

Shaping Literacy Policies in Europe - The European Literacy Policy Network ELINET



**Prof. Dr. Christine Garbe, University of Cologne,
ELINET - Coordinator**

**International Conference „Literacy and Contemporary
Society“, Nicosia, 23-24 October 2015**

Acknowledgements to a Cypriot VIP (VIW): **Androulla Vassiliou**, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth 2010 - 2014



Our Starting Point: „Literacy is a Basic Human Right“

“**Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope.** It is a tool for daily life in modern society. It is a bulwark against poverty, and a building block of development, an essential complement to investments in roads, dams, clinics and factories. Literacy is a platform for democratization, and a vehicle for the promotion of cultural and national identity. (...) **For everyone, everywhere, literacy is, along with education in general, a basic human right....** Literacy is, finally, the road to human progress and the means through which every man, woman and child can realize his or her full potential.”

(**Kofi Annan**, Secretary-General of the United Nations from 1997 - 2007)

Why Literacy Policy across European Countries needs a Push

“One in five 15-year-old Europeans, as well as nearly 55 million adults, lack basic reading and writing skills”

(ELINET Basic Information)

This increases the **risk of poverty** and **social exclusion** and limits numerous opportunities for cultural **participation, lifelong learning** and personal growth.

Literacy

- Is indispensable to human development and education
- Is fundamental to social and cultural participation
- Is essential for a strong democratic society
- Enables people to live full and meaningful lives

“Almost everyone who struggles with reading and writing could develop adequate literacy skills, given the right support.” (EU High Level Group of Experts on Literacy 2012, Final Report, p. 30)

European Policy Answers: Education Benchmarks for Europe (2004, 2010)

First of five *Education Benchmarks for Europe* (2004):

By 2010, the percentage of low achieving 15-years olds in reading literacy in the EU should decrease by at least 20% (compared to 2000; referring to the PISA-studies led by the OECD).

This goal has not been reached and was renewed in the *Education and Training Benchmarks 2020*:

„The share of low-achieving 15-years olds in reading, mathematics and science should be less than 15% (by 2020).“

European Policy Answers: A „Literacy Report“ from the *European High Level Group of Experts on Literacy* (2012)



The Report's Vision for a Literate Europe

- **“All citizens of Europe shall be literate**, so as to achieve their aspirations as individuals, family members, workers and citizens.
- Radically improved literacy will **boost innovation, prosperity and cohesion in society** as well as the well-being, social participation and employability of all citizens.
- **EU Member States will view it as their legal obligation** to provide all the support necessary to realise our vision, and this support will include all ages.”

(High Level Group of Experts on Literacy, Final Report, 2012)

How to put this Vision into Practice? The Approach of ELINET

The European Literacy Policy Network ELINET:

- was established in **February 2014**
- is funded for **2 years** with a **3 million Euro** grant from the European Commission (DG EAC),
- is a network of **78 partner organizations** from 28 European countries

ELINET's Main Task:

To build a **strong network** that brings together European policy actors committed to ***reducing the number of children, young people and adults with poor literacy skills in Europe.***

How to put this Vision into Practice? The Approach of ELINET

ELINET follows the work of the **European High Level Group of Experts on Literacy (2012)** which defined **3 key issues for European literacy policies**:

EU Member States must find the most efficient, effective ways of addressing the literacy needs of all their citizens. The routes to improvement will of course differ from country to country. However, there are three key issues that all Member States should focus on as they craft their own literacy solutions:

- **Creating a more literate environment**
- **Improving the quality of teaching**
- **Increasing participation, inclusion (and equity)**

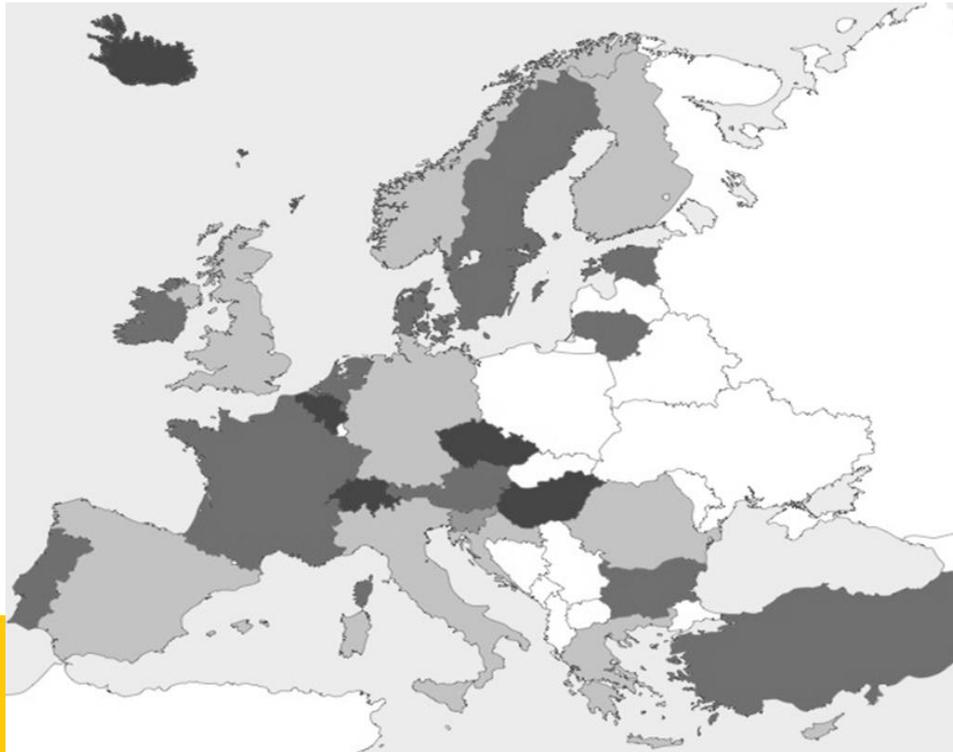
(High Level Group of Experts on Literacy, Final Report, 2012, p. 38)

The scope of ELINET: 28 European Countries (24 EU Member States)

EU Countries involved:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom

EU-Members not involved so far: Latvia, Luxemburg, Poland, Slovakia.



Who are the ELINET Partners?

ELINET's 78 partner organizations are drawn from a wide range of sectors. Types of organisations involved:

- Education ministries and national agencies
- Existing literacy networks and national associations
- International organizations (like UNESCO)
- Foundations and NGOs
- Universities, research centres and teacher training institutions
- Volunteer organisations

ELINET is unique in its life-long and life-wide approach:

ELINET partners cover **all age groups** („from cradle to grave“) and **all areas of formal, non-formal and informal literacy learning**: from family literacy to workplace literacy, from teacher education to ‘reading for pleasure’ or digital literacy.

A 'Family Foto' from the Opening Conference in Vienna (February 2014)



How to improve Literacy Policies in Europe – ELINET’s Approaches and Tools

Ten tools ELINET has produced / is going to produce:

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 common comprehensive framework.
5. A **Declaration of Literacy as a Human Right**

How to improve Literacy Policies in Europe – ELINET's Approaches and Tools

Ten tools ELINET has produced / is going to produce:

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 the **International Literacy Day (8 September)**
8. Toolkits and Guidelines for **Fundraising and Awareness Raising**
9. **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.

How can YOU get involved in ELINET?

First Option: Join our workshop tomorrow, 10.00 – 11.30

Prof. Dr. Christine Garbe / Prof. Dr. Eufimia Tafa:

**“Literacy as Basic Human Right?
Developing a European Framework of
Good Practice in Literacy Policies – a
Major Goal of ELINET”**

Workshop „Developing a European Framework of Good Practice in Literacy Policies“

“In this workshop the ELINET coordinator (Christine Garbe) and one of the coordinators of good-practice reviews (Eufimia Tafa) will share both drafts (Declaration of Literacy Rights, Framework of Good Practice), the underlying concept and some related examples of good practice. The participants of the workshop will be invited to give their feedback and input about further examples and the drafted criteria of good practice in the different literacy policy areas.”

How can YOU get involved in ELINET?

Second Option: Study the ELINET-Website, make use of our resources, submit your examples of Good Practice!

Third Option: Join our Final Conference in Amsterdam (21./22. January 2016) where ELINET will share it's results with the European literacy community and open up for new members!

A European Literacy Communication Platform: www.eli-net.eu



[Login](#) [Contact](#) [Imprint](#) [Press](#) 

SEARCH 

[ABOUT US](#) [GOOD PRACTICE](#) [AWARENESS RAISING](#) [FUNDRAISING](#) [RESEARCH](#)



One in five European 15-year-olds lack the literacy skills required to successfully function in a modern society

[> GO TO LITERACY KEY FACTS](#)

CALL FOR GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES



[Login](#) [Contact](#) [Imprint](#) [Press](#)



SEARCH

[ABOUT US](#) [GOOD PRACTICE](#) [AWARENESS RAISING](#) [FUNDRAISING](#) [RESEARCH](#)

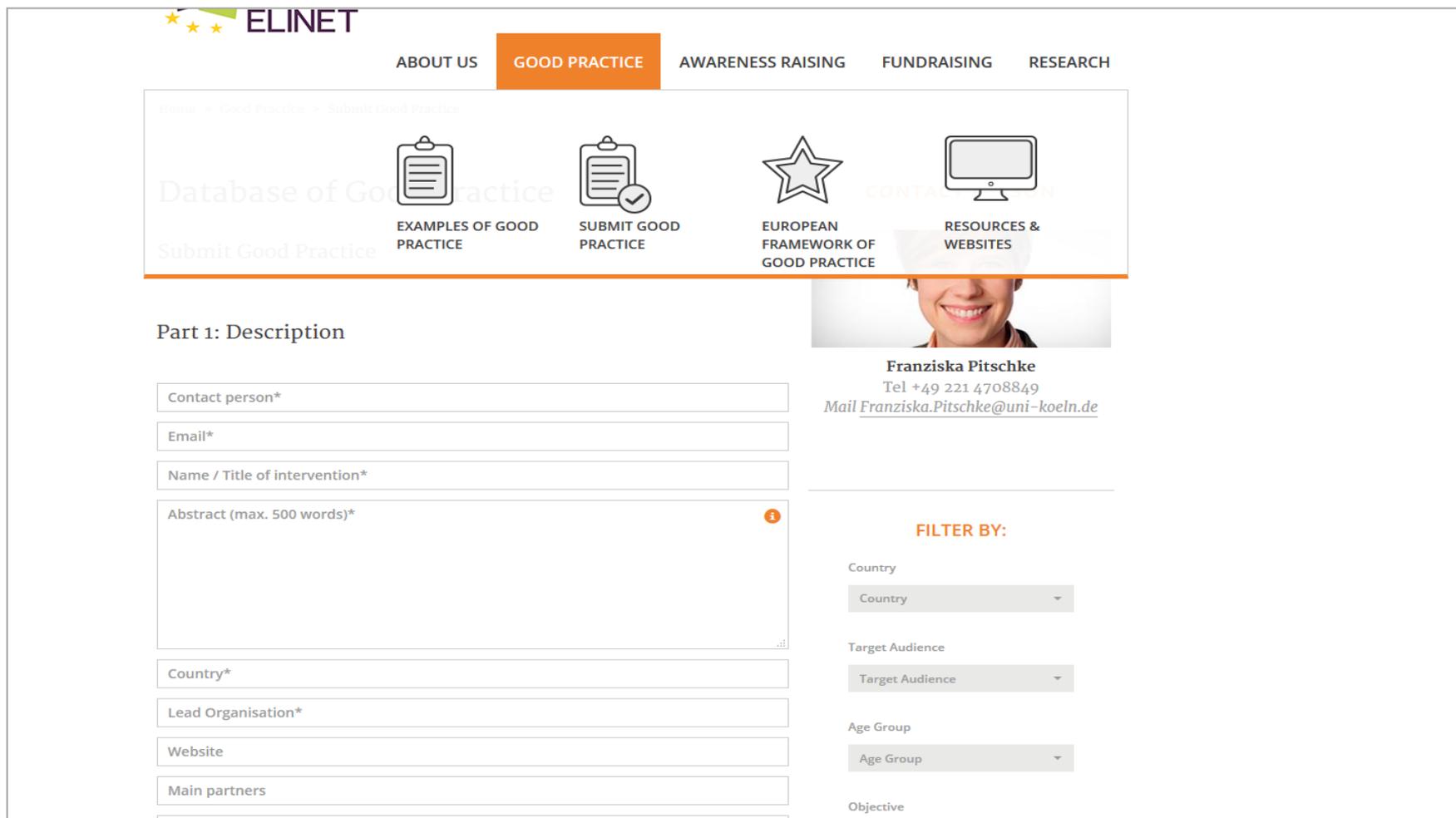
[Home](#) > [About us](#) > [News](#)

Share your good practices in raising literacy levels!

Do you know of any good policy practices in raising literacy levels? Are you interested in sharing these practices with a European network of professionals?

If you answered yes to any of those questions, we'd like to hear from you! Whether your work involves children, adolescent or adult literacy; we always have an open ear for examples of good practice. Send us your example of good practice today and help create a European Framework of Good Practice in Raising Literacy Levels to be available to all on this website. [Click below to find out more in our](#)

WANTED: Submit your Examples of Good Practice to ELINET



The screenshot displays the ELINET website's navigation menu and a form for submitting good practices. The navigation menu includes 'ABOUT US', 'GOOD PRACTICE' (highlighted in orange), 'AWARENESS RAISING', 'FUNDRAISING', and 'RESEARCH'. The 'GOOD PRACTICE' section features four icons: a clipboard for 'EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE', a clipboard with a checkmark for 'SUBMIT GOOD PRACTICE', a star for 'EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK OF GOOD PRACTICE', and a computer monitor for 'RESOURCES & WEBSITES'. The 'Submit Good Practice' form is titled 'Part 1: Description' and includes fields for 'Contact person*', 'Email*', 'Name / Title of intervention*', 'Abstract (max. 500 words)*', 'Country*', 'Lead Organisation*', 'Website', and 'Main partners'. A 'FILTER BY:' section on the right contains dropdown menus for 'Country', 'Target Audience', 'Age Group', and 'Objective'. A profile picture of Franziska Pitschke is shown with her contact information: 'Franziska Pitschke', 'Tel +49 221 4708849', and 'Mail Franziska.Pitschke@uni-koeln.de'.

ELINET

ABOUT US **GOOD PRACTICE** AWARENESS RAISING FUNDRAISING RESEARCH

Database of Good Practice

Submit Good Practice

EXAMPLES OF GOOD PRACTICE

SUBMIT GOOD PRACTICE

EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK OF GOOD PRACTICE

RESOURCES & WEBSITES

Part 1: Description

Contact person*

Email*

Name / Title of intervention*

Abstract (max. 500 words)*

Country*

Lead Organisation*

Website

Main partners

FILTER BY:

Country

Country

Target Audience

Target Audience

Age Group

Age Group

Objective

Franziska Pitschke
Tel +49 221 4708849
Mail Franziska.Pitschke@uni-koeln.de

Join our Final Conference in Amsterdam on 21/22 January 2016: Beurs van Berlage



Thank you.

IMPRINT Coordinator of the ELINET project:
University of Cologne
Prof. Dr. Christine Garbe
Institut für Deutsche Sprache und Literatur II
Richard-Strauss-Str. 2
50931 Cologne - GERMANY

