



Hungary 2011
6th International Symposium
on Career Development and Public Policy

December 5-7, 2011



Canada Team Report & Action Plan

Introduction

The 6th International Symposium on Career Development and Public Policy (IS2011) was held in Budapest, Hungary from December 5-7, 2011.

The invitational event was attended by 127 delegates representing 32 countries spanning all continents. Country teams were encouraged to include policy, practice and research perspectives. The Canada Team was comprised of three delegates as follows:

- Sareena Hopkins, Chair (Canadian Council of Career Development Associations – CCCDA and Canadian Career Development Foundation - CCDF)
- Dr. Bryan Hiebert (Canadian Research Working Group on Evidence-Based Practice in Career Development - CRWG)
- Tannis Goddard (Training Innovations)

In addition, there was senior representation from key international/regional bodies, such as the International Centre for Career Development and Public Policy (ICDPP), International Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance (IAEVG), European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network (ELGPN) and European Commission.

IS2011 aimed to build closer dialogues and linkages between career development policy makers in the fields of education, employment, economic development and social inclusion, and with strategic professional leaders and researchers.

The four sub-themes for IS2011 were:

1. Political, economic and social changes and the changing role of career development and career development policies.
2. Lifelong career development policy as a part of integrated human resource development policies – challenges and opportunities.
3. The changing world and the changing role of career development – skills and competencies for lifelong career development practitioners.
4. Evidence-based practice; evidence-based policies.

Prior to the event, each country was commissioned to prepare a country paper, delineating the current realities, key strengths, challenges and priorities related to these four themes. At the Symposium, delegates formed into small working groups for deliberations focused on each theme. Groups were varied, enabling delegates to work in groups representing a mix of policy, research and practice and cross-nationally. Throughout the Symposium, the Canada country team met regularly to pull relevant threads from deliberations on each theme and to begin to craft our country action plan.

A formal communiqué was developed by Tony Watts, who acted as rapporteur throughout the Symposium. The communiqué summarizes key outcomes of the Symposium and, for each theme, identifies important emergent principles and proposes priorities for countries and for the ICDPP. This, along with all Country Papers, Theme Papers and the IS2011 Reflection Note, can be found at: <http://eletpalya.munka.hu/web/eletpalya-folyoirat/icdpp1>

Canada Action Plan

Virtually every country around the world struggles with the “public image” of career development – we all stumble over our language and have difficulty speaking about what we do in terms that excites, compels and impresses the public (and, by extension, employers, policy makers and funders). Accordingly, the Canada Action Plan focuses significantly on the preparation and dissemination of briefing notes and press releases.

Canada is recognized as a leader internationally. We have made significant progress with respect to building our field’s evidence-base. A number of action steps focus on extending this work.

1. General Communication Strategy (December 2011)

- a. Send IS 2011 Communiqué, Reflection Note and Canada Team Report/Action Plan to career development practitioners across Canada (via CCCDA)
- b. Send summary report to members of the inter-jurisdictional Career Development Working Group (relevant provincial government departments) and HRSDC

2. Canada Report Card (early 2012)

- a. Develop a “Report Card” for Canada based on the 4 IS2011 Themes
- b. Disseminate the Canada Report Card via a press release to promote public awareness re: the value of career services, Canadian strengths and current gaps in policy/practice.
- c. Disseminate the Canada Report Card to provincial Ministers of Education and Labour, including key recommendations

3. Evidence-Based Practice (2012-2013)

- a. Collect impact evidence from all participating countries and collate into an international report
- b. Send this report with a targeted briefing note to HRSDC’s Policy Research Branch, requesting an opportunity to meet and discuss recommendations for Canada
- c. Collaborate with the ELGPN (European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network) in the development of a Evidence-Based Policy Handbook for use in Canada and internationally

4. International Collaboration (2012-2013)

- a. Find a mechanism for Canada to join the ELGPN – either informally or formally – so that we might benefit from and contribute to this important policy group

Conclusion

The 6th International Symposium on Career Development and Public Policy resulted in rich exchange, dialogue, the establishment of collaborative networks across countries and a commitment to action by country teams. The 7th International Symposium on Career Development and Public Policy will be hosted by Finland in 2013. It is expected that country teams will, in the interim, articulate and enact action plans based on priorities set in Hungary and be ready to report back on progress made to the international community in two years hence.