

6TH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE IN E-GUIDANCE: *WIDENING ACCESS TO LIFELONG GUIDANCE*

ABSTRACT

TITLE OF THE SPEECH

Role of ICT in national lifelong guidance strategies – reflections from the ELGPN member states

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Dr. Raimo Vuorinen is currently working as the Coordinator of the [European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network, ELGPN](#) at the Finnish Institute for Educational Research in the University of Jyväskylä. Part of his work is allocated in developing the [National centre for lifelong guidance expertise](#), established in the university in January 2006. In his work as a trainer and researcher Raimo Vuorinen has been focusing on the strategic design, implementation and evaluation of lifelong guidance services. His PhD thesis (2006) focused on the perceptions of the practitioners on use of ICT in guidance.

ABSTRACT

The European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network, ELGPN. “National solutions to national challenges in lifelong guidance practice and policy development through European cooperation”

The European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network, ELGPN (<http://elgpn.eu>) aims to assist the European Union Member States and the Commission in moving European cooperation on lifelong guidance forward in both the education and the employment sectors. The purpose is to promote cooperation at Member State level on lifelong guidance and to propose appropriate structures and support mechanisms in implementing the priorities identified in the Resolutions on Lifelong Guidance (2004, 2008). The ELGPN was established by the Member States and the Commission is supporting the activities of the network in 2007-2010 under the Lifelong Learning Programme.

From wider policy perspective the creation of the ELGPN is a conclusion to meet the challenges the policy makers meet in implementing the Lisbon strategies and the tools supporting the strategy. The European Qualifications Framework



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(EQF)¹ and ECVET² are tools to enhance national reforms. A third added value of ELGPN is to support policy makers who are looking for tools to support these national reforms.

The working arrangements of the ELGPN have been defined by the Network members and in addition to plenary network meetings the ELGPN arranges peer learning activities and thematic working groups. In this way, the ELGPN members will be able to develop a common understanding of success factors for the improvement of policy making and the implementation of lifelong guidance policy initiatives.

The working methods provide a context for jointly agreed functions of the ELGPN, which can be launched gradually, and expanded over the next few years. These include

- Support for policy development;
- Policy sharing;
- Information gathering;
- Policy analysis and research;
- Use of reference tools;
- Exploiting project outcomes and
- Strengthening representative structures.

The peer learning events in 2008 have turned out to be very useful in setting the following four priorities for the Thematic Actions during the second phase of the ELGPN work programme 2009-2010

- Promoting career management skills
- Widening access
- National co-operation and co-ordination mechanisms in guidance
- Quality and evidence-based practise and policy development in guidance.
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With the thematic Activity on Access the aim is to explore ways in which to improve equality of access to career guidance for all sections of the population, including the scope for clarifying citizens' rights to career guidance, linked to the social contract between the state and the citizen, and the interface between lifelong guidance and the flexicurity models in ELGPN member countries. The round table during the seminar will explore the role of ICT in national guidance policies from this perspective.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFO

<http://elgpn.eu>

¹ Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council (April 2008) on the establishment of the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning. See: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2008:111:0001:0007:EN:PDF>

² European Commission Proposal for a Recommendation of the European Parliament and of the Council on ECVET. See: http://ec.europa.eu/education/policies/educ/ecvet/com180_en.pdf