

Róbert Komáromi

The key role of the National Employment Office in the field of career guidance system and policy development in Hungary

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Opening speech

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the National Employment Service and the National Employment Office warm welcome to all delegates. As the Director-General of the Office, I do believe that the career guidance tools and services have major importance and contribute effectively to the labour market objectives in our country. Our organization is a key actor in the relevant developments - as it was in the past and is expected to be also in the future.

Almost immediately after the establishment of the Employment Service in 1991, the World Bank's developments have began and within its framework the first job clubs, specialized psychological services were set up, and we began to establish toolkits for career guidance. Also in the early 90's, training of qualified career guidance practitioners started. Soon after – based on a German model - Employment Information Centres began to operate, development of films and folders introducing occupations has continued. Within a few years, the Canadian “Choices” system was implemented in Hungary. Shortly after the millennium we extended nationwide the PHARE-supported national career guidance portal.

In 2008, both the country and the National Employment Office reached an important turning point. With our leadership, an EU-funded development program was launched at the end of that year, which is aiming to develop the content and methodology of the career guidance system and national policy. The results of the first development phase of Social Renewal Operational Programme Measure 2.2.2. ended in June 2011 would be difficult to summarize, but I highlight the most important ones:

- we set up a nationwide network of qualified experts who provides career guidance services on a base of professional standards and using common protocols for individuals and groups,
- we have started building such a professional community that in addition to career guidance practitioners also involve to some extent those who are working in related fields (e.g.: teachers, social workers) into the professional group
- we have started training for both practitioners and those who are working in related fields (post-graduate and short, 2x3 days training for 2000 participants)
- we have started the complete renewal of the career-guidance tool kit and we have launched the National Lifelong Guidance Portal in early 2011.

We are proud to say that the project - its second phase will start in early 2012 – gained much recognition in the international career guidance policy field, and is considered as one of the most systematic initiatives.

In addition, our office hosts the secretariat of the National Lifelong Guidance Council, which is one of the most active consultative bodies, is able to connect a number of policy sectors effectively. In its work, in addition to representatives of the NGM (Ministry for National Economy), the NEFMI (Ministry of National Resources), and the KIM (Ministry of Public Administration and Justice), also the trade unions, employers and chamber sides of NGTT (National Economic and Social Council) the NSZFI (National Institution of Vocational Training and Adult Education), the OH (Educational Authority) is represented, thus covering major part of the employment, education, public education, VET, adult education and higher education also social inclusion sectoral policies.

Through the National Employment Office we are taking a leading role in the European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network (ELGPN), as working group leaders we greatly contribute to practical implementation of EU objectives in relation to measurement of efficiency of career guidance activities.

I trust that our Office, as well as the career guidance team operating within the Office remains an important and active player in the domestic and international career-guidance professional life in the following years too. For the next days I wish you all success in your work.