



Newsletter

EUNEC conference on guidance in Budapest

On 13 and 14 October 2009, EUNEC welcomed participants from 15 different European countries to exchange views on the concept of guidance. EUNEC organised this event in close cooperation with the Hungarian Education Council.

The conference was introduced by M Tas Szebedy, representative of the Hungarian council at EUNEC, and by M Zoltan Loboda, director of EU Relations department at the Hungarian Ministry of Education.

Ms Simone Barthel, president of EUNEC

and guidance expert at her own council, the Conseil de l'Éducation et de la Formation, illustrated the global context of Lifelong Guidance.

The key note speech was presented by Dr Raimo Vuorine, coordinator of the ELGPN, the European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network.

National councils presented examples of good practice of guidance through transition moments in the learning pathway, from early childhood through primary, secondary and higher education or VET to

the labour market.

Mr Borbely Pecze Tibor Bors, expert in guidance practices and Scientific Advisor at the Hungarian National Employment Service informed participants about innovative practices in the field of guidance in Hungary.

In the afternoon, working groups discussed how guidance can support youngsters at risk of unqualified school leaving and vulnerable groups of adult learners.

Presentations at www.eunec.eu



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EU Consultation on learning mobility

In July 2009, the European Commission published a green paper: 'Promoting the learning mobility of young people'. The purpose of this green paper is to open up the debate to stakeholders and the wider public, seeking their views on how best to boost substantially the opportunities for

young people to have a mobility experience.

The green paper focuses on organised learning mobility, in EU countries but also in the wider world, for young people between 16-35 years old.

Several member councils of EUNEC sent an answer to this

consultation. During executive committee meetings, the issue has been discussed with input from national councils. A final text was adopted on 15 December and sent to the European Commission.

Read the EUNEC answer at our website www.eunec.eu

- EUNEC published an up to date **overview of the main policy lines in European education and training**, a treasure of information for all those concerned with education
- News about the **study on education councils** in Europe
- EUNEC welcomes a **new member**, the Hungarian education council
- In 2010 EUNEC celebrates its 10th anniversary!
- Please send your comments and questions to eunec@vlor.be



Tas Szebedy,
EUNEC contact person at
the Hungarian Council

“Existing national models for the consultation of all relevant stakeholders are very valuable (...)” (Council Conclusions, May 2009)

A new member: the Hungarian Education Council

EUNEC welcomes a new member, the National Public Education Council from Hungary.

This Council is the minister’s professional advisory body, established by the Act on Public Education, and contributes to the preparation of decision-making, forms opinion and makes proposals.

The Council was founded in 1993. The Council has 23 Members; 20 members represent and are elected by 120 independent

educational organisations and the Hungarian Academy of Science; 3 representatives are delegated by the Minister of Education.

The Council meets officially about 10 times a year, although many additional ad hoc meetings take place.

Recently, the Council advised on the following developments:

- New national curriculum published with 9 key competences

- Final exam system changed into a two level examination system
- Bologna process introduced in higher education system in Hungary
- Hundred of schools closed because of decline of birth rate
- Evaluation of teachers’ work became compulsory in every school

Read more on www.eunec.eu

Overview of main policy lines in European Education and Training

The EUNEC secretariat prepared an overview of the main policy lines in European Education and Training for the second half of 2009.

The document contains summaries and links to European policy lines relevant for education councils. News about the new composition of the European Commission, and about Council

Conclusions on enhancing partnerships between education and training institutions and social partners. Lots of information about the future of the Lisbon process (called EU 2020) and the future of Education and Training (ET 2020).

Important subthemes: the knowledge triangle, professional development of teachers, migration,

the Copenhagen process. We also pay attention to developments in other policy domains (culture and youth), and to relevant documents from OECD, UNESCO, UNICEF and the Council of Europe.

Read the full document with interesting links on www.eunec.eu

Forthcoming events

A small scale seminar will be organised in Limassol, in Cyprus on 31 May and on 1 June 2010. A working group has been established, in cooperation with the EUNEC secretariat and the Education Council in Cyprus. The seminar will reflect on the future of Education and Training 2020 in a period of economic

and financial crisis. More information about this event in our spring newsletter.

EUNEC will celebrate its 10th anniversary during a conference with participants from all members in Brussels, on 1-2-3 December 2010.

The theme of the conference will be the role of education stakeholders in the decision making process. The study on education councils will be presented at this occasion. The steering committee for the study on education councils is preparing this event. More information in our spring newsletter.

The study on education councils in the EU

On 12 October, during a conference in Budapest, the research team from the Catholic University of Louvain under the supervision of Professor Marleen Brans, presented interim results of the study they are executing on education councils and advisory bodies in the EU. They informed the audience about the different types of education councils in international comparative perspective; about the process of advising organised with respect to the policy making process, and about the impact of education councils.

After their presentation, there was a panel discussion with presidents from 6 education councils, answering specific questions prepared by the research team: how to use membership as a way of balancing expertise, interactivity and responsiveness to political administrative need? How to define a council's success? How to measure and increase it? How to be a successful policy entrepreneur and a boundary worker, linking communities and using policy opportunities?

The afternoon sessions were very interactive: each working Group was facilitated by a member of the research team and tried to find an answer on how a council should interact with the three communities? What skills do boundary workers need? How to balance diversity and representativeness?

The study is still ongoing. Final results will be published and presented at a conference in Brussels on 1-2-3 December.



Professor Marleen Brans

The panel of presidents at the Budapest conference



EUNEC was represented at EU and OECD conferences

A representative of EUNEC participated at the launch conference of EQARF (European Quality Assurance Framework for Vocational Education and Training) and ECVET (European Credit System for VET) in Brussels, organised in order to explain to all stakeholders what is at stake, show what has been achieved so far, and invite them to help shape the process with their own actions and ideas.

EUNEC was at the conference on 'Migration and Mobility', closing the consultation process initiated in July 2008 through a European Commission green paper.

The European Commission organised a seminar on the assessment of key competences, examining examples of policy reforms that target both curriculum and assessment. EUNEC participated at this seminar.

EUNEC was glad to be invited and to participate at the conference on gender equity (Swedish Presidency of EU).

EUNEC also participated at the conference on the New Millennium Learners, a project launched in 2007 by OECD's Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI).

Reports of these events and useful links on www.eunec.eu

Our team in Brussels



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The mission of EUNEC

is to enhance the participation of stakeholders within national and European policy making. EUNEC has the overall objective to exchange information and share experiences of good practice of interactiveness between policy makers and stakeholders on the main educational policy matters, relevant for national and European policy making.

EUNEC wants to be **a learning network for education councils.**

For any further information please contact the EUNEC secretariat (Carine De Smet, eunec@vlor.be).



Education and Culture DG

EUNEC working programme 2010

EUNEC is recognised and granted by Europe as European organisation acting at European level in the field of education and training under the Jean Monnet Programme (DG EAC No 28/07) key activity 3.

2010 will be the third year within a three year partnership agreement with the Education and Audiovisual Executive Agency (EACEA).

At the last executive committee meeting in December 2009, the working programme 2010 was adopted.

It's a very important year for EUNEC, the tenth year of its existence. This will be celebrated in Belgium during the Belgian presidency of Europe

EUNEC will work on the following central themes in 2010:

- > Participative policy making and education councils in the EU
- > Social inclusion within the conference organised by the Belgian presidency
- > EUNEC will continue to produce on a regular basis an overview of main policy lines in European education and training: a state of affairs much appreciated by the members as tools for their own work in their national councils.

> EUNEC will organise an expert seminar in Cyprus to reflect on the role of benchmarks and indicators in the

framework of Education and Training 2020 in a period of crisis.

> In 2010 the study on education councils in the EU will be published and presented during a conference in Brussels on 1-2-3 December, with representatives of all member councils.

This conference will focus on the theme of stakeholders participation in policy making in education. It will be the occasion for the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the network.