

ELINET - University of Cologne
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LITERACY CHANGES LIVES.

Köln, 20. July 2017

The European Literacy Policy Network (ELINET) presented its work during the 20th European Conference on Literacy (3 to 6 July 2017) in Madrid

The European Literacy Policy Network ELINET was built up as an EU project funded with 3 Mio Euro by the European Commission from 2014 to 2016. It was coordinated by the University of Cologne under the direction of Prof. Dr. Christine Garbe (Institute for German Language and Literature II). The consortium consisted of a wide range of 80 partner institutions from 28 European countries.

ELINET's vision is that everyone in Europe shall be literate. The term 'literacy' covers all forms of written communication (reading *and* writing) in print and digital media. Consequently, ELINET's objectives are to improve and advocate literacy policies and practices across Europe to support all European citizens' and residents' lifelong rights to engage critically and creatively with communication and learning.

A milestone in the work of ELINET was the establishment of a central European literacy platform. At www.eli-net.eu all project results are freely available: research reports, examples of good practice and toolkits for fundraising and awareness raising targeting literacy policies and practices. The online platform also provides a forum for communication between all those interested in further developing European literacy policy as well as good research and practice in this area.

For the 20th European Conference on Literacy in Madrid (3 to 6 July 2017), the team around Prof. Garbe organized a two-day symposium with 12 events presenting the results of ELINET to a large European audience. During the conference, the **European ELINET Association** was formally established as a non-profit association, in which all literacy professionals (researchers, practitioners and policy makers) will be able to network internationally.

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The ELINET Association will offer individual and institutional membership and, in addition to the General Assembly and the Executive Committee, did set up **six Thematic Working Groups** (TWGs) around the following topics:

1. Early Literacy (Chair: Prof. Dr. Eufimia Tafa, University of Crete, Greece)
2. Primary Literacy (Chair: Prof. em. Dr. Renate Valtin, Humboldt University Berlin, Germany)
3. Disciplinary & Adolescent Literacy (Chair: Prof. Dr. Christine Garbe, University of Cologne, Germany)
4. Literacy and Migration (Chair: Viv Bird, ex Executive Director of Booktrust, UK)
5. Digital Literacy (Chair: Dr. Fabio Nascimbeni, Universidad Internacional de la Rioja, Spain)
6. Literacy Research (Chair: Dr. Sari Sulkunen, University of Jyväskylä, Finland).

The Association is open for new members and Thematic Working Groups; you will find the **Statutes** of the ELINET Association as well as a **Membership Application Form** on the ELINET Website under this link: www.eli-net.eu/about-us/elinetassociation/

As the next milestone the ELINET Association plans to organize the **Second ELINET European Literacy Conference** from **24 to 26 July 2018 in Cologne**: please save the date! In the near future a comprehensive documentation of the ELINET Symposium at the Madrid conference will be available on the ELINET website.