



## **International Centre for Career Development and Public Policy (ICCDPP) Symposium 2019**

### **Ireland Country Team Report**

**28<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

The ICCDPP Symposium was attended by 33 countries from across the globe including Mongolia, Chile, Ghana, USA and EU Countries. The Ireland Country Team attended the ICCDPP Symposium, preparing and submitting the Ireland Country paper in advance.

The Ireland Country Team for 2019, attending on behalf of the Department of Education and Skills (DES), was led by the NCGE Director, Jennifer McKenzie and included Paul King, Chair of the NCGE Management of Guidance Committee (NCGE MGC), DCU Assistant Professor and Chair of Masters in Guidance Counselling Programme. The President of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors was scheduled to attend as a member of the Country team, however, due to unforeseen family commitments, was unfortunately unable to attend.

The theme of the Symposium for 2019 – *Leading career development services into an uncertain future: Ensuring access, integration and innovation*, included thematic discussions on:-

1. Context and challenges for career development policy
2. Aims for and access to career development
3. Integrating career development into wider society
4. Leading innovative change for the future

As an outcome, and in keeping with previous symposia, the ICCDPP produce the Symposium Communiqué to outline key recommendations agreed in the discussions. Of note is the use of the terminology of *Career Development* in place of *Career Guidance* which clarifies the role of guidance services to develop the careers management skills and career development outcomes for service users.

The recommendations are outlined in the attached Communiqué, published by ICCDPP on 27 June 2019, in accordance with the key themes discussed.

In Ireland, the DES publication in April 2019 of the Indecon Review of Careers Information and Tools provides recommendations for the further development of careers guidance services. The key recommendations from the Symposium provide confirmation to Ireland that several of the Indecon recommendations to DES are in accordance with those of international career development and careers guidance policy makers, practitioners and experts (including OECD, EU Commission, CEDEFOP, ETF and UNESCO whose representatives presented at the Symposium).

In accordance with the ICCDPP Symposium Communiqué, the Recommendations of the Ireland Country Team to the Department of Education and Skills are outlined below:-

- i. The development of the national body to co-ordinate the establishment of formal national co-operation and collaboration for the development of career guidance/career development systems. This co-ordinating body would also explore the national and EU funding streams available to support such development
- ii. The establishment of the National Policy Stakeholder group, to include the relevant stakeholders from government departments, guidance services, education management bodies, employers representatives and services for unemployed, co-ordinated by the national body as outlined in (i.) above
- iii. The development of a nationally agreed cross-sectoral strategy for career development/career guidance
- iv. The provision of multi- channel service delivery systems to provide access to career development/ career guidance for all citizens, responsive to the needs of specific target groups, with appropriate referrals processes to local/regional guidance services
- v. Support for the further development of nationally agreed mechanisms to gather quantitative and qualitative evidence on career development/career guidance to inform national , regional and local career development / career guidance services planning
- vi. The development of nationally agreed standards for and levels of qualifications and training required for *all* career guidance practitioners , in education and labour market sectors
- vii. Support the integration of career development/ career guidance through the provision of career management skills programmes in education programmes in post-primary, FET, HE and apprenticeships
- viii. Nationally agreed mechanisms to collaboration and engagement with employers groups to be developed and coordinated by the national body

The ICCDPP convenes this international symposium every two years. To date, NCGE has led the country team representing the DES. Historically, representatives of NCGE and DES have attended such events. There is an opportunity to plan in advance for a wider representative Country Team from Ireland to attend the next Symposia with NCGE in 2021, to include a representative from the National Policy stakeholder group and DES.

Report submitted by the Ireland Country Team:-

**Jennifer McKenzie**  
Director NCGE

**Paul King**  
DCU Assistant Professor and Chair NCGE MGC