

Annex A: Current development of national lifelong guidance forums

| Country | National forum? | Details |
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| *Austria | Yes | The Austrian National Lifelong Guidance Forum was formally established in 2008. It is facilitated by the Federal Ministry of Education, and involves all other relevant ministries and key stakeholders. It co-operates actively with regional forums. Tasks to date have included the development and implementation of lifelong guidance strategies as part of lifelong learning strategies at national and regional levels, plus linking co-financing of European projects to national strategic priorities. See http://www.lifelongguidance.at |
| Belgium | | |
| Bulgaria | | |
| Cyprus | In process | A proposal to establish a National Lifelong Guidance Network has been approved by the Ministerial Council. The Ministry of Education and Culture and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security are currently holding detailed discussions; other organisations will be invited. It is hoped to have an agreement for the establishment of the Network by April 2010. |
| Czech Republic | Yes | The National Guidance Forum (NGF) was established in April 2007. It has acted as a consultative forum and at present lacks a formal mandate and organisational structure. Despite this, it has informed participating organisations regarding activities in field of guidance with a national relevance, and has provided a platform for dissemination of information on ELGPN activities. It has been decided that the Department of Further Education of the Ministry of Education will provide the NGF secretariat; a statute of the NGF has been drafted; and it is expected that the formalisation of the NGF will be completed during 2010. |
| Denmark | Yes | National Dialogue Forum: main stakeholders (e.g. representatives from relevant ministries, the guidance institutions, guidance counsellor organisation, schools, pupils, employers, trade unions etc.). |
| Estonia | Yes | National Career Guidance Forum: 18 members cover wide range of stakeholders including institutions from both education and labour sectors, employers, client representatives, practitioners. |
| Finland | In process | National task groups and projects related to lifelong guidance. |
| France | Other mechanism | Inter-ministerial delegation mechanism established. |
| *Germany | Yes | A “bottom-up” National Guidance Forum in Education, Career and Employment was established as a legal association in 2006, without direct financial assistance from the government, but with representation from various parts of the federal and Länder governments in a linked Advisory Council (<i>Kuratorium</i>), and with financial support for special tasks from the Federal Education Ministry through contracts (e.g. for participation in ELGPN and to develop quality standards) and through a higher fee for the Federal Labour Ministry as a supportive member. The Forum has produced a white paper proposing reforms of the guidance system, and is developing quality standards. See: www.forum-beratung.de |
| Greece | Yes | The organisational framework for the National System for Linking Vocational Education and Training with Employment (ESSEEKA) includes a sub-system on Counselling, Vocational Guidance and Connection with the Labour Market, which is effectively operating as the Greek National Guidance Forum. Its executive authority is the Greek National Centre for Vocational Orientation (EKEP). Tasks have included developing a web-based network of counsellors and counselling structures, developing a quality-assurance system, and developing proposed criteria for qualifications of career guidance |

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| | | practitioners in both education and employment sectors. |
| *Hungary | Yes | The NPT (<i>Nemzeti Pályaorientációs Tanács</i>) (Hungarian LLG Council) was established in January 2008. It has 13 members. Its main role is consultation; it is also responsible for the development of co-operation mechanisms at national and regional levels. Its roles include supervising the national lifelong guidance system development programme (SROP 2.2.2). Its funding is guaranteed by the Hungarian Labour Market Fund on a biannual basis. Its secretariat is provided by the National Employment and Social Office. See: http://www.epalya.hu/NPT |
| Iceland | Yes | Agreement signed between Ministry of Education and University of Iceland's Centre of Lifelong Guidance Expertise (CLGE), to include the establishment of a national forum of policy-makers, stakeholders and representatives of the guidance community. |
| Ireland | ? | A National Guidance Forum operated from 2004 to 2006. |
| Italy | Yes | A National Lifelong Guidance Forum (<i>Forum Nazionale per l'Orientamento Lungo Tutto l'Arco della Vita</i>) was established in October 2010 by the Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour, regions, social partners and other organisations. Its status is that of an inter-institutional committee. |
| *Latvia | Yes | A National Guidance Forum (<i>Sadarbibas Padome</i>) was mandated in 2007 by the State Education Development Agency. It could now become an advisory body appointed jointly by the Ministry of Education and Science and the Ministry of Welfare, so enabling it to be more influential on both education and employment policy. |
| Lithuania | Yes | National Career Guidance Council: 24 members from the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Social Security and Labour, association of municipalities, social partners, and other organisations. |
| Luxembourg | Yes | National Guidance Forum: relevant policy-maker representatives; stakeholders including social partners and guidance practitioners. |
| Malta | | |
| Netherlands | Other mechanism? | A stakeholder group might be formed out of informal meetings related to ELGPN work. |
| Norway | In process | A national organisation has been proposed, but no decision has yet been made. Regional partnerships have been developed, partly financed by the education authorities, to enhance development of lifelong career guidance in the regions. |
| Poland | | |
| Portugal | No | |
| Slovakia | | |
| *Slovenia | Yes | A Working Group on Lifelong Career Guidance was established in December 2008 for five years. |
| Spain | In process | There have been many preliminary meetings between policy-makers of the two ministries mainly involved: the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labour and Immigration. The main result of these meetings is that the General Council for VET, which advises government at national level, will establish in the near future a Working Group involving the main stakeholders at national level, plus representatives of both sectors from the Autonomous Communities and representatives of the social partners. It will survey the present situation regarding lifelong guidance, and propose steps to be taken, which may include the establishment of a National Forum. Meanwhile, the education sector has established a Technical Committee for Guidance involving only the education administrations (i.e. the Ministry of Education and the Autonomous Communities) with competence in guidance policy, to start discussing the main priorities for lifelong guidance. |
| Sweden | Other mechanism | Reference group established with stakeholders from a number of national agencies with responsibility for different levels of the education system, and from the Swedish Public Employment Service, to relate to the work of the ELGPN. |
| Turkey | In process | A Career Information, Guidance and Counselling Services Co-operation |

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| | | <p>Protocol came into force in 2004, with participation of all related stakeholders including public authorities, social partners and NGOs to provide co-ordination and co-operation on career information, guidance and counselling services. Subsequently a Memorandum of Understanding (2009) updated the protocol and defined the responsibilities for a National Career Information System (CIS). Also, various workshops were organised to strengthen inter-agency co-operation on career guidance. Based upon these developments, work has started on the formation of a National Career Guidance Forum.</p> |
| UK | In process | <p>A UK Careers Sector Strategic Forum is being established, to bring together the key stakeholders and guidance professional associations. It will have links with regular meetings of public officials responsible for career guidance provision in the relevant UK ministries and in the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.</p> |