

The National Centre for Guidance in Education in collaboration with the
Department of Education and Science

Lifelong Guidance: Harmonising policy and practice

Dublin

30th April 2004

Venue: Conrad Hotel, Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2

Programme

- 9.30 a.m. **Registration and coffee**
- 10.00 a.m. **Welcome** – Eileen Fitzpatrick, NCGE
- CHAIR: MS. DOREEN McMORRIS, DES
- 10.15 a.m. **Guidance policies across Europe: Meeting the lifelong learning challenge** – Prof. Ronald Sultana, University of Malta
- 11.00 a.m. **Career guidance and public policy: Is there a gap? What should we do about it?** – Mr. Richard Sweet, OECD Education and Training Policy Division
- 11.45 a.m. **Comfort Break**
- 12.00 p.m. **Ministerial Address** – Mr. Noel Dempsey, T.D., Minister for Education and Science
- 12.15 p.m. **What role can evaluation play in connecting policy and practice?** – Mr. Raimo Vuorinen, Institute for Educational Research, Jyväskylä University, Finland
- 1.00 p.m. **Lunch**
- CHAIR: MS. MAUREEN BOHAN, DES
- 2.00 p.m. **Lifelong Guidance: Relating EU policies to National policies, systems and practice development**– Mr. John McCarthy, DG EAC, European Commission
- 2.30 p.m. **Workshops**
- 1. Outcomes of Post Primary Guidance Review 2003**

Presenters: Dr Selina McCoy, ESRI, Ms. Eileen Fitzpatrick, NCGE,
Mr. Brian Mooney, IGC

Chair: Mr. Ed Riordan, Chair, NCGE Management Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. Helen O'Colmain, IGC

2. Does the language we use to describe our services create barriers to student access?

Presenter: Ms. Siobhan Neary, Guidance Council

Chair: Dr. Sarah Moore, UL

Rapporteur: Ms. Angela Collins, ITCAN

3. Adult Guidance: Policy developments in England; and Models of practice in Ireland

Presenters: Mr. Millar MacDonald, Dept. Education and Skills, Adult
IAG policy, Ms Niamh Mernagh, DES

Chair: Ms. Helen Keogh, DES

Rapporteur: Ms. Jennifer Kennedy, AEGA

CHAIR: MR. TORLACH O'CONNOR, DES

3.45 p.m. Stakeholders' Policy Recommendations.

International Panel: Mr. Ronald Sultana, Mr. Richard Sweet, Ms.
Siobhan Neary, Mr. Millar MacDonald, Mr. John McCarthy, Mr.
Raimo Vuorinen, Dr. Selina McCoy.

5.00 p.m. Close

Glossary

DG EAC-- Directorate General for Education and Culture

OECD—Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

DES—Department of Education and Science

NCGE—National Centre for Guidance in Education

ESRI—Economic and Social Research Institute

IGC—Institute of guidance Counsellors

UL—University of Limerick

ITCAN—Institutes of Technology Career Advisers' Network

IAG—Information, Advice and Guidance

AEGA—Adult Educational Guidance Association

Workshops

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BIOGRAPHIES

Maureen Bohan currently works as a Senior Inspector in the Department of Education and Science. Her remit includes Guidance and Counselling and Gender Equality. She previously worked in the Department's Psychological Service for twenty nine years. During that time she worked closely with guidance counsellors in schools in a number of areas throughout the country. She was involved in the development of the Guidance and Counselling Service in post primary schools from the early 70s. She represents the Department of Education and Science on a number of committees related to Guidance and Counselling and is co-ordinating the review of Guidance and Counselling in post primary schools, which is currently under way.

Eileen Fitzpatrick is Acting Director of the National Centre for Guidance in Education. The Centre supports and develops guidance in all areas of education and informs the policy of the Department of Education and Science in the field of guidance. Eileen set up the Careers and Appointments Service in DIT in 1992 and was Head of Service until 2002. During that time the Service introduced a virtual careers fair, *Choice@diti.ie*, a virtual careers library and had a Career Development Module integrated into the curriculum of courses in four faculties. She worked with the DIT Learning and Teaching Centre in introducing a module on Career Management and Key Skills into the PG Diploma in Learning and Teaching at Third Level. She taught this module to academic staff, using a Problem-based Learning methodology, until 2002. She has been a guidance counsellor since 1985 and has worked in a number of post-primary schools.

Helen Keogh has worked with the Department of Education and Science, Ireland, as National Co-ordinator VTOS since 1992. She was Adult Education Organiser with Co Louth Vocational Education Committee (VEC) from 1989 to 1992. She has a background in post-primary teaching and curriculum development. Helen is a member of a wide range of national advisory groups on adult learning issues and she was a member of the Advisory Groups for the Irish Government's Green Paper and White Paper on Adult Education. She is also an active member of the European Commission's Grundtvig (SOCRATES) Working Group and the Grundtvig Assessment Panel. She lectures on a post-graduate degree course in Education and Training and she contributes regularly to national and international Conferences, evaluations and publications on adult learning. She is a graduate of the National University of Ireland and holds an MA in History of Education.

Millar MacDonald has been the team leader for the Department for Education and Skills Adult Guidance Policy since March 2000. He managed the transition of responsibility for the Information, Advice and Guidance programme for adults to the LSC from April 2001. Two key initiatives Millar has launched are: the National Policy Framework and Action Plan for Information, Advice and Guidance for Adults and the development and implementation of the matrix standard for information, advice and guidance services. He is a member of the European Commission's Expert Group on Lifelong Guidance. He is a career civil servant

who has worked on a number of policy areas during his service with the Department and its predecessors. He is a member of the Commission's Lifelong Guidance Expert Group.

John McCarthy is currently a policy developer in the field of lifelong guidance at the Directorate General for Education and Culture of the European Commission, on detachment from post of Director of NCGE. Mr McCarthy is also the Chairperson of the Commission's Expert Group on Lifelong Guidance and Author of OECD expert paper "*The Skills, Training and Qualifications of Guidance Workers.*"

Selina McCoy holds a PhD from The Queen's University, Belfast. She works within the Educational Policy Research Centre of the ESRI, investigating a range of educational issues of current concern. Most recently, she has published work on the destinations and experiences of students who do not progress immediately to higher education upon leaving school (*Expanding Post-School Learning Opportunities*, with D.F. Hannan and A. Doyle), the prevalence and impact of part-time employment among students and the role of school factors in early school leaving rates in schools serving disadvantaged populations. She has just completed a study on the transition of students from primary to post-primary schooling in Ireland (*Moving Up: The experiences of First Year Students in Post-Primary Education*, with Emer Smyth and Merike Darmody, April 2004).

Among the issues currently being studied by Dr. McCoy are (1) the experience of students in second year in post-primary school (2) an examination of the nature of provision of guidance and counselling to young people in post-primary schools and (3) an examination of the role of Post-Leaving-Certificate courses in young people's post-school pathways. She has ongoing responsibility for the analysis of Annual School Leavers' Survey data.

Doreen McMorris, following graduation from Trinity College, Dublin with a first class honours BA degree in mathematical sciences and Higher Diploma in Education, taught for thirteen years in a Dublin school. She completed the Diploma in Careers Guidance and Counselling course during 1993/4 and subsequently, practised as a guidance counsellor. In 1995, she joined the Inspectorate of the Department of Education and Science where her main responsibilities related to the state examinations and school evaluation. She obtained an M Ed in School Leadership in 2000 and, in the same year, was promoted to Senior Inspector. In 2003, she became an Assistant Chief Inspector. She currently manages the business unit within the Inspectorate that contributes to policy development in the areas of qualifications, curriculum and assessment at early childhood, primary and post-primary levels. The provision of policy advice on guidance is a specific aspect of the remit of this business unit.

Niamh Mernagh is a Guidance Inspector in the Department of Education with responsibility for post primary schools and centres of education. She is a

member of the European Commission Working Group on Lifelong Learning Active Citizenship.

Brian Mooney is President of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors, the representative body for the guidance profession in Ireland. He has just been re-elected to this office for a further two-year term. Brian graduated from UCD in 1976 with a degree in Politics and Economics, and entered the teaching profession the following year. He has taught at Oatlands College in Dublin, his own alma mater, since that date. He has also lectured on Educational Pedagogy for the last sixteen years at postgraduate level in UCD. Brian has been involved in broadcasting and journalism throughout his career. He had two books published in the late nineties on the themes of how to facilitate your children's educational goals and on how to balance work and family life in today's world. He is a weekly columnist with the Irish Times and is a regular spokesperson on educational issues for both television and radio.

Sarah Moore, B.A., D.B.S., M.B.S. (NUI), MIITD, PhD (Cranfield) is Dean of Teaching and Learning at the University of Limerick, also fulfilling a teaching and research role within the Kemmy Business School at UL. Her research interests include: Learning orientations and environments in work and education, gender in education, cognitive style, student retention in third level environments and diversity awareness and management. She is responsible for the continued development of teaching and learning strategies at the University of Limerick, and regularly publishes books and journal articles in the areas of academic practice, student development, and learning dynamics. She is chair of Ireland's inter-university retention network (a sub-committee of the CHIU registrar's group), acts as external advisor to the teaching grants committee at University College Dublin, and is a member of the Irish Institute of Training and Development and an appointed member of the Higher Education Authority.

Siobhan Neary is a Development Manager with Guidance Council specialising in guidance issues relating to Higher Education, Basic Skills, Prisoner and Ex-offenders and Continuous Quality Improvement. She has had a specific role supporting the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS) in the implementation of the matrix Quality Standard. This has included delivery of training and the production of resources and materials. Prior to the Guidance Council Siobhan was Deputy Head of a University Careers Service and has worked for the last 15 years in the guidance sector.

Ronald G. Sultana is Professor of Educational Sociology and Comparative Education at the University of Malta, where he directs the Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Educational Research (EMCER). He practised as a guidance counsellor in schools (in Malta, the UK, and New Zealand), and researched VET and school-work transition issues in Malta, England, France, new Zealand, and the US, where was Fulbright Scholar at Stanford University. He has authored, edited or co-edited 13 volumes and is the author of over 80 articles in refereed journals and books. He was an OECD consultant in the guidance review process of

Luxembourg and Spain in 2002, and was a guest lecturer at the University of Oporto's Masters Course in Guidance. He is a member of the European Commission's Lifelong Guidance Expert Group, and is on the editorial board of several international journals.

Richard Sweet is a Principal Analyst in the OECD's Education and Training Policy Division, which he joined in 1998. He is an Australian citizen. Since joining the OECD he has managed comparative reviews on the transition from initial education to working life, national policies for career guidance services and ICT and education policy. He is currently editor of the OECD's flagship publication Education Policy Analysis and is working on a comparative review of tertiary education. Richard began his professional life as a career guidance officer in the mid 1960s. He then moved into research positions in fields that have included career guidance, the youth labour market, the transition from school to work, the relationship between education and the labour market, and vocational education and training. In Australia he was a member of a number of national policy advice and research boards in the fields of education and vocational training. Prior to joining the OECD Richard was Research Co-ordinator for the Dusseldorf Skills Forum, a non-profit Australian foundation with an agenda to improve the relationship between education and the world of work. He held a joint appointment as Professor of Vocational Education at the University of Technology, Sydney. He is also a member of the European Commission's Lifelong Guidance Expert Group.

Raimo Vuorinen works as a researcher at the Institute for Educational Research at the University of Jyväskylä, Finland. In his work as a trainer and researcher he has been focusing on the usage of ICT in guidance and the overall planning of career resources and institutional guidance policy. He has been a member in national working groups and committees related to this topic in Finland. He is also a member in the European Commission Lifelong Guidance Group. He acted as the national coordinator of the OECD activity on Guidance 2001 - 2003. He was a member in the OECD review team evaluating the guidance policy of Denmark in January 2002. In 2001 he was a Finnish representative in the International Symposia on Career Development and Public Policy. In November 2002 he coordinated the national seminar on guidance policies in Finland. Currently he is also responsible for developing and maintaining a virtual resource centre for Finnish guidance practitioners. He has had consultancy role in various in-service programmes in the area of vocational and educational guidance from comprehensive education to higher education in Finland. He has active partnerships in national and transnational professional networks in the area of guidance, for example: the Euroguidance network, Counsellor Resource Centre in Canada and the Centre for Study of Technology in Counselling and Career Development at the Florida State University. He has also been in co-operation with the Scandinavian counsellor training units. He has been invited to give presentations in National and International Conferences in the field of guidance and counselling.