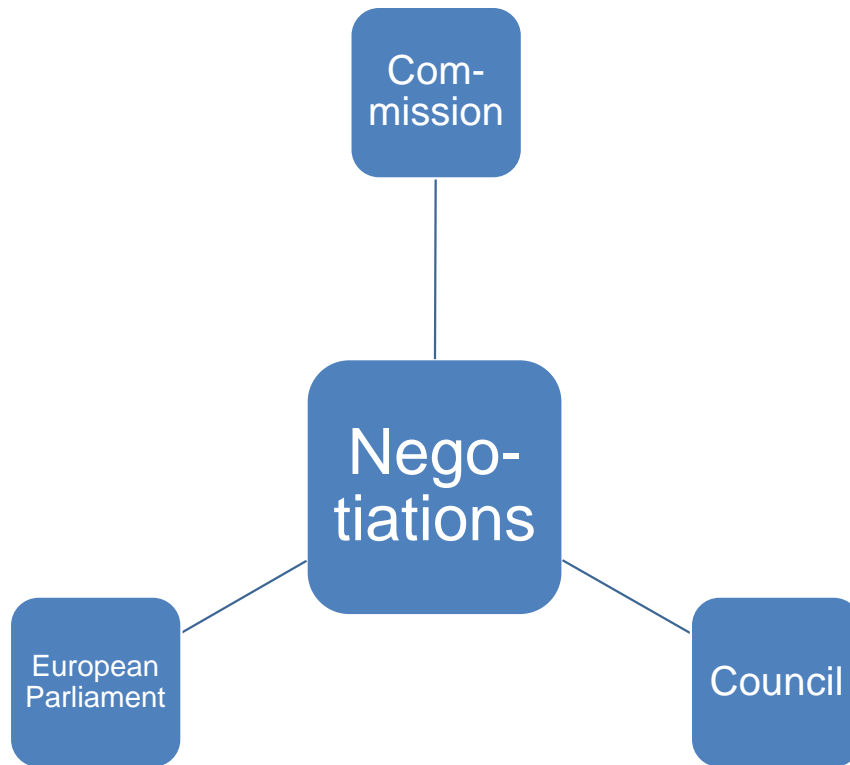
Suggestions for sustainable lifelong guidance policy development:

- **Structure:** Dedicated **Expert working group or Advisory group** under the lead of the Commission
- **Exchange: Regular conferences** to define and work on pertinent themes
- **Evaluation & Research:** Common set of benchmarks, EU inventory and a database of good policies and systems

Concretisation of European support for guidance policy and service development

... to be seen.

Work on the Commission proposal has been launched at the Council and at the European Parliament.



THANK YOU FOR ATTENTION



References

Link to studies from the Parliament Policy Departments: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/sources.html>

Commission proposal for a Decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on a common framework for the provision of better services for skills and qualifications (Europass revision): <http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=16255&langId=en>; Staff Working Document: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=16256&langId=en>

ELGPN summative report (2007-2015): <http://www.elgpn.eu/publications/browse-by-language/english/elgpn-summative-report-2007-2015/>

European Parliament Briefing notes: Reform of educational systems: European policies for lifelong guidance to fight early school leaving and unemployment: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2015/536318/IPOL_BRI%282015%29536318_EN.pdf;

Revision of the Europass framework: [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2016/593549/EPRS_BRI\(2016\)593549_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2016/593549/EPRS_BRI(2016)593549_EN.pdf)

European Parliament Resolutions: European Parliament resolution of 10 September 2015 on creating a competitive EU labour market for the 21st century: matching skills and qualifications with demand and job opportunities, as a way to recover from the crisis: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2015-0321+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

European Parliament resolution of 19 January 2016 on skills policies for fighting youth unemployment:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2016-0008+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

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