

# EGIN Annual Report 2016/17

## **The EGIN Annual Report**

The purpose of the Annual Report is to give you, as members, an idea about the current state of the EGIN network, the activities within EGIN during the last year and a few personal reflections on where EGIN might be headed.

## **EGIN Office and administration**

There have been no changes in the EGIN office and administration in 2016/17.

EGIN continues to have the EGIN Office situated in The Netherlands and an agreement of possible administrative assistance Bertha Bouwman from the GOC in The Netherlands.

Mr Rense van der Heide is Executive Secretary attached to the board, and running the day-to-day office of EGIN with reference to the board.

## **EGIN Board**

In this period of 2016/17 the board consisted of representatives from the social partners in Switzerland, Norway, The Netherlands and Denmark.

Furthermore, there were observer members on the board from United Kingdom, Iceland, Germany and Spain.

The European social partner organisations Uni Europe Graphical and Intergraf are also invited to board meetings as observers.

Anders Mosumgaard, the Danish representative of the employers, is Chairman of the board. Mr Richard Leloux, the Dutch representative of the union is Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary and Mr Rense van der Heide is Executive Secretary attached to the board. The three also forms the ***executive committee of EGIN***.

### **EGIN Members**

At present EGIN has 32 members covering 11 European countries: Belgium, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, The Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

Three members have left the network in the period, but also two new have joined.

### **EGIN Annual Conference 2016**

Last year the EGIN Annual Conference 2016 took place in VIP Executive Arts Hotel in Lisbon, with the participation of 44 individuals from 10 countries. The material from the conference is still available on the EGIN website.

It was a very good conference, and we had a memorable interactive activity on the second day and all in all 12 presentations from members during the conference as supplement to the keynote speakers.

### **EGIN Seminars and events in 2016/17**

The goal for the activity level for EGIN in this area is to have an Annual Conference and one or two EGIN seminars/workshops/events per year.

In EGIN, we really like and appreciate a seminar to be based on a good idea and to have the willingness to do the practical work in cooperation with the EGIN Office. That is the way our EGIN seminars come about.

In 2016/17 there was one EGIN seminar. It was held in Newcastle in the UK at the Newcastle College in the beginning of October 2016 and in close cooperation with the EGIN Office. We were more than 30 participants from 7 different countries

The theme was about "creating employability", and there were many difference angles on employability. Many from young companies, from schools and organisations gave a presentation, and personally I was very impressed by the seminar, and got a lot of inspiration from presentations, from networking, from the environment of the city and

young companies within the digital communication area, which was clearly a growing area in the city and in the college.

The seminar deserves a lot of credit.

### **EGIN projects**

Adding to conference and seminar activities EGIN must in specific circumstances be able to act on EU or sector initiatives and be a project carrier for joint international educational projects.

As project carrier, we are not directly involved in projects at the moment. But we are having our minds open, and many of our members are involved in projects, some of which can be seen as spin-off projects from the EGIN network, and some of them will be presented at the Annual Conference.

Three such on-going projects will be presented at the Annual Conference: The Thrive Project, The Link 2 Project and The Commercialipolis Project.

### **The future of EGIN**

On September 1<sup>st</sup> in Amsterdam, the board met for an open discussion about how the social partners in the board see “EGIN in the future”.

Questions were made, like: “Is the idea with the social partners creating a network platform for international cooperation between the member institutes still sustainable for a future network?” “Is the basis of a non-political commitment from the social partners?” “How do we sell the EGIN success stories?” “Cooperation and networking is good, but must be learned, and how?” “EGIN is a network valuable to those inside the network, but how to make it visible outside the network?”

No conclusions were made, but a lot of thoughts were put forward. I shall not try here, to make binding conclusions for anybody, but my own feeling is that within the present member base, there is a shared recognition of EGIN as important and necessary.

But seeing it from a Danish perspective, that is perhaps not enough all the time. There is a lack of funding for international work as the schools economy is under pressure, so even though the commitment is there, the possibilities for participation are not so many as they were before. But that is not a reason to stop, but more a reason to find new ways.

Widening up the network to cover a broader scope than what is perceived as the traditional sector is something we talk about in the board. In my opinion, we are already doing that, as social partners merge into larger organisations, schools are no longer “only” sector schools/colleges/universities but offer many different educations to many different sectors, and across sectors.

We have to acknowledge where we come from, which organizations and institutes we represent, that is certain. But we also have to develop and evolve and be able to go to the edge of our sector, and even beyond the edge sometimes.

Our challenges are certainly not only in the structure and focus of the labour market organizations and the training institutes but also in the contents and curricula of our educations, and in the framework and the setup of our vocational education and training systems.

There is an added value for members in volume. More members, more participation, more networking, more project proposals and opportunities and so on. We therefore hope for and work for more participation, a wider scope, interesting and well attended seminars.

But it is important to emphasize that EGIN is providing a platform for international exchange of ideas, inspiration and knowledge. The activity and commitment of all members, social partners and institutes, is defining EGIN. The Annual Conference, seminars, projects and the general use of the contacts are all part of that.

Over the years EGIN has gone through different stages from being almost entirely dedicated to the seeking of EU funding to being almost entirely dedicated to networking

and seminars. This of course has been a reflection of the wishes and the work of those who have been active with-in the network at the time.

As it has been written before, there is no doubt that there are, also in the board, different reasons for membership of EGIN, different ways of measuring the value of membership and therefore different criteria for deciding if and how to continue each organisation's and institute's membership of EGIN.

But for all, I guess, the core of EGIN is where we are now: The Annual Conference. But also seminars, projects, and general use of the contacts are essential in defining EGIN. And I am sure, that the discussions in the board about the future will continue for the best. For the best for EGIN, the best for having a forum for international cooperation

Thank you!