

Meeting of Education Ministers – Guidance and Counselling
State Apartments, Dublin Castle
 28th & 29 April 2004
Theme: Guidance and Lifelong Learning – Future Directions

April 28th:

12.30 – 1.45	Informal Lunch	Portrait Gallery & Round Room
	Session One	St Patrick’s Hall
14.00 -14.15	Opening Address by Minister for Education & Science, Mr Noel Dempsey T.D.	
14.15 -14.30	Overview of European Commission Review of Guidance - Mr Ronald Sultana (University of Malta)	
14.30 -14.45	Overview of OECD Review of Guidance – Mr Richard Sweet (OECD)	
14.45 -16.15	Discussion by Ministers	

Depart by coach for tour of Trim Castle. Refreshments in local restaurant.
 Reception and Conference dinner in Slane Castle at 7.30pm.

April 29th

08:20 – 08:50	Tea/Coffee	Erin Room
	Session Two	St Patrick’s Hall
09:00 – 9:15	Intervention by Commissioner Viviane Reding	
09:15 – 09:30	Adult Guidance Policies – Mr Millar Mc Donald, UK Department of Education and Skills	
09:30 – 11:00	Discussion by Ministers	
11.00	Family Photo	Main Staircase
11:10 -11.30	Tea/Coffee	Erin Room
	Session Three	St Patrick’s Hall
11.30 -11.45	Connecting Policy and Practice - Mr Raimo Vuorinen, Institute for Educational Research at Jyvaskyla University, Finland.	
11.45 -12.55	Discussion by Ministers	
12:55 – 13:00	Close of Meeting by Minister Noel Dempsey T.D.	
13:10	Press Conference	George’s Hall
13.15	Informal lunch	Portrait Gallery & Round Room

Notes on Principal Speakers:

Ronald Sultana is Professor of Educational Sociology and Comparative Education at the University of Malta, where he directs the Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Educational Research. He practiced as a guidance counsellor in schools in Malta, the UK and New Zealand. He was a Fulbright Scholar at Stanford University and is a member of the European Commission's Lifelong Learning Guidance Expert Group.

Richard Sweet is a Principal Administrator in the OECD's Education and Training Policy division. Upon joining the OECD he worked on the thematic review of young people's transition from initial education to working life, the report of which was published in 2000. He was responsible for the 14 country review of national career guidance policies which has recently been published -Career Guidance and Public Policy -Bridging the Gap. Prior to joining the OECD he held a joint appointment as Professor of Vocational Education at the University of Technology, Sydney. He is a member of the European Commission's Life Long Guidance Expert Group.

Raimo Vuorinen works a researcher at the Institute for Educational Research at Jyväskylä University, Finland. He has been a trainer of career practitioners in Finland since 1987 and has been engaged in the development of the new national gateway for careers information in Finland. He was a member of the advisory group of the national evaluation of guidance services in second level education in Finland. He is a member of the European Commission's Life Long Guidance Expert Group.

Millar MacDonald has been team leader for the UK Department for Education and Skills' Adult Information, Advice and Guidance policy since March 2000. He was responsible for the piloting of funding and delivery models for adult guidance and the development and implementation of the matrix standard for information, advice and guidance services. He is a member of the European Commission's Life Long Guidance Expert Group.