



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

# ***Evidence based policies and practices in Ireland: developing a cross sectoral approach***

Assessment, Measurement, and Evaluation: What We Know Works

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*IAEVG International Conference 2015*



[www.ncge.ie](http://www.ncge.ie)

# Focus- what has worked for us

- The role of NCGE - National and European
- Data and evidence gathering in the Adult Educational Guidance Initiative (AEGI)
- Issues for School guidance provision
- Working within European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network (ELGPN)
- National Forum on Guidance
  
- Conclusion / Future Aims

# National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE)

- Agency of Department of Education & Skills (DES)
- Inform and support DES policy on lifelong guidance
- Develop and support quality guidance practice in schools and Further Education and Training (FET)
- Promote and support national and EU focus
- ✓ Co-ordinate the National Forum on Guidance
- ✓ Co-ordinate /provide Continuous Professional Development (CPD)
- ✓ Developing Guidance Strategy within FET sector with national partners

# Adult Educational Guidance Initiative (AEGI)

- Established in 2000 as pilot project
- Post –graduate qualification in Guidance Counselling required
- Provides guidance to adults attending or planning to attend adult education
- Information / Group Guidance / 1-to-1 guidance
- EU funding requirements – Qualitative *and* Quantitative reports
- NCGE co-ordination of developments, CPD / training for staff / Monitoring reports on behalf of DES

# AEGI –developments in data gathering, assessment and evaluation

2000 to 2014:

- |                                   |                      |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| • From:                           | To:                  |
| ✓ Paper based                     | ICT - online reports |
| ✓ Quarterly reports               | Twice per year       |
| ✓ Focus on development evaluation | Quality, self-       |
| & external evaluation             | & strategic planning |
- Reports monitored by NCGE and provided to DES and National Advisory group
  - Reports and data informing FET Guidance Strategy

# 2014-2015 evidence /data

## *Qualitative*

- Service provision & improvement
- Self evaluation & priority planning
- Client feedback: actions taken as result of client feedback
- CPD: training needs of staff; NCGE provides programme of CPD
- Case Study – self reflection & narrative of client / group issues & outcomes

## *Quantitative*

- Number of clients
- ✓ Guidance 1-to-1
- ✓ Information clients
- ✓ Groups
- Target categories
- Education levels
- Progression
- Twice per Year

# Schools' Guidance provision

- Education Act 1998 - “access to appropriate guidance”
- Whole school guidance planning
- Qualified teacher with post graduate qualification in Guidance
- DES Inspectorate Guidance reports – individual school specific
- NCGE resources - School Guidance Handbook and CPD programme
  
- 2012 - Government budget adjustments - Allocation of guidance staff *within* teacher quota
  
- Prior to 2012 – resistance in schools guidance to data gathering and documenting “confidential” guidance provision

# Schools' Guidance provision...continued..

- 2012 -2013 NCGE *Review* of schools guidance provision to identify supports needed following change to allocation

## *Review* Highlighted:

- No formal national data collection for guidance in schools
- No national reports on guidance provision / quality /outcomes
- Need to develop evidence gathering system similar to that used with AEGI

## Following *Review*:

- 2014 Post Primary Guidance working group- approved by DES, hosted by NCGE
- Working group – all relevant stakeholders

## Task to:

- Identify guidance outcomes in post primary schools years 1-6 (i.e. age 12 - 18 years)
- Identify guidance data / evidence gathering process for schools





# European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network (ELGPN)

- *Full membership* 2011-2015
- NCGE represents Ireland – 2 staff members
  1. Lead Country Quality Assurance & Evidence (QAE)
  2. Active member of Career Management Skills (CMS)
- *Input* to development of European Resource Kit – QAE – AEGI & schools information
- Worked closely with Deirdre Hughes – Consultant on QAE
- *QAE* 5 elements – Practitioner Competence/ Citizen & User involvement/ Service provision & improvement/ Cost benefit to government / Cost Benefit to individuals
- *Testing the European Resource Kit* - with AEGI
- ***National Forum on Guidance*** - QAE and CMS discussions

# National Forum on Guidance



...to provide a forum for dialogue, exchanging information and exploring possibilities for co-operation and co-ordination.....

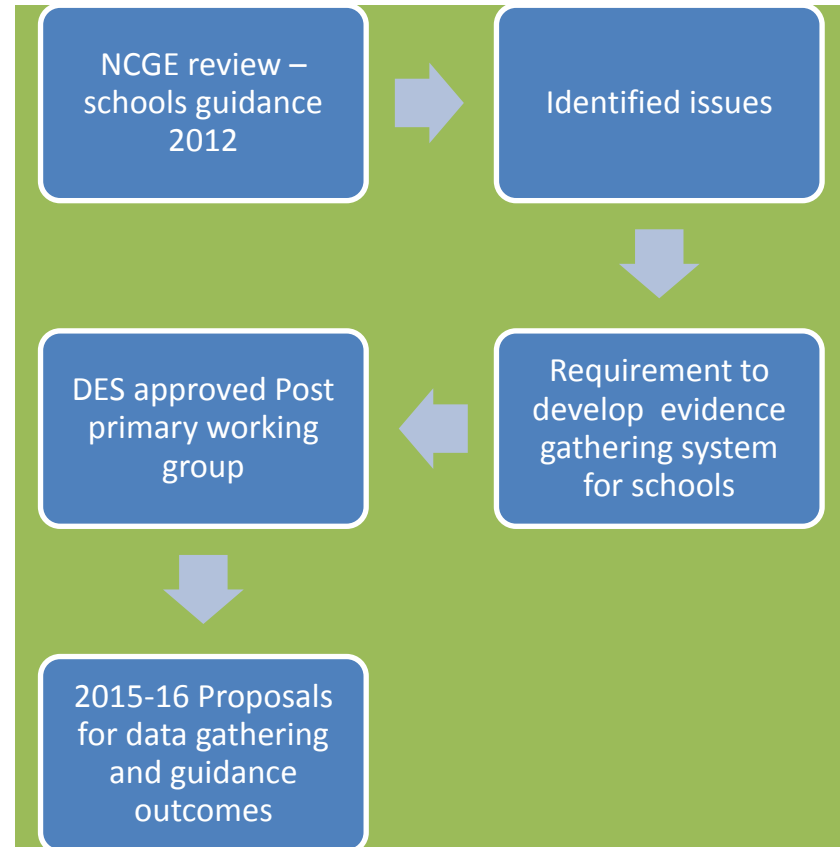
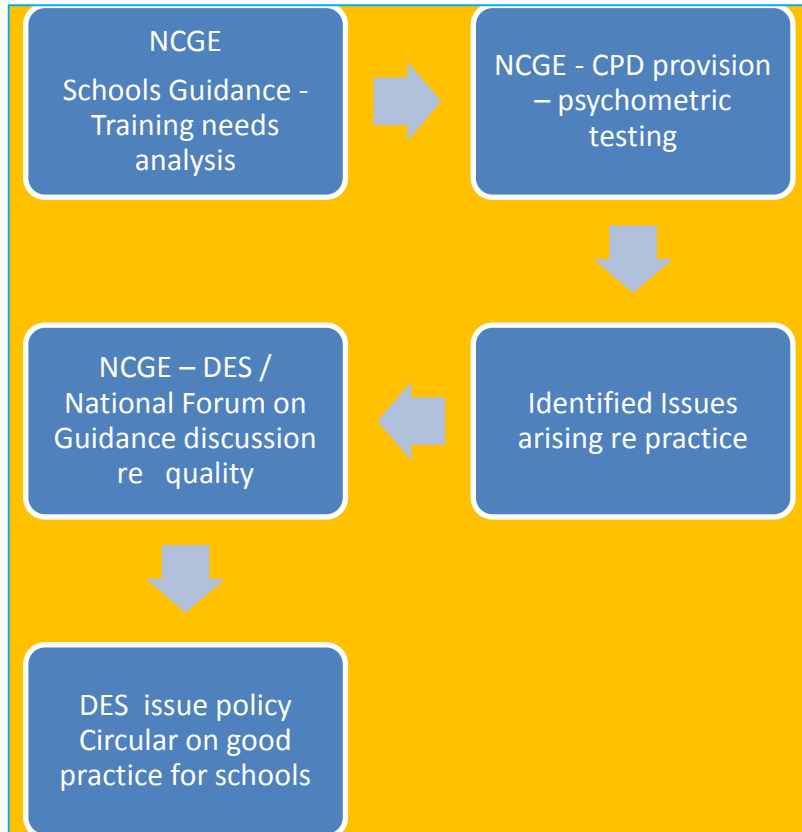
- Co-ordinated by NCGE
- Supported by DES
- In line with ELGPN work & funding to support national Co-operation, Co-ordination and Communication
- Attended by representatives of all sectors – Education, PES, Schools, Adult Guidance , Higher Education, Policy makers, University courses, private practitioners, youth services, etc ....
- Discussion of QAE / CMS / Test the European Resource Kit
- Open Dialogue & Exchange of information/ good practice
- Encourage each other!



National Forum on Guidance -NCGE co-ordination of discussions



## 2 Examples of evidence now informing policy



# CONCLUSION / FUTURE AIMS

- Standardised approaches in schools and FET
- National Qualitative and Quantitative evidence – Adult, FET and Schools
- Continued development of policies & practice based on evidence and discussions

# Useful links

- [www.ncge.ie](http://www.ncge.ie)
- <http://www.ncge.ie/uploads/NCGE - Strategic Plan FINAL 27.5.15.pdf>
- <http://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Policy-Reports/Further-Education-and-Training-Strategy-2014-2019.pdf>
- <http://www.ncge.ie/about-us/national-forum-on-guidance-2011-15/>
- [http://www.ncge.ie/uploads/Review\\_of\\_Guidance\\_Counselling\\_provision\\_in\\_second\\_level\\_schools\\_2012-2013.FINAL.pdf](http://www.ncge.ie/uploads/Review_of_Guidance_Counselling_provision_in_second_level_schools_2012-2013.FINAL.pdf)
- <http://www.schoolguidancehandbook.ncge.ie/>
- <http://www.ncgeadultguidance.ie/>

Go raibh maith agaibh!

Dōmo arigatōgozaimashita

Thank you!

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