



Lárionad Náisiúnta um Threoir san Oideachas  
National Centre for Guidance in Education

## **International Centre for Career Development and Public Policy (ICCDPP)**

### **International Symposium June 2017**

#### **NCGE Report**

The ICCDPP acts as a focal point for the development of career guidance and public policy across all countries. The purpose of the ICCDPP is to support governments to advance their policies in relation to education workforce development and social cohesion.

The ICCDPP has representation from the OECD, EU Commission, World Bank and the European Training Foundation. ICCDPP was formed in 2004 and was initially supported with generous funding by the Irish Government and is currently under the Directorship of John McCarthy (former Director of NCGE).

ICCDPP Symposium meetings are held biannually and are interactive working events with participants from all over the world, (for example in 2017 22 country teams and 4 international organisations including CEDFOP and OECD). Participants attend as members of country teams, not as individuals and these teams ideally include senior level representation from policy practice and research perspectives.

The purpose of the symposium is to engage with system level thinking about career guidance and the role it can play in contributing to wider government's policies. Further information on the ICCDPP is available on [www.iccdpp.org](http://www.iccdpp.org).

On behalf of the Department of Education and Skills (DES), Jennifer McKenzie (Director NCGE) and Paul King (Chair of the Management of Guidance Committee NCGE) attended the ICCDPP Symposium 2017 as the representative country team for Ireland.

The theme for the Symposium 2017 was *Career Development: At the crossroads towards relevance and impact*. The Ireland Country Paper was prepared by NCGE, with input from the DSP representative on the MGC, and was submitted to ICCDPP in advance of the symposium.

Following 3 days of guest speakers, facilitated discussions and working groups, the ICCDPP published the Symposium Communique (which is available on <http://iccdpp.org>).

The 2017 Symposium centred on 4 themes:

1. How changes in work organisation are shaping career development systems
2. Ensuring the relevance and effectiveness of career development programmes
3. Making career practitioner training and practice relevant
4. Building career competencies and ensuring successful transitions

Workgroup discussions centred on these 4 themes resulting in 24 key recommendations for countries represented in the communiqué.

In the Irish context DES and NCGE are currently addressing some of these key recommendations with the following examples:

- DES published the *Programme Recognition Framework: Guidance Counselling, Criteria and Guidelines for Programme Providers, 2016*. Available for download at:- <https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Education-Reports/Programme-Recognition-Framework-Guidance-Counselling.pdf>
- The forthcoming publication and dissemination of *NCGE: A Whole School Guidance Framework*, provides a career learning development framework resource for post-primary schools
- The National Forum on Guidance is convened by NCGE on 2 occasions annually and provides an opportunity for stakeholders to engage with guidance policy, practice and research
- The DES Review of Guidance 2017 will inform the development of a guidance strategy for the education and skills sector

Furthermore, it was consistently highlighted at the Symposium that career development strategies need to be cognisant of the potential outcomes of career development and the demands of employers in order to ensure that guidance remains relevant and has an impact.

At the symposium, the OECD Head of the Directorate for Education and Skills, Ms Deborah Rosebear, indicated that it is timely for the OECD to consider a further Review of Career Guidance Policy since the original review was published in 2004.

It is the recommendation of NCGE that the 2017 ICCDPP Communiqué informs the DES strategy for guidance following the review since it reflects international good practice in the areas of policy, practice and research.

We would like to acknowledge the support of DES in enabling two members of NCGE to participate in this important symposium.

**Paul King (DCU)**  
**Chair, Management of Guidance Committee NCGE**

**Jennifer McKenzie**  
**Director NCGE**