

**Welcome speech for 6<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Career Development and Public Policy Budapest, December, 2011**

**Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Hungarian Government I welcome you to Hungary. First I would like to express our gratitude to the International Centre for Career Development and Public Policy (ICCDPP) for organizing the event and for all of the 30 countries which are represented here. Our country has been taking part in the world events of this organization since 2001 and we can say with declared pride that the opportunity of holding the Symposium in Budapest can also be considered as the recognition of the Hungarian policy objectives and the developments we have already started. This opportunity has outstanding importance both on national and international level.

Hungary joined to the European Life Long Guidance Policy Network (ELGPN) in 2007. National Lifelong Guidance Council came to operation in 2008 involving all the relevant governmental stakeholders, professional organizations, and social partners and since then it has been successfully carrying out its activities.

We are proud that within the European cooperation of the ELGP for the period of 2011-2012, it is now Hungary that is leading the network group activities of “evidence-based policy and practice”, that serves as one of the key issues of the Symposium.

We are pleased that under the Employment Office led, and EU co-funded priority program which aim is to develop the content and methodology of the guidance system, we managed to launch such a systematic system development in Hungary that even independent international evaluation found to be forward-looking.

In spite of the constant changes during the last period, in terms of structure and volume, there is a deepening mismatch between the supply of the national educational system and the demand of the labour market. There is a shortage in skilled workforce in some sectors, while more and more people obtain qualifications that the labour market does not require or leave the school system without professional qualification. A comprehensive change, covering all aspects of vocational training has become inevitable in the school based vocational education, which could be realized through the adoption of a coherent,

comprehensive, new act on vocational education. Vocational education and training system is going to be transformed according to the real needs of the labour market in line with revision of the act on public education and the act on vocational contribution. Through the intensive involvement of the economic sector it will strengthen the quality of VET and it will make it more attractive in the eye of the students and of those adults who are just before making their carrier choices.

Career guidance is high on the agenda in the restructuring process of vocational education and training system. We do believe, that all students need to receive career guidance services at least once before the appropriate decision points in order to be supported in the decision making process for taking the right further steps. We think that the realization of lifelong guidance should be the common responsibility of all persons and organizations concerned and it requires a coordinated professional work from the government.

In addition to strengthen lifelong guidance we are also planning to introduce a single career tracking system based on coherent legal standards. Our goal is to establish such an information feedback system that provides proper support for those decision makers, who are in the position to have a say in the shape of the structure and content of the professions, and in the permission processes of certain courses. The information feedback system will include data on the utilization of professions and on the employment tendencies after obtaining professional certificates.

We hope that the development of the career guidance and career tracking system should help shaping a training structure that is better adapted to the labour-market requirements, and should encourage students and adults to make more conscious and effective career choices. In line with the EU 2020 head targets we are expecting it will have positive impacts on the reduction of early school leaving and on the growth of employment.

In the long run, it sets a challenging task for all of us to establish such a - globally unique - national life-long guidance system, which on the bases of the cooperation of employment, education, culture, economic and social sectors is able to promote the success of the citizens on the fields of training and employment and the accessibility of an acceptable life quality. We consider the Symposium to be an important milestone not only from a national view, but also from the aspect of international developments in career guidance as well. An important

objective of the event is to assist and strengthen the dialogue between the representatives of those fields - employment, education, social inclusion and economic sectors - which have a distinctive role in career guidance. I wish you good luck and fruitful cooperation for joint thinking, joint productive work in the coming days!

Thank you for your attention!