

HOLD THE DATE



QQI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

You are invited to the second meeting of the

The Irish Reference Group for EU Initiatives in Education and Skills

on 5 November 2014

in the

Clock Tower, Department of Education and Skills,

Marlborough St., Dublin 1

PLEASE HOLD the DATE*

Agenda to follow

9:30pm	Introductory Briefing (repeat of 3 July meeting)
1:00pm	Lunch
2:00pm	Launch of Collaborative Publication
2:00 - 3:45pm	EU Update and Planning for 2015

*If you attended on 3 July you are cordially invited to attend for the afternoon session and Book launch. If you have additional colleagues whom you would like briefed on the purpose, range and synergies of EU initiatives in Education and Skills in Ireland, please email awalsh@qqi.ie for additional places

Anne Walsh

Qualifications Services
Quality Assurance Services
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Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI)

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QQI, an integrated agency for quality and qualifications in Ireland



Erasmus+

www.QQI.ie

INVITATION



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Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

Irish Reference Group for EU Initiatives in Education and Skills

Date: 5 November 2014
Registration: 9.00am
Venue: Clock Tower, Department of Education and Skills,
Marlborough St., Dublin 1.

The education and training sector in Ireland participates in a wide range of EU projects, initiatives and working groups. It can be challenging for stakeholders and different projects teams to relate one initiative to another and to see where the benefits of the work may apply in different contexts.

QQI, in collaboration with Léargas and Euroguidance at NCGE, is hosting an EU Reference Group meeting. The Reference Group morning Session is a reprise of the group's first meeting last July and will give an opportunity for a brief overview of the initiatives so as to:

- Promote understanding of each project's unique selling point and contribution
- Assist in the identification of potential synergies with existing stakeholder plans and promote possible efficiencies through sharing objectives, key events, outputs, directions etc.

The afternoon session is for those who attended either the morning session or last July's first meeting of the group and will include:

- A practical update from each initiative and the Reference Group priorities for 2015.
- Launch of the Reference Group Publication ***Education and Skills: Working Together to bring Opportunities across Europe Home to You*** which outlines succinctly and in a common format, the purpose, aims, and intended benefits of each project.

We look forward to seeing you on the day.

Dr Bryan Maguire
Head of Qualifications Services

***RSVP by 31 July 2014: Anne Walsh: awalsh@qqi.ie**

***Please indicate which session you are interested in attending –
Morning, afternoon or both.**

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Introductory Briefing

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| 9:00am | Registration |
| 9:20am | Welcome and Introduction (includes Terms of Reference) |
| 9:25am | Policy Context |
| 10:15am | Erasmus+ School Education, VET, Adult Education, Youth |
| 10:45am | Coffee Break |
| 11:05am | 'Snapshots' of initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none">• European Qualifications Frameworks and ESCO• European Lifelong Learning Guidance Policy Network, Ploteus and Euroguidance• ENIC-NARIC - Facilitating the recognition of qualifications• Erasmus+ (School Education, VET, Adult Education, Youth)• Erasmus+ (Higher Education)• The National Europass Centre• EURES |
| 12:00pm | Table Sessions - speed dating! |
| 12:50pm | Conclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft Terms of Reference• Future meetings and other actions• Invitation to lunch and to afternoon publication launch and follow up session |
| 1:00pm | Lunch |

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Follow on Briefing: Launch of publication and 2015 Priorities

2:00pm Welcome and Update from Europe: Changes within the Commission

2:10pm Launch of Publication

Education and Skills: Working Together to bring Opportunities across Europe Home to You

2:20pm Priorities and Planning for 2015: Key targets

A practical update from each initiative

- European Qualifications Frameworks and ESCO
- European Lifelong Learning Guidance Policy Network, Ploteus and Euroguidance
- ENIC-NARIC - Facilitating the recognition of qualifications
- Erasmus+ (School Education, VET, Adult Education, Youth)
- Erasmus+ (Higher Education)
- The National Europass Centre
- EURES

2:55pm Questions from the floor to the Panel

3:05pm Erasmus+: A focus on Funding (Léargas)

3:15pm Creating Synergy, Extending Opportunities: group work session

3:45pm Next Steps – plan for the Reference Group in 2015

3:50pm Close

Important Note:

*There are two sessions. **The afternoon session is a follow on** for those who attended on 3 July and who are familiar with the range of EU initiatives operating in the Education and Skill space. The limited edition Reference Group Publication will also be launched.*

*The **morning is a repeat introductory session**. If you were unable to attend on 3 July or have colleagues in your own agency/ national forum/ initiative or others who would benefit from this introductory session, please register for both.*



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Irish Reference Group for EU Initiatives in Education and Skills

Publication

Education and Skills Working Together to bring Opportunities across Europe Home to you

Preface



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Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

Education and Skills:

Working Together to bring Opportunities across Europe Home to You

Published by the Irish Reference Group for EU Initiatives in Education and Skills with the support of Erasmus+

Dear Colleague

It is often said that Irish people understand community. We know the strength that community brings to nurturing achievement, sustaining, shaping and changing lives and to creating and sharing new opportunities. Some communities are local and immediately accessible. Others are international and at times, hard to identify. Yet they can exert great influence on our policy approaches and on our lives.

The Department of Education and Skills and a number of national organisations and agencies participate in a wide range of EU programmes of work, initiatives and working groups, in a leadership or representative capacity. Ireland invests time and participates strongly because we believe that our capacity to compete both nationally and as a region, for knowledge creation, cultural development, innovation and for jobs, depends on our mutual strength. Europe needs us, our voice, our energy and our thinking, and we need Europe to bring about the very best opportunities for all our citizens.

The Irish Reference Group for EU initiatives in Education and Skills comprises many agencies, and many national stakeholders. It reflects the depth of our engagement and shared commitment to understanding key ideas and directions in European policy. It offers us the potential to share our thinking, shape our national responses together, and multiply the impact of what we each do individually. This working group is a new community, reaching other communities, and bringing high quality information about opportunities in education, skills and employment to our service users and colleagues. In highlighting synergies in the work we do, we strengthen each other's work and create new opportunities for further development efficiently.

I wish you well with this ongoing work, and particularly celebrate the availability of one single publication which can continue to grow and develop as one-stop-shop for clear, succinct information on the range of EU initiatives in education and training.

Beir bua

Mary Doyle
Deputy Secretary General, Department of Education and Skills



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Quality, Transparency and Mobility: European Instruments for Making Lifelong Learning a Reality

At both the national and European levels, education and training reform agendas are being framed and implemented against a backdrop of growing internationalisation, advances in ICT and demands for greater accountability in relation to the efficiency and effectiveness of exchequer spending. At the same time, Governments and public authorities have a duty to ensure that education and training systems meet the social and economic needs of its citizens, at national and European level.

Education and Training 2020 (ET2020) and its forerunner ET2010, provide the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training. Developed in the context of the Lisbon Strategy, the current framework for European cooperation establishes common objectives and also provides EU-level supports, tools and peer-learning opportunities aimed at improving national-level reforms. The intention of ET2020 is to promote quality, transparency and mobility in the field of education and training.

ET2020 recognises that education and training plays an important role in meeting many of the socio-economic, demographic, environmental and technological challenges facing Europe and its citizens today and in the years ahead. The overarching aims for ET2020 reflect both the social and economic aspirations shared by all of those with an interest in the field:

1. The personal, social and professional fulfilment of all citizens;
2. Sustainable economic prosperity and employability, whilst promoting democratic values, social cohesion, active citizenship and intercultural dialogue.



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These overarching aims have been further distilled into four key strategic objectives:

1. Making lifelong learning and mobility a reality;
2. Improving the quality and efficiency of education and training;
3. Promoting equity, social cohesion and active citizenship;
4. Enhancing creativity and innovation, including entrepreneurship, at all levels of education and training.

To support the realisation of these objectives and aims, the EU has sought to develop a coherent programme of supports across education, training, youth and sports. This programme is called **Erasmus+** and it aims to promote synergies and cross-fertilisation of ideas and initiatives across and within the fields of education, training, youth and sport.

In the field of education and training, Erasmus+ provides support for EU transparency and recognition tools, in particular Europass, Youthpass, the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS), the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET), the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework (EQAVET), European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR), the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), as well as EU-wide networks supporting these tools, in particular the National Academic Recognition Information Centre (NARIC) and Euroguidance networks, and the National Europass Centres.

Notwithstanding national and European initiatives to improve quality, transparency and mobility, many European citizens and people who have travelled to the EU in search of education and employment opportunities continue to face difficulties in the recognition of their skills and qualifications. In response to these difficulties, the EU is working with member states to create a 'European area of skills and qualifications' (EASQ) where individuals could move easily between different parts of education and training systems, and move within and beyond the EU, all the time having their skills and qualifications fairly and efficiently recognised.

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The renewed urgency in relation to the realisation of a fully functioning European area of skills and qualifications stems in part from the fact that labour markets do not seem to be operating efficiently. It is estimated that, despite unacceptably high levels of unemployment, there are still an estimated two million unfilled job vacancies across the EU. There are also concerns about the quality and social inclusion outcomes of our education and training systems. The most recent OECD-PIACC study reported that one in five adults in the EU have low literacy and numeracy skills, while one in four adults have a low level of digital literacy skills. The study also concluded that not only do higher and more relevant skills increase employability, but that they also have an impact on wider life prospects, such as better health, longer life expectancy and more active participation in societal life.

It has become evident that the various tools and policy instruments at European level need to be simplified and implemented in more coordinated ways, so that they deliver benefits for the citizens that they are intended to serve - teachers, employees, learners and employers. In the first instance, we need to improve awareness and understanding of the various initiatives aimed at promoting quality, transparency and mobility in the field of education and training.

This publication has been produced by the Irish EU Reference Group for Education and Skills. It is intended to provide a digest of the various transparency and recognition tools available and to provide details of the national and EU contact points for anyone interested in further information. Importantly, this publication is also intended to stimulate further and deeper reflection on how various initiatives, programmes, policies and tools can be made more simple and implemented in more coordinated and powerful ways, so as to deliver on the common objectives for quality, transparency and mobility in education and training.

This publication provides an overview of related European initiatives that have been developed to make qualifications, experiences and skills better appreciated and easier to recognise throughout the EU. The various initiatives are outlined below under separate primary objectives. It will only be through the collective and coordinated implementation of all of these initiatives at national level that we will give greater access to learning and employment opportunities in different countries and encourage greater mobility for individuals and organisations.

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Transparency and Recognition of skills and qualifications

There are two European qualifications frameworks

- The **European Qualifications Framework (EQF)** and
- The **Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area (QFEHEA)**.

Both of these frameworks provide a reference point for the comparison of individual qualifications and qualifications systems across countries.

Common European quality assurance arrangements

The **European Standards and Guidelines (ESG)**, the **European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR)** and the **European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training (EQAVET)** are intended to promote mutual trust and confidence in the education and qualifications systems of the different participating countries.

Credit for Learning

There are two European credit systems in education and training. The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) and the European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) facilitate and support learners in shaping their own learning pathway through accumulation of credits – whether within a certain institution, from institution to institution, from country to country, and between different educational sub-systems and contexts of learning.

Documenting qualifications skills and learning experiences

The **Europass** suite of documents and the **European Skills Passport** are tools for the documentation of qualifications, skills and learning experiences, and are provided to individuals to describe their acquired knowledge, skills, competences and qualifications in a more transparent and structured way.

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European cooperation on the recognition of qualifications

The **European Network of Information Centres (ENIC)** the **National Academic Recognition Information Centres (NARIC)**, the **Lisbon Recognition Convention** and the **Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications** collectively provide common rules and networks of information points that should make recognition procedures quicker and mobility smoother.

Validation of non-formal and informal learning

In line with the **European Council Recommendation (2012) on the validation of non-formal and informal learning**, Member States agreed to put in place arrangements for the validation of non-formal and informal learning experiences by 2018.

Common Language across Qualifications, Skills and Occupations

The **European Skills Panorama** launched in December 2012 gathers comprehensive intelligence at European level on skills supply and needs in various sectors in the labour market. **The European Skills, Competence, Occupations and Qualifications (ESCO)** is a multi-lingual classification of European skills, qualifications, competences and occupations relevant to the European labour market.

Building on these initiatives, the Commission established the European Employment Services (EURES). Eures operates an online jobs portal for both jobseekers and employers. This facilitates labour mobility throughout the European Union and EEA Countries (including Switzerland). Eures has a support network of over 900 advisers who assist employers and jobseekers with their employment and recruitment needs.

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Provision of high quality information

European mobility is further supported by dedicated information websites and services of the various European tools listed above, as well as portals providing information on learning opportunities. Learning Opportunities and Qualifications in Europe is a web-based portal that provides information on courses, work experience and qualifications in Europe. Besides online support, information and guidance services **Euroguidance** centres and Eurodesks work in each country to provide advice to individuals. **ReferNet** is a network of national institutions that provide information on national vocational education and training systems and policies.

Conclusion – Making lifelong learning and mobility a reality

Significant progress has been made under the aforementioned ET2010 and ET2010 work programmes, including the Copenhagen process (Vocational Education and Training), the Bruges Communiqué of 2010 that sets out a 10-year agenda for vocational education and training, and initiatives in the context of the Bologna process (Higher Education and Training), notably in support of national reforms in lifelong learning, the modernisation of higher education and the development of common European instruments promoting quality, transparency and mobility.

Keeping these common objectives, quality, transparency and mobility at the forefront of our thinking and our actions, we need to work together to better connect individual European instruments in the interests of the citizens of Europe. It is hoped that this publication will improve the visibility, dissemination and ultimately the use of these instruments at national level, so that we come closer to making lifelong learning and mobility a reality for all.

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Changing lives. Opening minds.

ERASMUS+

Changing lives, opening minds

What is Erasmus+?

Erasmus+ is the successor programme to the European Commission's Lifelong Learning and Youth in Action programmes. It supports educational exchange and cooperation across 33 'Programme Countries' in the European Economic Area, along with several 'Partner Countries' neighbouring the EEA. The aim of Erasmus+ is to modernise and improve the quality of teaching, training and youth work across Europe, and to support the development, transfer and implementation of innovative practices. These aims are closely tied with the 'Europe 2020' strategy of achieving a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy by 2020 for all of Europe's citizens.

Why take part?

Whether you're a teacher, trainer, student, youth worker, or a learner of any age... if you wish to broaden your experience, then Erasmus+ is for you.

As a student, you may wish to explore the possibility of studying or working in another European country. As a teacher or trainer, you may want to explore new teaching methods or share knowledge and experience across geographic boundaries. Perhaps you want to find ways to innovate in your chosen field of work or study or bring a European perspective to your school, college or higher education institution. Any and all of these are possible through Erasmus+.

How does it work?

Structurally, Erasmus+ is divided into three 'key actions' that describe the kind of project activities possible:

- ◆ **Key Action 1:** Mobility of Individuals
- ◆ **Key Action 2:** Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practice
- ◆ **Key Action 3:** Support for Policy Reforms

In addition, Jean Monnet Activities and Sport are initiatives managed centrally by the European Commission in Brussels.

The three key actions are open to organisations in the following fields: School Education; Vocational Education and Training; Third Level Education; Adult and Further Education; and Youth and Community Work. For information on deadlines, please contact the relevant agency (see below).



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If you're interested in taking part, who do you contact?

Erasmus+ is managed in Ireland by Léargas and the Higher Education Authority. If your organisation is interested in participating in Erasmus+, visit our websites or contact us to learn more about the programme and how to apply. No matter what the field, information and support is available to encourage organisations to benefit from the new opportunities on offer.

For more information on:	Contact:	
Erasmus+ in: school education vocational education and training adult education youth and community work	Léargas Fitzwilliam Court Leeson Close Dublin 2	www.leargas.ie info@leargas.ie
Erasmus+ in higher education	Higher Education Authority Brooklawn House Shelbourne Road Dublin 4	www.eurireland.ie erasmus@hea.ie

www.erasmusplus.ie | www.leargas.ie | www.eurireland.ie





European
Qualifications
Framework

EQF



Erasmus+



EQF

Working for you, making sense of qualifications for the citizens of Europe, wherever you go!

What is the European Qualifications Framework (EQF)

The EQF is an overarching framework that links the qualifications frameworks of different countries together. In this way, the EQF supports individual mobility and lifelong learning.

The EQF acts as a translation device to make qualifications easier to understand across different countries and qualifications systems in Europe. Its main aim is to help those moving from one country to another to work, or to continue their education or training.

What are the benefits of the EQF?

- **Qualifications are easier to understand:** For employers, as well as education and training providers, EQF makes qualifications from different countries easier to understand.
- **Access to employment or further education and training:** Individuals coming to Ireland from other countries benefit from increased understanding of their qualifications.
- **Travelling to other countries:** Individuals from Ireland benefit from the same increased understanding when they travel to other countries.

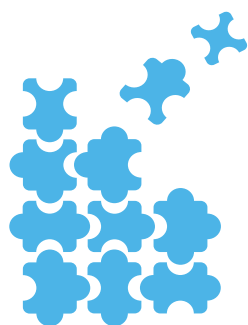
How does the Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) and the EQF Compare?

Irish NFQ Levels	EQF Levels
10	8
9	7
8	6
7	6
6	5
5	4
4	3
3	2
2	1
1	1

Where can I find out more?

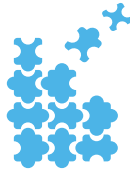
Information on EQF can be found on the European Commission website Learning Opportunities and Qualifications in Europe <http://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/en>

Quality and Qualifications Ireland is the designated National Coordination Point for EQF implementation. Please visit www.QQI.ie



EUROPEAN
Higher Education Area





EUROPEAN
Higher Education Area

BOLOGNA PROCESS

Towards a European Higher Education Area

Towards a European Higher Education Area to ensure more comparable, compatible and coherent systems of higher education in Europe.

The Bologna Process and the establishment of the European Higher Education Area.

At its inception, the The Bologna Process is a collaborative agreement to modernise and promote trust between all higher education institutions across Europe. It was meant to strengthen the competitiveness and attractiveness of the European higher education. It and to support foster student mobility and employability through the introduction of a system based on undergraduate and postgraduate studies with easily readable programmes and degrees.

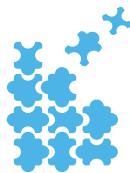
The European Higher Education Area (EHEA) aims to facilitate cooperation between systems, institutions, and individual staff and students throughout the EHEA and to work to make European higher education known and appreciated throughout the world. It gives a common identity to higher education across the EU, and makes it possible for European Higher Education to collaborate and compete with other large regional systems around the world- for example America and Asia New Zealand, China, Asia.

The EHEA now includes the concept of a qualifications framework with an emphasis on learning outcomes. The undergraduate/postgraduate degree structure has been modified into a three-cycle system, bachelor, master, and doctorate.

National qualifications frameworks are developed to be compatible with the overarching framework of qualifications of the EHEA. Ireland's National Framework of Qualifications was verified as compatible with qualifications framework of the EHEA; this means that higher education and training qualifications from Ireland are consistent with the EHEA bachelor, master and doctorate cycles.



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EUROPEAN
Higher Education Area

Benefits of the Bologna Process to students, teachers and employers.

- **Social Dimension** - Promotes wider access and participation of under-represented and disadvantaged groups in higher education.
- **Mobility** - Facilitating the mobility of staff students and graduates
- **Employability** - Encourages higher education institutions to equip graduates with transversal, multidisciplinary and entrepreneurial skills and competence to be able to gain initial employment, to maintain employment and to be able to move around within the labour market.
- **Easier recognition of Qualifications** - The overarching framework of qualifications for the EHEA establishes a common framework for higher education qualifications. The purpose of recognition is to make it possible for learners to use their qualifications from one education system in another education system (or country) without losing the real value of those qualifications.
- **Contributing to the improvement in Quality** - Co-ordinate European cooperation in quality assurance of higher education with a view to developing comparable criteria and methodologies.
- **Making the diversity of higher education in Europe more transparent** - Quality assurance, qualifications framework and recognition, together with the tools designed to facilitate their implementation, such as Diploma Supplement, European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) and the Lisbon Recognition Convention, have contributed substantially to this goal.

Where can I find out more?

If you want to know more about how the EHEA and the Bologna Process please visit the official Bologna Process website. <http://www.ehea.info/>

The Higher Education Authority acts as the national agency for the Erasmus+ programme and hosts the Irish Bologna website which includes useful information on how the Bologna Process has been implemented in Ireland. <http://www.eurireland.ie/>



Erasmus+



ESCO - European Skills/Competences,
qualifications and Occupations



Erasmus+



ESCO - European Skills/Competences,
qualifications and Occupations

ESCO

ESCO: A common language, bridging the worlds of work and education

ESCO is the multilingual classification of European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations. ESCO is part of the Europe 2020 strategy. ESCO identifies skills, competences, qualifications and occupations relevant for the EU labour market and education and training. It shows the relationships between these different concepts. ESCO has been developed in an open IT format, so it is available for use free of charge to everyone.

What are the benefits of ESCO?

- Facilitate the dialogue between the labour market and the education/training sector.
- Allow employment services to exchange relevant labour market information across borders.
- Boost online and skill-based job-matching.
- Facilitate geographical and occupational mobility through using a common understanding of terminology associated with occupations, competences and qualifications.
- Help employment services in the shift towards a skills and competences-oriented approach.
- Help describe qualifications in terms of knowledge, skills and competences.
- Enable the development of innovative career guidance services.
- Ultimately, getting more people into jobs throughout Europe!

ESCO supports other initiatives developed by the European Commission aimed at making labour market and education systems more transparent, stimulating mobility and creating opportunities.

- EURES, the European Job Mobility Portal, is an on-line portal that allows public employment services to share their vacancies at a European level and reach out to workers beyond national borders.
- Erasmus+ programme enables Europeans to study in another Member State and bring new skills and competences back to their country of origin.
- The European Qualifications Framework aims to increase the comparability of levels of qualifications across borders.
- Europass-CV, a multilingual tool that provides a European template for the description of the holder's skills, competences, qualifications and professional achievements.



Erasmus+



ESCO - European Skills/Competences,
qualifications and Occupations

Where can I find out more?

The European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations website is available at:
<https://ec.europa.eu/esco/home>



Erasmus+





EUROGUIDANCE IRELAND

Start Here, Go Anywhere!

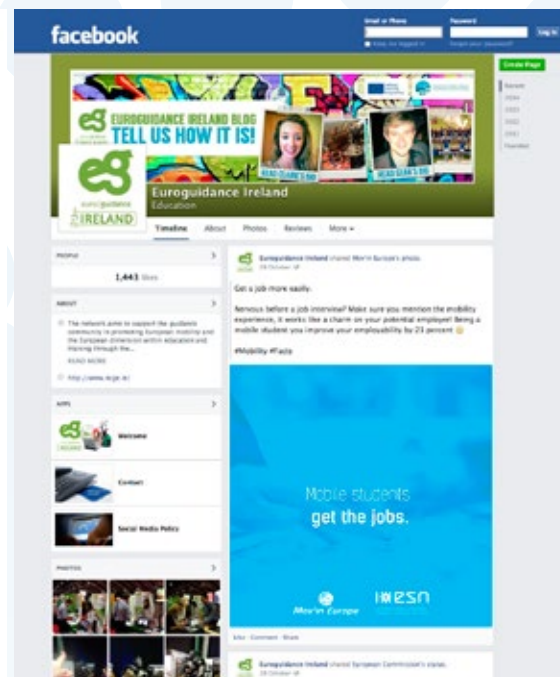
www.ncge.ie/europe/euroguidance-centre-ireland/

www.euroguidance.ie

www.euroguidance.eu

Information and on-line tools to support the guidance community and individuals in their decision to study in Europe.

To find out more visit www.euroguidance.ie and begin your journey!



Erasmus+



What is Euroguidance?

Euroguidance is a European network of national resource and information Centres for guidance. Euroguidance Centres operate in 34 countries, with 67 Centres (and growing!). Euroguidance Centres share the common goals of promoting the European dimension in guidance and providing quality information on lifelong guidance and mobility for learning purposes.

Euroguidance promotes the European dimension in guidance by supporting national and international networking of guidance practitioners, organising seminars, training and study visits, promoting cooperation among stakeholders in guidance internationally and collaborating with the European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network (ELGPN).

Euroguidance provides quality information on lifelong guidance and mobility for learning purposes including international mobility opportunities; education, training and guidance systems in the EU, EEA member states and the candidate countries; European initiatives and programmes within the field of education, training and mobility and project results, innovative working methods; and good practice in the field of lifelong guidance

The Euroguidance Centres provide answers to queries submitted through PLOTEUS – the European portal on learning opportunities. Euroguidance Centres are partly financed by European commission's Erasmus + programme and partly by national funding sources.

The main target group of Euroguidance is guidance practitioners and policy makers from both the educational and employment sectors in all European countries.

The Irish Euroguidance Centre is located in the National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE) and is the lead country in the Development of a Cloud-based Solution for Interconnection of National Datasources to PLOTEUS II project funded by the European Commission and national funding sources.

Why use Euroguidance Ireland?

Euroguidance Ireland is a free, impartial information service funded by the European Commission and the Department of Education and Skills. Euroguidance Ireland is part of a network of guidance professionals in Europe and can access expert, localised information for the guidance community. Euroguidance Ireland provides a wealth of resources for guidance counsellors and individuals, including the Euroguidance Ireland Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/EuroguidanceIreland>, the Euroguidance Ireland website www.euroguidance.ie, the Euroguidance Ireland Blog <http://blog.euroguidance.ie/>, while actively contributing to PLOTEUS <http://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/>.

How do I use Euroguidance Ireland?

Log on to www.euroguidance.ie and begin your journey!

Where do I find out more about Euroguidance Ireland?

Visit our website: www.euroguidance.ie, or through the NCGE website at: <http://www.ncge.ie/europe/euroguidance-centre-ireland/>

Follow us on Facebook to stay informed and receive alerts about our work, and about opportunities to work, study or volunteer in Ireland and overseas. Speak to the Euroguidance Ireland team or meet them at events nationally.





PLOTEUS

Portal on Learning Opportunities Throughout the European Space

<http://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/>.

<http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/a/a4/Ploteus.gif>

www.tempus.ac.rs/uploads/images/Euroguidance_logo_basic_color.jpg

<http://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/>

PLOTEUS is an acronym of Portal on Learning Opportunities Throughout European Space, meaning 'navigator' in ancient Greek.

It is a European Union web portal, coordinated by the European's Commission Directorate-General for Education and Culture (DGEAC). It aims to help citizens find out about education and training opportunities throughout the European Union. The portal offers easy access to a comprehensive source of information on educational opportunities in Europe. PLOTEUS has been prioritised as a 'project of common interest' by the European Commission (Commission Decision of 23 December 2002, article 8.2.c).

The portal is run by the Euroguidance network (www.euroguidance.eu) and financed by the Erasmus + (formerly the Leonardo da Vinci programme and the Lifelong Learning programmes). It is interconnected with EURES, the European Commission's portal on job mobility information and the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). Both PLOTEUS and EURES are considered examples of "pan-European services". Following on from the launch of PLOTEUS and EURES in 2003, the Bologna process drive to favour student mobility in Europe was further expanded in 2004 with the launch of the Europass program, which is accessible from the EURES portal, as well as PLOTEUS.

The portal was officially launched in March 2003 by Viviane Reding, the Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth, Media and Sport, with the aim of making it easier for citizens to find the necessary information to study and train in another part of Europe. It provides information on education systems, qualifications, grants and tuition fees in the EU countries. It also provides practical help on matters such as finding a place to stay, living costs, the legal aspects of studying abroad, taxes, and social security as well as facilitating exchange programmes and the process of moving from one Member State to another. In this first phase, the portal provided access to about 5,000 links available in 11 languages.



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The European Parliament and the European Council further supported transnational web-based services such as PLOTEUS with the introduction of the second phase of the project, PLOTEUS II. This phase was to make it possible to query directly the content of national databases through the interface of the European portal, and thus to obtain direct answers to specific queries about single courses. In order to interconnect national databases in the European portal, a common protocol was developed in collaboration with the Euroguidance Network.

In 2010, its promotion was incorporated in the Youth on the Move campaign launched by the European Commission to extend opportunities for learning mobility to all young people in Europe by 2020. The Council Recommendation (28 June 2011) indicated that member states should cooperate with the Commission to further develop and update the PLOTEUS portal on learning opportunities, by increasing the number of national information resources which citizens can directly access through the multilingual PLOTEUS interface.

The Irish Euroguidance Centre, located within the National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE), took a lead role in this second phase, PLOTEUS II. As part of Ireland's membership of the PLOTEUS coordination group, it designed and implemented a pilot project to explore alternative mechanisms for connecting National Data Sources (NDSS) to the PLOTEUS portal in 2010 and 2011. Several significant developments were made as part of this pilot. The interconnection architecture devised and implemented as part of this pilot has now been adopted as the only supported mechanism for member states to connect their national data sources to the PLOTEUS portal. This architecture is also being considered as the only mechanism by which member states will connect their national qualifications databases (NQF in Ireland) to a central European portal. On the basis of this pilot project, an interconnection of national databases has been implemented using web services as a technical solution.

The Commission further has further supported the development of the portal by providing financial support to countries wishing to develop their own national data feed in order encourage maximum participation in PLOTEUS II. The Irish Euroguidance Centre is also the lead country in this phase of PLOTEUS II, undertaking the Development of a Cloud-based Solution for Interconnection of National Datasources to PLOTEUS II project funded by the European Commission and national funding sources while actively contributing a national data feed to PLOTEUS.





ELGPN

European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network (ELGPN)

www.ncge.ie/europe/european-lifelong-guidance-policy-network

www.elgpn.eu

What is the European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network (ELGPN)

The ELGPN is a network of 31 member countries working to promote co-operation at Member State level in implementing the priorities identified in the EU Resolutions on Lifelong Guidance (2004; 2008). The four key priority areas of the Resolutions focus on Access to, and Co-ordination and Co-operation across the guidance sectors; the development of Quality Assurance and evidence gathering systems, and the development of Career Management Skills in guidance for individuals.

ELGPN currently consists of 31 member countries

(AT, BE, BG, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, EL, ES, FI, FR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LV, LT, LU, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SK, SI, TR, UK).

The aim of the ELGPN is to assist the European Union (EU) Member States, the neighbouring countries eligible for the EU Lifelong Learning Programme, and the European Commission in developing European co-operation on lifelong guidance in both the education and the employment sectors. The network was established by the Member States. The EU Commission supports its activities under the Lifelong Learning Programme 2007-13 and Erasmus + in 2014.

What does the ELGPN do?

ELGPN meets at least twice per year, with meetings held in the host country of the EU Presidency. At these Plenary meetings, the members collaborate through working groups / policy clusters to develop the areas of Career Management Skills and Quality Assurance and Evidence in guidance, and Access and Co-operation and Co-ordination in guidance.

What is Ireland's involvement in the ELGPN?

Ireland has participated as a Full member of the ELGPN since 2011, and participated as an Observer from 2008 – 2010. The National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE) is the designated representative for Ireland at the ELGPN.



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Currently, Ireland is actively involved in the Policy Cluster Group on Career Management Skills, working with 18 other countries to develop the guidelines in this area.

Ireland also acts as the Lead Country in the Quality Assurance and Evidence base policy cluster group, to develop the ELGPN proposed QA system for guidance services across EU.

The ELGPN works closely with other Networks internationally and across the EU – including the International Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance (IAEVG www.iaevg.org/IAEVG) and the International Centre for Career Development and Public Policy (ICCDPP <http://iccdpp.org>). We collaborate with the HoPES network and the Euroguidance Network at EU and national levels.

Why is ELGPN relevant to me?

The ELGPN is involved in supporting Member States to develop and implement policies identified within the EU Council Resolutions on guidance. Hence, the ELGPN does not provide guidance service directly to the individual. However, in the development of guidance systems at national or local level, the publications of the ELGPN will inform and support systems development which will, in turn, benefit the individual.

Where do I find out more?

- Visit the NCGE website www.ncge.ie/europe/european-lifelong-guidance-policy-network
- Visit the ELGPN website www.elgpn.eu
- Contact NCGE on ncgeinfo@ncge.ie for more details



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



Erasmus+



enic-naric.net
gateway to recognition of academic and professional qualifications

ENIC-NARIC





QQI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
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Qualifications Recognition Advice Service (ENIC-NARIC Centre)

FACILITATING THE RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN QUALIFICATIONS IN IRELAND
&
PROMOTING THE RECOGNITION OF IRISH QUALIFICATIONS ABROAD



**Offering
advice on
the academic
recognition
of foreign
qualifications**

**Offering
information
to individuals,
employers, education
and training providers,
and professional
recognition
bodies**

**Promoting
understanding of
the Irish education
system abroad**



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**National Framework
of Qualifications**



QQI

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What is the Qualifications Recognition Advice Service?

The Qualifications Recognition Advice Service, based at Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI), provides advice on the academic recognition of foreign qualifications. Further, the service offers information on the Irish qualifications and education systems.

We are the Irish centre in an international network known as ENIC-NARIC (European Network of Information Centres / National Academic Recognition Information Centres). This network shares information on qualifications and education systems around the world as a way of aiding academic recognition and mobility. Further information and contact details for each centre are available at www.enic-naric.net.

Why use the Qualifications Recognition Advice Service?

The Qualifications Recognition Advice Service uses Ireland's National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) to provide academic recognition advice on foreign qualifications. The service aims to compare a foreign qualification to a qualification at a particular level on the NFQ.

This information can help individuals to make informed decisions about qualification choices and consider progression opportunities available to them. The information we provide may also help an employer, professional recognition body or education and training provider determine if an applicant holds an appropriate qualification for employment/programme entry.

Similarly, information provided on the Irish education system helps individuals travelling with their Irish qualifications gain fair recognition. Our advice helps recognition authorities abroad easily access relevant information to make informed decisions about the fair recognition of qualifications in their own context.

How do I use the Qualifications Recognition Advice Service?

Log onto www.QQI.ie and look for Qualifications Recognition Advice Service under the 'What We Do' tab. Here, you will find access points to:

- **Recognition Advice Database:** Comparability statements for over 200 qualifications from various countries can be downloaded from our Recognition Advice Database (NARIC tab on QSearch) at your convenience. These comparability statements are designed to help employers, institutions and individuals understand foreign qualifications and access advice on their comparability in Ireland.
- **Irish Country Education Profile:** We maintain a detailed description of the Irish education and training system on our website to help those travelling abroad with Irish qualifications.
- Details of our projects and development work, in Ireland and internationally.
- Our online supports for accessing information and submitting queries.



Erasmus+







EUROPASS

Show what you know with Europass and your European Skills Passport

Use five free on-line tools to help showcase your skills and achievements



Europass CV – a standard CV template to help you get the job or course you want

- Easy to use with embedded tips, cues and clues
- Allows you embed references and other documents
- Puts you at the heart of Europe-wide searches for talent



Europass Certificate Supplement

- Explains your vocational qualification, available on-line, issued by QQI for major, supplemental and special purpose awards at levels 5 and 6



Europass Diploma Supplement

- Explains your higher education qualification, issued and personalised to you, by your higher education institution



Europass Language Passport

- Benchmark your language skills to a common European standard



Europass Mobility

- Keep a formal record of time spent abroad learning and training

Find out more

View www.europass.ie and follow the signposts!



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www.europass.ie



What is Europass?

Europass is an EU-wide service working to make sure that people's skills, abilities and qualifications are understood across Europe. Europass provides a set of practical tools that help make lifelong learning, recognition and mobility possible.

Europass tools are used by individuals, employers, education and training colleges and institutions across Europe.

There are five tools to complete and store in a personalised electronic portfolio known as the **European Skills Passport**. The tools are user-friendly standardised templates that you can tailor for specific purposes.



Europass CV



Europass Certificate Supplement



Europass Diploma Supplement



Europass Language Passport



Europass Mobility



European Skills Passport

organise all your career development records in your own e-portfolio

Why use Europass?

Europass

- helps you manage your career records and documents efficiently. Use the European Skills Passport as your personal career management system, keeping all your records in one place
- helps you develop your career, accessing employment at home and in different countries
- showcases your skills and achievements according to a common format that makes it easy for employers to see your unique selling points
- documents upload to EU employer search engines, putting you at the heart of the global search for talent

How do I use Europass?

- Log on to www.europass.ie and follow the signposts to the documents that interest you

Where do I find out more?

- Visit our website: **www.europass.ie**
- Follow us on Facebook and on Twitter to stay informed and receive alerts about opportunities to work, study or volunteer in Ireland and overseas, or meet us at national events





EURES IRELAND

European Employment Services

What is EURES?

EURES (European Employment Services) was established by the European Commission in 1993 to facilitate the free movement of workers between the European Union/ European Economic Area countries. In Ireland, EURES operates under the Department of Social Protection and has 18 Advisers across the country.

At European Level, EURES is a co-operation network formed by public employment services in all EU/EEA countries plus Switzerland. The purpose of EURES is to provide information, advice, and recruitment/placement (job-matching) services for the benefit of workers and employers as well as any citizen wishing to benefit from the principle of the free movement of persons.

Why EURES?

All EURES services are completely FREE for both employers and jobseekers

As a jobseeker, availing of EURES services can open up new doors for you and your career. EURES can provide you with the latest labour market information and advice about your job search in Europe. There are over 2 million vacancies on the EURES portal and our EURES Advisers are ready to help, so why wait?

As an employer, EURES can open your business up to a whole continent of talent and skills. Sometimes companies have positions that are hard to fill from the local or national labour market. Whether it is a specific language, skillset or business acumen that your company needs, let EURES help you find the people you need.

EURES Portal

The EURES Portal is an online job mobility portal. As a jobseeker, it gives you access to over 2 million vacancies and over 2,000 employers. You can create an account online, build a skills passport or upload your CV to apply for jobs across Europe that suit you. But that's not all, the EURES Portal is for employers too. As an employer you can advertise a vacancy or search for certain skills to help you fill your vacancy with the perfect candidate and the skills you require. www.eures.europa.eu

Support Network

EURES provides more than just an online service. Through our network of 900+ EURES Advisers we provide individual service to both jobseekers and employers to help them with their labour market needs. EURES Advisers can provide you with information and guidance on using the EURES Portal, living and working in another European country, and finding the skills or languages that your business needs by recruiting through the European labour market.



UNDERSTAND
DIRECT
ADVISE
HELP
INFORM
INTEGRATE

European Job Days



EURES has a packed calendar of European Job Days and other events all over Europe. European Job Days are events for employers and jobseekers to meet and discuss opportunities, as well as meet with EURES advisers to find more information about recruiting from, or working in, another European country. These events can be both online and on-site, so log on or drop in and find out what EURES can do for you. You can find a detailed calendar of events online at the EURES Portal.

DIALOG

Dialog is a communication platform with migrant workers. Through DIALOG, EURES Ireland aims to provide migrant workers with information and advice that will help with integration in local communities. For more information contact your local EURES adviser or visit welfare.ie

How and Where?

Visit the EURES Portal at www.eures.europa.eu. Here you can also find contact details for EURES advisers across Ireland and Europe.

-  facebook.com/EURESireland
-  [@EURESireland](https://twitter.com/EURESireland)
-  eures@welfare.ie



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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Irish Reference Group for EU Initiatives in Education and Skills

Term	Description of Term	Website
BFUG	Bologna Follow-Up Group - The BFUG oversees the Bologna Process between the ministerial meetings and meets at least once every six months, usually for one-and-a-half days.	www.ehea.info
CEFR	Common European Framework of Reference for Languages - provides a common basis for the elaboration of language syllabuses, curriculum guidelines, examinations, textbooks, etc. across Europe.	http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/linguistic/cadre1_en.asp
DSP	Department of Social Protection	www.welfare.ie
EASQ	European Area of Skills and Qualifications - This is the title given to the consultation process on skills and qualifications policy managed by the EU in 2014 and reflects the ambition for further integration of the European instruments for transparency and mobility.	https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding/erasmus-charter-for-higher-education-2014-2020_en
ECHE	Erasmus Charter for Higher Education: An accreditation granted by the European Commission giving the possibility to higher education institutions from Programme Countries to be eligible to apply and participate in learning and cooperation activities under Erasmus+. The Charter outlines the fundamental principles an institution should adhere to in organising and implementing high quality mobility and cooperation and states the requisites it agrees to comply with in order to ensure high quality services and procedures as well as the provision of reliable and transparent information.	https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus/funding/erasmus-charter-for-higher-education-2014-2020_en
ECTS	European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System - The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) is a tool that helps to design, describe, and deliver study programmes and award higher education qualifications.	http://ec.europa.eu/education/tools/ects_en.htm
ECVET	European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training - is designed to facilitate the transfer, accumulation and recognition of people's learning outcomes, from one VET system to another, or from an informal learning situation to a formal learning context.	http://ec.europa.eu/education/policy/vocational-policy/ecvet_en.htm
EHEA	European Higher Education Area - The EHEA aims to facilitate cooperation between systems, institutions, and individual staff and students throughout the EHEA and to make European higher education known and appreciated throughout the world. The EHEA is meant to ensure more comparable, compatible and coherent systems of higher education in Europe.	www.ehea.info

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**QQI**Quality and Qualifications Ireland
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ELGPN	European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network - The European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network, ELGPN aims to assist the European Union (EU) Member States (and the neighbouring countries eligible for the EU Lifelong Learning Programme) and the European Commission in developing European co-operation on lifelong guidance in both the education and the employment sectors. Its purpose is to promote co-operation at Member State level in implementing the priorities identified in the EU Resolutions on Lifelong Guidance (2004; 2008).	www.elgpn.eu
ENIC-NARIC	European Network of Information Centres - The Council of Europe and UNESCO established the ENIC Network in 1994 in order to develop joint policy and practice in all European countries for the recognition of qualifications. National Academic Recognition Information Centres - The NARIC Network is similar to the ENIC Network but is supported by the European Commission.	http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/highereducation/recognition/enic_EN.asp
ENQA	European Network of Quality Assurance in Higher Education - is an umbrella organisation which represents quality assurance organisations from the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) member states. ENQA promotes European co-operation in the field of quality assurance in higher education and disseminates information and expertise among its members and towards stakeholders in order to develop and share good practice and to foster the European dimension of quality assurance.	www.enqa.eu
EQAVET	European Quality Assurance in Vocational Education and Training - is a community of practice bringing together Member States, Social Partners and the European Commission to promote European collaboration in developing and improving quality assurance in VET by using the European Quality Assurance Reference Framework.	http://www.eqavet.eu/gns/home.aspx
EQF	European Qualifications Framework - is an overarching qualifications framework, or common European reference framework, which links countries' qualifications systems together, acting as a translation device to make qualifications more readable and understandable across different countries and systems in Europe.	http://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/en
EQF - AG	European Qualifications Framework Advisory Group - Assist the Commission in implementing the recommendations.	http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=groupDetail.groupDetail&groupID=2107

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ERASMUS+	Erasmus+ brings together seven existing EU programmes in the fields of Education, Training, and Youth; it will for the first time provide support for Sport. As an integrated programme, Erasmus+ offers more opportunities for cooperation across the Education , Training , Youth , and Sport sectors and is easier to access than its predecessors, with simplified funding rules.	http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/index_en.htm
ESCO	European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations - ESCO is a multilingual classification of European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations relevant for the EU labour market and education and training.	https://ec.europa.eu/esco/home
EURES	European Employment Services - A network coordinated by the European Commission to facilitate the free movement of labour throughout the European Economic Area and Switzerland.	www.eures.europa.eu
EURO-GUIDANCE	Euroguidance - Euroguidance Ireland, based in NCGE, promotes mobility and learning opportunities across EU as part of a network of 66 Centres.	www.euroguidance.ie
HEA	Higher Education Authority - The Higher Education Authority is the statutory planning and policy development body for higher education and research in Ireland.	www.heai.ie
HEI	Higher Education Institution - Providers of Higher Education.	http://www.education.ie/en/The-Education-System/Higher-Education/
HOPES	Heads of Public Employment Services	http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=105&langId=en
ISCO	International Standard Classification of Occupations - ISCO is a tool for organising jobs into a clearly defined set of groups according to the tasks and duties undertaken in the job.	http://www.ilo.org/public/english/bureau/stat/isco/
LÉARGAS	LÉARGAS - Léargas manages national and international exchange and cooperation programmes in education, youth and community work, vocational education and training and adult education. Léargas is appointed by the Department of Education and Skills to manage the Erasmus+ programme in Ireland, jointly with the Higher Education Authority.	www.leargas.ie
NCGE	National Centre for Guidance in Education - The National Centre for Guidance in Education is an agency of the Department of Education and Skills, with responsibility to support and develop guidance practice in all areas of education and to inform the policy of the Department in the field of guidance.	www.ncge.ie

**Erasmus+**www.QQI.ie

**QQI**

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NEC	National Europass Centre - Europass is an EU wide service helping to make sure that skills, qualifications and achievements are recognised and understood across Europe using five common tools in common template. The National Europass Centre is hosted in QQI.	www.europass.ie
NFQ	National Framework of Qualifications - The National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) is a ten-level system (1 - 10) giving an academic or vocational value to qualifications obtained in Ireland.	www.nfq.ie
NRP	National Reference Point for vocational qualifications promotes the recognition of Irish vocational qualifications throughout Europe.	http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/en/documents/european-skills-passport/certificate-supplement/national-reference-
VET	Vocational Education and Training - Education and training which aims to equip people with knowledge, know-how, skills and/ or competences required in particular occupations or more broadly on the labour market.	

**Erasmus+**www.QQI.ie



Irish Reference Group for EU Initiatives in Education and Skills

Background Context

The education and training sector in Ireland under the leadership of the Department of Education and Skills, participates in a wide range of EU programmes of work, initiatives and working groups, in a leadership or representative capacity. Typically these activities relate to the core mission and remit of the individual agency and service where these connect to the overarching context of creating an EU-wide Area of Skills and Qualifications and more critically, to our need to ensure coherent national responses and development.

As agencies and as individuals, we represent Ireland and implement EU initiatives and programmes nationally.

It can be challenging for stakeholders, service users and different programme teams to understand the different initiatives, to relate one to another and to see where the benefits of the work may apply in different contexts.

QQI, in collaboration with Léargas and Euroguidance at the National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE), is hosting an EU Reference Group in 2014 to address some of these issues and to allow stakeholders consider possible linkages and efficiencies recognising the context of reduced national resources.

This Reference Group for the first time will give an opportunity for common sharing of education and training actions and plans across all sectors within education and training.



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Purpose

The Irish Reference Group for EU Initiatives in Education and Skills will

- Provide an opportunity to showcase a range of EU initiatives, working groups and projects in the education and training sector in a broad policy context
- Promote understanding of each programme's unique selling point and contribution
- Assist in the identification of potential synergies with existing stakeholder plans and promote possible efficiencies through sharing objectives, key events, outputs, directions etc.
- Support the development of a publication by November 2014 outlining succinctly and in a common format, the purpose, aims, and intended benefits of each programme.
- Review the contribution and methodology of the Reference Group to determine continuance and governance beyond 2014
- Collaborate and connect with each other to disseminate information and opportunities among the relevant constituencies
- Assist in the coordination of a national response to relevant European policy developments in education and training

Methodology

It is proposed that the group would meet periodically, providing for the initial introduction of programmes of work and for general updates. Participants may be invited to comment on relevant policy developments, programme work plans, publications, or other proposals between meetings.

It is intended that the Reference Group would meet again in November 2014.

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Evaluation and Feedback



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Your feedback and contribution is **CRITICAL** to us as we evaluate the usefulness of this forum and consider best approaches to future planning.

Name of Agency/ Institution _____

The Reference Group aims to showcase EU initiatives in education and skills that support 'mobility' and 'transparency'.

Q1. Please answer *Yes or No* to the following questions/ statements.

Is it useful for you to receive a periodic update on EU actions?

☐ Yes

☐ No

(a) Please comment on the Terms of Reference (see page 4).

Should this Group continue in 2015?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Q2. The initiatives presented are being actively promoted.

How can we best serve you and your clients/ service users?

	You/ your Agency	Your clients/ service users
E-zine		
Face-to-face meetings		
One stop shop meeting		
Attendance at national events/ fairs		
Range of online promotional materials		
Social media		
Range of print promotional materials		
Video / audio visual tools		

Please turn over



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Q3. Please rate the usefulness of the elements of today's meeting.

	Very useful	Somewhat useful	Not very useful
Policy context overview			
European Qualifications Frameworks and ESCO			
European Lifelong Learning Guidance Policy Network, Ploteus and Euroguidance			
ENIC-NARIC – Facilitating the recognition of qualifications			
Erasmus+ (School Education, VET, Adult Education, Youth)			
Erasmus+ (Higher Education)			
The National Europass Centre			
EURES			
Opportunity to influence/ share directions			
Networking opportunities			

Q4. How can we improve the quality of such meetings for you?

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Pace of agenda items | <input type="checkbox"/> Too Fast | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Too slow |
| Quality of presentation | <input type="checkbox"/> Clear | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately clear | <input type="checkbox"/> Not clear |
| Quality of documentations | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately good | <input type="checkbox"/> Need improvement |
| Venue | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately good | <input type="checkbox"/> Low |

Comment:



**QQI**Quality and Qualifications Ireland
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Q5. Which of the following media does your Agency / Institution use to communicate? (Tick all that apply).

- ☐ Social media channels – ☐ Facebook ☐ Twitter ☐ LinkedIn
- ☐ Email (group/ working networks)
- ☐ Website
- ☐ E-zine
- ☐ Print publication / magazine
- ☐ Other (please specify)
- _____

Q6. Please answer the following questions.

- (a) Does your Agency/ Institution have a lead role in any EU Programme? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please name the EU Programme

- (b) Would you like an opportunity to share your EU related work? ☐ Yes ☐ No

- (c) Could you or your agency/ Institution (please circle).

Actively contribute to feedback from QQI, Léargas, the NCGE or EURES on EU policy related consultation?	Yes	No
Include an update on any of these initiatives at our next network opportunity within your own constituency?	Yes	No
Email your working groups to alert them to possibilities for them in what has been presented?	Yes	No
Invite a representative of a relevant EU programme to address a national forum you are involved in?	Yes	No
Disseminate materials for relevant initiatives as part of your routine work?	Yes	No

Please return the Completed Evaluation and Feedback Form to your table facilitator.

Thank you.
Please turn over



**QQI**

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Terms of Reference

Background Context

The education and training sector in Ireland under the leadership of the Department of Education and Skills, participates in a wide range of EU programmes of work, initiatives and working groups, in a leadership or representative capacity. Typically these activities relate to the core mission and remit of the individual agency and service where these connect to the overarching context of creating an EU-wide Area of Skills and Qualifications and more critically, to our need to ensure coherent national responses and development. As agencies and as individuals, we represent Ireland and implement EU initiatives and programmes nationally.

As agencies and as individuals, we represent Ireland and implement EU initiatives and programmes nationally.

It can be challenging for stakeholders, service users and different programme teams to understand the different initiatives, to relate one to another and to see where the benefits of the work may apply in different contexts.

QQI, in collaboration with Léargas and Euroguidance at the National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE), is hosting an EU Reference Group in 2014 to address some of these issues and to allow stakeholders consider possible linkages and efficiencies recognising the context of reduced national resources.

This Reference Group for the first time will give an opportunity for common sharing of education and training actions and plans across all sectors within education and training.

Purpose

The Irish Reference Group for EU Initiatives in Education and Skills will

- Provide an opportunity to showcase a range of EU initiatives, working groups and projects in the education and training sector in a broad policy context
- Promote understanding of each programme's unique selling point and contribution
- Assist in the identification of potential synergies with existing stakeholder plans and promote possible efficiencies through sharing objectives, key events, outputs, directions etc.
- Support the development of a publication by November 2014 outlining succinctly and in a common format, the purpose, aims, and intended benefits of each programme.
- Review the contribution and methodology of the Reference Group to determine continuance and governance beyond 2014. Collaborate and connect with each other to disseminate information and opportunities among the relevant constituencies
- Assist in the coordination of a national response to relevant European policy developments in education and training

Methodology

It is proposed that the group would meet periodically, providing for the initial introduction of programmes of work and for general updates. Participants may be invited to comment on relevant policy developments, programme work plans, publications, or other proposals between meetings.

It is intended that the Reference Group would meet again in November 2014.



Welcome

Dr Bryan Maguire

Head of Qualifications Services

Quality and Qualifications Ireland



Erasmus+

Policy Context

Brian Power

Head of Student Support and Equity of
Access to Higher Education,
Department of Education and Skills



Erasmus+

*Irish Reference Group for EU Initiatives in
Education and Skills*

POLICY CONTEXT

Clock Tower - 5th November 2014

Brian Power

Higher Education – Equity of Access and Qualifications

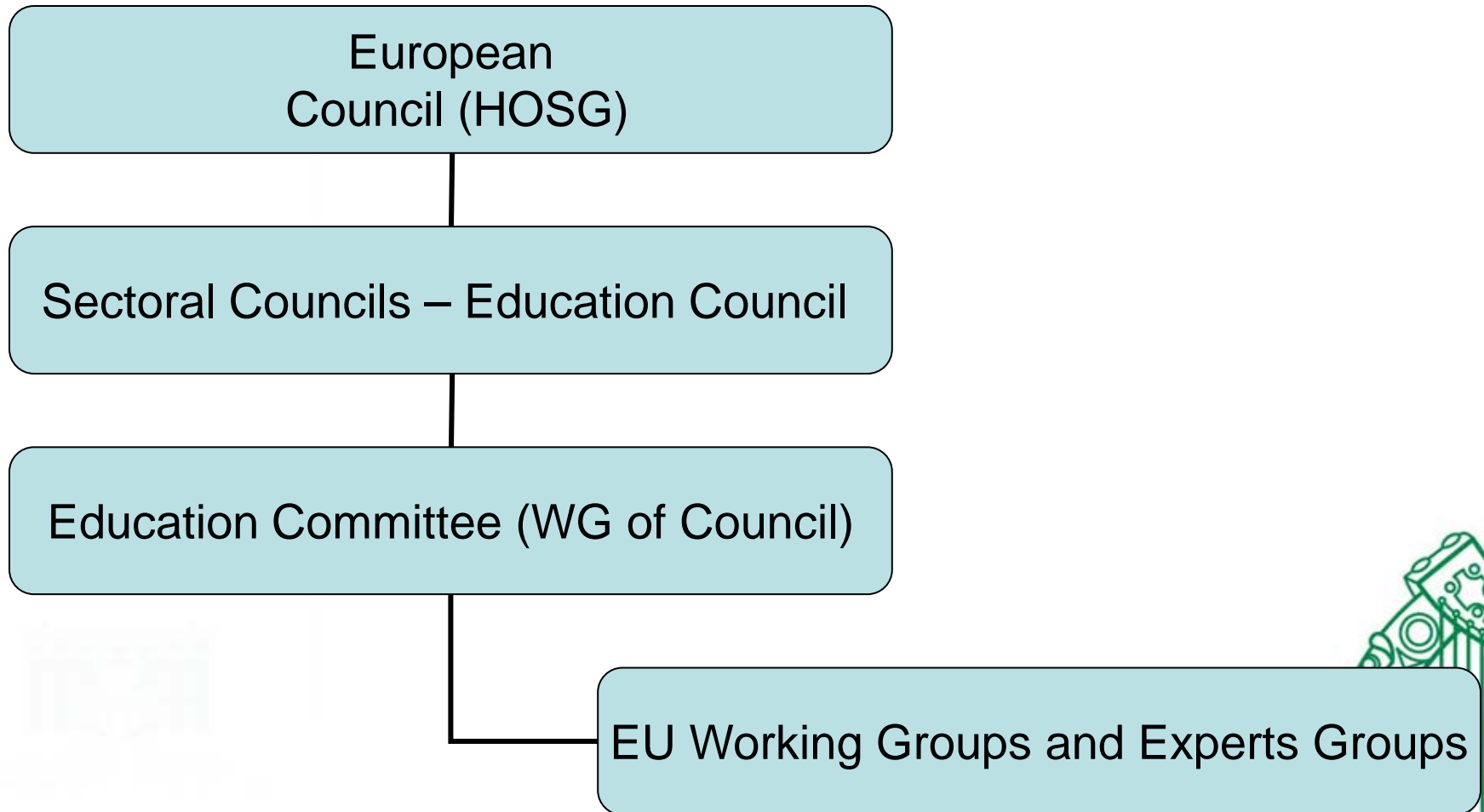


EU Competence in Education

- Member States - full responsibility for the content of education systems
- **EU's role** - encourage and facilitate cooperation
- Open Method of Coordination (OMC)



EU Decision making structure



EU Council & Education Council

- European Council
- 9 sectoral councils in the EU
- Education, Youth, Culture & Sport formation (EYCS)
- 3 Education Councils per year
- Meetings chaired by current Presidency



EU Policy objective - Education and training for growth and jobs

- Education and training - crucial for both economic and social progress
- Aligning skills with labour market needs plays a key role
- Europe 2020 strategy



Europe 2020 Strategy

- Response to the economic crisis
- Increasingly globalised and knowledge-based economy
- Europe needs a well-skilled workforce to compete globally
- Must compete in terms of productivity, quality, and innovation



Europe 2020 – Education

- Evidence suggests that 20% of the EU working age population has low literacy and numeracy skills
- Growing mismatch between the skills people acquire and what is demanded on the labour market
- These factors contribute to unemployment and limit growth



Europe 2020 - Headline Targets

- Education and training also bolster personal development and active citizenship and promote equity, social inclusion and cohesion
- EU set two headline targets in the area of education to be achieved by 2020
 - to bring the number of early school-leavers down to below 10%
 - to increase the share of graduates from tertiary education to at least 40%.



Europe 2020 – Ireland's Targets

- **Europe 2020 (EU 2020)**
- *Ireland's Headline Target:* To reduce the percentage of 18-24 year olds with at most lower secondary education and not in further education and training to 8%; to increase the share of 30-34 year olds who have completed tertiary or equivalent education to at least 60%.



Early School Leaving Actions:

The percentage of early school leavers in Ireland fell from 11.4% in 2010 to 8.4% in 2013.

- “Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools” (DEIS).
- National Strategy to improve literacy and numeracy
- Reform of the Junior Cycle
- Reform of the Further Education and Training Sector
- Review of the Apprenticeship System
- Community Training Centres
- Youthreach



Tertiary Education Actions:

The latest Eurostat data show that Ireland's tertiary attainment rate for 30-34 year olds was 52.6% in 2013. Since 2009, Ireland has the highest rate for this indicator of all EU27 countries.

- National Strategy for Higher Education
- System Performance Framework
- Springboard
- Government-Industry ICT Action Plan
- Widening participation – National Access Plan
- Reform of Financial Support for Students



Education & Training 2020 (ET 2020)

- The strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training
- Provides common strategic objectives for Member States
- Includes a set of principles for achieving these objectives
- Common working methods with priority areas for each periodic work cycle



Treaty Framework – ET 2020

- Responsibility for education and training systems lies with the member states (Articles 165, 166)
- EU has a key role in supporting and supplementing efforts to improve and modernise education systems



ET 2020 - Approach

- Outlines the objectives, instruments and arrangements for joint work at EU level
- Priority areas are identified to plan activities over work cycles of three years
- Progress is monitored with the help of indicators and against a set of benchmarks



What does it involve?

- Implementation of ET2020 through Working Groups composed of experts nominated by member countries and other key stakeholders
- Part of a broader cooperation, known as the Open Method of Coordination (OMC)



How does it work?

- Response to challenges that are identified at EU, national, and regional level
- Aims to promote mutual learning, exchange of good practices, fostering national reforms and developing EU-level tools
- Monitoring and assessing progress – peer pressure...



Open Method of Coordination

- A cooperation framework for MS
- Thematic Working Groups (TWGs)
 - » School policy
 - » Modernisation of Higher Education
 - » Adult Learning
 - » Vocational education and training
 - » Transversal skills
 - » Digital and online learning
- Other activities
 - » consultation and cooperation activities involving stakeholders such as learning providers, civil society, businesses, and social partner organisations



Future Direction

- Mid-term review of ET 2020 ongoing
- It is expected that Member States will agree a new direction for this strategy in 2015
- 2014-2020 - opportunities available through the new *Erasmus+* programme and ESF to improve the performance of education and training systems



THANK YOU

Brian Power
Principal Officer
Higher Education – Equity of Access and Qualifications



Erasmus+ - an overarching concept

Fionnuala Broughan
Communications Manager
LÉARGAS



Ten-second Introduction ...

- Léargas is an agency of the DES
- We manage national, European and international programmes in several fields*
- Together with the HEA, we manage Erasmus+ in Ireland, 2014-2020

*in School Education, Adult Education, VET, Youth

What I'll talk about

- Base talk on EU Reference Group TORs:
 - Showcase EU Initiatives
Overview of Erasmus+ structure and aims
 - Promote understanding of USP and contribution
Funding, benefits
 - Coordinate national response to relevant EU policy developments
Bring together national and EU priority and policy development and the needs on the ground
 - Collaborate and connect
That's why we're here today... and Léargas forum

2014-
2020

Erasmus+

Changing lives.
Opening minds.



Erasmus+



ABOUT ERASMUS+

Combines 7 EU education, training and youth programmes, and introduces sport for the first time

Total budget of €14.7 billion, representing a 40% budget increase



ERASMUS+ BRINGS...

An integrated, more accessible programme

A renewed focus on skills for employment

New opportunities for modernising teaching and learning

New partnerships between education and world of work

A bit more detail ...

- Erasmus+ is the EU's revised programme for education, training, youth and sport for 2014-2020
- Erasmus+ started on 1 January 2014 and replaces previous funding programmes run by the European Commission including:
 - Lifelong Learning Programme (Erasmus, Comenius, Leonardo, Grundtvig and Transversal)
 - Youth in Action (including Youth Exchanges, European Voluntary Service ...)
 - other international programmes including Jean Monnet and Erasmus Mundus
- It's closely tied in with EU policies ...

A background image of a modern library or study area. In the foreground, a young woman with long brown hair is sitting at a wooden desk, smiling at the camera. She has her chin resting on her hand. On the desk are two coffee cups, a laptop, and some papers. In the background, a young man is standing and looking at a book, and another young woman is standing and looking at a book. The scene is brightly lit with large windows in the background showing greenery outside.

E+ closer policy links

Europe 2020

E&T 2020

EU Youth co-op framework
2010-18

EU sport dimension

International dimension –
higher education and
youth

Three Main 'Key Actions'

KA 1: Learning mobility of individuals

- Staff mobility, in particular for teachers, trainers, school leaders and youth workers
- Mobility for students in higher education and in vocational education and training
- Youth volunteering and youth exchanges
- Master degree scheme
- Mobility for higher education for EU and non-EU beneficiaries

KA2: Cooperation for innovation and exchange of good practices

- Strategic Partnerships between education, training and/or youth organisations and other relevant actors
- IT-Platforms including EYP, eTwinning and EPALE
- Large-scale partnerships between education and training establishments and business: Knowledge Alliances and Sector Skills alliances
- Cooperation with Partner Countries

KA 3: Support for policy reform

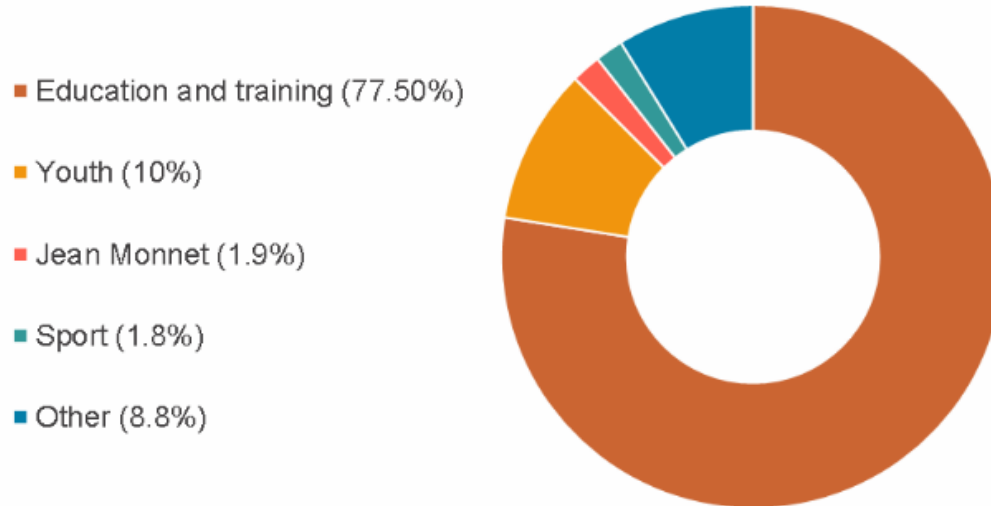
- Open method of Coordination
- EU tools: dissemination and exploitation
- Policy dialogue with stakeholders, non-EU countries and international organisations
- Large scale prospective initiatives

Some other elements ...

- **eTwinning: the community for schools in Europe**, enabling teachers to: connect and meet virtually; exchange ideas and practice examples; team up in Groups; learn together in Learning Events; engage in online-based projects.
- **EPALE: Electronic Platform for Adult Learning in Europe**, an online space to: exchange, showcase, and promote methods of good practice in adult education
- **EYP: European Youth Portal:** Information and opportunities for young people across Europe
- **Eurodesk:** provides free information on opportunities-such as travelling, working, studying and volunteering in Europe--for young people aged 13 - 30.
- **ECVET: European Credit System for Vocational Education and Training**, is a technical framework for the transfer, recognition and (where appropriate) accumulation of individuals' learning outcomes with a view to achieving a qualification.

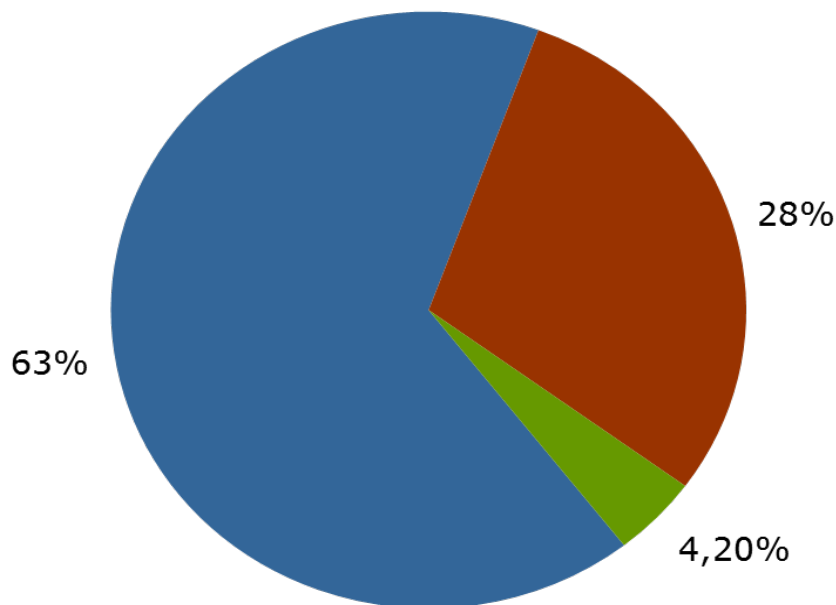
Erasmus+ Funding Allocation

Erasmus+ budget 14.7 billion euros



Erasmus+ Funding Allocation by Key Action

- KA1 (63%)
- KA2 (28%)
- KA3 (4,2%)



KA1: Mobility for Individuals

KA2: Strategic Partnerships; Alliances

KA3: Policy Reform

Erasmus+ Funding in Ireland

- Erasmus+ will provide **€14.7b** over seven years (increase of 40%)
- Erasmus+ will bring **€169m+** directly into the Irish system, 2014-2020
- Possible to access further funding indirectly through participation in centrally managed parts of KA 2 and 3

Erasmus+ Benefits for Individuals

- Adds value to and enhances qualifications; improves employability
- Enables a shift to more autonomous learning
- Improves social, intercultural and language skills
- Enhances appreciation of diversity
- Programme supports transnational experiences for all ages and sectors

Erasmus+ Benefits for Organisations

- Learn from practice on changes and reforms in other countries (applicable to *e.g.* Junior Cycle reform)
- Motivate staff and learners
- Direct access to new ways of teaching and learning
- New opportunities for CPD, R&D
- Transversal skills through project management
- Comparison with international standards (affirmation)
- Structured opportunities for cross-sectoral work
- Recognition of the value of non-formal learning
- Funding support in the wake of national cuts
- Etc.!

Erasmus+ Aims

- Improve key competences and skills
- Foster quality improvements, innovation excellence and internationalisation
- Enhance policy cooperation in European lifelong learning area
- Complement policy reforms to ensure development of evidence-based youth policy
- Enhance international dimension of education and training
- Improve language teaching and learning

Priorities in Strategic Partnerships

- **VET:** education-employment partnerships; labour-market relevance; transparency between VET systems
- **Schools:** reduce risk of early school leaving; improve basic skills; strengthen leaderships roles in education; improve ITE
- **Adult Ed.:** enhance basic skills; develop adult educators' competences; evaluate effectiveness of policies
- **Youth:** foster inclusion and employability (incl. NEETs); promote empowerment and active citizenship; promote entrepreneurship
- **Higher Ed.:** modernisation of EU's HE systems (2011 EU Modernisation Agenda; 2013 Communication on Opening Up Education)

Ireland – National Priorities

- **Learning for Life** *e.g.* literacy and numeracy; linking HE and FET; changes to Junior Cycle
- **Improving Quality and Accountability:** *e.g.* developing all teachers as professionals; introducing school self-evaluation; review apprenticeship training
- **Supporting Inclusion and Diversity:** *e.g.* additional supports to tackle educational disadvantage
- **Building the Right Systems** *e.g.* ETBs, QQI, NFQ; new ways of working...

Ireland – Participant Needs

- **Recognition** of value of international work and dimension (individuals and organisations)
- **Support for international work** at higher level (*e.g.* ETBs, JMB, ACCS *etc.*)
- **Models of practice** (esp. partnerships, cross-sectoral work); dissemination
- Partnerships with **industry and social partners**
- Peer groups (on- and offline) to **share experience and learning**; dissemination
- **Accessible information** on programme(s)
- **Continued support** from Léargas

Erasmus+, More information

- Grant funding focused on **institutions** not individuals
- Funding based primarily on **unit costs** (simplified reporting)
- eForms must be used
- Various new IT tools also in use
- Call for applications **deadlines** in education and training:
 - Key Action 1 (mobility): **04 March 2015**
 - Key Action 2 (strategic partnerships) : **31 March 2015**
 - Key Action 3 (policy reform): **various**

Erasmus+, Léargas goals for 2015

1. Continue our work on making Erasmus+ accessible to stakeholders *e.g.*:
 - support those getting to grips with complex application procedures
 - ensure the message about what can be done with the programme gets out to those who can benefit from it
 - continue consultation process with stakeholders
2. Work with organisations in all fields to raise their awareness of the possibilities of developing and meeting strategic goals within the framework of Erasmus+
3. Aim for 100% allocation of Erasmus+ funding in the fields we manage

Erasmus+ Léargas Forum

Thursday, 11 December - Dublin Castle

- eTwinning Quality Label awards
- Erasmus+ Café (exhibition of showcase projects, round table, Q&A on Erasmus+)
- Workshops on: Good practice models for international work; Improving employability for young people and adults; Erasmus+ consultation/performance framework/impact assessment
- ECVET group meeting
comms@leargas.ie

Erasmus+, Contact details

www.erasmusplus.ie

www.leargas.ie

info@leargas.ie

www.eurireland.ie

eurireland@hea.ie

Snapshots of Initiatives



Erasmus+

Qualifications Frameworks and European Skills Competences Occupations and Qualifications (ESCO)

John O'Connor

Qualifications Services

Quality and Qualifications Ireland



Erasmus+

European Qualifications Framework



- Comparison of qualifications across European Countries
- School, VET and Higher Education Qualifications
- Learning Outcomes Based
- Eight Levels with Descriptors
- Common Principles for Quality Assurance

European Qualifications Framework



2008 Recommendation

- Designate a National Coordination Point
- Reference National Qualifications System to EQF
- Indicate EQF level on Certificates, National Databases of Qualifications and Europass Supplements



European Area for Higher Education (Bologna Process)



- 1999 Process of European Cooperation in Higher Education
- 2005 Overarching Qualification Framework for the three cycles of higher education – Bachelor, Masters and Doctoral.
- 48 Countries
- Learning outcomes based
- Council of Europe
- Quality Assurance (ESG)





European Skills Competences Occupations and Qualifications (ESCO)

- Challenge
 - Heterogeneous IT and Classification systems at national level
 - Lack of communication between education and labour market
 - Skills Mismatch
- Solution – Common Language (Multi lingual, linked open data)

European Skills Competences Occupations and Qualifications (ESCO)



Erasmus+

European Skills Competences Occupations and Qualifications (ESCO)

- [ESCO Version 0](#)
- 24 official languages
- Three Pillars - Occupations Skills & Competencies and Qualifications
- Business Cases
 - Competency based job matching
 - Qualifications Development
 - Guidance
 - Labour Market Research
 - Human Resource Development



Thank You



European Lifelong Learning Guidance Policy Network, Ploteus and Euroguidance

Jennifer McKenzie & Hilary Lynch
National Centre for Guidance in
Education (NCGE)



Erasmus+

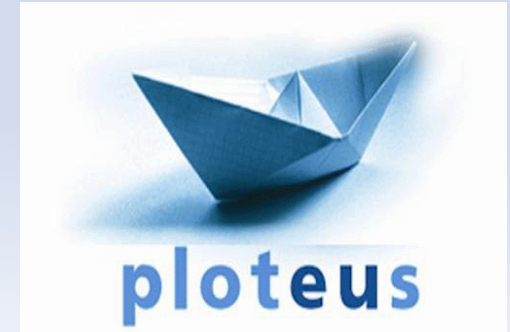


2008 Council Resolution on better integrating lifelong guidance into lifelong learning strategies : Strengthen European cooperation on lifelong guidance provision, in particular through the ELGPN, with the support of the Lifelong Learning Programme, and in liaison with CEDEFOP

- ***Career Management Skills-CMS***
- ***Access to Guidance Services***
- ***Quality Assurance in Guidance***
- ***Co-ordination & Co-operation of National, regional & local stakeholders***
- ***Work Programme 2013 -2014 - Produce European Guidelines***
- ***Ireland / NCGE - Lead country on Quality Assurance & Evidence based practice***
- ***Ireland / NCGE – active / leading member of CMS work***



Erasmus+



www.euroguidance.ie



ENIC-NARIC - Facilitating the recognition of qualifications

Niamh Lenehan

Qualifications Services

Quality and Qualifications Ireland



Erasmus+



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The ENIC-NARIC Network

enic-naric.net

gateway to recognition of academic and professional qualifications



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What is Recognition?

“A formal acknowledgement by a competent authority of the value of a foreign educational qualification with a view to access to educational and/or employment activities”

*Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region
(The Lisbon Recognition Convention, 1997)*



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Lisbon Recognition Convention (LRC)

- Ratified by Ireland in 2004
- Holders of qualifications issued in one country shall have access to an assessment of these qualifications in another country
- A qualification from abroad should be recognised as similar to the corresponding qualification in the host country, unless it can be shown that there are substantial differences between the latter qualification and the qualification for which recognition is sought



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Who?

- ENIC: European Network of Information Centres in the European Region
 - Set up by the Council of Europe/UNESCO in 1994
 - Made up of centres of Parties to the Lisbon Recognition Convention
- NARIC: National Academic Recognition Centres in the European Union
 - Set up by the European Commission in 1984



ENIC-NARIC Network

To help promote principles of the LRC, thereby improving recognition of qualifications and periods of learning



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The Irish ENIC-NARIC: How?

- Facilitates the recognition of foreign qualifications in Ireland by offering advice on how foreign qualifications compare to Irish qualifications placed on the NFQ – variety of stakeholders: award-holders, recruiters, employers, education institutions, guidance professionals, government departments.
- Applicants are issued with a statement of comparability which compares their qualification to an Irish award, e.g.
“... is comparable to an Honours Bachelor Degree which is placed at Level 8 on the Irish National Framework of Qualifications”
- Provides information on the Irish education and training system, promotes recognition of Irish qualifications abroad



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Home QSearch Publications Policies Reviews Programmes Awards Providers **NARIC** Exemptions Statistics

Foreign Qualifications

The Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) is used to facilitate recognition of foreign qualifications in Ireland. QQI aims to provide advice on the general academic recognition of a foreign qualification by comparing it, where possible, to a major award at a certain level on the NFQ. Please see comparability advice organised by country below. A comparability statement for each award is available for download by clicking on the qualification of interest.

Search

Country

Poland

Type of Education

--All--

Search Clear

12 Qualifications from Poland

Doktor

Irish Award Type: Doctoral Degree

NFQ Level: 10

Country: Poland



Lekarz

Irish Award Type: Masters Degree

NFQ Level: 9

Country: Poland



Licencjat/Inżynier

Irish Award Type: Honours Bachelor Degree

NFQ Level: 8

Country: Poland



Magister / Magister Inżynier

Irish Award Type: Masters Degree

NFQ Level: 9

Country: Poland



Świadectwo Dojrzałości/Maturalne

Irish Award Type: Leaving Certificate

NFQ Level: 4 / 5

Country: Poland



Świadectwo Ukończenia - Liceum

Ogólnokształcącego/Technicznego/Profilowanego

Irish Award Type: Leaving Certificate

NFQ Level: 4 / 5

Country: Poland



Świadectwo Ukończenia - Technikum/Technikum Zawodowego

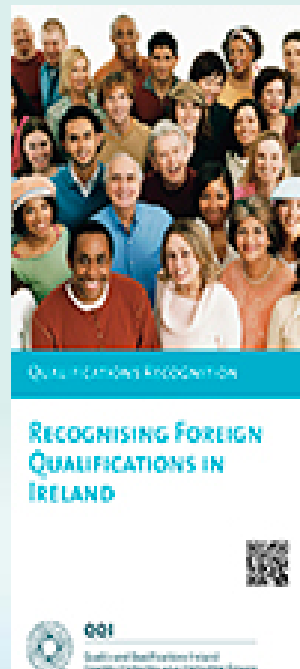




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Publications





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Quality and Qualifications Ireland
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Current Work / Future?

- Advice / information online – increasing capacity of stakeholders
- Active internationally: NARIC projects (reports published online)
- Policy development – national and international
- Further collaboration in terms of policies and initiatives in education such as Bologna, EQF, Europass and others such as immigration, integration



QQI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
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Questions?

- Qualifications Recognition Advice Service:

<http://www.qqi.ie/Pages/Qualifications-Recognition-Service.aspx>

- NARIC database on Qsearch:

<http://qsearch.qqi.ie/WebPart/Search?searchtype=recognitions>

Erasmus+ (Higher Education)

Gerry O'Sullivan

Head of International Education

Higher Education Authority



Erasmus+

The National Europass Centre

Andrina Wafer

Qualifications Services

Quality and Qualifications Ireland








Putting the U into Europe

Europass-mobility, transparency

- 5 documents, common template
- in your unique
- European Skills Passport

The Europass Tools



-  Europass CV
-  Europass Language Passport
-  Europass Mobility Document
-  Europass Certificate Supplement
-  Europass Diploma Supplement




Cover letter

European Skills Passport

Supported by the Erasmus+ programme
of the European Union



www.Europass.ie



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Europass website. At the top, there is a blue header with the Europass logo on the left and a navigation bar with links: Home, Contact Us, Site Map, and Search. Below the header, a banner image shows silhouettes of people in front of a city skyline. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- What is Europass?**: A section with an information icon and text explaining the initiative's purpose. It includes links for "What is Europass?", "What is Europass for?", "Benefits of Europass", and "Frequently Asked Questions".
- Europass Documents**: A section with a document icon and a "Create My..." button. Below it are links for "C.V.", "European Skills Passport", and "Language Passport".
- Information on...**: A section with links for "Mobility", "Certificate Supplement", and "Diploma Supplement".
- News Features**: A section with a news icon and text about the "Second meeting of the Irish Reference Group for EU Initiatives in Education and Skills". It includes a photo of a person and a link to "Read more".
- Europass CV: Showcase your skills**: A section with a photo of a person and a link to "Read more".
- Contact**: A section with an envelope icon and a link to "Contact Europass".
- Related Links**: A section with a globe icon and a link to "National Centres Links".
- Download**: A section with a download icon and links to "Europass Leaflet" and "Europass Factsheet".
- Irish Reference Group for EU Initiatives in Education and Skills**: A section with a link to "Read more".
- Find us on Facebook**: A section with a Facebook icon and a link to "Find us on Facebook".

At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with the text "Supported by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union" and the European Union flag.

Supported by the Erasmus+ programme
of the European Union



Europass Ireland on Facebook

A screenshot of the Europass Ireland Facebook page. The page header includes the Facebook logo, "Settings", and "Log out". Below this are tabs for "Page", "Activity", "Insights", and "Settings", along with "Build Audience" and "Help". The main cover photo features the website "www.europass.ie" with the tagline "Travelling abroad for work or study?", the Europass Ireland logo, and three circular images of people. The page name is "Europass Ireland Education". Below the cover photo are tabs for "Timeline", "About", "Photos", "Likes", and "More". The "Timeline" tab is active, showing a status update with the text "What have you been up to?". On the left, there are sections for "PEOPLE" (503 likes) and "Promote Your Page". On the right, there is a "THIS WEEK" summary showing 0 Page Likes, 223 Post Reach, 1 UNREAD Notification, and 0 Messages. Below this is a "Recent" section with years 2014 and 2013, and a "See Your Ad Here" section with a photo of a meeting.

Europass for Ireland

- Recruitment
- Access to opportunity
- *Free on-line service*
- Solid Career Management tools and practice
- Practical promotional materials and strategies



Where is Europass going?

- European Area of Skills and Qualifications
- Global context
- Interoperability, Compatibility



2014: Our Prize

- Schools using the Europass Curriculum Vitae, Skills Passport
- Higher Education Institutions promoting and using the Diploma Supplement
- FET graduates receiving and using Certificate Supplements
- Employers using Europass tools
- Collaboration, synergy, multipliers!
- *‘I mbéal an pobal’- Europass working for all of us*



EURES

European Employment Services

Mogue Kenny

Communications Coordinator

National Coordination Office EURES



Erasmus+



EURES

EUropean Employment Services

Irish Reference Group for EU Initiatives in Education and Skills
Clocktower Meeting, November 5th 2014



EURES

European Employment Services

- The EURES Network was established in 1993 by the European Commission to assist the free movement of workers between the EU/ EEA countries.



EURES

European Employment Services

Principle Functions:

- Promote mobility in the European Labour Market.
- Provide **jobseekers** with placement opportunities in Europe including pre-departure and on-arrival advice and counselling on working abroad.
- Provide **employers** with a European wide matching and placement service. Provide information on all aspects of European recruitment.



At European level, EURES is:

- A cooperation network formed by public employment services in 32 countries (the 28 members of the European Union, plus Norway, Liechtenstein and Iceland and Switzerland). Trade unions and employers' organisations also participate as partners.
- 1000+ specially trained European Employment Counsellors (EURES Advisers).
- European databank of employment opportunities. The EURES Portal: (www.eures.europa.eu).

The European Job Mobility Portal

Legal notice | Cookies | Contact | Search | English (en) ▼



EURES

The European Job Mobility Portal

European Commission > EURES

Home | News | Events | Statistics | Help and support | Links

For full access, please : [LOGIN](#) or register at EURES

Jobseekers

Employers

Living & Working

Skills & Careers

About us

Advanced search

EURES: The European Jobs Network.

Explore your European potential.

- 2,459,177 job vacancies
- 104,719 CVs
- 2,544 Employers
- 1,016 EURES Advisers

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU ?

I'm a Jobseeker.

> SEARCH FOR A JOB

You can also:

Create EURES account

Create your CV online

Create your Skills Passport [New](#)

Contact EURES Adviser

What can EURES do for you?

I'm an Employer.

> FIND CANDIDATES

You can also:

Create EURES account

Advertise a job

Search for Skills Passports [New](#)

Contact EURES Adviser

What can EURES do for you?



Living & Working

Get prepared for your move! Find practical information and facts on labour market trends in each European country.

> More about Living & Working



Skills & Careers

Broaden your career prospects by acquiring new skills! Find education and training opportunities throughout Europe.

> More about Skills & Careers

Latest News

> All News



Join our upcoming thematic chats or have a look at our closing dates!

< prev | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | next >

EURES Ireland Staffing:

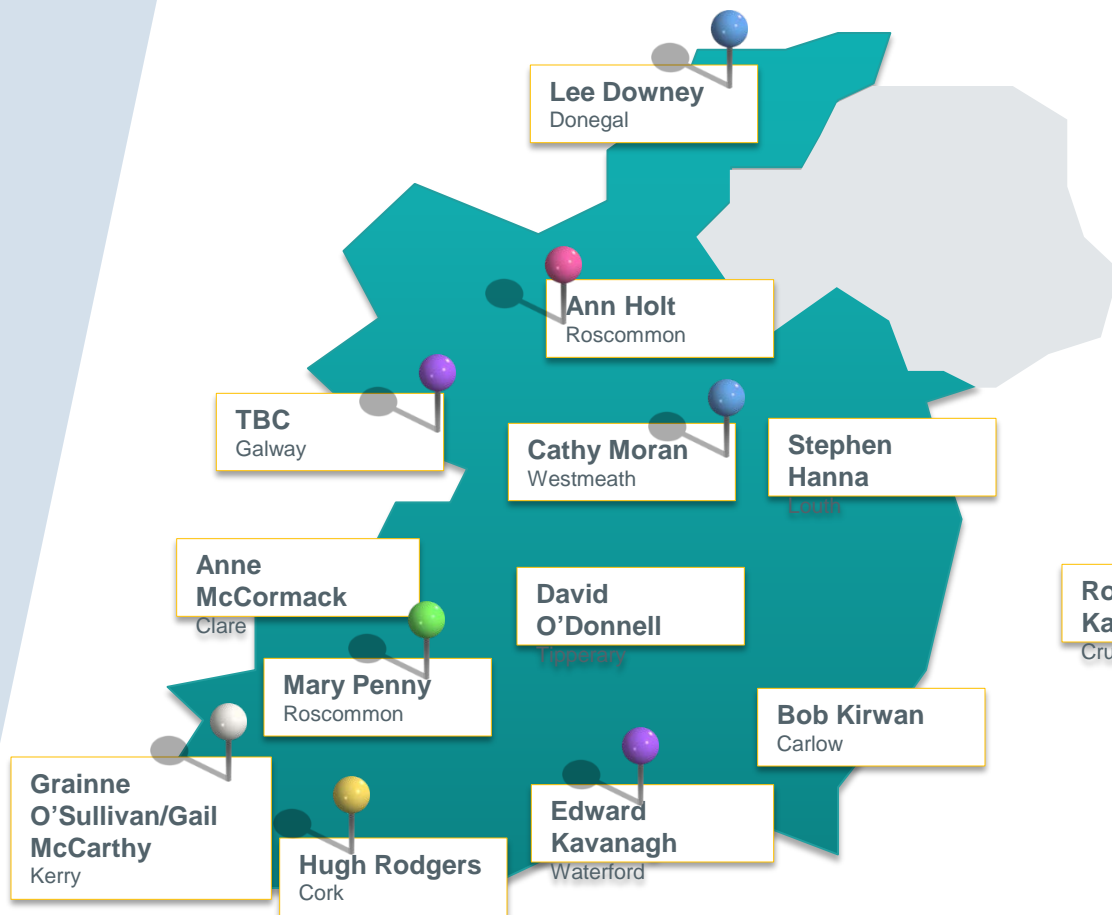


EURES Advisers in Ireland

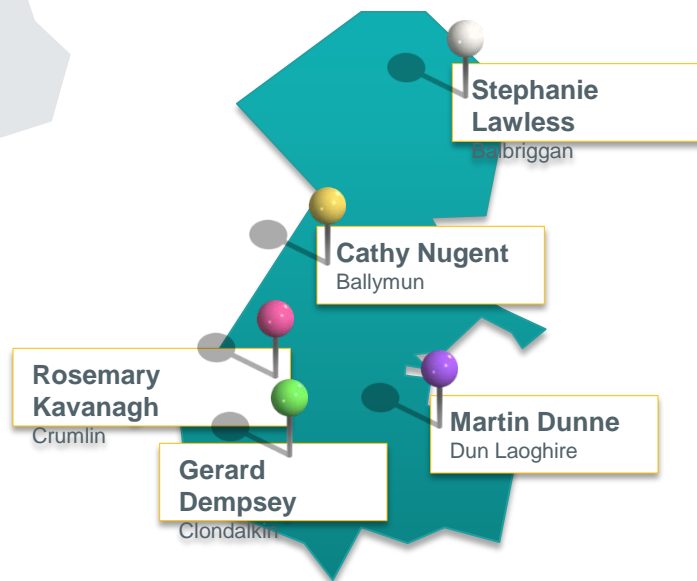
- EURES advisers deal with jobseekers in Ireland wishing to avail of opportunities in the wider European Labour Market and jobseekers in EU/EEA wishing to work in Ireland.
- They work very closely with Irish employers who wish to recruit from the EU/EEA.
- They work very closely with European employers wishing to recruit in Ireland.
- EURES advisers are a key member of the Divisional employer engagement team, working at the local and Divisional level in addition to EURES work.
- Represent Ireland at EURES working groups, seminars etc. at European level.



EURES Advisers in Ireland



Dublin



EURES Recruitment Projects

Work with a variety of different Companies on International Recruitment Projects



MONA INTERIOR
CONSTRUCTION LTD.





Thank You!

Mogue Kenny



“Speed Dating”

Connect and Collaborate



Erasmus+

Conclusion

- Draft Terms of Reference
- Future meetings and other actions
- Invitation to lunch and to afternoon publication launch and follow up session

CALL to ACTION

'IT'S NOT *SHOW AND TELL*-

IT'S GO AND TELL!

Thank-you!



Welcome and Update from Europe: Changes within the Commission

Dr Bryan Maguire
Head of Qualifications Services
Quality and Qualifications Ireland





QQI

Quality and Qualifications Ireland
Dearbhú Cáilíochta agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann

Changes in Brussels

Bryan Maguire (QQI)

Irish Reference Group for EU Initiatives in Education and Skills

Clock Tower – 5 November, 2014









SECRETARIAT
DES
COMMISSAIRES

M. CUNNINGHAM

M. THYSSEN





European
Commission

PRESIDENT JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER

First Vice-President

Frans Timmermans

*Better Regulation,
Institutional Relations,
Rule of Law & Charter of
Fundamental Rights*

Vice-President

Kristalina Georgieva

Budget & Human Resources

Vice-President

Maroš Šefčovič

Energy Union

Vice-President

Jyrki Katainen

*Jobs, Growth, Investment
& Competitiveness*

Vice-President

Valdis Dombrovskis

*The Euro
& Social Dialogue*

Vice-President

Andrus Ansip

Digital Single Market

High Representative

Federica Mogherini

*High Representative of the Union
for Foreign Policy & Security
Policy/Vice-President*

Commissioner

Věra Jourová

*Justice, Consumers
& Gender Equality*

Commissioner

Günther Oettinger

Digital Economy & Society

Commissioner

Pierre Moscovici

*Economic & Financial Affairs,
Taxation & Customs*

Commissioner

Marianne Thyssen

*Employment, Social Affairs,
Skills & Labour Mobility*

Commissioner

Corina Crețu

Regional Policy

Commissioner

Johannes Hahn

*European Neighbourhood Policy
& Enlargement Negotiations**

Commissioner

Dimitris Avramopoulos

*Migration, Home Affairs
& Citizenship*

Commissioner

Vytis Andriukaitis

Health & Food Safety

Commissioner

Jonathan Hill

*Financial Stability,
Financial Services &
Capital Markets Union*

Commissioner

Elzbieta Bieńkowska

*Internal Market, Industry,
Entrepreneurship & SMEs*

Commissioner

Miguel Arias Cañete

Climate Action & Energy

Commissioner

Neven Mimica

*International Cooperation
& Development*

Commissioner

Margrethe Vestager

Competition

Commissioner

Violeta Bulc

Transport

Commissioner

Cecilia Malmström

Trade

Commissioner

Karmenu Vella

*Environment, Maritime Affairs
& Fisheries*

Commissioner

Tibor Navrátil

*Education, Culture,
Youth & Sport*

Commissioner

Carlos Moedas

*Research, Science
& Innovation*

Commissioner

Phil Hogan

*Agriculture
& Rural Development*

Commissioner

Christos Stylianides

*Humanitarian Aid
& Crisis Management*

**The HRVP may ask this
Commissioner (and other
Commissioners) to deputise
for her in areas related to
Commission competence.*







Launch of Publication

Education and Skills: Working Together to bring Opportunities across Europe Home to You



Mary Doyle, Deputy Secretary General, Department of Education and Skills with Dr Bryan Maguire, Head of Qualification Services, Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI)



Priorities and Planning for 2015: Key targets



Erasmus+

Snapshots – A practical update from each Initiative



European Qualifications Frameworks and ESCO

John O'Connor

Qualifications Services

Quality and Qualifications Ireland



ENIC-NARIC - Facilitating the recognition of qualifications

Niamh Lenehan

Qualifications Services

Quality and Qualifications Ireland



Erasmus+

ELGPN Euroguidance and PLOTEUS Updates

Jennifer McKenzie & Hilary Lynch
National Centre for Guidance in
Education (NCGE)



Erasmus+



2008 Council Resolution on better integrating lifelong guidance into lifelong learning strategies : Strengthen European cooperation on lifelong guidance provision, in particular through the ELGPN, with the support of the Lifelong Learning Programme, and in liaison with CEDEFOP

- ***ELGPN Work Programme 2015 – Publish European Guidelines***
- ***Publish Quality Assurance & Evidence based practice systems guidelines and Publish CMS Core principals***
- ***Establish ELGPN 2016+***
- ***Nationally informed by EU Guidelines***





- PLOTEUS II – collaboration with other EG centres on Interconnection of National Databases to PLOTEUS II and Cloud Based Solutions to host
- Continue to promote EU dimension of Guidance – e.g. Mobility CPD Modules for Guidance Counsellors
- Work with EU networks to create awareness of EU Initiatives for general public

Erasmus+ (School Education, VET, Adult Education, Youth)

Fionnuala Broughan
Communications Manager
LÉARGAS



Erasmus+

Erasmus+, key targets 2015

- Continue our work on making Erasmus+ accessible to all stakeholders
- Work with organisations in all fields to raise their awareness of the possibilities of developing and meeting strategic goals within the framework of Erasmus+
- Reach the target of 100% allocation of Erasmus+ funding in the fields we manage

Erasmus+ (Higher Education)

Gerry O'Sullivan

Head of International Education

Higher Education Authority



Erasmus+

The National Europass Centre

Andrina Wafer

Qualifications Services

Quality and Qualifications Ireland



Erasmus+

Europass key achievements

- Collaborative video 'Europass CV: Showcase your Skills' (<http://vimeo.com/106509165>)
- Physical and on-line presence- e-zine, Facebook, Twitter, national events, competitions, promotional materials
- Reference Group established



Draft priority actions for Europass for 2015

- Complete and promote CV resource pack for senior cycle (transnational collaboration)
- Connect effectively with employer and employment needs (adult)
- Work to embed Europass and other relevant EU instruments in careers planning process for people with disabilities in higher education through collaboration with UNILINK service (Unilink is led by Trinity College Dublin)



EURES

European Employment Services

Mogue Kenny

Communications Coordinator

National Coordination Office EURES



Erasmus+



EURES

EUropean Employment Services

2015: Objectives

EU Reference Group for Education and Skills
Clocktower Meeting, November 5th 2014



EURES Reform: Main Points

- High unemployment rates are co-existing with bottleneck vacancies and skills shortages across the Union
- Limited geographical mobility is one of the reasons for structural mismatch on the labour market (Annual Growth Survey 2012)
- Focus on recruitment and placement
 - From advice and transparency to matching and placement
- Greater direct collaboration with other countries
- EU 2020 target: Better functioning labour market leading to a 75% employment rate among 20-64 year olds



Communication Objectives

- Communications Project- One of 4 countries awarded
- Develop a EURES Ireland website
- Working closely with other EU initiatives to help promote services – Hopefully for our mutual benefit
- Greater interaction on social media channels
- Grow the profile of EURES to a 'go-to' service for jobseekers and employers considering availing of opportunities in the European labour market





Thank You!

Mogue Kenny



Questions from the floor to the Panel

Erasmus+

Focus on Funding

Fionnuala Broughan
Communications Manager
LÉARGAS



Erasmus+

Ten-second Introduction ...

- Léargas is an agency of the DES
- We manage national, European and international programmes in several fields*
- Together with the HEA, we manage Erasmus+ in Ireland, 2014-2020

*in School Education, Adult Education, VET, Youth

Erasmus+ Funding in Ireland

- Erasmus+ will provide **€14.7b** over seven years (increase of 40%)
- Erasmus+ will bring **€169m+** directly into the Irish system, 2014-2020
- What does Erasmus+ funding look like in Ireland in the first year of the programme?
- How might you or your organisations benefit?

What I'll talk about

- The **actions**... a brief summary of each Key Action, followed by
- The **funding**... what sums of money have been awarded this year
- The **strategies**... what are organisations intending to do

Three Main 'Key Actions'

KA 1: Learning mobility of individuals

- Staff mobility, in particular for teachers, trainers, school leaders and youth workers
- Mobility for students in higher education and in vocational education and training
- Youth volunteering and youth exchanges
- Master degree scheme
- Mobility for higher education for EU and non-EU beneficiaries

KA2: Cooperation for innovation and exchange of good practices

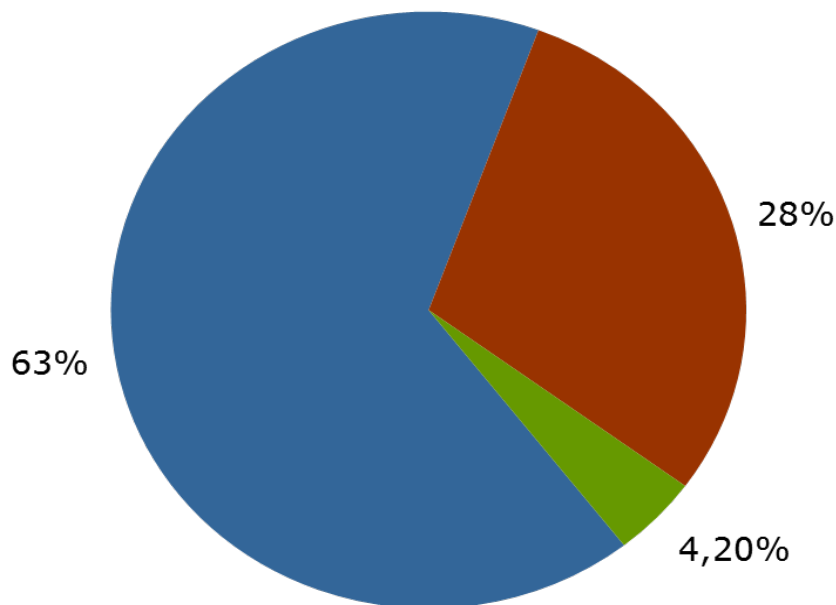
- Strategic Partnerships between education, training and/or youth organisations and other relevant actors
- IT-Platforms including EYP, eTwinning and EPALE
- Large-scale partnerships between education and training establishments and business: Knowledge Alliances and Sector Skills alliances
- Cooperation with Partner Countries

KA 3: Support for policy reform

- Open method of Coordination
- EU tools: dissemination and exploitation
- Policy dialogue with stakeholders, non-EU countries and international organisations
- Large scale prospective initiatives

Erasmus+ Funding Allocation by Key Action

- KA1 (63%)
- KA2 (28%)
- KA3 (4,2%)



KA1: Mobility for Individuals

KA2: Strategic Partnerships; Alliances

KA3: Policy Reform

Key Action 1 - Summary

Learning mobility of individuals, aims to:

- Improve relevant competences for individuals
- Improve innovation, synergies and modernisation in organisations

Projects can be for one or two years

Key Action 1 – Who and what

- Organisations must apply (not individuals)
- Staff (VET, SE, AE)
 - Teaching/training assignments
 - Courses/training events/job shadowing
 - Two days to two months
- Learners (VET)
 - VET traineeship abroad (up to 12 months)
- What's covered
 - Travel, organisational support, individual support, course fees, linguistic support*, special needs support, exceptional costs

*VET Learner Mobility only

Key Action 1 – VET

Funding summary, 2014

- 17 applications
- 16 funded
- €2.3m committed
- Average grant €142k
- Highest grant €530k

Key Action 1 – VET

Galway Technical Institute (Galway-Roscommon ETB)

- €534k for two years
- 188 learners in IT/Networks and software systems, media, beauty therapy, holistic massage, hair-dressing
- Placements in UK, Spain, France, Poland, Finland, Portugal
- 2, 3 or 4 weeks, adding an international dimension to their course of study
- Develop skills and competences in various areas, generally at Levels 5 and 6

Key Action 1 – School Education

Funding summary, 2014

- 69 applications
- 21 funded
- €421k committed
- average €22k
- highest €120k

Key Action 1 – School Education

St Michael's Boys' National School

- Urban band 1 DEIS
- Pupils from over twenty different countries, as well as many pupils from the indigenous travelling community
- Engage with other European schools to create new learning contexts and raise long-term expectations of pupils.
- St. Michael's has already coordinated three very successful [Comenius partnerships](#) (also eTwinning, Comenius Assistants)

Key Action 1 – School Education

St Michael's Boys' National School

- €5980
- 12-month project
- three teachers attending two training courses to learn more about culture and citizenship, and collaborative project-based activities
- embed the ethos of Europe and citizenship in the school, use more collaborative project-based work to engage the pupils more actively in school and local activities

Key Action 1 – Adult Education

Funding summary, 2014

- 21 applications
- 6 funded (2 in reserve)
- €131k committed
- average €22k
- highest €55k

Key Action 1 – Adult Education

Social and Health Education Project (SHEP)

- 40-year-old voluntary organisation funded by the HSE; 10 staff
- deliver a range of adult education programmes in the areas of Cork, Kerry and Limerick
- over 200 personnel deliver open-access, non-formal education to support health and well being, with a focus on experiential approaches and methodologies

Key Action 1 – Adult Education

Social and Health Education Project (SHEP)

- €16k for **two-year** project to upskill staff in specific areas of need for the organisation which include:
 - Quality assurance/management of staff – particularly **supervision of trainers** involved in providing personal development/ experiential training (1 staff)
 - **Curriculum Development** for Personal Development Training (3 mobilities)
 - **New teaching methods** in Social Education (1 mobility)
 - Incorporating **European dimension** into SHEP human rights/ advocacy education programme (3 mobilities)
 - Developing staff competence for **Community Outreach education** (2 mobilities)

Key Action 2 - Summary

Co-operation for innovation and exchange of good practices

- Strategic Partnerships
- Knowledge and Sector Skills Alliances
- Etc.

Aims:

- Innovative approaches to engaging target groups
- Dynamic and professional environments
- Increased capacity to work internationally

Projects can run for two or three years

Key Action 2 – Strategic Partnerships

Who and what

- **Organisations** (any active in ETY; also transversal, *e.g.* school authorities, chambers of commerce, social partners *et al.*)
- **Develop, transfer and/or implement** innovative practices
- **Implement joint initiatives** promoting cooperation, peer learning and exchange of experiences at European level
- **What's covered – some or all from a menu:**
 - Project management and implementation; intellectual outputs;
 - transnational project meetings; multiplier events;
 - travel; individual support; special needs support; linguistic support; exceptional costs

Key Action 2 – VET

Funding summary, 2014

- 15 applications
- 7 funded
- €1.7m committed
- Average grant €290k
- Highest grant €354k

Key Action 2 – VET

QUAKE

Mary Immaculate College, Limerick

- €354k for three years
- Seven partners from Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Ireland, Spain
- Develop capacity of VET professionals to implement ECVET
- Targets European priority in VET (transparency in VET qualifications)
- Good use of range of activities such as development of intellectual outputs; good mix of learning/teaching/training activities; multiplier events (final planned for Paris in 2017)
- Several of the partners are national/representative bodies

Key Action 2 – School Education

Funding summary, 2014

- 30 direct applications; 6 approved
- 24 funded (6+18 partners in other applications in Europe)
- €887k committed
- Average grant €36k (27k for school-school)
- Highest grant €237k (for large partnership project)

Key Action 2 – School Education

St Michael's BNS

- Two-year project, €116k for whole partnership (€21k for St Michael's)
- Seven schools
- Global Citizenship embedded in the curricula of our schools for the next two years
- focus on four modules: Sustainability and the Environment, Resources and Climate Change, Democracy and Citizenship, and Migration and Urban Growth

Key Action 2 – Adult Education

Funding summary, 2014

- 13 applications
- 2 funded (11 further apps in reserve)
- €752k committed
- Average grant €380k
- Highest grant €446k

Key Action 2 – Adult Education

EuropIRN, a European Inclusive Research Network, Trinity College

- Three year project, €445k
- six organisations from four countries, Ireland, Finland, Austria and Spain
- Bring learning from Irish IRN to partners to develop a European IRN
- Brings together: people with intellectual disability, supporters, university researchers
- Build on existing expertise; make new alliances; carry out new research; create resources for local, regional, national and international use

Erasmus+, Deadlines

- Call for applications **deadlines** in education and training:
 - Key Action 1 (mobility):
04 March 2015
 - Key Action 2 (strategic partnerships) :
31 March 2015
 - Key Action 3 (policy reform):
various

Erasmus+, Contact details

www.erasmusplus.ie

www.leargas.ie

info@leargas.ie

www.eurireland.ie

eurireland@hea.ie

Creating Synergy, Extending Opportunities: group work session

Your input- feedback on our draft plans



Next Steps – plan for the Reference Group in 2015

How can we best connect with you?



Erasmus+

CALL to ACTION

'IT'S NOT *SHOW AND TELL*-

IT'S GO AND TELL!

Thank-you!



**Second meeting, Irish Reference Group for EU Initiatives in Education and Skills, November 5th,
Clock Tower**

Draft Notes of planning preparation meeting

Attendance: Fionnuala Broughan, Jennifer McKenzie, Elaine O Neill, Anne Walsh, Niamh Lenehan, John O Connor, Andrina Wafer. Apologies: Bryan Maguire

Concrete actions

- List of acronyms to be developed (see starting point below)
- Mary to forward to Anne, Access and Disability Officers from each HEI for inclusion in invitation list
- Jennifer to supply answer to Q5 arising from previous meeting
- **All Q and A to be returned to Anne by 3 October.**
 - Fionnuala and Mary to supply A for Q 6
 - Fionnuala also to supply an answer for Q9
 - Andrina to supply for Q 12
 - Anne for Q 19
 - Mary to supply answer for Q 15, 16, 17
- Andrina to ask for inclusion of Europass and EU Ref Group in QQI CEO ETB meeting agenda
- Anne- check that Eures are attending 5 November (invite Muriel Cleary and DSP)
- Andrina/Bryan- to 'encourage' NCGE formally re the 'curriculum' for second level schools to include Europass CV
- Mary – will ask Gerry in HEA that the Erasmus+ Student Charter would make the Diploma Supplement an entitlement
- Finola- check can different initiatives exhibit at Forum in December?
- Finola- forward details of the infographics programme
- NCGE host the National Forum (13th November) – Europass etc may provide background stands
- Niamh- to forward the ENIC NARIC survey so that EVERYONE can promote. HEA and Leargas agreed to promote this.
- Anne- to forward to the steering group, all participants as a group email.
- Mary offered to send out NFQ postcards if these were available. HEA were also willing to hold these in packs etc at Higher Options. Mary would also bring materials from all of us to Mary I for the meeting of the International Officers in HEIS on 10 October.
- Mary- Dates to follow for Monitoring Visits with specific groups, placement for graduate students call, schedule for Erasmus+ lecture - please also recommend *how* agencies might best send you materials and volumes etc.)
- Mary – please include group in updates re the new website- www.EurIreland.ie including format and requirements if Europass information were also being referenced.
- Anne to send Elaine a template for use. (arose in context of employers conversation)

- Anne- Europass website is to host a page for other agencies to link to. Euroguidance and NCGE will tweet and also alert on Facebook as well as on their own pages. Leargas with tweet. Students Union to be hooked in!
- Editorial team to be established (proposal to follow)
- Timelines for development to issue (Anne and Andrina)
- Andrina to seek Clock Tower for next meeting
- A list of Acronyms to be worked on (all)
- Schedule for 2015 for 2 more meetings to be agreed pre Christmas.

Discussion Notes:

Informal Review:

- Tour de Table review- acknowledged success of meeting and individual progress since. Highlights include getting feedback directly to Commission via Koen's Mission Report; the Europass/Euroguidance collaboration on the Europass video: 'Showcase your Skills: Europass CV', follow up with NCCA etc. Felt to be valuable also for each other in supporting the work and sharing solutions and issues. Regrets for the day- timing precluded full attendance. Links to Students Union needs to be stronger. Links to DSP have not worked, and links to employers are also a difficulty. Acknowledged work in processing and analysing notes and feedback. Need to publish notes, feedback, outcomes etc- and to make accessible eg infographics.

Proposal for next meeting structure

- Proposal for next meeting agreed. Round one in morning to repeat last event, pending numbers of acceptances. Afternoon session- Breaking news' theme- to include report on new structures within the Commission, Q&A from the floor(May use a panel conversation format); second part includes initiative updates, working plans and connecting practically.

Publication

- EQF has a budget of 5000 to cover publication cover (folder) and QQI fact sheets. The Folder will be branded Erasmus+, published by QQI. Inset will carry all logos as will individual dividers. QQI will draft a preface/introduction- possible that eg the Minister would sign the introduction, with the context piece signed off by Padraig. Each agency will typically produce and pay for its own fact sheet, branded for its own initiative. This will involve sending all logos etc to printer

Review of each initiatives planned activities to Christmas and how we can connect and support each other:

- HEA review HEI's visiting once every seven years
- HOPES- Head of Public Employment Services- part of a network of the NCGE ELGPN- Jennifer meeting the Assistant Secretary of the Department of Social Protection, who is a Representative on this group

- Léargas- is issuing invitations to the Annual Forum, pulling together those who take part in programmes. The Forum will have an exhibition of good practice, and a series of workshops. It is possible that different initiatives might also exhibit. Across Erasmus+ 60% want more RPL. *(Finola- please help here! More detail needed)*
- Info graphics- Leargas sourced and used a course in infographics (Creative Suite), with the brief to have a specific set of templates that could work for most documents, and online resources. NCGE, QQI and HEA were also interested in this. Details to be supplied, with the possibility of sharing a programme across the agencies.
- EQF- currently surveying NCPs in communications to ascertain how effective the work, particularly around the engagement of employers, is. A Peer Learning Activity (PLA) is planned around promotion. The idea that the outcomes of the EQF referencing would be included in all documents, certificates etc. EQF logo is on QQI certificates. In the national database, the emerging data model provides that EQF will be a data field. SEC are also considering this. What is the added value, however? Discussion points included
 - that if international traction were gained, then it becomes more important nationally;
 - it was felt to be useful particularly at levels 4,5,6.
 - How it should be communicated on our national qualifications
 - Purpose for which the qualification is sought has a bearing;
 - synergy with ECS and EDS would be important- would also help to promote the ECS and EDS
 - Would additional expectations on behalf of the qualification holder be heightened? It is still not an automatic recognition.
 - There is a Pathfinder Group on the recognition part of the BFUG struggling with this issue
- ENIC NARIC have a range of active projects; The EU Area of Recognition has a manual developed to capture recognition across 55 centres worldwide. The manual is two years in development, via an on-line sharing platform. HEIS are 'competent recognition authorities', so collaboration is better. A survey has been issued, looking for ideas on how best to engage. Manuals are developed for Higher Education. The development of ENIC NARIC Networks with a different legislative remit, is advanced. Now these cover all sectors, for FET and HE policy. Surveys have been conducted to identify which stakeholders liaise / engage with networks, and managing their expectations. The survey could be passed on by all to different groupings. HEA and Leargas committed to help.
- HEA- Mary is meeting the International Officers in HEIs in Mary I. on 10 October. It would be possible to include publicity materials for all initiatives for this group. There will also be Monitoring Visits with Access, International, Disability and Heads of Development and Erasmus Societies in the HEIs. Alert emails can be sent for specific initiatives. Information day on a new call could also include Europass Information.
 Co-operative project placements- prioritising graduate students- where Europass would be important. Dates to follow.
 New website being developed-EURireland.ie goes to a shared portal under Erasmus+.ie
 This web site could include Europass information.
- HEA have good contact with IBEC, who host morning seminars for enterprises; Elaine may be able to contact IBEC with the suggestion that our agencies pitch a European Programmes

themed seminar, looking at initiatives from the 'What's in it for an Employer?' perspective. This might feed into employers conferences.

- Attending a thematic conference in Germany, co sponsored by the European Federation of Employers. *WHO?*
- It was felt that the Secretary General of the DES would be best placed to ensure DSP participation next time.
- Re the publication of work of the Ref Group, the Europass website is to host a page for other agencies to link to. Euroguidance and NCGE will tweet and also alert on Facebook as well as on their own pages. Leargas will tweet. Students Union to be hooked in! (all to work on this)
 - Elaine has skills in ensuring content is accessible
 - Editorial team to be established
 - Timelines for development to issue (Anne and Andrina)
- RPL- Key Action 3- some funding is available for RPL questions. It is possible that there would be funding available around policy at EU level.
- All Q and A to be returned to Anne by 3 October.
- Andrina to seek Clock Tower for next meeting; hold the date to issue as soon after as possible. Agenda to be sketched out for circulation. Letters of invitation to be drafted.
- Plan for 2015 for 2 more meetings. Schedule to be agreed for 2015.
- A list of Acronyms to be worked on (all)

Acronyms

BFUG- Bologna Follow Up Group-

ELGPN- European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network-

ENIC-NARIC

Euroguidance-

Europass- an EU wide service helping to make sure that skills, qualifications and achievements are recognised and understood across Europe using 5 tools in common templates

ESCO

EQF AG- European Qualifications Framework Advisory Group

HEA- Higher Education Authority

HOPES- Head of Public Employment Services

Leargas

NCGE- National Council for Guidance in Education

QQI – Quality and Qualifications Ireland, responsible for the quality assurance of all post secondary education and training, and for the National Framework of Qualifications. QQI is also an awarding body.

Speakers Note

The team here in QQI is delighted with the response to this event and by your support in bringing it to pass. We look forward to building an effective connection and dissemination experience for all our initiatives.

When speaking, please stick to your time. Our programme is packed!

- 9.20 Welcome and introduction- Bryan Maguire: includes quick outline of purpose of the day, Terms of Reference
- 9.25 Brian Power, DES, Head of Equity and Access to Higher Education, setting the EU Policy Context.
- 10.15 Fionnuala Broughan, Communications Manager, Leargas. Fionnuala will speak to Erasmus+ an overarching concept, setting the stage.
- 10.45 Bryan invites people to coffee, resume, 11.05, followed by snapshots of various initiatives

10.45-11.05 Coffee

- 11.05 John O Connor, QQI, on European Qualification Frameworks, and ESCO
- 11.15 Jennifer McKenzie, Director of the NCGE, European Lifelong Learning Guidance Policy Network, Hilary Lynch, Euroguidance Ireland Co-ordinator, Ploteus and Euroguidance, speaking to the ELGPN, Ploteus and Euroguidance
- 11.25 Niamh Lenehan, QQI, on ENIC NARIC, Facilitating the recognition of qualifications
- 11.35 Fionnuala Broughan, (Leargas), was scheduled to speak to Erasmus+- School Education, VET, Adult Education and Youth- but has covered this ground already, so we gain a little time!
- 11.38 Gerry O Sullivan, HEA, Erasmus + Programme Manager (Higher Education), speaking to: Erasmus+ and Higher Education- Key Actions 1, 2 and 3.
- 11. 48 Andrina Wafer, QQI, the National Europass Centre
- 11.55 Eures, Mogue Kenny, European Job Day Coordinator in the Department of Social Protection

12.05 Bryan, Introduction to Speed Dating

Brief explanation: speakers, or their partner colleague, will move from table to table. A member of staff of QQI, Leargas, NCGE and/or HEA is at the table to facilitate and support the work of the group. You will be asked to introduce yourself, your agency/service and the target group you serve. Please highlight your interest or any links that spring to mind that your service / constituency might benefit from. It is also an opportunity to ask

questions/clarify aspects of presentations. The speakers will rotate 3 times. There are 15 minutes per session.

Questions should be noted by facilitators. We will follow up on these with an FAQ answer sheet after the meeting.

12. 10 **Speed Dating. Speakers move to your tables!**

Introduce yourself/your initiative. Indicate again your one big prize/target for 2014 and invite participants to indicate any event, action, activity that is part of planned work, that might be mutually supportive, or any challenge that your programme of work might help them meet.

12.10- 12. 25

Table Number	Facilitator	Initiative	Representative	Initiative	Representative
1	Beata	Europass, Eures	Mogue, Andrina	EQF/ESCO	John
2	Mark	Erasmus+	Jim	Erasmus+ HE	Gerry
3	Deirdre	ELGPN, Euroguidance,	Hilary	NARIC	Niamh
4	Annette	Europass, Eures	Bernadetta, Anne	EQF/ESCO	Bryan
5	Breda	Erasmus+	Fionnuala	Erasmus+ HE	HEA 2

2nd rotation 12.25 -12.40 **SPEAKERS MOVE TABLE**

Table Number	Facilitator	Initiative	Representative	Initiative	Representative
1	Beata	ELGPN, Euroguidance	Hilary	NARIC	Niamh
2	Mark	Europass, Eures	Mogue, Andrina	EQF/ESCO	John
3	Deirdre	Erasmus+	Jim	Erasmus+ HE	Gerry
4	Annette	ELGPN, Euroguidance	Jennifer	NARIC	William
5	Breda	Europass, Eures	Anne, Bernadetta	EQF, ESCO	Bryan

3rd rotation 12.40-12.55 **SPEAKERS MOVE TABLE**

Table Number	Facilitator	Initiative	Representative	Initiative	Representative
1	Beata	Erasmus+	Jim	Erasmus+ HE	Gerry
2	Mark	ELGPN, Euroguidance	Hilary	NARIC	Niamh
3	Deirdre	Europass, Eures	Mogue, Andrina	EQF/ESCO	John
4	Annette	Erasmus+	Fionnuala	Erasmus+ HE	HEA 2
5	Breda	ELGPN, Euroguidance	Jennifer	NARIC	William

12.55 **TEN MINUTES Conclusion**

Bryan: (1 slide)

- **Draft Terms of Reference-** comments welcome. Bullets 1-4 are about our shared concerns, optimising opportunities in each other's work. Bullet 5 is for next year- does this mechanism work? Bullet 6- collaborating with you- what do you do in the EU field? Bullet 7- a national response to

consultation- not just for QQI/ Leargas /NCGE/HEA to reflect and respond.
National issues....

- **Limited Edition Publication explaining initiatives for stakeholders**
Proud to be launching this publication officially after lunch

- **Questions- please put your email on your question, if you had one, so that we can follow through with you**

INVITATION TO LUNCH

Afternoon session

2.00 pm **Welcome and update from Europe- Changes within the Commission**

Bryan presenting.

Bryan introduces and welcomes Mary Doyle

2.10 **Mary Doyle, Deputy Secretary General Department of Education and Skills introduces and launches the publication.**

Some possible key points:

- Importance for Ireland of EU initiatives – global positioning, global competitiveness, global perceptions of Ireland
- Historical strength of Irelands contribution at EU level, transnational interest in our work and developments
- Collective vision behind initiatives is important - regarding quality, transparency, mobility, delivering the best and most positive impacts for citizens across Europe
- Important to understand the core purposes behind the range of initiatives- this publication is a real contribution towards making easier to realise te potential benefits
- Integration of different initiatives is challenging nationally and internationally; conscious and informed integration takes effort and commitment
- Publication required collaboration and is a signal of Irelands intent to deliver relevant, coherent services nationally
- Ask for your continued support and engagement with these important issues and proposed solutions, in shaping Ireland’s contribution to policy directions at European level. Help us ensure that Europe prospers and

realises the vision of Europe 2020. Promote and use the initiatives and services, use the publication with your colleagues and clients.

2.20pm Priorities and Planning for 2015

Aim is that each initiative gives a practical update about draft plans for 2015. Plans will shortly be firmed up for submission to the Commission for 2015 funding. Your input is very helpful to us in keeping what we aim to do realistic and relevant. European initiatives help us solve real problems here in Ireland....

We will be inviting you to discuss these in the light of your own planning activities shortly. We are again using the 'snapshot' methodology, with time for discussion later.

Invite

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2.25 | John O Connor- European Qualifications Frameworks and ESCO (if John has had to go, Bryan is back up to present this piece. No slides- note on table facilitators doc). |
| 2.30 | European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network, Ploteus, Euroguidance- Jennifer and Hilary |
| 2.35 | ENIC NARIC- Facilitating the recognition of qualifications- Niamh |
| 2.40 | Erasmus+ School Education, VET, Adult Education and Youth- Fionnuala Broughan, Communications Manager / Jim Mullins Executive Director |
| 2.45 | Gerry O Sullivan, HEA, Erasmus + Programme Manager (Higher Education), Erasmus+ Higher Education |
| 2.50 | The National Europass Centre- Andrina |
| 2.55 | Eures: Mogue Kenny, European Job Day Coordinator |
| 3.pm | Questions from the floor to the panel- Mary, Bryan, Brian, any of the initiatives |
| 3.05 | Erasmus+ A Focus on Funding: Fionnuala Broughan, Communications Manager |

3.20 Creating synergies, Extending Opportunities: group work session

A chance for you to comment, give observations on draft plans for 2015.

Table facilitators will lead discussion; again please introduce yourselves- the team will follow up on your observations / queries.

You also have two postcards in your pack. One you send to one of our initiatives. The other you address for a colleague in another organisation/agency/institution/association. QQI will post this for you.

Please work with us and complete these.

3.50

Next Steps

- **Future meetings and other actions**
 - **The Steering Group find this collaborative work effective and supportive of each other's initiatives and goals. It has already led to efficiencies and better services to you and to your service users. We have disseminated for each other, answered questions about each other's initiatives, brought better feedback to EU consultation documents, and have used this group to escalate national observations within the Commission.**
 - **We hope to meet again in 2015 with you as fits a natural programme of work, but appreciate your recommendations regarding how best to connect with you, to keep you informed, to update you on changes as they arise and to give you an opportunity to contribute to national responses to European directions.**
 - **Europass website has a dedicated space for this Reference Group. Presentations, FAQs from last session, evaluations etc are all published for your information and resource. We intend to make the publication available on line and to extend its accessibility to learners, providers and employers.**
- **FEEDBACK and Evaluation forms- please complete**
- **Thanks- DES for venue, colleagues in other agencies- Leargas, NCGE, HEA, Eures/DSP for their enthusiastic buy-in etc, Anne Walsh for print and event management, general logistics and attention to detail, and QQI Communications for their support. Table facilitators for their work and everyone for participation and support generally.**
- **Final point- today wasn't about a Show and Tell- please GO, stay in touch with us and TELL!**

Hilary

Euroguidance online modules for guidance counsellors – relevance to their role. CPD- schools and eu mobility role. Information of these free course through english

Companies are looking for international experience. RELEVANCE

Recognition – involvement

Guidance – Mary Stokes. In schools we need to look at how parents perceive information. In that context we must inform parents as very often they are the main influencers. Before you approach younger people you need to talk to parents to ensure they have a positive reaction when erasmus is suggested. ie this is not emigration but rather you are giving my child a useful experience.

Ombudsman for children

Even if you don't get a place on a course it is not the end of the world. You can go abroad for example to study what you need to e.g. Budapest.

Niamh Lenehan – by introducing an automated recognition service we will be able to free up resources to concentrate on the other side of our work ie to talk to the HEA directly.

Mary S – online listing of qualifications by country is a great idea. It will help parents because it is so easy and accessible.

Adult learners need a means to interpret general information and need the bigger picture. The recognition stuff online provides this. ISME could use this also.

Mogue

Disseminate information on Jobseekers in Ireland. Stronger links with people in various initiatives. Mogue would like to have knowledge of other social media initiatives to maximise promotion within all of these initiatives e.g. Europass video, Ezines etc. Mogue would like to be sent a list of all of the social media activities across the groups. I think this should be possible.

ISME is able to promote stuff on their Ezine which is sent every week to 20,000 people. A three line piece would suffice. Liz Carroll said her audience is a very hard one to reach - hard to get traction with employers. Mentioned that QQI's Ezine was too wordy. Needs to have a summary at the top to encourage people to read (headings and key points). Every month ISME also send a newsletter to all of their 9,000 members. The newsletter is not confined to what the SME's do.

SMEs are disparate and have no voice. They are much harder to get through. Consultation = perceived engagement.

Jean

The move towards skills and competencies is welcome. We need to rethink the communications strategy to include learners and employers.

FEEDBACK ON 2015 INITIATIVES

Erasmus

The youth deadlines are applicable to all because in the case of collaboration with a youth initiative, you would have to adhere to those deadlines.

EUROPASS

Leargas is good at promoting Youthpass which is something similar to Europass. Each member state is responsible for its own stuff. You cannot make people use it. It is not currently used in Irish government agencies or the Commission. Until it is required by employers people will not use it. National contexts differ. German employers not interested in seeing your personal interests.

NARIC

Adult learning guidance (Mary Stokes). Adults want to know about the NARIC.

Elaine – HEA – stand back and understand the bigger picture. Put the big picture and not the finer details. Need to explain the resources that are there and then fine tune the services. Irish are promoted across Europe for their services is good.

Look at young emigrants Youth.ie to use service.



Irish Reference Group for EU Initiatives in Education and Skills

Education and Skills:
Working Together to bring Opportunities
across Europe Home to You



Supported by the Erasmus
Programme of the European Union



Welcome and Update from Europe:
Changes within the Commission

Dr Bryan Mulvey
Head of Qualifications Services
Quality and Qualifications Ireland



Launch of Publication
*Education and Skills: Working Together
to bring Opportunities across Europe
Home to You*

Mary Doyle
Deputy Secretary General,
Department of Education and Skills

