

Introduction to National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE)

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



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Presentation Overview

- NCGE role and remit
- Learnings from Covid-19 related experience to inform the future
- Where to next?



NCGE – who we are & what we do!

Agency of the Irish Department of Education and works with new Department of Further & Higher Education, Research Innovation and Skills

ROLE

- promote the implementation of best practice in guidance counselling in schools, centres for education, and Further Education and Training settings
- advise on policy and strategies for the promotion of a continuum of guidance in the context of lifelong learning

ACTIVITIES

- (i) inform and support the development of Dept. Of Education (DoE) and Dept. Further Higher Education, Research Innovation & Science (DFHERIS) lifelong guidance policy in the education and training sector
 - (ii) develop and support quality guidance practice in post primary schools and the FET sector
 - (iii) promote and support a national and EU focus to guidance policy provision and practice
- * **Representative for Ireland in EU**
 - * **Host Euroguidance Centre for Ireland**

- * Clarity of National and EU Policy
- * Clarity of purpose – Definition of Guidance
- * Host, convene and work with stakeholders - consultations, working groups, committees, etc.
- * Management Board representative of relevant stakeholders
- * Host National Forum on Guidance
- * Reach out and learn from EU/ International colleagues



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Legislation & Definitions of Guidance in Ireland

- * **Government - Education Act (1998)**

Section 9 A recognised school shalluse its available resources to -

(c) ensure that students have access to appropriate guidance to assist them in their educational and career choices

- * **Guidance in Schools (DES, 2005)**

*“refers to a range of learning experiences provided in a developmental sequence, that assist students to develop self-management skills which will lead to effective choices and decisions about their lives. It encompasses **the three separate, but interlinked, areas of personal and social development, educational guidance and career guidance**”.*

- * **National Guidance Forum Report 2007**

Guidance facilitates people throughout their lives to manage their own educational, training, occupational, personal, social and life choices so that they reach their full potential and contribute to the development of a better society.



Activities and Competences required to deliver Guidance – Programme Recognition Framework –*implemented since 2020*

Activities of Guidance Counsellor

- * Designing, delivering and evaluating guidance learning and developmental programmes relating to personal and social, educational and career development for individual, group and classroom settings
- * Providing individual & group counselling to facilitate personal and social, educational & career development and at moments of personal crisis
- * Providing labour market, learning and career-related information through Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and blended learning approaches
- * Planning and organising workplace learning and establishing links with the wider business community, agencies and voluntary sector
- * Using psychometric tests (i.e. ability and aptitude tests and career interest inventories) to facilitate career decision-making and personal development, and to support learning and educational choices
- * Providing support to, and working in collaboration with, school staff and management in the planning, leading, delivery, review and evaluation of the guidance service
- * Working with parents and referral agencies in facilitating the personal and social, educational and career development of students and service users
- * Make referrals to external agencies and professionals, as appropriate
- * Establishing close ties with feeder schools, & centres of further education and training and higher education.

Competences Development in training / CPD

1. *Guidance theory and professional practice*
2. *Counselling skills in a guidance context*
3. *Labour market, learning and career-related information*
4. Teaching and learning: *design*, delivery and evaluation of programmes/*learning experiences*
5. *Psychometric testing*: graduates should be eligible to join the Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) register for guidance counsellors
6. Communicating, collaborating and networking
7. *Research and evidence-informed practice*
8. Leading and managing the guidance service



In-school Developments

- * **Dept of Education:**
 - ✓ Annual Circulars on allocation of Guidance Staff *and* Use of Psychometric Assessments
 - ✓ Supervision Programme for Guidance Counsellors – 5 group sessions per school year for guidance counsellor

- * **NCGE Whole School Guidance Framework**
 - ✓ Guidelines for Whole School Guidance Planning : Guidance for All, Guidance for Some, Guidance for Few
 - ✓ Competences Framework for student: Developing Myself / Developing My Learning / Developing My Career path

- * **NCGE Resources and CPD for Guidance Counsellors reflecting the Whole School Framework approach**
 - ✓ Materials, Templates
 - ✓ Guidance related Learning / Euro-quest modules
 - ✓ Face to face workshops / seminars (pre Covid) and Online Webinars (from April 2020)

Guidance in the Adult / Further Education and Training Sector

* **NCGE role 2000-2014:**

- ✓ Co-ordinate the development of the Adult Educational Guidance Initiative – 39 national pilot projects now integrated into the 16 Education and Training Boards
- * 2004-2022 : Co-ordination, Management, Monitoring and Evaluation of the **Adult Guidance Management System – Gathering Data and evidence of Guidance** –AGMS database on behalf of Dept. Included In CEDEFOP Publication "Towards European Standards for Monitoring and evaluation of Lifelong Guidance and Services, (Vol.1)
<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/publications/6209>

* **NCGE Resources and CPD for Guidance Counsellors reflecting the good practice in adult / FET guidance**

- ✓ Materials, Templates
- ✓ Face to face workshops / seminars (pre Covid) and Online Webinars (from April 2020)
- ✓ CPD based on identified needs of Guidance Counsellors to support clients

❖ **NCGE engagement with stakeholders**

- ✓ Membership of stakeholder and advisory groups across wider FET sector



Indecon Report on Career Guidance

Recommendations:

Appoint a National Policy Group to develop **a coherent, long-term strategy** for lifelong career guidance.

Ongoing emphasis on **evidence-based policy**, including through organisation of a biennial stakeholder forum.

Provide multi-channel, blended career guidance supports, including online tools with telephone and internet access to experienced guidance practitioners.

Strengthen and promote a **user-friendly** centralised careers portal.



The Right Course

Education is for everyone and there is a range of options for anyone who is considering their next step in life, at any time in their lives.

Whether you need to learn new skills, update your skills or find a new direction, there is a course for you.

The Right Course is your one-stop-shop for finding out the opportunities available to you or your employee.

If you need some guidance, there are a range of supports available here too.

It is never too late to learn something new.



www.gov.ie - The Right Course (www.gov.ie)



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Learnings from impact of Covid-19 on Guidance

“Digitalised” Guidance

- ✓ Internet / Broadband / Wi-fi Access – for *all* students
- ✓ Hardware / Software - Smart Phone / PC / Tablet
- ✓ Inadequate access to reliable Information – Labour Market Information?
Education information?
- ✓ Access to appropriate online psychometric assessments on aptitudes / career interests/ skills assessment
- ✓ Digital literacy and Media Literacy of professionals
- ✓ Social media
- ✓ Students / clients using online services for career planning – What?

An ABC of digitalised Guidance and links with pedagogy and Guidelines for FET based Guidance

[PowerPoint Presentation \(ncge.ie\)](https://www.ncge.ie) NCGE CPD Webinar - August 2020

Department of Education – Coordination of Support services in Guidance



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Where to next?

- * Awaiting Outcome of Discussions regarding Indecon recommendations
- * Future of NCGE is currently being discussed
- * All agreed on need for National Guidance Strategy
- * Continued delivery of Guidelines for Good Practice in Guidance in schools and FET
- * CPD for continued upskilling of Guidance Practitioners



Relevant Links

Government of Ireland

Education Act, 1998 (irishstatutebook.ie)

Dept of Education (2005) Guidelines on Implications of Education Act Section 9 (c)

[Guidelines for Second Level Schools on the Implications of Section 9\(c\) of the Education Act 1998, relating to students' access to appropriate guidance \(File format 270KB\) \(ncge.ie\)](#)

Dept Wellbeing policy statement 2018

[wellbeing-policy-statement-and-framework-for-practice-2018–2023.pdf \(education.ie\)](#)

Indecon Review of Career Guidance, 2019

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/01ce11-indecon-review-of-career-guidance>

Investing in Career Guidance (Cedefop, 2019)

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/publications-and-resources/publications/2227>

Programme Recognition Framework (Ireland, 2016)

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/dce0a0-programme-recognition-framework-guidance-counselling>

NCGE Whole School Guidance Framework

<https://www.ncge.ie/resource/ncge-whole-school-guidance-framework>

<https://www.ncge.ie/resources>

NICE Handbook for the Academic Training of Career Guidance and Counselling Professionals

<http://www.nice-network.eu/pub>

Dept. Continuity of Guidance Counselling 2020 (during Covid pandemic)

[continuity-of-guidance-counselling-guidelines-for-schools-providing-online-support-for-students.pdf \(education.ie\)](#)

Reconnecting with Education – Guidance for post primary schools for students at risk of early school leaving

<https://assets.gov.ie/89324/27144cc8-8ec3-4936-9295-1f5bfd69be91.pdf>

[NCGE-PP-Support-Information-GuidanceCounsellors-Schools-\(COVID19-School-Closures2020\)-Final.pdf](#)



Interactive Feedback - SLIDO

Day 1 presentation on NCGE – Guidance in Ireland

GO TO: <https://www.sli.do/>

ENTER: #ACADEMIA



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Go raibh maith agaibh
Thank you



www.ncge.ie



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