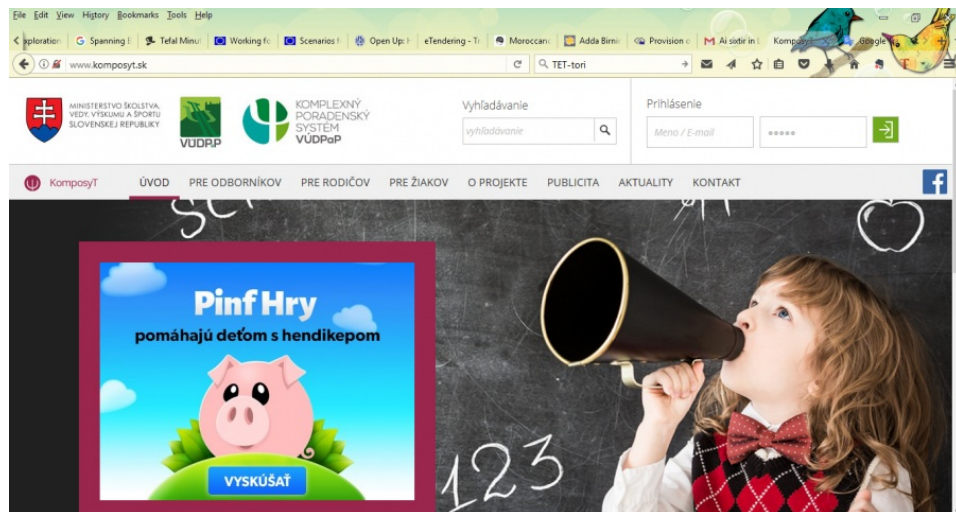


KomposyT



Slovakia

Founding year:

2013

Geographic level:

National

Stakeholders involved:

VUDPaP together with a network of 80 local centres for educational and psychological counselling and prevention. Expert users are recruited from this network. The initiative is endorsed by the Ministry of Education of Slovak Republic in terms of funding.

Target groups:

Guidance Counsellors
Higher education students
School Students/Parents
Teachers/ Professors

Is the initiative a Single Access Point? :

Yes

Providing organisation:

URL:

[View PDF version](#)

Stakeholders roles:

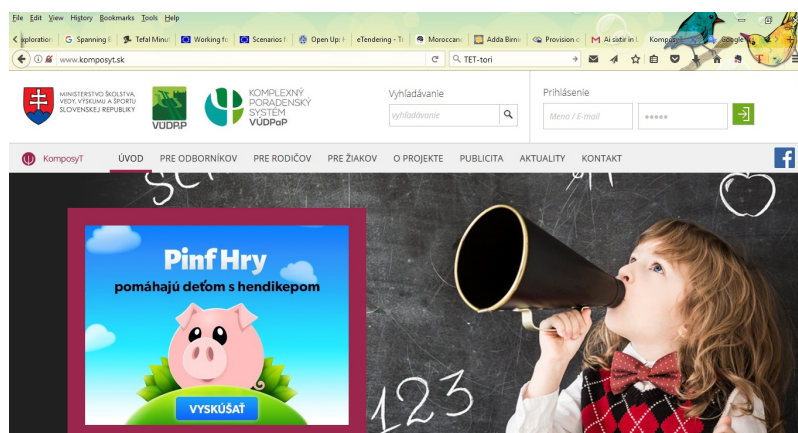
Academia
Government
Local centres

Challenges Addressed:

Facilitation of transition from school education to career selection
Improvement of guidance/ employment services
Promote self-assessment

Challenges Addressed description:

KomposyT addresses the need for targeted interventions tailored towards **children with special educational needs**, in particular where these tend to encounter severe obstacles towards their transition from school to work. An online platform is operated to support professional diagnostics, one-to-one counselling as well as easy access to different sorts of information by children with special educational needs and their parents. Emphasis is also given to capacity building among professionals working in this field. Moreover, the initiative aims at building up an ever-growing **evidence base** for the further development of diagnostic tools and guidance materials.



Policy objectives:

Access to Lifelong Guidance Services
Assuring the quality of Lifelong Guidance Provision
Career Management Skills
ICT in Lifelong Guidance
Improving careers information
Raising the skills and qualifications of young people
Supporting people at risk and disadvantaged groups
Training and Qualifications of Guidance Practitioners

INNOVATIVE ASPECTS OF LMI description:

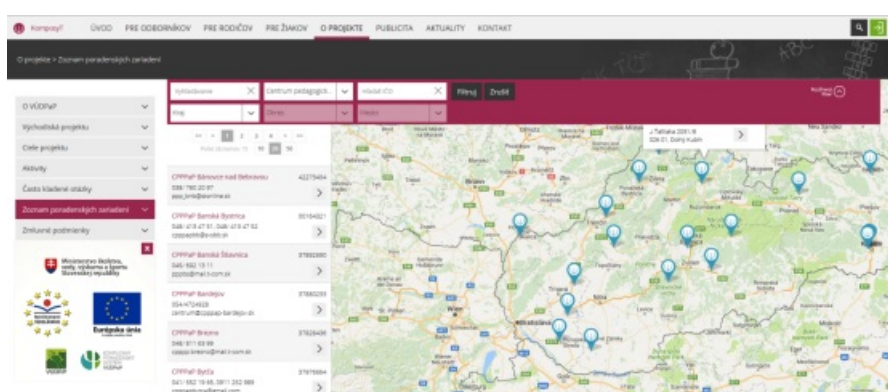
KomposyT relies on the combined provision of publicly accessible LMI with relevance to pupils with special educational needs and dedicated experts' tools in the sense of a **one-stop-shop**.

Available **information specifically tailored to students** ranges e.g. from success stories of young people who have managed to enter into the labour market over descriptions of occupational fields up to decision making strategies concerning personal career

development. Such information is accompanied by **self-evaluation tests** and **online games** for relaxation.

Information addressing **parents in particular** includes e.g. guidance on how to better understand the situation of their children and how to support them in making career decisions. Also, information on where to seek professional support and links to external information sources are provided.

Through a password protected area of the platform **professionals** can access a range of expert tools and supportive information. After logging into the system a personal dashboard enables easy access to diverse diagnostic tests. Currently, more than 30 tests are available through the platform. For each test a comprehensive description is available on how to fill in the test questions and – equally important – how to interpret its results. In relation to the latter, the platform supports instant analyses of client-related data gathered during the testing procedure. Moreover, a set of training modules is provided to registered expert users.



INNOVATIVE ASPECTS OF LMI:

Blended counselling
Innovative user profiling
Occupational information
Personalised educational advice

INNOVATIVE USE OF ICT description:

- KomposyT is a **publicly accessible web service**;
- Selected documents are available for downloading;
- **Self-assessment tools and online games** are available for interactive online utilisation;
- Resources available through the KomposyT platform can be combined **with a complementary on-site counselling methodology** supported by different materials;
- Password protected access to the closed area of the platform is enabled by the administrator only upon **completion of a dedicated training course** provided by VÚDPaP staff;
- Upon consent, registered experts are also able to **remotely administer** their own client database;
- Upon consent, a client database enables **electronic storage of information** on diagnostic tests performed and outcomes achieved;
- A set of **thematic tele-learning modules** can be selected according to the expert user's specific interests.

INNOVATIVE USE OF ICT:

Combination with offline elements
Interactive online tools
Personalised information storage

Results and impacts obtained:

In numbers, usage statistics have increased from 102 unique visitors in 2014 to **32 178 visitors during 2015**; almost **2 000 expert users** are currently registered on the platform.

In terms of qualitative results, career counsellors and educational guidance practitioners **save time** through the ICT-supported analysis of performance data gathered, resulting in **more time generally available for interacting with their clients**. In addition, the platform provides an easily accessible single source of information on how test results are to be correctly interpreted, which again contributes to achieving a **better service quality** overall. School-based counsellors tend to rely upon KomposyT as a quality assured evidence base when **interpreting their counselling role within day-to-day teaching practices**. Thus, KomposyT potentially helps in **improving the effectiveness** of school-based career counselling provided to pupils with special needs.

Evaluation process: Three rounds of user testing have been carried out during the development phase of the KomposyT platform. Beyond these activities, no dedicated user evaluation has taken place yet.



Success Factors:

- **Political willingness** to improve the quality of existing career guidance services and availability of **strong scientific expertise** in relation to children with special educational needs by involving a specialised research institution;
- Availability of **financial resources** from the ESF acted as a facilitating factor for developing the approach;
- Pursuing a **needs-driven development approach**, thereby involving practitioners in the elicitation of functional and non-functional design requirements;
- **Well established relationships** between the lead organisation and key stake holders;
- **Extensive awareness rising and promotional measures** addressing both professional and non-professional users.

Points of Attention:

- **Not all practitioners** immediately welcomed the utilisation of the online platform within day-to-day practice.
- **Uptake** of KomposyT among pupils with special educational needs **did not happen automatically**.

Socio-economic-political context:

At policy level, effective career education, career guidance and counselling are seen as viable approaches towards reducing current levels of youth unemployment. However, pupils with special educational needs tend to face considerable difficulties in benefitting from mainstream services. The establishment of a specialised research institution, VÚDPaP, already back in the 1960s has contributed to the compilation of a strong scientific knowledge base and to the development of related personal resources respectively. This helped in the development of services specifically tailored to the needs of disadvantaged children and youngsters.

Financial requirements:

No information is available on the overall costs involved in the development and maintenance of the platform. The ongoing operation and maintenance of the platform and related offline activities is financed through the Ministry of Education, of the Slovak Republic.

HR requirements:

The ongoing maintenance of the KomposyT system and implementation of related training measures are achieved by the staff of a specialised institute, VUDPaP. Technical support is provided by a contracted ICT provider. The research part of the overall system is pursued by VUDPaP in collaboration with the Comenius University, Faculty of Social and Economic Sciences.

ICT elements:

- KomposyT is available to the users as a web service, which does not require any local software installations;
- The technical infrastructure relies on a combination of proprietary software and open source components;
- The integration of the diverse components is achieved within a service-oriented (SOA) platform architecture;
- For the password-protected area, a high standard is maintained in relation to data privacy and data protection, comparable to those accepted for the purposes of online banking services.

Non-ICT elements:

The overall approach seems to fit with the relevant national system structures, i.e. school-based counselling provision complemented by specialised services delivered through a network of local centres for educational and psychological counselling and prevention, all this methodologically supervised by a specialised research institute.

Future developments & Trends:

- Extension of functionalities currently provided by the platform, with a view to facilitating interpersonal exchange of users by means of some kind of messaging functionality;
- Possible extension of current conceptual focus beyond pupils with special educational needs. Connection of the platform with the government cloud to be set up by 2020 according to the national eGovernment strategy.

Type of initiative:

Public

Politico-administrative domain clusters:
Special-purpose initiatives

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