

MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN GUIDANCE ASSOCIATIONS' FORUM

Bratislava, 22/06/2026



Združenie pre kariérové
poradenstvo a rozvoj kariéry



SDRUŽENÍ PRO
KARIÉROVÉ PORADENSTVÍ A
KARIÉROVÝ ROZVOJ



Asociația Consilierilor Români

PREAMBLE

Recognising the specific historical trajectory of Central and Eastern Europe, marked by decades of restricted mobility, closed borders, and limited cross-border professional exchange following the First and Second World Wars, which contributed to a disrupted and uneven pattern of social and institutional development the undersigned organisations acknowledge that these legacies continue to shape the structure, accessibility, and coordination of lifelong guidance systems in the region today. The fragmentation of professional communities, the discontinuity of institutional development, and the relatively weak integration into European professional networks are not only contemporary challenges but also the result of this historically constrained environment. In this context, strengthened regional cooperation is not only beneficial but necessary to rebuild professional linkages, support system development, and ensure that the region's expertise is fully represented within the European lifelong guidance landscape.

The undersigned organisations, being professional associations active in the field of career education, guidance and lifelong guidance (LLG) services and systems in Central and Eastern Europe, having cooperated within the framework of the Erasmus+ KA210-VET project "Central and Eastern European Guidance Associations' Forum" (Form ID KA210-VET-B399D309, 2024–2026) co-funded by the European Union,

Recognising that professional associations play an important role in the development of national lifelong guidance systems at the policy, institutional and practice levels;

Acknowledging that the educational systems and labour markets of CEE countries face similar challenges, and that LLG policies, systems and services remain unevenly accessible across CEE countries, with significant gaps compared to EU averages in coverage, quality, and coordination.

Noting that the COVID-19 pandemic hampered the collaborative activities of professional associations in the region, and that concerted effort is needed to reinvigorate cooperation;

Building on the common work undertaken during the above-mentioned project, including the benchmarking of associations' activities, the documentation and transfer of good practices, the organisation of learning events, and the comparative study of professional guidelines;

Agreeing that a non-formal, low-cost platform for cooperation , open to enlargement, is a useful way of strengthening the cooperation between our countries;

hereby agree to cooperate based on the following principles and commitments:

ARTICLE 1 - NAME AND NATURE

1.1 The signatories constitute a non-formal network of cooperation under the name "Central and Eastern European Guidance Associations' Forum" (hereinafter: the Forum).

1.2 The Forum is not a legal entity. It does not replace or compete with member associations' mandates or activities; rather, it provides a coordination framework that strengthens their legitimacy and capacity in their national contexts.

1.3 This memorandum is open to signature by other professional associations active in the field of career guidance in the CEE region, subject to the agreement of all existing signatories.

ARTICLE 2 - OBJECTIVES

The Forum aims to:

- 1) sustain and deepen exchange of evidence-based practices in career and lifelong guidance;
- 2) operate at policy and system level, supporting the development of national LLG systems and recognition of career guidance as a profession and public service;
- 3) strengthen the institutional legitimacy of member associations in national and European policy dialogue;
- 4) facilitate structured knowledge-sharing on quality standards, competence frameworks, practitioner training, and access for vulnerable groups;
- 5) expand accessible and low-cost continuous professional development (CPD) opportunities, including peer learning, mobility, and job-shadowing.
- 6) act as a regional interlocutor for European guidance-related bodies and networks;
 - a) support coordinated positions on key policy issues affecting the CEE region.
 - b) strengthen cooperation within regional frameworks (e.g. V4, Danube, Erasmus+, Interreg) and deepen links with international professional networks (e.g. IAIEVG, ICCDPP), in order to amplify the regional professional voice.

ARTICLE 3 - GOVERNANCE

3.1 The Forum is coordinated by a rotating presidency, held by each signatory association in turn. The term of the presidency is one year, with flexibility agreed by consensus if needed for continuity. The presidency is responsible for coordinating Forum activities and communications during its term.

3.2 Decisions are taken by consensus among all signatories.

3.3 Recognising the limited administrative capacity of member associations, governance arrangements shall be kept as light as possible. No permanent secretariat is foreseen at this stage.

ARTICLE 4 - ACTIVITIES

The Forum commits to organising, through a zero-budget, in-kind cooperation model, based on voluntary contributions and existing resources, the following activities:

- a) a newsletter, issued 1-2 times per year, covering developments in career guidance in member countries, opportunities for practitioners, and Forum news;
- b) at least one online webinar per year, focusing on a topic of common interest to practitioners and stakeholders;
- c) a conference every two years, organised preferably online or in hybrid format to minimise costs, open to practitioners and stakeholders from member and non-member countries;
- d) a regularly updated repository of good practices hosted on the cee-guidance.eu website;
- e) the identification and communication of mobility and job-shadowing opportunities for practitioners, drawing on existing schemes;
- f) the production of a position paper on the role of professional associations in CEE lifelong guidance systems, adopted at the founding event and updated periodically.

ARTICLE 4A - REGIONAL COOPERATION TARGETS (2026–2029)

To operationalise its objectives, the Forum agrees on the following zero-budget regional targets:

1. Knowledge exchange

- At least 1-2 shared outputs per year (newsletter, briefs, summaries)
- At least 1 thematic comparative focus per year

2. Professional community building

- At least 1 regional webinar per year

3. Policy visibility

- At least 1 joint policy message annually
- Regular representation in European forums (e.g. CEDEFOP CareersNet, Euroguidance, IAEVG)

4. Mobility without dedicated funding

- At least a few documented mobility or job-shadowing cases annually across the region
- Maintenance of a shared opportunity list

5. Professionalisation support

- Annual informal peer review of competence frameworks
- Minimum 1 shared tool, guideline, or training element per country per year

6. Visibility and legitimacy

- Maintain an active shared web presence
- Publish a joint position update every 2–3 years

These targets are implemented exclusively through voluntary contributions and existing national or European resources.

ARTICLE 5 - RESOURCES

5.1 The Forum operates on a zero-budget basis. Each signatory contributes through in-kind inputs (time, expertise, hosting, communication channels) according to its capacity. No financial transfers between signatories are foreseen under this memorandum.

5.2 The Forum may seek external funding collectively or support member associations in doing so, provided this does not create competition between signatories.

ARTICLE 6 - DURATION AND REVISION

6.1 This memorandum enters into force on the date of the last signature and is concluded for an initial period of four years.

6.2 It may be revised by mutual agreement of all signatories.

6.3 Any signatory may withdraw by giving three months' written notice to the other signatories.

Signed in Bratislava on 22/06/2026.

Asociația Consilierilor Romani (ACROM)

Magyar Pedagógiai Társaság (HPA)

Združenie pre kariérové poradenstvo a rozvoj kariery (ZKPRK)

Sdružení pro kariérové poradenství a kariérový rozvoj, z.s. (SKPKR)

ABOUT CEE GUIDANCE ASSOCIATIONS' FORUM

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Views and opinions expressed in this document are those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union, SAAIC or any of the partner organisations. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



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