

The European Literacy Policy Network ELINET



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Opening Session (Welcome Speech)**

Acknowledgements to two VIW's (very important women) for ELINET:

Androulla Vassiliou

European Commissioner for
Education, Culture, Multilingualism
and Youth 2010 – 2014



HRH Princess Laurentien

Chair of the EU High Level Expert
Group on Literacy 2011-2012



Thank you to the European Commission represented here by:



Jens Nymand Christensen

Deputy Director-General for
Education and Culture



Dr. Vladimir Garkov

Policy Officer in Basic Skills DG EAC

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Thank you to all ELINET Teamleaders



... and to all ELINET members – here at the Opening Conference in Vienna (February 2014)



Last but not least: special thanks to the 3 teams organizing this conference



How to improve literacy policies in Europe – ELINET’s main outcomes

1. A **European Literacy Communication Platform** www.eli-net.eu
2. A **European Framework of Good Practice in Literacy Policies** (EFGP) covering all age groups and relevant policy areas
3. A sample of related **Examples of Good Practice** covering all areas and age groups
4. A set of **30 Country Reports** on literacy policy and performance (of all age groups) in each of the ELINET countries based on a comprehensive framework.
5. A **Declaration of Literacy as a Human Right**

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6. A **Literacy Glossary** plus **Guidelines for the use of terminology** in adult literacy
7. A **Literacy Week across Europe** (8-17 September 2015) around UNESCO’s **International Literacy Day**
8. Toolkits and Guidelines for **Fundraising and Awareness Raising**
9. Essential **Indicators** for successful awareness raising and fundraising for literacy
10. A **European Literacy Conference** in Amsterdam (20-22 January 2016) to share ELINET results with European literacy professionals and policy-makers.

Taskforces working on “cross-cutting” themes



The taskforce “**Digital Literacy**” produced an *ELINET position paper on digital literacy*, presented in the European Parliament in December 2015 (to be found on the ELINET website)



The taskforce “**Reading for Pleasure**” incorporated this important aspect of literacy policies in all ELINET products and approaches and organized *several workshops and events*



The taskforce “**Future of ELINET**” explored future funding opportunities, carried out a survey among members and non-members and developed a strategy paper about how to sustain the network after the end of funding.

The added values of ELINET



- ELINET focuses on the **concept of “literacy” in a comprehensive way**, including digital literacy, reading for pleasure, family literacy, literacy in school education, adult literacy and much more.
- ELINET follows a **cross age-groups and cross sector approach** (pre-primary, primary, adolescents, adults; informal, non-formal and formal learning, addressing a wide range of policymakers)
- ELINET brings together **researchers and practitioners, professionals, volunteers and policymakers**
- ELINET can **transfer knowledge across countries** helping strengthening a literacy support culture in all European countries.

Future challenges for ELINET

Sustainability:

Will ELINET remain an episode or establish itself as an actor in European literacy policies?

Impact:

Will ELINET results have an impact on improving literacy policy and practice in its member countries?

Transformation:

Will ELINET be able to evolve from an outcome-oriented **project** to a dynamic, collaborative **network**?

Funding:

Will ELINET get supported by further European or other funding?



Four messages to the European Commission

**Value the work of
volunteers**

**Simplify reporting and
financial documentation
requirements**

**Develop distinct funding
schemes for policy networks**

**Secure ongoing support
for educational policy
networks with longterm
tasks**



One vision for the future

The **final** ELINET conference shall become the **first** of regular annual Literacy Conferences



Thank you.

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