

CEDEFOP

EUROPEAN CENTER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING

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Cedefop's Lifelong Guidance expert. Previous to Cedefop he developed EU level work in European policy networks in the fields of employment and guidance. He has developed research in lifelong guidance systems, educational transitions, technological innovation and organisational learning. He has worked in the development of national systems in employment, VET/education, guidance and technological innovation for the Portuguese ministries of education, labour and economics. He holds a PhD in Sociology of Education from the University of Porto



Subtheme most interested in discussing?

Integrated Policies: Creating Systems that Work

What do you most hope to gain from participating in the 2015 International Symposium?

Main benefits expected:

- Develop knowledge and perspective over non-European policy initiatives and programs in lifelong guidance (LLG), as well as their specific context, success factors and strategies to overcome barriers;
- Strengthen Cedefop's network of contacts outside Europe for research and cooperation in systems development in LLG and explore possibilities of establishing joint initiatives;
- Exchange ideas and experience on strategies and methodologies to promote policy stakeholders' engagement and learning

Share a specific example of a successful program or policy your organization has supported that is relevant to one of the four sub-themes: 1. Engaging Employers 2. The Role of Emerging Technologies 3. Why Return on Investment (ROI) Matters 4. Integrated Policies: Creating Systems that Work Please share any links to articles, research studies, or relevant materials.

Cedefop is the European Union (EU) agency for the development of vocational education and training (VET). It supports VET policies at European level, by developing research, mapping exercises and tools (inventories, standards, software applications, methodologies), as well as promoting, research workshops, policy peer learning, study visits and other capacity development activities.

Lifelong guidance has been a consistent concern of the center for over a decade. Cedefop has cooperated with the OECD in developing the international mapping exercise of lifelong guidance systems of 2004 (OECD, 2004) and sustained continuing work in the support of LLG systems across Europe. The Centre has developed

research in what regards standards for guidance professionals' competences (Cedefop, 2009) and developed an influential framework which served as a basis for initiatives in policy and as a fundamental inspiration for the definition of the curriculum of guidance professionals (see, for example the NICE handbook and memorandum).

The Centre has also published guiding principles (Cedefop, 2005) for the development of lifelong guidance systems which have served, among other initiatives, as a strong support for the work of the EU Member States in the ELGPN in defining its European Resource Kit (especially the Quality Assurance framework). In the context of its continued cooperation with the ELGPN, Cedefop has also made its expertise available to the network's activities. Recently, the center developed an internal consultation process to its experts over the draft European Guidelines for Lifelong Guidance Systems' Development, and provided structured feedback on the document, helping shape its final version. Further contributions have been made to systems' development (Cedefop, 2008a), and the improvement of cooperation between stakeholders (Cedefop, 2008b).

Much of the recent work of the center has taken thematic focus on the needs of youth (Cedefop, 2010), middle aged workers (Cedefop, 2008c) and learners, older people (Cedefop, 2015) as well as migrants (Cedefop, 2014a). These studies have supported the organization of peer-learning events in Cedefop, with the participation of policy makers, researchers and practitioners, which have enabled the exchange of practices, ideas and stimulated networking among peers. Currently, research is being developed on the assuring the quality of labor market information and intelligence in careers information and advice. Studies on the career transitions (Cedefop, 2014b) of individuals with important results for the development of lifelong guidance are also being undertaken by Cedefop.

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Another important area of work is the cooperation with the European Commission in the inclusion of and development of lifelong guidance in EU level policy and strategy. Examples of recent cooperation are displayed by Cedefop's participation in the development of the EU's Youth Strategy. Two of the most important components of the strategy are the development of the Youth Guarantee and of the Alliance for Apprenticeships. Cedefop is using its expertise, by participating EU level work groups, to support the Commission in encouraging preventative schemes for early intervention, and guidance support along and after work-based learning programs.

Apprenticeship programs have deserved particular attention and their development has fallen under a political agreement between several nations. Cedefop has been supporting the development of guidance notes to stakeholders in Member States, on how to assure comprehensive and impartial information to young people, successful matching of learners to programs and also successful learning driving to employment.

References

Cedefop (2005). Improving lifelong guidance policies and systems. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union

Cedefop (2008a). From policy to practice – A systemic change to lifelong guidance in Europe. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union

Cedefop (2008b). Establishing and developing national lifelong guidance policy forums. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union

Cedefop (2008c) Career development at work - A review of career guidance to support people in employment.

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The International Centre for Career Development and Public Policy (ICCDPP) works to promote policy sharing and knowledge transfer in the career development sectors of education and employment. By participating in ICCDPP, you'll gain the insights and knowledge needed to serve as a catalyst for career development policy changes needed around the world.

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