

léargas 2017

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Chairperson



Message from our
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Comhar Cathair Chorcaí
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EMPLOYMENT | EMPOWERMENT



Foreword from our Chairperson



(as Gaeilge)

2017 was a good year for Léargas. After a considerable period with reduced staff numbers, we were finally able to move forward with a full staff complement who can do justice to the key programmes we manage and the outcomes they achieve. We on the Board can be certain that we deliver on our mandate to ensure that the work and plans of Léargas are successfully implemented. We are now able to provide client-focussed services and technical support across all our programmes and initiatives, while ensuring that we communicate well with all our stakeholders. We have also started to examine the impact of our programmes on their participants and the systems within which they work.

In 2017, we were engaged as the intermediary body for the Collaboration through Sharing in Education (CASE) programme in partnership with the Education Authority in Northern Ireland. The programme's focus is on schools (in Northern Ireland and the border counties) with limited or no experience of providing shared education opportunities to their children and young people: a critical piece of work at this time.

Toward the end of 2017, we published our Strategy Statement for the coming years. It focusses on the sometimes challenging environment we operate in and how we can maximise the impact we make, particularly across four priorities: Programmes and their Power; Relationships and their Influence; People and their Stories; and Our Organisation and Competence. The Department of Education continues to deliver on its Action Plan for Education, and Léargas engaged with this through the annual meeting of chairpersons of agencies with the Minister as well as meetings of staff with the Departmental Management Advisory Committee.

At the European level, there continued to be important developments. After an uncertain start, the European Solidarity Corps started to take shape and it will offer opportunities to thousands of young people to help deal with many problems at both national and pan-European levels.

A mid-term evaluation of Erasmus+ found that the programme is more coherent, relevant and in ways more efficient and simpler than its predecessors. The evaluation also made a clear case for a stronger investment in education and training, with a new emphasis on the younger generations and the most vulnerable groups. As highlighted by Barbara Nolan of the EU Commission at our annual Forum, these measures form part of a broader political agenda to prioritise a more social Europe in the near future - particularly following the Gothenburg Summit and the adoption of the new European Pillar of Social Rights. All the groups we work with will contribute greatly to this social dimension, and we can take pride in the fact that this work is of such critical importance to the future of Europe.

Michael McLoughlin
Chairperson of the Léargas Board

Visit these links for more:

[Léargas Strategy](#)

[Erasmus+ and European Citizenship, 30 Years On](#)

[The European Pillar of Social Rights: what it means for Erasmus+ and Education](#)

[DES Action Plan for Education](#)

[Erasmus+ Mid-Term Evaluation](#)

[Back to Annual Report](#)

We manage funding on behalf of:





Réamhrá ón gCathaoirleach



(in English)

D'éirigh go breá le Léargas in 2017. Tar éis líon foirne laghdaithe a bheith againn ar feadh tamaill nár bheag b'fhéidir linn, faoi dheireadh thiar, leanúint ar aghaidh le líon foirne iomlán a bhfuil ar a chumas a gceart a thabhairt do na príomhchláir atá á mbainistiú againn agus do na torthaí a bhaintear amach leo. Is féidir linne, ar an mBord, a bheith cinnte go bhfuil ár sainchúram á chomhlíonadh againn d'fhonn a chinntiú go gcuirtear obair agus pleananna Léargas i ngníomh go rathúil. Ag an bpointe seo tá ar ár gcumas seirbhísí agus tacaíocht a chur ar fáil i dtaobh ár gcuid clár agus ár gcuid tionscnamh ar fad atá dírithe ar an gcliant agus is féidir linn a chinntiú go bhfuil cumarsáid mhaith againn lenár luchtanna leasa ag an am gcéanna. Lena chois sin tá tús curtha againn le tionchar ár gclár orthu siúd atá rannpháirteach iontu agus ar na córais ina bhfuil siad ag obair a scrúdú.

In 2017 bhí baint againn mar chomhlacht idirghabhála don gclár Comhar trí Chomhroinnt san Oideachas (CASE) i gcomhpháirtíocht leis an Údarás Oideachais i dTuaisceart Éireann. Tá an clár dírithe ar scoileanna (i dTuaisceart Éireann agus i gcontaetha na teorann) nach bhfuil ach fíorbheagán taithí nó nach bhfuil aon taithí ar bith acu ar dheiseanna oideachais chomhroinnte a chur ar fáil dá bpáistí agus dá ndaoine óga: obair ríthábhachtach i láthair na huaire.

Gar do dheireadh 2017 d'fhoilsíomar ár Ráiteas Straitéise i gcomhair na mblíanta amach anseo. Tá sé dírithe ar an timpeallacht ina mbímid ag oibriú - timpeallacht dhúshlánach atá inti uaireanta - agus conas is féidir linn an tionchar atá á imirt againn a uasmhéadú, go háirithe thar ceithre thosaíocht: Cláir agus an Cumhacht atá acu; Caidrimh agus an Tionchar a Imríonn siad; Daoine agus a Scéalta; agus Ár nEagraíocht agus Inniúlacht. Tá an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna ag déanamh beart de réir a Plean Gníomhaíochta don Oideachas i gcónaí agus chuir Léargas leis trí chruinniú bliantúil cathaoirleach na ngníomhaireachtaí leis an Aire agus trí chruinniú idir baill foirne agus an gCoiste Comhairleach um Bhainistiú na Roinne.

Ag an leibhéal Eorpach bhí forbairtí tábhachtacha ar siúl i gcónaí. Ag an tosach bhí cúrsaí ábhairín neamhchinnte ach tháinig cruth ar an gCór DLúthpháirtíochta Eorpach ansin. Cuirfidh sé deiseanna ar fáil do na mílte daoine óga cabhrú chun déileáil leis an iliomad fadhbanna ar leibhéal náisiúnta agus uile-Eorpacha araon. I measúnú lár-théarma ar Erasmus+ fuarthas go bhfuil an clár níos comhsheasmhaí agus go mbaineann sé le hábhar níos mó agus go bhfuil sé níos éifeachtaí agus níos simplí i mbealaí áirithe ná mar a bhí na cláir a tháinig roimhe. Rinne an measúnú cás soiléir leis ar son infheistíochta níos treise in oideachas agus oiliúint agus leagadh béim as an nua ar na glúinte óga agus ar na grúpaí is leochaílí. Faoi mar a dúirt Barbara Nolan ón gCoimisiún AE inár bhFóram Bliantúil, is cuid de chlár oibre polaitiúil níos leithne iad na bearta seo d'fhonn tús áite a thabhairt d'Eoraip a bheidh níos sóisialta roimh i bhfad - go háirithe i ndiaidh Mullach Gothenburg agus tar éis glacadh le Colún Eorpach nua na gCearta Sóisialta. Cuirfidh na grúpaí uile a bhfuilimid ag obair leo go mór leis an ngné shóisialta seo agus is féidir linn a bheith mórtasach as an obair seo a bheith ríthábhachtach do thodhchaí na hEorpa.

Michael McLoughlin

Cathaoirleach ar an mbord Léargas

Tuilleadh eolais:

Léargas Strategy

Erasmus+ and European
Citizenship, 30 Years On

The European Pillar of Social
Rights: what it means for Erasmus+
and Education

DES Action Plan for Education

Erasmus+ Mid-Term Evaluation

Téigh ar ais chuig an Tuarascáil
Bhliantúil

We manage funding on behalf of:





Message from our Executive Director



(As Gaeilge)

2017 was a busy and productive year for Léargas: celebrating Erasmus+ 30, bringing on board a new volunteering initiative (the European Solidarity Corps), and overseeing an increase of approx. 30% on 2016 in allocated funding in Erasmus+.

Welcoming

We were very pleased to be given government sanction to hire nine new staff to help manage this expansion. Two long-serving and much-missed staff members also retired, meaning we welcomed 11 new faces into our organisation in 2017. This influx of new staff gave us impetus to re-organise into a slightly different team structure. Our Client Services team offers client support for Erasmus+ across all fields, and our Operations and Finance team is responsible for financial and operational matters across all programmes. Our Strategic Initiatives team manage smaller but no less vital education and exchange programmes in all our sectors, and our Communications team manage our messaging, promotion and dissemination. As of 2017 this team also includes Impact Research.

By the end of the year, we were pleased to see our new employees had settled in and the new structure was operating well. With another anticipated increase of 20% in allocated funding for Erasmus+ in 2018, we entered the new year with the hope of securing more staff to ensure we can continue the supportive programme management for which we are known!

Strategising

Looking to next year and beyond, we will be guided in our work by our new Strategy Statement for 2018-2020. The Statement was prepared with input from the Board of Léargas, the staff, and a selection of our stakeholders, who all took part in a review of our external and internal environments, our responsibilities, and our philosophy of programme management. I thank everyone who took part in the process for their deep engagement with it, and for their considered approach to the work we do and how we do it. I also wish to thank the Léargas staff and Board for their focus in 2017 on Léargas compliance with the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies.

Reflecting

As the 30th anniversary year of Erasmus+ and its predecessor programmes, 2017 was an occasion to look back at how our programmes have worked both in Ireland and across Europe. We celebrated Erasmus+ 30 throughout the year at regional and sectoral events and at our annual Forum. We were delighted to welcome Irishwoman Barbara Nolan home from her position as head of Erasmus+ coordination in the European Commission to give the keynote speech at the Forum. We also worked with the Higher Education Authority to publish an eight-page supplement on Erasmus+ in the Irish Independent newspaper in September. In the same month, both agencies presented Erasmus+ in Ireland to an international audience attending the UNESCO Cities of Learning conference in Cork. 2017 was also the 70th anniversary of IAESTE, a programme on a smaller scale in terms of numbers but with a broader reach in terms of geography! We are delighted to support this long-running programme that offers technical students opportunities to gain professional experience and build networks of friends and colleagues, while learning about new cultures and different ways of looking at the world.

Looking forward

As well as a time for reflection, 2017 was a year for Léargas to look forward. We took on the management of the European Solidarity Corps, a new volunteering initiative that will officially launch in 2018. With more staff on board, we were able to hold more events sharing the opportunities offered by transnational cooperation; for example, our new range of Erasmus+ Discovery Days and Inclusion Inspiration Days. We also looked at improving supports for beneficiaries, tailoring our Project Management Days and our online support to provide the best guidance possible. In October 2017, we introduced a second call for mobility applications in School Education and VET. We were particularly pleased with the increased application levels in both sectors (approx. 20% in School Education and 50% in VET) and we hope to repeat this second call in 2018. In 2017, eTwinning featured in the Digital Strategy for Schools Action Plan 2017 and we're pleased to say that by year end we had doubled the number of teacher registrations in 2017 compared to 2016 and had the highest number of new teacher and project registrations since eTwinning started in Ireland. We also doubled the number of National Quality Labels awarded to Irish schools. Also in 2017, Languages Connect, Ireland's Strategy for Foreign Languages in Education 2017-2026, identified Erasmus+ mobility opportunities as key to improving language competences in our learners and set targets for increased mobility in the coming years.

Visit these links for more:

[Léargas Team](#)

[Léargas Strategy Statement](#)

[From Erasmus to Erasmus+](#)

[Erasmus+ Mid-Term Evaluation in Ireland](#)

[Back to Annual Report](#)

Evaluating

While our focus is often on day-to-day programme management, we're always aware of the need to assess our programmes too. We worked with O'Brien Governance, the firm appointed by the Department of Education and Skills to carry out the mid-term evaluation of Erasmus+ (and its predecessor programmes) in Ireland, as part of a wider European assessment. Their report was comprehensive and thorough and heavily informed our own Strategy Statement for the coming years. On a more long-term basis, we now have an Impact Research officer working on our Communications team. Having this role in place means we have been able to provide more focused support to beneficiaries on impact and dissemination; in addition, we have started work on our first research report on the impact of Erasmus+ International Mobility Placements for Vocational Education and Training Learners from Ireland. This work is currently being shared with other national agencies across Europe and will be published in the latter half of 2018.

All in all then, 2017 was both a year of reflection and a year of embracing change. It was a time to acknowledge the challenges ahead in our shifting political climate, and also welcome new strategies as we look forward with enthusiasm to continuing our support of international exchange and cooperation.

Thank you

Finally, I wish as always to thank all Léargas staff, old and new; the Léargas Board; and our colleagues in the Department of Education and Skills and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs for their continued hard work and support.

Jim Mullin,
Executive Director, Léargas



We manage funding on behalf of:





Teachtaireacht ón Stiúrthóir



(In English)

Bhí bliain ghnóthach tháirgeach ag Léargas in 2017: rinneamar ceiliúradh ar Erasmus+ 30, ghlacamar tionscnamh oibre deonaí nua ar bord (An Cór Dlíthpháirtíochta Eorpach), agus rinneamar maoirseacht ar mhéadú thuairim is 30% ar an maoiniú a leithdháileadh in 2016 ar Erasmus+.

Fáiltiú

Bhí áthas orainn go bhfuair eamar cead ón rialtas naonúr ball foirne nua a earcú chun cabhrú linn an méadú seo a bhainistiú. Chuaigh beirt bhall foirne a bhí linn le fada an lá ar scor. Dá bhrí sin d'fháiltíomar roimh aon duine déag nua inár n-eagraíocht in 2017. Mar thoradh ar an dream nua seo a theacht isteach spreagadh sinn chun struchtúr na foirne a athrú agus ath-eagrú beagáinín. Tugann ár bhfoireann Seirbhísí Cliaint tacaíocht d'Erasmus+ thar gach réimse agus tá ár bhfoireann Oibríochtaí agus Airgeadais freagrach as gnóthaí airgeadais agus oibríúcháin thar gach clár. Bainistíonn ár bhfoireann um Thionscnaimh Straitéiseacha cláir oideachais agus cláir mhalartaithe atá níos lú ach atá rithábachtach mar sin féin, inár n-earnálacha go léir agus bainistíonn ár bhfoireann Chumarsáide ár n-obair teachtaireachta, cur chun cinn agus scaipeadh. Amhail 2017 tá Taighde Tionchair san áireamh leis an bhfoireann seo.

Faoi dheireadh na bliana bhíomar an-sásta a thabhairt faoi deara go raibh na fostaithe nua tar éis sócrú isteach go breá agus go raibh na struchtúir nua ag oibriú go maith. De bharr go raibh coinne againn le méadú 20% breise a theacht ar leithdháileadh maoiniú Erasmus+ in 2018 bhí súil againn le tuilleadh baill foirne a earcú sa bhliain nua chun a chinntiú go bhfuil ar ár gcumas leanúint ar aghaidh leis an mbainistiú tacúil siúd ar na cláir a bhfuil clú orainn ina thaobh.

Straitéis

Sa bhliain seo chugainn agus níos faide anonn beidh an Ráiteas Straitéise nua 2018-2020 mar threoir againn. Ullmhaíodh an Ráiteas le hionchur ó Bhord Léargas, ón bhfoireann agus ó rogha de luchtanna leasa. Bhíodar sin go léir rannpháirteach inár n-athbhreithniú ar ár dtimpeallachtaí seachtracha agus inmheánacha araon, ár gcuid fhreagrachtaí agus ár bhfealsúnacht maidir le bainistiú cláir. Gabhaim buíochas le gach duine a ghlac páirt sa phróiseas as a rannpháirtíocht dhíograiseach agus as an gcur chuige machnamhach a ghlac siad i leith na hoibre a bhíonn idir lámha againn agus an tslí ina ndéanaimid í. Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghlacadh leis, le foireann Léargas agus leis an mBord, as ucht díriú isteach ar chomhlíonadh an Chóid Chleachtais um Rialachas Comhlachtaí Stáit a oibriú amach do Léargas in 2017.

Súil siar

Ba 2017 an 30ú bliain ina bhfuil Erasmus+ agus na cláir a tháinig roimhe ar siúl agus dá bhrí sin ba ócáid í chun súil a chaitheamh siar ar an tionchar a d'imir ár gcuid clár in Éirinn agus ar fud na hEorpa ar aon. Cheiliúramar Erasmus+ 30 ó cheann ceann na bliana ag ócáidí réigiúnacha agus ócáidí earnála agus ag ár bhFóram bliantúil. Bhí áthas orainn fáilte abhaile a chur roimh an bhean Éireannach Barbara Nolan óna post mar cheann ar chomhordú Erasmus+ sa Choimisiún Eorpach chun an príomhathreas a thabhairt ag an bhFóram. Lena chois sin bhíomar ag obair leis an Údarás um Ard-Oideachas chun forlíonadh ocht leathanaigh ar Erasmus+ a fhoilsiú san Irish Independent i mí Mheán Fómhair. Sa mhí céanna chuir an dá ghníomhaireacht Erasmus+ i láthair in Éirinn do lucht éisteachta idirnáisiúnta a d'fhreastail ar an gcomhdháil Cathracha Foghlama EOECA i gCorcaigh. Lena chois sin ba in 2017 a cheiliúramar seachtó bliain ó cuireadh IAESTE ar bun. Clár níos lú é seo ó thaobh uimhreacha de ach tá rochtain níos fairsinge aige ó thaobh geografíochta de! Tá áthas orainn tacú leis an gclár seo atá ar siúl le fada an lá agus a thugann deis do mhicléinn teicníochta taithí phroifisiúnta a fháil agus líonraí cairde agus comhghleacaithe a thógáil le linn dóibh a bheith ag foghlaim faoi chultúir nua agus faoi shlite eile chun féachaint ar an saol.

Súil ar aghaidh

Aimsir chun machnamh a dhéanamh agus aimsir chun féachaint ar aghaidh ag an am céanna ab ea 2017. Ghlacamar le bainistíocht an Chóir Dhlíthpháirtíochta Eorpaigh, tionscnamh oibre deonaí a sheolfaí go hoifigiúil in 2018. Mar bhí breis ball foirne againn bhí ar ár gcumas tuilleadh imeachtaí a chur ar siúl agus deiseanna a roinnt a bhí ann mar thoradh ar chomhar trasnáisiúnta; mar shampla ár réimse nua de Laethanta chun Fáil amach faoi Erasmus+ agus Laethanta chun Cuimsiú a Spreagadh. Lena chois sin d'fhéachamar ar fheabhas a chur ar thacaíochtaí do thairbhíthe, ar ár Laethanta Bainistíochta Tionscadail a oiriúnú chun an treoir is fearr is féidir linn a thabhairt a chur ar fáil. I mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2017 thugamar isteach an dara ghlaó ar iarratais i soghluaisteacht Oideachais Scoile agus Gairmoideachais agus Oiliúint. Bhí áthas ar leith orainn faoin méadú ar na leibhéil iarratais (tuairim is 20% in Oideachas Scoile agus 50% in nGarimoideachas agus Oiliúint) agus tá súil againn an dara ghlaó seo a dhéanamh uair eile in 2018. In 2017 bhí páirt ag eTwinning sa Phlean Gníomhaíochta don Straitéis Dhigiteach do Scoileanna 2017.

Tuilleadh eolais:

Léargas Team

Léargas Strategy Statement

From Erasmus to Erasmus+

Erasmus+ Mid-Term Evaluation in Ireland

Téigh ar ais chuig an Tuarascáil Bhliantúil

Tá áthas orainn a chur in iúl go raibh líon na gclárúcháin múinteoirí dúbailte againn faoi dheireadh na bliana i gcomparáid le 2016 agus go raibh an líon is airde clárúcháin múinteoirí nua agus tionscadal againn ó cuireadh tús le eTwinning in Éirinn. Bronnadh dhá oiread an líon Lipéid Cháilíochta Náisiúnta ar scoileanna in Éirinn. Rud eile a tharla in 2017 is ea gur shainaithin Déanann Teangacha Nasc, an Straitéis um Theangacha lasachta san Oideachas 2017-2026, deiseanna soghluaisteachta Erasmus+ mar ghné ríthábhachtach chun cumas teanga ár bhfoghlaimoirí a fheabhsú agus chuir sé spriocanna maidir le breis soghluaisteachta a bhaint amach sna blianta atá romhainn.

Measúnú

Bíodh is go mbímid ag díriú ar ghnáthbhainistiú cláir go minic is eol dúinn i gcónaí go bhfuil orainn measúnú a dhéanamh ar ár gcuid clár chomh maith. D'oibríomar le O'Brien Governance, an chuideachta a cheap an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna chun an measúnú lár-théarma a dhéanamh ar Erasmus+ (agus na cláir a tháinig roimhe) in Éirinn, mar chuid de mheasúnú Eorpach níos leithne. Rinne siad tuairisc chuimsitheach chríochnúil agus baineadh mórúsáid aisti mar bhonn eolais dár Ráiteas Straitéise féin i gcomhair na mblianta atá romhainn. Ar bhonn níos fadtéarmaí, tá oifigeach um Thaighde Tionchair againn anois atá ag obair lenár bhfoireann Chumarsáide. De bharr go bhfuil an post seo ar bun anois bhí ar ár gcumas tacaíocht níos spriocdhírthe a chur ar fáil do thairbhíthe maidir le tionchar agus scaipeadh; de bhreis air seo tá tús curtha againn le hobair ar an gcéad tuairisc taighde dár gcuid ar thionchar Socrúcháin Shoghluaisteachta Idirnáisiúnta Erasmus+ d'Fhoghlaimoirí i mbun Gairmoideachais agus Oiliúna as Éirinn. Tá an obair seo á roinnt le gníomhaireachtaí náisiúnta eile ar fud na hEorpa faoi láthair agus foilseofar í sa dara leath de 2018.

Mar sin, ar an iomlán ba bhliain í 2017 ina ndearnadh machnamh agus inar glacadh le hathrú. Aimsir ab ea í chun a admháil go bhfuil dúshlán romhainn sa timpeallacht pholaitiúil seo againne atá ag aistriú, agus, chomh maith leis sin, chun fáilte a chur roimh straitéisí nua agus sinne ag tnúth go fonnmhar le leanúint orainn ag tacú le malartú agus comhar idirnáisiúnta.

Buíochas

Mar fhocal scoir, ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil, mar is gnách, le foireann Léargas ar fad idir sheanbhunaithe agus nua-thagtha; le Bord Léargas; agus lenár gcomhghleacaithe sa Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna agus sa Roinn Leanaí agus Gnóthaí Óige, as an obair chrua atá á dhéanamh acu go leanúnach agus as an tacaíocht a thugann siad gan stad gan staonadh

Jim Mullin,
Stiúrthóir Feidhmiúcháin, Léargas



We manage funding on behalf of:





Summary of Accounts 2017

	Income (€)	Expenditure (€)	Retained surplus/ deficit for the year (€)
Client Services	1,196,053	1,196,053	0
Operations and Finance	975,739	975,739	0
Strategic Initiatives	777,086	777,086	0
Communications	411,176	411,176	0
NCGE	936,376	936,376	0
	4,296,430	4,296,430	0

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We manage funding on behalf of:





About Léargas

Léargas manage European, national and international exchange and cooperation programmes in education, training and youth and community work. We are a not-for-profit organisation operating under the Department of Education and Skills, established in 1986. We are one of two National Agencies managing Erasmus+ in Ireland.

We have 43 staff based in our Dublin office. Our staff come from Ireland, Poland, France, Croatia, Germany, Romania and Spain and have wide-ranging experience in education, training, community, youth and development work; as well as programme management, communications, IT and finance.

2017

In 2017, we awarded over €13m of Erasmus+ funding to the Adult Education, School Education, Vocational Education and Training and Youth sectors in Ireland. We also supported those taking part in all our programmes and initiatives online, in person and through a wide range of events, workshops, and of course our annual Forum. Scroll down the page to find links to more detailed information of activities in each sector and check out our highlights of the year.



Erasmus+

Key Figures, 2017

€13.3m in funding

€6.8m Allocated to Key Action 1

€6.4m Allocated to Key Action 2

€0.13m Allocated to Key Action 3

11,756 Participants

30% Increase in funding on 2016

Léargas supporting programmes, 2017

External events - 75

Information events - 45

Programme events - 36

Monitoring/Compliance meetings - 49

Read more:

[Foreword from the Chairman](#)

[Message from the Executive Director](#)

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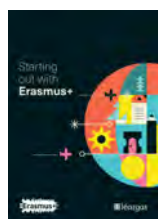
Find out more:

Cross-Sectoral

Erasmus+

Languages

Impact



Youth

Erasmus+

eurodesk

Languages

Impact



Adult Education

Erasmus+

EPALE

Languages

Impact



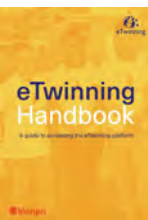
School Education

Erasmus+

eTwinning

Languages

Impact



Vocational Education

Erasmus+

ECVET

Languages

Impact



Third Level

IAESTE

Languages

Impact



Celebrating 30 Years of European Exchange

In 2017 we marked **30 YEARS FROM ERASMUS TO ERASMUS+** at a range of events across the country, and published an eight-page supplement all about the programme in the **Irish Independent** in September.



Explore Erasmus+



We kicked off our series of **DISCOVERY DAYS** for newcomers to Erasmus+ and discussed project ideas with groups in Dublin, Tralee, Cashel and Killarney.

Meet the New Team!



We welcomed eleven **NEW STAFF MEMBERS** and reorganised our structure into four teams: Client Services, Communications, Operations & Finance, and Strategic Initiatives.

ECML Workshop



Experts from the European Centre for Modern Languages in Graz, Austria, came to Dublin to lead a workshop on the **PLURILITERACIES APPROACH TO TEACHING FOR LEARNING**, and more than **30 Irish teachers and language professionals** discovered how to bring new concepts and practices into their classrooms.

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300 new teachers and 166 new projects registered in 2017 – the highest number of new registrations **EVER** for **ETWINNING** in Ireland!

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Shape it, move it, be it! We held **17 events** across the country from 1-7 May to celebrate **EUROPEAN YOUTH WEEK** and encourage young people to **shape** their future in the EU, **move** to a new place with an Erasmus+ mobility experience, and **be** part of the new European Solidarity Corps.

Productive Partnership in Adult Education



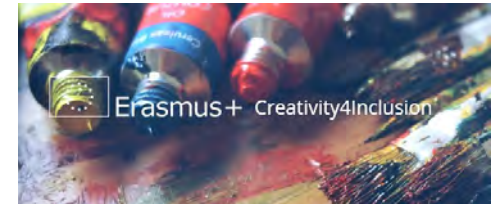
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Each Erasmus+ sector got a bright new makeover this year, with its own colour, logo and tagline. Look out for the new designs on our information cards, [website](#) and [social media!](#)

Inclusion and Diversity



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Helping to Heal the Divide

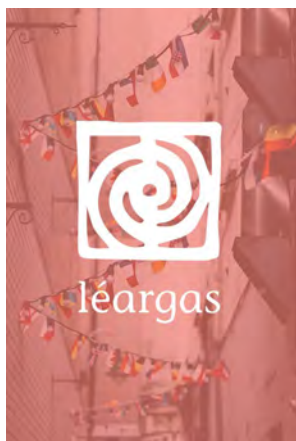


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Funding Year: **2017**
Country: **Ireland**

Léargas

The Irish National Agency managing the fields of:

- Adult Education
- School Education
- Vocational Education and Training
- Youth

Client Services Team

Key Action 1 is for projects that involve exchanges, study visits, job-shadowing, training, or volunteering in another country.

Strategic Initiatives Team

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Operations and Finance Team

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Communications Team

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Get in Touch

For more information on the programmes we manage, get in touch with our team.

- T: 01 8871260
- E: <https://www.leargas.ie/contact-us/>



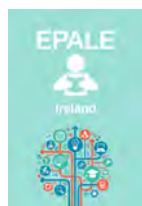
Programmes by Sector

Adult Education

Erasmus+



EPALE

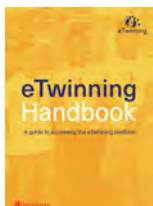


School Education

Erasmus+



eTwinning



Vocational Education

Erasmus+

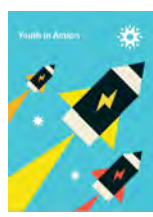


ECVET



Youth in Action

Erasmus+



eurodesk



Cross-Sectoral

Languages



Inclusion



Third Level

IAESTE



Key Figures for 2017

2017 Deadlines

Key Metrics

Léargas Events

February Deadline
01 February 2017

March Deadline
21 March 2017

April Deadline
26 April 2017

October Deadline
01 October 2017

Funded by:



€13.3m in Erasmus+ funding in 2017

€6.6m Allocated to Erasmus+ Key Action 1 in 2017

€6.4m Allocated to Erasmus+ Key Action 2 in 2017

€0.13m Allocated to Erasmus+ Key Action 3 in

2017

11,756 Erasmus+ participants in 2017

XXX00 participants in 2017

X% Increase in funding to Ireland in 2017

48 Youth Training Courses

6 Hosted Transnational Cooperation Activities (TCAs)

8 Discovery Days

5 Dissemination Events

Léargas Online

Website

Target Customers

Who can you help? Identify 3 to 4 user personas you envision turning to you for solutions. Try our User Persona Creator tool.

Twitter

Top 3 Problems

What is the crucial problem faced by your consumers? Capture their central frustration.

Existing Alternatives

Define one clear, direct competitor. Consider the other ways customers can address their problems. What products or services exist as alternatives to what you're offering?

Facebook

Top 3 Solutions

What is your solution to consumers' problems? Present the defining elements of your service: what makes it the top tool for addressing consumers' needs?

Key Metrics

Key Activities You Measure

How will you track consumer engagement, excitement, and usage of your product?

Linked In

A Clear and Compelling Message

This message should explain what you do, how you are different, and why you are worth investing in. What is your promise to consumers? Zero in on the heart of your service and highlight what stands out about product you provide.

High Level Concept

How does your product fit into the bigger picture; where does it fall in the grand scheme of things?

Instagram

Your Differentiator

How do you stand out from competitors? What puts you ahead of the pack? Why should consumers have confidence in your service above others?

Channels

Path to Customers

How will you interact with consumers, inform them of your developments and services? Print ads, social media platforms, promotional events, or even word of mouth—consider the most effective ways to reach users.

Early Adopters

Define the specific characteristics of your early adopters.

Celebrating 30 Years of European Exchange

In 2017 we marked **30 YEARS FROM ERASMUS TO ERASMUS+** at a range of events across the country, and published an eight-page supplement all about the programme in the **Irish Independent** in September.



Explore Erasmus+



We kicked off our series of **DISCOVERY DAYS** for newcomers to Erasmus+ and discussed project ideas with groups in Dublin, Tralee, Cashel and Killarney.

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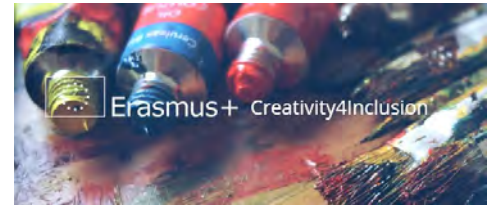
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Funding Year: **2017**
Country: **Ireland**

Léargas

The Irish National Agency managing the fields of:

- Adult Education
- School Education
- Vocational Education and Training
- Youth

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Léargas Support

For more information on Erasmus+, get in touch with our Client Services and Operations and Finance Teams

- E: clientservices@leargas.ie
- T: 01 8871260
- E: opsfin@leargas.ie
- T: 01 8871290
- www.leargas.ie/programmes/erasmusplus/



Adult Education



Schools



VET



Youth



Erasmus+ Stories

- Bringing learning from Berlin to Ballymun with Erasmus+
- Exploring Education in Prisons with Erasmus+
- The Benefits of Erasmus+ Youth Exchanges
- Early Childhood Education: Innovation, inspiration, transformation and collaboration

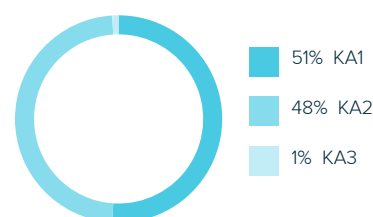
Funded by:



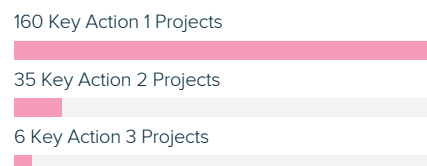
Key Metrics

- €13.3m** Total Allocated Funding in 2017
- €6.8m** Allocated to Key Action 1 in 2017
- €6.4m** Allocated to Key Action 2 in 2017
- €0.13m** Allocated to Key Action 3 in 2017
- 201** Erasmus+ projects in 2017
- 11,756** participants in 2017
- 4,417** Key Action 1 participants in 2017
- 6,156** Key Action 2 participants in 2017
- 1,183** Key Action 3 participants in 2017

Erasmus+ by Key Action



Erasmus+ Projects





From Erasmus to Erasmus+: A Story of 30 Years

In 2017 we celebrated 30 years of Erasmus across the European Union. What started as a third level student mobility programme in 1987, has grown into something bigger and enriched the lives of more than 9 million direct participants, not to mention the indirect impact it has had on so many others. That's why in 2014 the Commission combined many programmes into one: Erasmus+. As the national agency in Ireland we are proud to work with inspiring educators from the fields of Adult Education, School Education, Vocational Education and Training and Youth. Check out some of their stories here.

Erasmus+ Adult Education 2017



Funding Year: **2017**
Country: **Ireland**

Léargas
Irish National Agency

Opportunities for Adult Education organisations and educators

In 2017 we awarded more than €0.87 million in funding to adult education projects across Ireland. Erasmus+ enables adult education organisations and educators to exchange with their peers from Europe; to work together on key issues such as improving access, participation and the learning experience of adults; and to build knowledge and expertise while also developing strong international relationships.

Erasmus+ Adult Education has two main project types. **Key Action 1** is for projects where participants travel to another country, for training, job shadowing, and professional development. **Key Action 2** is for partnership projects, where Irish adult education organisations work with other groups to meet common challenges in innovative ways and exchange good practice.

Over 1,100 adult educators took part in Erasmus+ Adult Education projects in 2017. In the words of one participant, "perhaps the biggest advantage of participating in Erasmus+ was the opportunity to identify and be reminded of what we are excelling at as well as how we can improve here in our own country."

Léargas Support

For more information on Erasmus+ Adult Education get in touch with our Client Services and Operations and Finance Teams

- E: clientservices@leargas.ie
- T: 01 8871260
- E: opsfin@leargas.ie
- T: 01 8871290
- www.leargas.ie/programmes/erasmusplus/adult-education/about/



Stories

Exploring Education in Prisons with Erasmus+

Entrepreneurship and Adult Education

Making an Impact at European level

Erasmus+ Adult Education

Key Metrics, 2017

€0.87m Total Allocated Funding

€0.10m Allocated to Key Action 1

€0.77m Allocated to Key Action 2

11 projects

6 KA1 projects

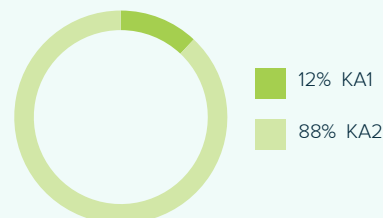
5 KA2 projects

1,126 participants

Funded by:



Funding % by Key Action



Project numbers by Key Action

6 Key Action 1 Staff Mobility Projects

5 Key Action 2 Strategic Partnership Projects

Managed by:



Erasmus+ Adult Education 2017



Funding Year: **2017**
Country: **Ireland**

Léargas
Irish National Agency

Key Action 1: Erasmus+ Mobility Projects for Adult Education Staff

This action allows organisations to send staff to other European countries to undertake a dedicated period of learning or professional experience, such as job shadowing, training, volunteering, or gaining work experience.

Key Action 2: Erasmus+ Strategic Partnerships in the field of Adult Education

Strategic Partnerships allow organisations active in adult education to cooperate with other relevant organisations to promote the development and use of innovative methods.

Léargas Support Staff

For more information on Erasmus+ Adult Education please contact the Client Services Team

- Email: clientservices@leargas.ie
- Telephone: 01 8871260
- Web: www.leargas.ie



Timeline

February Deadline
February 1 2017

Selection Committee
April 2017

Projects Notified
June 2017

Contracts Issued
January 2016

Project Management Day
Q4 - 2016

Key Statistics

€889,000 Total Allocated funding in 2017

€148,000 Allocated to Staff Mobility Projects

€741,000 Allocated to Strategic Partnerships

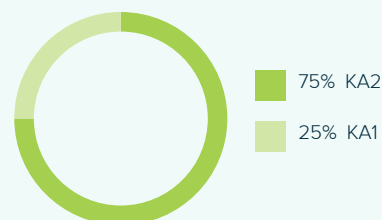
20 Adult Education Projects in 2017

500 Adult Educators availing of training

16 International Partnerships

7% Increase in funding from 2016

Erasmus+ by Key Action



Adult Education Projects

7 Key Action 1 Mobility Projects

3 Key Action 2 Strategic Partnerships

Funded by:



Erasmus+ School Education 2017



Funding Year: **2017**
Country: **Ireland**

Léargas
Irish National Agency

Opportunities for Irish Schools and School Organisations

In 2017 we awarded more than €3.43 million in funding to 55 school education projects across Ireland.

Erasmus+ enables school education staff to gain first-hand knowledge of other European education systems, hone their professional skills and ensure their own continuous professional development. Schools can identify target areas of interest, such as particular subjects or skill sets, and establish a school-wide plan for training.

Erasmus+ Schools has two main project types. **Key Action 1** is for projects where participants teach in a partner school, participate in structured courses or training courses abroad or job shadowing in a partner school. **Key Action 2** is for exchange of practices, developing innovation, exploring learning, teaching or training tools and learning activities.

Over 3,357 young people took part in Erasmus+ Schools projects in 2017, along with 424 staff members. In the words of one teacher "Along with other staff in the school who have given incredibly positive reviews of their own Erasmus+ courses, I will begin introducing what I have learnt into my own classroom".

Léargas Support

For more information on Erasmus+ School Education get in touch with our Client Services and Operations and Finance Teams.

- E: clientservices@leargas.ie
- T: 01 8871260
- E: opsfin@leargas.ie
- T: 01 8871260
- www.leargas.ie/programmes/erasmusplus/school-education/about/



Read more

Bringing learning from Berlin to Ballymun with Erasmus+

Erasmus+ School Education Key Metrics, 2017

€3.43m Total Allocated Funding

€0.76m Allocated to Key Action 1

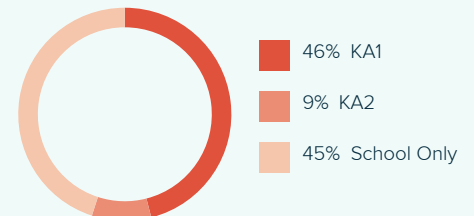
€2.67m Allocated to Key Action 2

80 School Education projects

3,357 School Education Participants

424 School staff

Funding % by Key Action

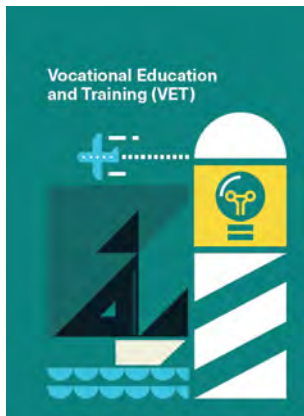


Project numbers by Key Action

37 Staff Mobility Projects

7 Key Action 2 Strategic Partnership Projects

36 Key Action 2 School to School Projects



Funding Year: **2017**
Country: **Ireland**

Léargas
Irish National Agency

Opportunities for VET Organisations

In 2017 we awarded more than €3.9 million in funding to 30 VET mobility projects and 7 VET strategic partnership projects across Ireland. Mobility projects enable VET organisations to send learners and staff for vocational training placements in another participating country (under Key Action 1). Strategic Partnerships enable Irish VET organisations to cooperate with others to meet common challenges in innovative ways (under Key Action 2).

Over 2,755 participants took part in these Erasmus+ projects in 2017, but the impact goes far beyond the participants involved. As Ruth Baker of Ballymun Jobs Centre commented about their Strategic Partnership project, "These Erasmus+ exchanges have highlighted to me that there is a vibrant and exciting way for community organisations across Ireland to engage with their European counterparts and create an atmosphere of innovation and best practice that will lead to the best outcomes for their clients."

Léargas Support

For more information on Erasmus+ VET get in touch with our Client Services and Operations and Finance Teams.

- E: clientservices@leargas.ie
- T: 01 8871260
- E: opsfin@leargas.ie
- T: 01 8871290
- www.leargas.ie/programmes/erasmusplus/vet/about/



Stories

Stepping into European Projects in Ballymun Job Centre

Early Childhood Education: Innovation, inspiration, transformation and collaboration!

Erasmus+ VET Key Metrics, 2017

€4.9m Total Allocated Funding

€3.0m Allocated to Key Action 1

€1.9m Allocated to Key Action 2

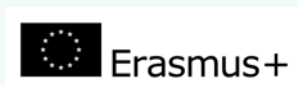
37 VET projects

30 VET Mobility projects

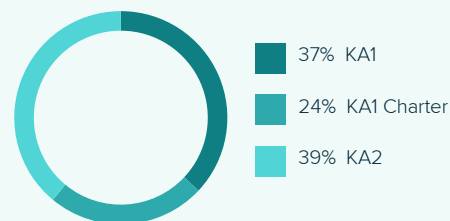
7 VET Strategic Partnership projects

2,755 VET participants

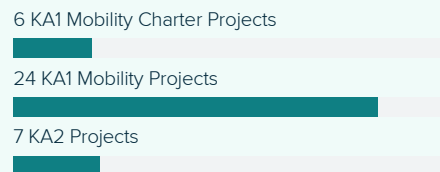
Funded by:



Funding % by Key Action



Project numbers by Key Action



Erasmus+ Youth in Action 2017



Funding Year: **2017**

Country: **Ireland**

Léargas
Irish National Agency

Opportunities for Irish youth organisations and young people

In 2017 we awarded more than €3.7 million in funding to almost 100 youth projects across Ireland. Erasmus+ enables young people and youth organisations to exchange with their peers from Europe; to work together on key issues like identity, human rights and climate change; and to build knowledge and expertise while also developing strong international relationships.

Erasmus+ Youth in Action has three main project types. **Key Action 1** is for projects where participants travel to another country, for training, job shadowing, volunteering, or a youth exchange. **Key Action 2** is for partnership projects, where Irish youth organisations work with other groups to meet common challenges in innovative ways, exchange good practice, or set up Transnational Youth Initiatives. Organisations can also facilitate meetings between young people and decision makers to help support policy reform, using **Key Action 3**.

Over 4,500 young people took part in Erasmus+ Youth in Action projects in 2017. In the words of one young participant, getting involved in Erasmus+ is a "fantastic learning experience" and a chance to make "new friends from all different cultures and lifelong memories along the way".

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Stories

Using Erasmus+ training to help young Syrian refugees' resettlement in Kildare

"Making a difference and creating something beautiful": a Youth Exchange between Ireland and Italy

Erasmus+ Youth Key Metrics, 2017

€3.7m Total Allocated Funding

€2.94m Allocated to Key Action 1

€0.63m Allocated to Key Action 2

€0.13m Allocated to Key Action 3

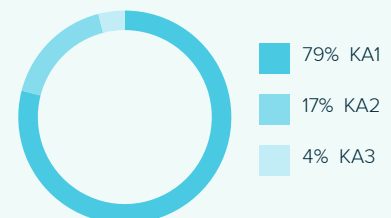
98 projects

4,518 participants

Funded by:



Funding % by Key Action



Project numbers by Key Action

87 Key Action 1 Projects

5 Key Action 2 Projects

6 Key Action 3 Projects



Funding Year: **2017**
Country: **Ireland**

Léargas
Irish National Agency

Key Action 1: Mobility Projects for Young People and Youth Workers

Key Action 1 projects support young people and youth workers to spend time abroad building their life experience, learning about different cultures, improving their language and other skills and building on their professional development.

Activities: Youth Exchanges, Volunteering, Mobility of Youth Workers

Key Action 2: Cooperation for Innovation and Exchange of Good Practice

Key Action 2 projects are collaborative, strategic projects that aim to raise standards in youth work.

Key Action 3: Support for Policy Reform

Key Action 3 projects support young people, aged 13 to 30, to discuss issues and policies that affect their lives with relevant decision-makers.

Léargas Support Staff

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- Erclientservices@leargas.ie
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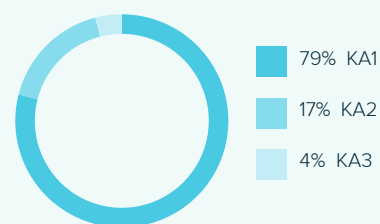
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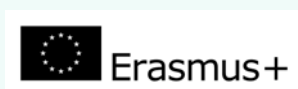
4,518 Young in Action participants in 2017

X% Year to Year Growth

Erasmus+ by Key Action



Funded by:





Funding Year: **2017**
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Léargas
Irish National Agency



Eurodesk Ireland

There are many opportunities for young people to work, study, train or volunteer in Europe and Eurodesk is here to help young people access them. We are a free information service providing safe and high quality information and support in accessing European programmes and funding.

2017 was a very busy and successful year for Eurodesk Ireland and our [network members](#). In May 2017, more than 1150 young people, youth workers and multipliers from across Ireland attended 26 local events organised by our network members to celebrate [European Youth Week 2017](#). Activities included workshops on Diversity and Solidarity, celebrations of 30 years of Erasmus+, presentations and workshops on European Voluntary Service, interactive displays, information stands, intercultural and cultural events, talks and presentations.

During the [Time to Move](#) campaign in October, we organised local and regional events attended by over 570 young people and multipliers. The local events included workshops on discovering ways to experience Europe, information displays in youth cafes, schools and youth information centres; as well as presentations on opportunities in Europe to secondary school students.

In cooperation with the [National Centre for Guidance in Education \(NCGE\)](#) and Euroguidance Ireland four regional networking events took place in Dublin-Blanchardstown, Limerick, Letterkenny and Ballinasloe. The events were attended by guidance counsellors, youth workers, teachers and students and provided comprehensive information about European programmes such as Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps, as well as opportunities to study, volunteer and work abroad.

Léargas Support

For more information on Eurodesk get in touch with Malgorzata Fiedot-Davies, our Eurodesk Ireland Coordinator.

- E:eurodesk@leargas.ie
- T: 01 8871210
- www.leargas.ie/programmes/eurodesk
- eurodesk.ie/

Eurodesk Ireland Multipliers

For more information on European opportunities for young people (13-30) you can contact us directly or drop in to one of our 30 'multiplier' organisations:

- www.leargas.ie/programmes/eurodesk/eurodesk-multipliers/



Eurodesk Stories

[Eurodesk Annual Overview](#)

[European Youth Week 2017
01-07 May 2017](#)

[Youth Information: The
Backbone of a Successful
Youth Strategy
02 May 2017](#)

2017 Key Metrics for eurodesk Ireland

29 Eurodesk Multipliers nationwide

26 Local European Youth Week events

1,150 European Youth Week participants

8 Regional Time to Move events

577 Time to Move participants

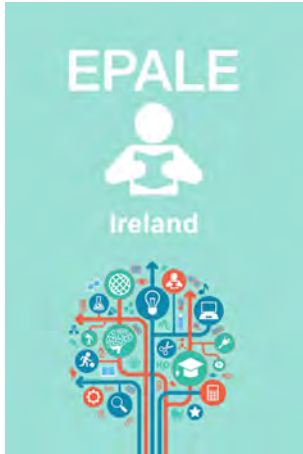
Eurodesk Events

26 European Youth Week events

8 Time to Move events

Funded by:





Year: **2017**
Country: **Ireland**

Léargas
Irish National Agency

EPALE in Europe

EPALE is a multilingual open membership community for professionals in the adult learning sector across Europe, including teachers, trainers, guidance practitioners, researchers and policy makers.

EPALE aims to strengthen the adult learning community across Europe, through the sharing of ideas, resources and more. EPALE is co-funded by the European Commission and SOLAS and is free for users.

The EPALE Ireland team

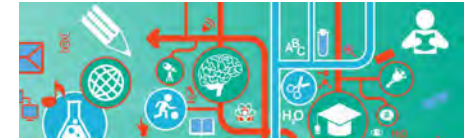
Laura Austen-Gray and Ronnad Baot Murphy form the EPALE Ireland Team. Ronnad started working with EPALE in March 2017, as EPALE Administrator. Laura also joined the team, as EPALE Officer, in November 2017.

"We're both very excited to be working with Léargas and on the EPALE initiative. We hope to raise awareness in Ireland of the EPALE platform, broadening its reach to new individuals and stakeholders".

Léargas Support

For more information on EPALE get in touch with our Strategic Initiatives Team.

- E: epale@leargas.ie
- T: 01 8871250
- <http://www.leargas.ie/programmes/epale/>



Events

Cross-sectoral Information Session on Erasmus+ and EPALE, Limerick
12 January 2017

Digital Pathways Conference
18 January 2017

Further Education Network Meeting with the National University of Ireland, Maynooth
06 November 2017

EPALE Day - The Value of Europe in Adult Education: Promoting Inclusion and Diversity, Dublin
09 November 2017

2017 Key Metrics for EPALE Ireland

720+ Registered EPALE users

165 New Irish members registered on EPALE

42% Return users on EPALE in 2017

94% Increase in Twitter followers

15% Increase in Facebook followers

37 Blog contributions from Ireland

46 Irish resources shared

30+ Networking events attended by EPALE

2 New Irish 'Communities of Practice' established

EPALE contributions from Ireland

44 Events

24 News Items

37 Blogs

46 Resources

EPALE Content

Examples

'Adult Learning: National and European Challenges, Greece' by Brid Greenan, AONTAS
14 November 2017

Learning the Irish language by Benny Lewis
16 January 2017

'Training for Success, the story of an award-winning course for people with disability' by Honor Broderick, IT Sligo
20 June 2017

'Health and Wellbeing Course: Well Now' by Helen Ryan, NALA
15 December 2017

Funded by:



eTwinning Ireland 2017



Funding Year: **2017**
Country: **Ireland**

Léargas
Irish National Support Service

eTwinning

eTwinning is a free online platform linking a community of more than 500,000 teachers across Europe. It supports primary and post primary schools to find partners and work on joint projects in any curricular area, using Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

eTwinning in Ireland, 2017

In 2017, eTwinning featured in the **Digital Strategy for Schools Action Plan 2017**. We doubled the number of teacher registrations in 2017 compared to 2016 and had the **highest number of new teacher and project registrations** since eTwinning started in Ireland. We also doubled the number of **National Quality Labels** awarded to Irish schools.

Léargas Support

For more information on eTwinning get in touch with our Strategic Initiatives Team:

- eTwinning Coordinator : Liliانا O'Reilly
- E: etwinning@leargas.ie
- T: 018871206
- www.leargas.ie/programmes/eTwinning/



eTwinning ambassadors in 2017



eTwinning Stories

An Irishman goes eTwinning in Serbia
A Teacher's eye view of eTwinning

eTwinning Projects move to learn!

Two Irish eTwinning projects were awarded funding through the **Move2Learn, Learn2Move** initiative of the European Commission to visit the countries the teachers and students in the projects worked with. Both projects are from Our Lady of Fatima Special School in Wexford and the trips will take place in 2018.

Funded by:



eTwinning spreads the word at events in 2017

- Féilte
- NAPD Conference
- Léargas Project Management Days, Dublin
- French Teachers' Bootcamp
- School Summit
- French Teachers' Association Conference
- Italian Teachers' Association Conference
- Léargas Forum

eTwinning Inclusive Live event 2017





Funding Year: **2017**
Country: **Ireland**

Léargas
Irish National Agency

European Day of Languages

We held our 2017 European Day of Languages competition in collaboration with Euroguidance Ireland, and asked school pupils to apply for their dream job in a country where the language they are learning is spoken. We had almost 90 entries, giving the judges a difficult decision to make. In the end Mia O'Mahony of Tullamore College submitted the winning Junior Cycle entry, and Ciarán O'Donnchú of Gaelcholáiste Chiarraí submitted the Senior Cycle winner. Both schools won a trip to a European country to explore their dream career path!

European Language Label

In 2017 five innovative projects and four inspirational languages teachers received European Language Label awards to recognise their meaningful contributions to language teaching or learning in Ireland.

European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML)

Three Irish participants travelled to the ECML in Graz, Austria to take part in workshops on Sign Language Instruction, Digital Literacy, and Developing Language Awareness in Subject Classes. We were delighted to also host an ECML workshop in Dublin! A Pluriliteracies Approach to Teaching for Learning was delivered by ECML experts and 39 teachers and language professionals from Ireland took part.

Léargas Support

For more information on Languages get in touch with our Strategic Initiatives Team:

- E: languages@leargas.ie
- T: 01 8871210
- www.leargas.ie/programmes/languages/



European Language Label winners at the Awards Ceremony in Farmleigh, Dublin

Language Stories

Mother Tongue Plus Two: Irish and Multilingualism

2017 European Day of Language Winners visit Le Monde

ECML Workshop: A Pluriliteracies Approach to Teaching for Learning

Funded by:



European Language Label Winners 2017



Learn more about the five projects and four teachers who won European Language Label awards in 2017 on our [European Language Label playlist](#)

European Day of Languages Competition

76 Senior Cycle entries

12 Junior Cycle entries



Funding Year: **2017**
Country: **Ireland**

Léargas
Irish National Agency

Outgoing Irish trainees worked in:

Belgium
Brazil
Canada
China
Czech Republic
India
Germany
Poland
Spain
Switzerland
USA

IAESTE

IAESTE is an international exchange programme that runs in over 85 countries worldwide. Members of the network send and receive students for relevant work experience in technical fields like Science, Engineering, IT and Architecture. IAESTE was founded in 1948, just after the end of the Second World War, to help build bridges between nations. The programme celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2017 and is still going strong!

IAESTE Ireland

In 2017 IAESTE Ireland sent third-level students from the Dublin Institute of Technology, Trinity College Dublin, University College Cork, University College Dublin and Waterford Institute of Technology on short- and long-term work experience placements right across the world! From Brazil to Belgium and China to the Czech Republic, the Irish trainees gained practical training alongside a valuable and immersive cultural experience.

Léargas Support

For more information on IAESTE get in touch with our Strategic Initiatives Team:

- E: iaeste@leargas.ie
- T: 01 8871250
- www.leargas.ie/programmes/iaeste



IAESTE Ireland Stories

A 'Gringo' Learns the Lingo--and how to test soil samples--in Brazil

An 'Infinitely Valuable' Engineering Traineeship in Croatia

Five benefits of an IAESTE Traineeship

Funded by:



Incoming International trainees worked in:

Arup Ireland
Boliden Tara Mines
Ericsson Ireland
SAP
SmartSimple
Trinity College Dublin
University College Cork
University College Dublin



Funding Year: **2017**

Country: **Ireland**

Léargas
Irish National Agency

ECVET

The European Credit system for Vocational Education and Training (ECVET) aims to

- make it more easier and more attractive for people to move between different countries and learning environments in Europe
- make it easier for people to get validation and recognition of work-related skills and knowledge gained in different systems and countries
- increase the compatibility between different VET systems across Europe
- increase the employability of VET graduates
- increase the confidence of employers that each VET qualification reflects specific skills and knowledge

ECVET in Ireland, 2017

In 2017, Léargas supported both User Group members and ECVET experts to attend various events including the ECVET Forum in Malta, which focused on the role of ECVET in the promotion of flexible learning pathways. There were several Peer Learning Activities for which we selected and supported VET practitioners to take part in, such as "Pathways to Enhanced Assessment and Recognition for those achieving Learning beyond national borders" in the UK in July.

These international meetings were very helpful in looking at how ECVET is implemented on other countries, as well as learning about developments in ECVET and other European initiatives such as Europass.

In early 2017 we ran our own national event: a very engaging day which sowed the seeds for the consultation and review starting at European level. This opportunity to talk to VET practitioners at national level also gave us pointers for our promotional campaign for the year. Learning that there are many professionals and practitioners who have yet to fully recognise the benefits of ECVET was the catalyst in creating our toolkit publication.

Léargas Support

For more information on ECVET, get in touch with our Strategic Initiatives Team:

- E: strategicinitiatives@leargas.ie
- T: 01 8871250
- www.leargas.ie/programmes/ecvet/



Using ECVET for Geographical Mobility (2012)

PART II OF THE ECVET USERS' GUIDE



Funded by:





Seeing and Sharing Impact

Léargas are committed to evaluating and sharing the impact our programmes have on the people and organisations who take part in them, and on the wider community and systems in Ireland and Europe. In 2017 we appointed our first Impact Research officer, who is part of the Communications team. Connect with Charis if you would like help to see and share the impact of your own project.

Get in Touch

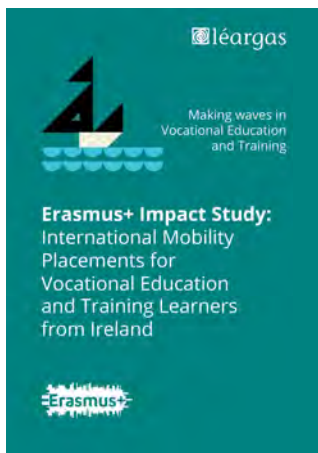
For more information on impact, contact Charis Hughes.

- E: chughes@leargas.ie
- T: 01 887 1224
- Twitter: [@Leargas_Charis](https://twitter.com/Leargas_Charis)



Impact Research

Our first Erasmus+ Impact Study is on mobility placements for VET Learners. Research began in 2017 and the full report will be published in 2018. Contact Charis if you'd like to find out more.



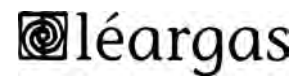
Impact Events

- We held four training workshops for Léargas staff and project coordinators on the **Impact results chain** and using the **Impact+** tool
- We ran the **'See the Change, Sustain the Change'** workshop at 2017 Léargas Forum
- We provided **'See and Share your Impact'** training at nine Erasmus+ Project Management Days
- Irish project coordinators travelled to Birmingham for two-day **Impact+** workshops on Adult Education and Vocational Education and Training
- We were on the Discussion Panel at the University College Cork Erasmus+ Conference on **Impact of Study Abroad**
- We took part in the **Evidence-based Policy** in Erasmus+ TCA in Poland and the **Applied Impact** TCA in Slovenia
- We facilitated an **Impact analysis** session for SALTO Inclusion Officers from across Europe at their network meeting in Dublin

Impact Resources

- [Impact+ Tool](#)
- [Advocacy Indicators](#)
- [Survey Design](#)
- [International School on Impact Research Assessment](#)

Managed by:



Léargas, King's Inns House, Parnell Street, Dublin 1
Phone: 01 8871260
leargas.ie



Leargas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Financial statements

for the financial year ended 31 December 2017

Chairman's Report

Registration Number 208725

Leargas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Chairmans report

Internal Financial Controls

On behalf of the Board of Léargas I acknowledge our responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated. The Board of Léargas has responsibility for the organisation's system of financial controls.

The Board acknowledges that the system can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely period.

Key Control Procedures

The Board has taken steps to ensure an appropriate control environment by:

- Clearly defining management responsibilities, in a defined organisational structure with clear segregation of duties
- Adopting the principles of corporate governance as outlined in the revised code of Practice 2016 for the governance of state bodies bearing in mind the size and nature of Léargas
- Establishing formal procedures to monitor the activities, safeguard the assets of the organisation while ensuring compliance with European funding regulations

The key procedures established by the Board to provide effective internal financial control are set out in an operations manual clearly defining management responsibilities and steps to be taken in the event of control failures.

The effectiveness of the control environment set out in the operations manual has been reviewed through a number of audits carried out in the past 12 months by our external auditors; additionally internal audits have been undertaken by our own internal auditors, Crowleys DFK. Audits have also been carried out on behalf of the Department of Education and Skills and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs by Deloitte.

The Board has implemented a full system of risk management including:

- The identification of significant strategic, financial, operational and reputational risks
- The assessment of appropriateness and strength of management controls surrounding risk areas
- The highlighting of key risk areas for specific management attention and Audit and Finance Committee focus

An annual budget is compiled and approved by the Board. Monthly accounts are produced showing variances between actual and budget. These are reviewed by management and the Board on a regular basis. A full system of internal financial control is in place covering all aspects of delegation, authorisation, segregation of duties and prevention and detection of fraud.

Léargas outsources its internal audit function to Crowleys DFK, who report directly to the Finance and Audit Committee. The Finance and Audit Committee meet on a regular basis to review accounts, internal audit reports and staffing matters. Management receives and reviews accounts on a monthly basis.

The Board reviews the effectiveness of the system of internal controls on an annual basis through the work of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee and the reports provided by Crowleys DFK (Internal Auditors) and Deloitte (auditors for DES and DCYA).

No material losses have been incurred arising from weaknesses in internal financial control and therefore there has been no requirement for disclosure in the financial statements or the auditor's report on the financial statements. No fraud has been detected.

Léargas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Chairmans report (continued)

In 2017 the Board was advised by our Internal Auditors that the existing procurement policy was not in compliance with the 2016 code of Practice and that we were required to develop a procurement plan. A derogation on this requirement until the end of February 2018 was sought from the Department of Education and Skills and was granted. The organisation is now in compliance with the Code.

All recommendations by Crowleys DFK or Deloitte have been or are in the process of being acted on.

There have been no significant commercially sensitive developments in the preceding twelve months and as a non-commercial state body, Léargas is not likely to experience any such developments in the short to medium term

I can confirm that there are no off- balance sheet transactions to report.

I can confirm that all appropriate procedures for financial reporting, internal audit, travel, procurement and asset disposal are being carried out.

I can confirm that the Board has established a Code of Business Conduct for Directors and Employees and that the policy is being adhered to.

I can confirm that Government policy on the pay of Chief Executives and all State body employees is being complied with.

I can confirm that no fees are paid to the Directors of Léargas.

I can confirm that there have been no significant post balance sheet events.

I can confirm that Léargas is in compliance with the requirements of the Public Spending code.

I can confirm that Léargas is currently revising and updating its Protected disclosures Policy to comply with the 2014 Act and that no protected disclosures were received by Léargas in the reporting period up to the 31st December 2017.

The required Protected Disclosures Annual Report will be published on our website following the Annual General Meeting.

I can confirm that Government travel policy requirements are being complied with in all respects.

I can confirm that Léargas has no Capital Expenditure Proposals.

I can confirm that Léargas has been in compliance with its obligations under tax law.

I can confirm that Léargas is not involved in any legal disputes involving other state bodies.

I can confirm that Léargas has adopted the 2016 Code of Practice and has initiated a plan to bring the organisation into full compliance.

Leargas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Chairmans report (continued)

I can confirm that Léargas has no subsidiaries and it continues to remain in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the consent under which it was established. Léargas does not have any subsidiaries and is not involved in joint ventures or share acquisitions but does however host the National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE).

For your information, a statement of expenses paid to members of the Board in 2016 including our Executive Director and also a statement of remuneration paid to key staff is set out below. We also include schedules of travel and hospitality expenses. Members of the Léargas board do not receive fees. Also set out below is a statement of expenses paid to the members of the NCGE Management of Guidance Committee and the remuneration of the Director of the NCGE.

Léargas Board Expenses

Fidelma Collins	€3,379.44
Stephen Goulding	€2,367.76
Hugh MacConville	€6,438.76
Jean-Marie Cullen	Nil
Maire Quinn	€ 508.36
Desmond O'Loughlin	€ 44.80
Michael McLoughlin	Nil
James Doorley	Nil
Maria Lorigan	Nil

Executive Director:		Jim Mullin
Salary	€114,366.00	
Expenses	€ 5,580.78	

Director:		Jennifer McKenzie
Salary	€94,587.10	
Expenses	€ 2,519.44	

Other Key Personnel

Lorraine McDyer	Manager Operation and Finance	Salary	€88,134.96
Lorraine Gilligan	Manager Client Services	Salary	€79,607.46
Fionnuala Broughan	Communications Manager	Salary	€72,707.16
Anne Molloy	Acting Manager Strategic Initiatives	Salary	€60,757.95
Emma Grainger	Manager Strategic Initiatives	Salary	€61,814.00
Mary Stokes	FET Guidance Prog. Co-Ordinator	Salary	€70,990.00
Linda Darby	Guidance Prog. Co-Ordinator	Salary	€79,636.00

Staff Salary Breakdown

>€60k	2
>€70k	4
>€80k	1
>€90k	1
>€110k	1

Leargas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Chairmans report (continued)

Consulancy costs

Legal	€ 6,882.12
H.R.	€ 7,810.50

Travel and subsistence and hospitality expenses

(including Board, ED and NCGE director travel as set out in the attached schedules)

Foreign travel and subsistence	€77,092.00
Home travel and subsistence	€67,431.00
Hospitality expenses	€ 3,399.92

NCGE Management of Guidance Committee Expenses

Paul King	€ 656.22
Breeda Naughton	Nil
Gerry Flynn	Nil
Shira Mehlman	Nil
Kathy Finnegan	Nil
Jim Mullin	Nil
Shane Rooney	Nil
Stephen Fitzgerald	Nil
Orla Christie	Nil
Linda Neary	Nil
Joe Cunningham	Nil

Signed:

Michael McLoughlin
Chairperson

Leargas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Financial statements

for the financial year ended 31 December 2017

Registration Number 208725

Largas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

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**Leargas - The Exchange Bureau
Company limited by guarantee**

Directors and other information

Directors

M. McLoughlin (Chairman)
D. O'Loughlin
F. Collins
S. Goulding
J. Doorley (Resigned February 2018)
J. Gilmore (Resigned 13 February 2017)
H. MacConville (Vice-Chair)
M. Quinn
M. Lorigan
J-M. Cullen (Appointed September 2017)

Secretary

J. Mullin

Company number

208725

Registered office

King's Inns House
Parnell Street
Dublin 1

Business address

Avoca House and King's Inns House
Parnell Street
Dublin 1.

Auditor

R. Brophy & Co
Merchamp House
Vernon Avenue
Clontarf
Dublin 3.

Bankers

Allied Irish Bank
Baggot Street
Dublin 2

Léargas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Chairmans report

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Leargas - The Exchange Bureau
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Chairmans report (continued)

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Léargas - The Exchange Bureau
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Chairmans report (continued)

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Leargas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Chairmans report (continued)

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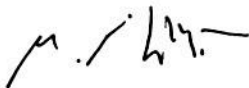
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Gerry Flynn	Nil
Shira Mehlman	Nil
Kathy Finnegan	Nil
Jim Mullin	Nil
Shane Rooney	Nil
Stephen Fitzgerald	Nil
Orla Christie	Nil
Linda Neary	Nil
Joe Cunningham	Nil

Signed:



30 April 2018

Michael McLoughlin
Chairperson

Léargas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Directors report

The directors present their annual report and the audited financial statements of the company for the financial year ended 31 December 2017.

Directors

The names of the persons who at any time during the financial year were directors of the company are as follows:

M. McLoughlin (Chair)
D. O'Loughlin
F. Collins
S. Goulding
J. Doorley (Resigned February 2018)
J. Gilmore (Resigned February 2017)
H. MacConville (Vice-Chair)
M. Quinn
M. Lorigan
J-M. Cullen (Appointed September 2017)

Structure, Governance and Management of Léargas

Léargas is constituted as a company limited by guarantee without a share capital as set out under parts 1-15 of the Companies Act 2014. Its purpose and objects are set out in the Memorandum of Association and how it conducts its business is set out in the Articles of Association. These documents are available from the companies Registration Office website (www.cro.ie) and also the charities Regulatory Authority Website, (www.charitiesregulatoryauthority.ie).

The Board of Léargas has substantially implemented the 2016 Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies however a limited number of derogations were given by the Department of Education and Skills, to be resolved by the end of March 2018. As of the Annual General Meeting and the approval of this report, the organisation is now in compliance with the 2016 code of Practice

Léargas is governed by a board of directors with a maximum membership of nine people, one of whom is nominated by the National Youth Council of Ireland. All members of the board are appointed by the Minister for Education and Skills. Appointments are for a period of three years.

One third of the membership of the board is rotated of the board at the AGM, normally held in April. However such members may be re-elected to the board by the membership or be replaced by new appointees by the Minister, at the Minister's discretion.

In 2017 two members of the board were re-elected by the membership and a third member was re-appointed by the Minister.

The board meets a minimum of eight times annually.

Board Sub-groups

Léargas has six standing sub-groups, the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee, the National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE) Management Advisory Committee, the Erasmus Plus Youth in Action Selection Committee, the Erasmus Plus Adult Education Selection Committee, the Erasmus Plus Vocational Education and Training Selection Committee and the Erasmus Plus Schools Selection Committee.

The Finance, Audit and Risk committee meets a minimum of seven meetings annually. The NCGE Management Advisory Committee meets five to six times annually, and the Erasmus + Youth in Action Committee meets three times annually, Adult Education meets twice and the VET and Schools Committees meet annually. The number of meetings for each selection committee may increase depending on the number of grant calls in each year.

Records of attendance at each of the committees above can be found on the Léargas website.

The board of Léargas is represented on each committee.

Léargas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Directors report (continued)

Policies and Procedures for the induction of new board members

All new board members receive a Board Induction pack (a USB memory stick) when they become a board member. The induction pack contains all the information and documentation that board members require to carry out their role including the memorandum and Articles of Association, the board Member Code of Conduct, a code of best practice, terms of reference for the standing committees, the Guidelines on Ethics in Public Bodies, the code of Best Practice in the Governance of State bodies and a list of matters reserved to the Board. The Executive Director meets with each new board member within the first two months to brief them on the organisations operations and to respond to any queries.

Board Members are also provided with copies of the organisation's current strategic plan.

Matters Reserved for the Board of Léargas

The following are the matters reserved for the Board of Léargas significant acquisitions, disposals and retirement of assets of the State body or its subsidiaries;

- major investments and capital projects;
- delegated authority levels, treasury policy and risk management policies;
- approval of terms of major contracts;
- Annual review of risk and internal control;
- Litigation
- compliance with statutory and administrative requirements in relation to the approval of the number, grading, and conditions of appointment of all staff;
- approval of annual budgets and corporate plans;
- production of annual reports and accounts;
- appointment/removal of Auditors
- appointment, remuneration and assessment of the performance of, and succession planning for, the Executive Director;
- appointment of Programme/Unit Managers and
- significant amendments to the pension benefits of the Chief Executive and staff (which may require Ministerial approval).

Staff

Léargas has a staff team based in Dublin and headed by an Executive Director who reports directly to the Board through the Chairperson. A management team of four people report to the Executive director and all other members of the staff report to members of the management team.

The Board of directors delegates certain responsibilities and duties to the Executive Director and through him to the staff team. These include implementation of the Léargas Strategic Plan, leading, managing and developing the Léargas staff team, the implementation of the programmes managed by Léargas , finance and overall administration so that Léargas achieves its overall mission, vision and strategy in a manner consistent with its values.

Internal Controls

The Board has taken steps to ensure an appropriate control environment by:

- Clearly defining management responsibilities, in a defined organisational structure with clear segregation of duties
- Adopting the principles of corporate governance as outlined in the revised code of Practice 2016 for the governance of state bodies bearing in mind the size and nature of Léargas
- Establishing formal procedures to monitor the activities, safeguard the assets of the organisation while ensuring compliance with European funding regulations

Léargas - The Exchange Bureau
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Directors report (continued)

The key procedures established by the Board to provide effective internal financial control are set out in an operations manual clearly defining management responsibilities and steps to be taken in the event of control failures.

The Board has implemented a full system of risk management including:

- The identification of significant strategic, financial, operational and reputational risks
- The assessment of appropriateness and strength of management controls surrounding risk areas
- The highlighting of key risk areas for specific management attention and Audit and Finance Committee focus.

An annual budget is compiled and approved by the Board. Monthly accounts are produced showing variances between actual and budget. These are reviewed by management and the Board on a regular basis. A full system of internal financial control is in place covering all aspects of delegation, authorisation, segregation of duties and prevention and detection of fraud.

Léargas outsources its internal audit function to Crowleys DFK, who report directly to the Finance and Audit Committee. The Finance and Audit Committee meet on a regular basis to review accounts, internal audit reports and staffing matters.

Crowleys DFK (Internal Auditors) and Deloitte (auditors for DES and DCYA) review the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control on an annual basis.

No material losses have been incurred arising from weaknesses in internal financial control and therefore there has been no requirement for disclosure in the financial statements or the auditor's report on the financial statements. No fraud has been detected.

All recommendations by Crowleys DFK or Deloitte have been acted on.

Léargas conducts an annual risk review process that is assessed in detail by the Board in April of each year, which involves identification of the major risks to which Léargas is exposed, an assessment of the likelihood of these happening, their potential impact and possible mitigating strategies. Risk is an item on the agenda of all meetings of the Management Team, meetings of staff teams and of the Board. The charter of the Finance and Audit Committee of Léargas is being extended to include Risk analysis further to the recent updating of the Code of Practice for the Governance of State bodies.

Health and Safety of Employees

It is the policy of the company to ensure the health and welfare of employees by maintaining a safe place and system of work.

This policy is based on the requirements of employee legislation, including the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989.

Léargas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Directors report (continued)

Principal activities and business review

Léargas provides management and development services to a range of European and bilateral co-operation and exchange programmes in the youth, education, training, and guidance sectors.

The principal activity of the company during the year was the administration and distribution of grants on behalf of the European Commission and the National Authorities i.e. the Departments of Education & Skills and The Department of Children and Youth Affairs. The grants managed are funded by the Erasmus + programme together with a range of legacy programmes such as the Leonardo, Socrates, Youth and as well as bilateral programmes such as Causeway.

This means that Léargas acts as a conduit between these agencies and the final grant recipients and holds grant monies in trust for the funders and distributes it to the final recipients according to the rules and regulations of the funder concerned.

Léargas also has responsibility for the National Centre for Guidance in Education, (NCGE)

The NCGE is an agency of the Department of Education and Skills, operating under the aegis of Léargas, 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. The role and remit of the Centre includes to advise on policy and strategies for the promotion of a continuum of guidance in the context of lifelong learning; provide advice, support, materials and resources for guidance counselling in education and to contribute to the exchange of information on guidance counselling provision and practice with other guidance and employment services, through the National Resource Centre, i.e. Euroguidance Centre.

Likely future developments

The directors are not expecting to make any significant changes in the nature of the business in the near future.

Dividends

During the financial year the directors have not paid any dividends or recommended payment of a final dividend.

Accounting records

The measures taken by the directors to secure compliance with the requirements of sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to the keeping of accounting records are the implementation of necessary policies and procedures for recording transactions, the employment of competent accounting personnel with appropriate expertise and the provision of adequate resources to the financial function. The accounting records of the company are located at our registered office.

Relevant audit information

In the case of each of the persons who are directors at the time this report is approved in accordance with section 332 of Companies Act 2014:

- so far as each director is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's statutory auditors are unaware, and
- each director has taken all the steps that he or she ought to have taken as a director in order to make himself or herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the company's statutory auditors are aware of that information.

Leargas - The Exchange Bureau
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Directors responsibilities statement

The directors are responsible for preparing the directors report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law, the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" issued by the Financial Reporting Council, and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland. Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the profit or loss of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit or loss of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy, enable them to ensure that the financial statements and directors report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Léargas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)
Programme Report for the financial year ended 31 December 2017

Current Programmes

Erasmus +

Erasmus + is the current EU programme for education, training, youth and sport covers the period 2014-2020. The Erasmus+ programme aims to boost skills and employability, as well as modernising Education, Training, and Youth Work.

Léargas has been appointed as a National Agency for the management of actions under the Erasmus + programme targeted at the vocational training, schools, adult education and youthwork sectors in Ireland.

To manage the programme we have re-organized into four operational units as follows:

Client Services Unit
Operations and Finance Unit
Communications Unit
Strategic Initiatives Unit

Léargas manages the following actions and activities:

KEY ACTION 1-MOBILITY OF INDIVIDUALS

This Key Action supports:

Mobility of learners and staff: opportunities for students, trainees, young people and volunteers, as well as for professors, teachers, trainers, youth workers, staff of education institutions and civil society organisations to undertake a learning and/or professional experience in another country;

KEY ACTION 2-COOPERATION FOR INNOVATION AND THE EXCHANGE OF GOOD PRACTICES

This Key Action supports:

Transnational Strategic Partnerships aimed to develop initiatives addressing one or more fields of education training and youth and promote innovation, exchange of experience and know-how between different types of organisations involved in education, training and youth or in other relevant fields. Certain mobility activities are supported in so far as they contribute to the objectives of the project;

Knowledge Alliances between higher education institutions and enterprises which aim to foster innovation, entrepreneurship, creativity, employability, knowledge exchange and/or multidisciplinary teaching and learning;

Sector Skills Alliances supporting the design and delivery of joint vocational training curricula, programmes and teaching and training methodologies, drawing on evidence of trends in a specific economic sector and skills needed in order to perform in one or more professional fields;

Capacity Building projects supporting cooperation with Partner Countries in the fields of higher education and youth. Capacity Building projects aim to support organisations/institutions and systems in their modernisation and internationalisation process. In certain eligible Partner Countries mobility activities are supported in so far as they contribute to the objectives of the project;

IT support platforms, such as eTwinning, the European Platform for Adult Learning (EPALE) and the European Youth Portal, offering virtual collaboration spaces, databases of opportunities, communities of practice and other online services for teachers, trainers and practitioners in the field of school and adult education as well as for young people, volunteers and youth workers across Europe and beyond.

Léargas - The Exchange Bureau
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Programme Report for the financial year ended 31 December 2017

KEY ACTION 3-SUPPORT FOR POLICY REFORM

This Key Action supports:

Knowledge in the fields of education, training and youth for evidence-based policy making and monitoring in the framework of Europe 2020, in particular:

- country-specific and thematic analysis, including through cooperation with academic networks;
- peer learning and peer reviews through the Open Methods of Coordination in education, training and youth;

Initiatives for policy innovation to stimulate innovative policy development among stakeholders and to enable public authorities to test the effectiveness of innovative policies through field trials based on sound evaluation methodologies;

Support to European policy tools to facilitate transparency and recognition of skills and qualifications, as well as the transfer of credits, to foster quality assurance, support validation of non-formal and informal learning, skills management and guidance. This Action also includes the support to networks that facilitate cross-European exchanges, the learning and working mobility of citizens as well as the development of flexible learning pathways between different fields of education, training and youth;

Cooperation with international organisations with highly recognised expertise and analytical capacity (such as the OECD and the Council of Europe), to strengthen the impact and added value of policies in the fields of education, training and youth;

Stakeholder dialogue, policy and Programme promotion with public authorities, providers and stakeholders in the fields of education, training and youth are necessary for raising awareness about Europe 2020, Education and Training 2020, the European Youth Strategy and other European sector-specific policy agendas, as well as the external dimension of EU education, training and youth policies. They are essential to develop the capacity of stakeholders to concretely support the implementation of policies by stimulating the effective exploitation of the Programme results and generating tangible impact.

Miscellaneous Programmes

Léargas also manages additional programme activities including:

Causeway

A British Irish Youth Exchange Programme which aims to improve relations and understanding between young people in Republic of Ireland, Northern Ireland and Great Britain. U.K.

Languages

Promoting languages and language learning through the European Day of Languages, European Centre for Modern Languages and The European Award for Languages - the Language Label

IAESTE.

The Strategic Initiatives Unit also manages the IAESTE (International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience) programme which is a reciprocal international exchange programme which operates in over 80 countries, and provides short-term relevant work experience abroad for technical students in their own field of study.

Independent auditor's report to the members of Leargas - The Exchange Bureau

We have audited the financial statements of Leargas - The Exchange Bureau for the year ended 31 December 2017 which comprise the profit and loss account, statement of income and retained earnings, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and related notes. The relevant financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued by the Financial Reporting Council and promulgated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditor

As explained more fully in the directors responsibilities statement set out on page 10, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014. Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with Irish law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements. In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the directors report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by us in the course of performing the audit. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31 December 2017 and of its profit for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant reporting framework and, in particular the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

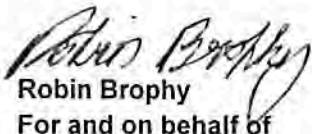
**Independent auditor's report to the members of
Leargas - The Exchange Bureau (continued)**

Matters on which we are required to report by the Companies Act 2014

- We have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- In our opinion the accounting records of the company were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited.
- The financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records.
- In our opinion the information given in the directors report is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of our obligation under the Companies Act 2014 to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors remuneration and transactions specified by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made.



Robin Brophy

For and on behalf of

R. Brophy & Co

Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors

Merchamp House

Vernon Avenue

Clontarf

Dublin 3.

30 April 2018

Leargas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Profit and loss account
Financial year ended 31 December 2017

	Note	2017 EUR	2016 EUR
Turnover	4	4,296,430	3,984,144
Gross profit		<u>4,296,430</u>	<u>3,984,144</u>
Administrative expenses		<u>(4,296,430)</u>	<u>(3,984,144)</u>
Operating profit		-	-
Tax on profit on ordinary activities		-	-
Profit for the financial year		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

All the activities of the company are from continuing operations.

The company has no other recognised items of income and expenses other than the results for the financial year as set out above.

The notes on pages 20 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

Leargas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Statement of income and retained earnings
Financial year ended 31 December 2017

	2017	2016
	EUR	EUR
Profit for the financial year	-	-
Retained earnings at the start of the financial year	<u>68,451</u>	<u>68,451</u>
Retained earnings at the end of the financial year	<u><u>68,451</u></u>	<u><u>68,451</u></u>

Leargas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Balance sheet
As at 31 December 2017

	Note	2017 EUR	EUR	2016 EUR	EUR
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	6	29,399		23,048	
			29,399		23,048
Net Bursaries					
Bursary grant bank accounts	7	9,389,747		7,191,077	
Bursary funding	7	(9,389,747)		(7,191,077)	
			-		-
Current assets					
Debtors	8	165,616		82,288	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,302,313		1,331,160	
		1,467,929		1,413,448	
Creditors	9	(357,048)		(400,658)	
Operational grants in advance		(380,713)		(298,497)	
Creditors and grants in advance		(737,761)		(699,155)	
Net current assets			730,168		714,293
Total assets less current liabilities			759,567		737,341
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	10		(691,116)		(668,890)
Net assets			68,451		68,451
Capital and reserves					
Profit and loss account	12		68,451		68,451
Members funds			68,451		68,451

The notes on pages 20 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

Leargas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Balance sheet (continued)
As at 31 December 2017

These financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 30 April 2018 and signed on behalf of the board by:

Desmond D. Loughlin

Director

30 April 2018

M. J. Hill

Director

30 April 2018

The notes on pages 20 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

Leargas - The Exchange Bureau
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Statement of cash flows
Financial year ended 31 December 2017

	2017 EUR	2016 EUR
Cash flows from operating activities		
Profit for the financial year	-	-
<i>Adjustments for:</i>		
Depreciation of tangible assets	18,552	20,965
Accrued expenses/(income)	38,494	113,370
<i>Changes in:</i>		
Trade and other debtors	(83,328)	(71,120)
Trade and other creditors	22,338	17,125
Cash generated from operations	<u>(3,944)</u>	<u>80,340</u>
Net cash (used in)/from operating activities	<u><u>(3,944)</u></u>	<u><u>80,340</u></u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of tangible assets	<u>(24,903)</u>	<u>(10,508)</u>
Net cash used in investing activities	<u><u>(24,903)</u></u>	<u><u>(10,508)</u></u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(28,847)	69,832
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year	1,331,160	1,261,328
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	<u><u>1,302,313</u></u>	<u><u>1,331,160</u></u>

Leargas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Notes to the financial statements
Financial year ended 31 December 2017

1. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

2. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through profit or loss.

The financial statements are prepared in Euro, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Turnover

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable for goods supplied and services rendered, net of discounts and Value Added Tax.

Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership have transferred to the buyer, usually on despatch of the goods; the amount of revenue can be measured reliably; it is probable that the associated economic benefits will flow to the entity and the costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transactions can be measured reliably.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and are subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in capital and reserves, except to the extent it reverses a revaluation decrease of the same asset previously recognised in profit or loss. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation is recognised in other comprehensive income to the extent of any previously recognised revaluation increase accumulated in capital and reserves in respect of that asset. Where a revaluation decrease exceeds the accumulated revaluation gains accumulated in capital and reserves in respect of that asset, the excess shall be recognised in profit or loss.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

If there is an indication that there has been a significant change in depreciation rate, useful life or residual value of tangible assets, the depreciation is revised prospectively to reflect the new estimates.

Leargas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Financial year ended 31 December 2017

Impairment

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

When it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, an estimate is made of the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs. The cash-generating unit is the smallest identifiable group of assets that includes the asset and generates cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets.

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Where investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary shares or preference shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably, the investment is subsequently measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in profit or loss. All other such investments are subsequently measured at cost less impairment.

Other financial instruments, including derivatives, are initially recognised at fair value, unless payment for an asset is deferred beyond normal business terms or financed at a rate of interest that is not a market rate, in which case the asset is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Other financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, with any changes recognised in profit or loss, with the exception of hedging instruments in a designated hedging relationship.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss immediately.

For all equity instruments regardless of significance, and other financial assets that are individually significant, these are assessed individually for impairment. Other financial assets are either assessed individually or grouped on the basis of similar credit risk characteristics.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised in profit or loss immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

3. Limited by guarantee

The company is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital. The liability of each of its members on winding up is limited to €1.27.

Leargas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Financial year ended 31 December 2017

4. Turnover

Turnover arises from:

	2017	2016
	EUR	EUR
Grants	<u>4,296,430</u>	<u>3,984,144</u>

The whole of the turnover is attributable to the principal activity of the company wholly undertaken in Ireland.

Leargas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Financial year ended 31 December 2017

5. Staff costs

The average number of persons employed by the company during the financial year, including the managers, was as follows:

	2017	2016
	Number	Number
Management	6	6
Finance	14	10
Operations	32	17
Administration	2	2
	<u>54</u>	<u>35</u>

The aggregate payroll costs incurred during the financial year were:

	2017	2016
	EUR	EUR
Wages and salaries	2,222,093	1,717,450
Social insurance costs	220,657	184,090
Other retirement benefit costs	120,797	94,853
	<u>2,563,547</u>	<u>1,996,393</u>

Staff pay bands

	2017	2016
	Number	Number
€60,000+	2	2
€70,000+	4	2
€80,000+	1	2
€90,000+	1	-
€100,000+	-	-
€110,000+	1	1
€120,000+	-	-
€130,000+	-	-
€140,000+	-	1
	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>

Leargas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Financial year ended 31 December 2017

6. Tangible assets	Fixtures, fittings and equipment EUR	Total EUR
Cost		
At 1 January 2017	187,219	187,219
Additions	24,903	24,903
At 31 December 2017	<u>212,122</u>	<u>212,122</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2017	164,171	164,171
Charge for the financial year	18,552	18,552
At 31 December 2017	<u>182,723</u>	<u>182,723</u>
Carrying amount		
At 31 December 2017	<u>29,399</u>	<u>29,399</u>
	Fixtures, fittings and equipment EUR	Total EUR
Cost		
At 1 January 2016	176,711	176,711
Additions	10,508	10,508
At 31 December 2016	<u>187,219</u>	<u>187,219</u>
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2016	143,206	143,206
Charge for the financial year	20,965	20,965
At 31 December 2016	<u>164,171</u>	<u>164,171</u>
Carrying amount		
At 31 December 2016	<u>23,048</u>	<u>23,048</u>

Leargas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Financial year ended 31 December 2017

7. Bursary Accounts

Leargas receives grants from the European Commission and various Departments for distribution to Colleges, Schools, Voluntary Groups, Companies and Individuals. On an ongoing basis, it has a balance of grants on hand for either distribution to the final beneficiaries or for repayment to the source funder. This amount is reflected in the bursary bank balances held at the end of the year and as these amounts are not the property of Leargas but are held in trust, the same amounts are shown as grants in advance in the creditors section of the balance sheet. These grants are funded by the European Commission in advance with the grants being paid on the basis of a 60% to 70% advance payment and the further 30/40% being paid when 50% of the initial payment is expended by Leargas on beneficiary funding. While Leargas receives these funds in advance, it will have at any time retained a portion of these due to contractual arrangements with beneficiaries. For example funds may be retained if all contractual arrangements are not in place or if final or interim reports have not been received.

	Balance at 1 January 2017	Grants Income To Dec-17	Other in Year	Grants Paid in Year	Balance at 31 December
Youth Work Services	495,953	(372,446)	9,006	(23,865)	108,648
Lifelong Learning Programme	1,106,858	(1,071,206)	552	4,335	40,539
Erasmus+	5,588,266	13,649,271	3	(9,996,980)	9,240,560
	<u>7,191,077</u>	<u>12,205,619</u>	<u>9,561</u>	<u>(10,016,510)</u>	<u>9,389,747</u>

8. Debtors

	2017 EUR	2016 EUR
Trade debtors	<u>165,616</u>	<u>82,288</u>

Leargas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Financial year ended 31 December 2017

9. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2017	2016
	EUR	EUR
Trade creditors and accruals	293,522	269,421
Dissemination costs	13,496	2,345
Tax and social insurance:		
PAYE and social welfare	-	78,862
Staff termination provision	50,000	50,000
	<u>357,018</u>	<u>400,628</u>

10. Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year

	2017	2016
	EUR	EUR
Total staff termination provision	741,116	718,890
Included with current liabilities	(50,000)	(50,000)
	<u>691,116</u>	<u>668,890</u>

11. Financial instruments

The carrying amount for each category of financial instruments is as follows:

	2017	2016
	EUR	EUR
Financial assets that are debt instruments measured at amortised cost		
Trade debtors	165,616	82,288
Cash at bank and in hand	1,302,313	1,331,160
	<u>1,467,929</u>	<u>1,413,448</u>
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Trade creditors and accruals	737,761	620,923
Staff termination provision	741,116	718,899
	<u>1,478,877</u>	<u>1,339,822</u>

12. Reserves

Profit and loss account - includes all current and prior period retained profits and losses.

Leargas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Notes to the financial statements (continued)
Financial year ended 31 December 2017

13. Controlling party

The company's ultimate controlling party is the Minister for Education and Skills.

14. Approval of financial statements

The board of directors approved these financial statements for issue on 30 April 2018.

Leargas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

The following pages do not form part of the statutory accounts.

Leargas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)
Detailed Income Report
for the financial year ended 31 December 2017

	2017	2016
	EUR	EUR
Appendix 1		
Income		
Department of Education and Skills	1,132,800	1,132,800
European Commission (EC)	1,254,751	1,066,279
Department of Children and Youth Affairs	455,030	452,423
Eurodesk (DCYA)	55,136	34,449
Eurodesk (EC)	40,755	55,972
Causeway (DCYA)	63,070	59,067
Causeway (Other)	-	-
Epale	88,953	142,961
E-Twinning (DES)	44,607	42,400
E-Twinning (EC)	105,159	141,109
IAESTE	7,687	8,852
ECVET	13,160	732
Other Education Programme	98,946	55,182
NCGE Income		
Department of Education and Skills	600,000	506,000
National Resource Centre (EC)	42,706	43,922
Projects	16,098	38,284
Solas - FET	277,572	203,712
	<u>4,296,430</u>	<u>3,984,144</u>

Leargas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Client Services
Detailed expenditure account
for the financial year ended 31 December 2017

<u>Appendix 2</u>	2017	2017	2016	2016
	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Salaries	724,212		613,321	
Staff training	9,775		10,320	
Grants	63,070		49,067	
Office supplies	16,209		22,844	
IT Maintenance & supplies	32,922		47,972	
Meetings/workshops	23,381		28,158	
Travelling and subsistence	46,048		37,492	
Service providers	178,443		332,948	
Other costs	21,332		17,377	
Building costs	72,522		98,307	
Communications	8,139		11,172	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
Total Expenditure		<u><u>1,196,053</u></u>		<u><u>1,268,978</u></u>

Leargas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Communications Unit
Detailed expenditure account
for the financial year ended 31 December 2017

<u>Appendix 3</u>	2017	2017	2016	2016
	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Salaries	251,460		238,902	
Staff training	9,647		7,521	
Office supplies	9,033		1,217	
IT Maintenance & supplies	16,703		25,969	
Meetings/workshops	3,810		9,116	
Travelling and subsistence	9,781		7,166	
Service providers	24,356		40,245	
Other costs	10,879		8,013	
Publications	30,547		7,027	
Building costs	37,982		49,723	
Communications	6,978		5,175	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
Total Expenditure		<u>411,176</u>		<u>400,074</u>

Leargas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Strategic Initiatives
Detailed expenditure account
for the financial year ended 31 December 2017

<u>Appendix 4</u>	2017	2017	2016	2016
	EUR	EUR	EUR	EUR
<u>Expenditure</u>				
Salaries	369,965		234,300	
Staff training	6,715		240	
Office supplies	12,893		1,476	
IT Maintenance & supplies	21,868		8,044	
Meetings/workshops	50,103		99,680	
Grants	57,827		-	
Travelling and subsistence	56,064		27,952	
Service providers	81,163		176,494	
Other costs	7,258		2,293	
Publications	45,328		41,985	
Building costs	61,024		27,303	
Communications	6,878		50	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
Total Expenditure		777,086		619,817
		<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>

Leargas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

Operations & Finance
Detailed expenditure account
for the financial year ended 31 December 2017

Appendix 5

Expenditure

	2017 EUR	2017 EUR	2016 EUR	2016 EUR
Salaries	736,936		699,900	
Staff training	2,464		4,919	
Office supplies	13,395		6,330	
IT Maintenance & supplies	32,769		23,826	
Meetings/workshops	-		1,273	
Travelling and subsistence	11,599		13,801	
Service providers	81,115		89,035	
Other costs	17,554		8,446	
Building costs	73,011		51,284	
Communications	6,896		4,541	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
Total Expenditure		975,739		903,355
		<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>

Leargas - The Exchange Bureau
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and not having Share Capital)

National Centre for Guidance in Education
Detailed expenditure account
for the financial year ended 31 December 2017

Appendix 6

Expenditure

	2017 EUR	2017 EUR	2016 EUR	2016 EUR
Salaries	461,619		356,426	
Staff training	11,644		6,220	
Grants	250,740		249,477	
Office supplies	5,106		6,229	
IT Maintenance & supplies	12,510		7,772	
Meetings/workshops	4,819		5,185	
Travelling and subsistence	8,099		2,565	
Service providers	75,071		44,602	
Other costs	8,695		9,459	
Publications	37,352		39,440	
Building costs	54,247		58,868	
Communications	6,474		5,677	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
Total Expenditure		936,376		791,920
		<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>



Léargas Committees: Membership and Attendance, 2017

Léargas Board

Board Member	Dates of Meetings and Attendance								Totals
	15 Feb	20 Mar	21 Apr	30 May	20 July	14 Sep	01 Nov	05 Dec	
Des O'Loughlin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8
Fidelma Collins	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		5
Hugh McConville	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8
James Doorley	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8
Jean Marie Cullen ¹						✓	✓	✓	3
John Gilmore ²									
Maria Lorigan			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	5
Maura Quinn	✓			✓	✓		✓		4
Michael McLoughlin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	8
Stephen Goulding	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			6

Léargas Finance and Audit Committee

Committee Member	Dates of Meetings and Attendance								Totals
	15 Feb	20 Mar	21 Apr	30 May	14 Sep	01 Nov	05 Dec		
Des O'Loughlin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	
Fidelma Collins	✓	✓			✓	✓		4	
Hugh McConville	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	
Lar Malone						✓		1	
Michael McLoughlin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	7	
Stephen Goulding	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		6	

¹ Appointed June 2017

² Resigned February 2017



Erasmus+ Youth in Action Selection Committee

Committee Member	Dates of Meetings and Attendance			Totals
	6 April	29 June	30 November	
Charis Hughes, Léargas		✓	✓	2
Brian Desmond, Léargas	✓			1
Anne Molloy, Léargas		✓	✓	2
John Gilmore, Board of Léargas				
Hillary Tierney, NUI Maynooth	✓		✓	2
Susan Menton, St Ultan's	✓	✓	✓	3
<i>Observers (DCYA):</i> Joanne Byrne/Declan Crowe/Tina Murphy	✓	✓	✓	3

Erasmus+ Adult Education Selection Committee

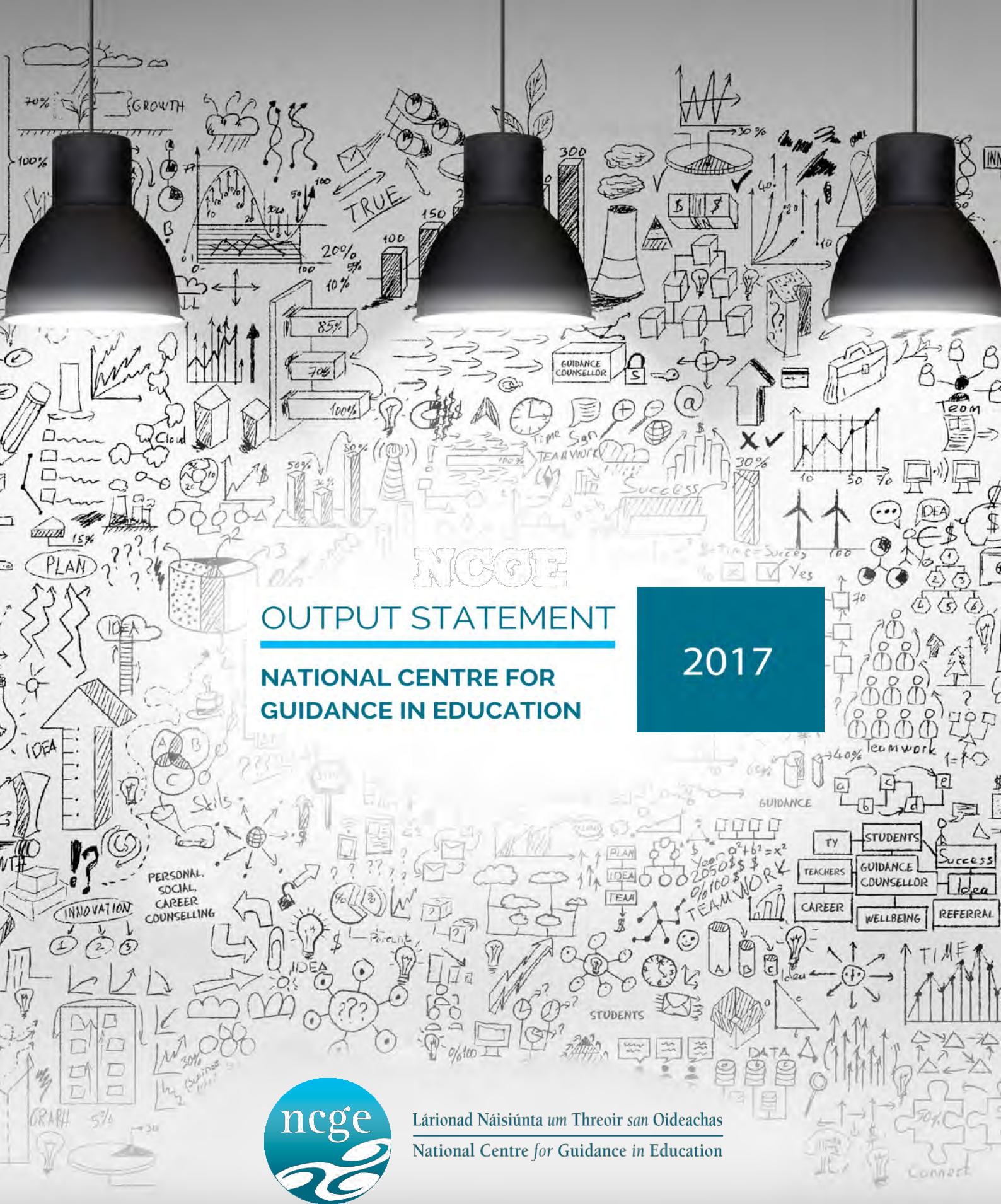
Committee Member	Dates of Meetings and Attendance		Totals
	13 April	28 June	
Brian Desmond, Léargas	✓	✓	2
Hugh McConville, Board of Léargas	✓	✓	2
Jennifer McKenzie, NCGE	✓	✓	2
<i>Observer (DES):</i> Roseann Gilligan			

Erasmus+ VET Selection Committee

Committee Member	Dates of Meetings and Attendance				Total
	19 April	21 June	16 August	30 November	
Dianne Dignam, External VET Expert		✓			1
Anne Molloy, Léargas	✓	✓	✓	✓	4
Mark Skinner, IBEC		✓			1
Michael McLoughlin, Chairman of the Léargas Board		✓			1
Noreen Fitzpatrick, Skillnets Ltd		✓			1
Charis Hughes, Léargas	✓		✓		2
Aine Beamish, Léargas				✓	1
Lorraine McDyer, Léargas			✓		1
Jennifer McKenzie, NCGE	✓				1
Mary Stokes, NCGE				✓	1
Liz Glennon, NCGE			✓		1
<i>Observers: Roseann Gilligan (DES)</i>		✓	✓		2

Erasmus+ School Education Selection Committee

Committee Member	Dates of Meetings and Attendance			Totals
	13 April	29 June	30 November	
Aine Beamish, Léargas			✓	1
Brian Desmond, Léargas	✓			1
Anne Molloy, Léargas	✓	✓	✓	3
Hugh McConville, Board of Léargas	✓			1
Stephen Goulding, Board of Léargas				
Fidelma Collins, Board of Léargas		✓		1
Maria Quinn, Board of Léargas		✓		1
Jennifer McKenzie, NCGE	✓			1
Mary Stokes, NCGE			✓	1
<i>Observers: Roseann Gilligan & Alan O'Callaghan (DES)</i>		✓		1



NCGE

OUTPUT STATEMENT

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR GUIDANCE IN EDUCATION

2017



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

www.ncge.ie

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FOREWORD FROM CHAIR



As the Chairman of the Management of Guidance Committee of NCGE, it is my privilege to present the Annual Output Statement Report for 2017 of the National Centre for Guidance in Education.

I wish to acknowledge the contribution of my colleagues on the newly appointed Committee as we embark on a further three years' work together. The members' level of professional expertise across a range of guidance practice areas greatly enriches the role of the committee in supporting the work of NCGE; ensuring the continued effectiveness and efficiency in providing quality advice, professional development, guidance materials and resources to guidance practitioners in schools, centres for education and FET. I wish to express my thanks to the Minister for Education and Skills, Richard Bruton TD, for his welcome message on commencement of this committee's tenure and his attendance at the NCGE National Forum on Guidance in April. I thank the Executive Director of Léargas, Mr. Jim Mullin for his continued support for the remit of NCGE. On behalf of the Committee I wish to especially acknowledge the support of Ms. Jennifer McKenzie, Director, and the staff of NCGE, in supporting the work of the committee and to commend all for their energy and resourcefulness in bringing the various aspects of this Report to completion.

This annual output statement offers a welcome opportunity to narrate the practical activities of NCGE over 2017 and provides a very tangible expression of the agency's work across a wide range of sectors in education with responsibility for guidance. It represents a remarkable record of achievement in the context of considerable change. The statement demonstrates that NCGE continues to maintain a long term commitment to projects which have always been at the core of the agency's work and equally is responsive to the needs and requirements of an ever changing landscape in the field of guidance policy and practice.

This report has been made available to the public on the Centre's website under www.ncge.ie/ncge/reporting

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Paul Kirby'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chair, NCGE Management of Guidance Committee



DIRECTOR'S NOTE

The NCGE Annual Output Statement for 2017 provides the details of the continued objectives, activities and achievements of NCGE; supporting the delivery of good practice in guidance and informing the development of guidance policy at national level.

Our new Management of Guidance Committee (MGC) was appointed and met for the first time in February. On behalf of the NCGE staff I would like to welcome the new Committee members and to acknowledge their commitment to the Centre. I wish to extend my congratulations to Paul King, who was reappointed by the Minister to the position of Chair of the MGC from 2017 - 2019 for his invaluable and inestimable commitment to the Centre and support for the Director and staff.

We have hosted international guests, attended and participated in EU and International conferences, and worked closely with the Department of Education and Skills (DES) to support the first DES Compliance Survey on guidance in schools. NCGE was also pleased to support DES in its planning for the Career Guidance Review, in the submission of the Scoping Report on Guidance. Pending the outcome of this Review, our proposed work on the FET Guidance Strategy was understandably postponed.

The publication of our NCGE: Whole School Guidance Framework in September is of particular significance. This Framework aims to support school management and guidance counsellors to plan their guidance programme while ensuring the development of the guidance learning outcomes for students, and has been widely welcomed by School Principals and Guidance Counsellors alike. My sincerest thanks to the Post Primary Guidance Working Group members for their continued commitment to this work.

The continued support of DES and the Executive Director of Léargas ensures that NCGE is empowered in providing a truly valuable service to its partners and stakeholders.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge and extend my sincerest thanks to Minister Richard Bruton for his attendance at the National Forum on Guidance in April which confirmed his genuine commitment to Guidance in the education and training sector. As Director, it remains my pleasure to work with the dedicated, committed and professional staff of the Centre, who continue to work within limited resources and I look forward to the next chapter of developments for guidance and NCGE.

Is mise le meas

Director, NCGE



THE NATIONAL CENTRE FOR GUIDANCE IN EDUCATION

The National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE) is an agency of the Department of Education and Skills, operating under the aegis of Léargas, 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.

The Management of Guidance Committee 2013-2016 agreed that the Mission and Vision of NCGE are:

Mission: Develop and support quality guidance provision in the education sector as part of lifelong learning in accordance with national and international best practice

Vision: Leading and shaping guidance practice to enable the learner to make informed and appropriate life choices

In defining guidance in the education sector NCGE is informed by both the National Guidance Forum Report 2007 and DES Guidelines 2005 which state that:

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

(National Guidance Forum 2007)

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

(Guidelines for Second Level Schools on the Implications of Section 9 (c) of the Education Act 1998, relating to students' access to appropriate guidance.)

The Strategic Aims informing the work of the Centre (2015-2017) are detailed on the following page.

NCGE Key Strategic Objectives for 2015-2017

As outlined in the NCGE Strategic plan, the key focus of NCGE Strategic Objectives for 2017 include to:

- 1** INFORM, INFLUENCE, FACILITATE AND SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDANCE POLICY IN POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND FET
- 2** INFORM, INFLUENCE, FACILITATE AND SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDANCE PROVISION AND DELIVERY IN POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND FET
- 3** CO-ORDINATE THE PROVISION OF CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) FOR GUIDANCE COUNSELLORS AND PRACTITIONERS IN POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND FET
- 4** ESTABLISH, SUPPORT AND PROMOTE QUALITY ASSURANCE AND BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR GUIDANCE IN POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND FET
- 5** PROVIDE QUALITY INFORMATION, RESOURCES AND MATERIALS TO SUPPORT GUIDANCE PROVISION AND PRACTICE
- 6** EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY AT NATIONAL AND EU LEVEL VIA EUROGUIDANCE CENTRE AND NATIONAL FORUM ON GUIDANCE, AND ELGPN (OR ITS SUCCESSOR AS APPROPRIATE)



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

In fulfilling these aims and objectives, NCGE will:

- 1** ENSURE AND PROMOTE USE OF ICT WHERE POSSIBLE AND APPROPRIATE
- 2** ENGAGE WITH ALL RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS
- 3** ESTABLISH A PROCESS TO REVIEW AND REFLECT ON DEVELOPMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMMES
- 4** ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH GOVERNANCE REQUIREMENTS



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

The full strategic document is contained in the appendix on p.30

NCGE provides support and development for guidance practitioners in the education sector and promotes European mobility and the European dimension of guidance in education and training. NCGE was the DES designated representative at the European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network (ELGPN) during the networks lifetime (2007 -2015)

As a member of the EUROGUIDANCE network, funded by the EU Lifelong Learning Programme, the Centre also assists people seeking information on education and training opportunities in Europe. NCGE provides advice and assistance to a wide range of organisations and individuals involved in education, training and employment in guidance matters.

NCGE ACTIVITIES



NCGE: Governance • Strategic Plan • Administration • Resources • Staffing

1. NCGE GOVERNANCE

THE NCGE MANAGEMENT OF GUIDANCE COMMITTEE (2017-2019)

The Minister for Education and Skills nominated the Chair and membership of the Management of Guidance Committee 2017-2019. These nominations were ratified and appointed to the Committee by the Board of Léargas.

Revised Terms of Reference for the role of the Management of Guidance Committee are available to download at:

<https://www.ncge.ie/file/MGC-TOR-2017>

FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE

The Management of Guidance Finance Sub-Committee meets quarterly. Management accounts are prepared by Léargas for the subcommittee, and a report is presented to the Management of Guidance Committee. The Finance subcommittee comprises the Director of NCGE, the Chair of the Management of Guidance Committee, the Executive Director and representative of the Léargas Finance and Audit Committee and representatives of the Department of Education and Skills and SOLAS.

ORGANISATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Management of Guidance Committee (2017-2019) met three times in 2017. The Committee reviewed the Strategic Plan for 2015 -2017 and agreed that a formal decision on the Strategic Plan 2018-2020 would be best informed by the outcome of the DES Career Guidance Review. As a result the Committee agreed that the objectives and appropriate activities of the Strategic Plan 2015-2017 would be extended into 2018 pending the outcome of this review .

STAFFING

NCGE operated in 2017 with 7 full time staff: Director, Guidance Programme Coordinator (Post Primary), FET Guidance Programme Coordinator, Guidance Officer (Euroguidance), Office Administrator, and Clerical Officer. Following a national recruitment process the NCGE Communications Officer was appointed in February.

The Staff Performance Management Review system was continued into 2017, with further HR support provided by the contracted external HR Company – Peninsula and legal HR advice provided by the Léargas Solicitor.

NCGE continued to contract external staff and agencies to provide specific services in areas such as CPD module development, website development, translations and administration where appropriate.

2. POST PRIMARY ACTIVITIES

PROVISION OF RESOURCES AND MATERIALS FOR POST PRIMARY

The School Guidance Handbook (SGH) (ISSN 2009-6801) is an online handbook for guidance counsellors, which is available to all guidance counsellors and schools at:

<https://www.ncge.ie/school-guidance-handbook>

The School Guidance Handbook provides digital content to inform and support the development and delivery of the school guidance programme. Such digital content includes webinar recordings, videos and research publications. Four additional webinar recordings were uploaded in 2017 along with two additional written resources. Schools can sign up with NCGE to receive alerts concerning new content.

NCGE updated the mailing list for the SGH and encouraged guidance counsellors and schools to sign up for alerts. By the end of 2017, there were over 1,700 email addresses on the system.

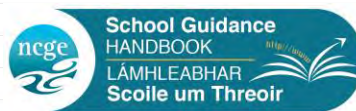
NCGE provided the articles within the Policy and Practice Guidelines and Leading the Guidance Programme sections *as Gaeilge* in 2017 and continues the process of translating all other articles into the Irish language.

Statistics on usage

In 2017 there were a total of 27,688 page views on the site from 5,632 users. Of these users 62% were new visitors and 38% returning visitors.

2029 articles were downloaded in 2017. Of these 27 were in the Irish language.

1. NCGE - A Whole School Guidance Framework (EN)	211 (10.40%)
2. Planning the School Guidance Programme (EN)	147 (7.24%)
3. Data Protection for the Guidance Counsellor: Compliant Data Management (EN)	141 (6.95%)
4. Best Practice, Ethical and Legal Considerations in Psychometric Testing for Guidance Counsellors (EN)	137 (6.75%)
5. A guide for post-primary schools in developing a policy for the use of assessment instruments (including tests and web-based resources) (EN)	123 (6.06%)
6. Career Counselling: facilitating career learning and development (EN)	111 (5.47%)
7. Resilience, Character Building and Identity (EN)	111 (5.47%)
8. Generation Apprenticeship: Accelerating Real-Life Learning (EN)	81 (3.99%)
9. Bereavement: How Guidance Counsellors Can Support The Grieving Student (EN)	80 (3.94%)
10. Dyslexia: How the Guidance Counsellor can support the student with dyslexia (EN)	78 (3.84%)
11. Helping students to concentrate while studying (EN)	64 (3.15%)
12. Developing a Mindful Approach in Guidance Counselling: Care for Self and Others (EN)	56 (2.76%)
13. Anger Management in the Classroom (EN)	49 (2.41%)
14. Improving Career Interventions with Cognitive Information Processing Theory (EN)	47 (2.32%)
15. Positive Psychology in Guidance Counselling (EN)	43 (2.12%)
16. Data Protection Consent in the School Context: Issues to Plan For (EN)	42 (2.07%)
17. Dealing with Ethical Dilemmas in Guidance Counselling (EN)	41 (2.02%)
18. Career Sailboat Model as a tool for the Guidance Counsellor (EN)	40 (1.97%)
19. Helping Adolescents Cope with Depression (EN)	38 (1.87%)
20. The Four Pillars of Action: The Role of Guidance Counsellors in developing and implementing the Whole School Community Approach in Tackling Bullying, both Traditional and Cyber (EN)	38 (1.87%)



WHOLE SCHOOL GUIDANCE FRAMEWORK

This was published in 2017 to support schools in the planning and provision of whole school guidance and was delivered to all post primary schools. The Framework is intended to support schools in meeting the requirement of The Education Act (1998), that schools provide students with “access to appropriate guidance to assist them in their educational and career choices” (Section 9c). The Framework presents a continuum of support model for the provision of whole school guidance and sets out three areas of learning to facilitate students’ development of eight competences. The Framework was developed in collaboration with NCCA, NEPS, NAPD, IGC, the Directors of Studies and the DES Inspectorate and reflects the key role of the guidance counsellor working in collaboration with school management and staff in the development of the Whole School Guidance Plan. NCGE intends to work with approximately fifteen schools in piloting the implementation of the Framework with Junior Cycle students in 2018.



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

DEVELOPMENT OF EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE

NCGE hosted the first of two Erasmus+ funded Transnational Cooperation Activity (TCA) thematic seminars on behalf of Léargas, the National Agency, promoting the development of evidence based practice in guidance services in schools. It took place on Thursday 7th and Friday 8th of September 2017 and thirteen countries attended (strict eligibility criteria applied). Participants registered included: policy makers (and support agencies), trainers, researchers, along with managers and practitioners who have a role in leading, managing, supporting and/or delivering guidance services in schools. The aim of the seminars is to develop a transnational resource which will facilitate Member States in developing evidence based guidance practice and promote the use of ICT in contributing to the development of school guidance quality assured practices. The further development of the transnational resource will be informed by good practice. A second seminar will take place in February 2018.



<https://www.ncge.ie/ncge/ncge-hosting-two-tca-thematic-seminars>

DES - SCHOOL GUIDANCE COMPLIANCE RETURN

In collaboration with DES, NCGE provided advice and support during the preparation phase to schools, assisting them to gather relevant information. The purpose of this compliance return is to establish that schools are using their allocation for guidance in accordance with the terms of Department Circulars.

<https://www.ncge.ie/school-guidance-compliance-return>

3. PRIMARY EDUCATION

The strategic plan for NCGE 2015-2017 outlined the priorities of the NCGE Work Programme, which refers specifically to Post Primary, FET and European sectors. However, Guidance Officers within the Centre continue to source articles as appropriate for *NCGE News* on guidance issues in primary education.

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

Supporting transition in Luxembourg [*NCGE NEWS Issue 47*](#) *Spring 2017*

ESRI Growing up in Ireland Study [*NCGE NEWS Issue 48*](#) *Winter 2017*

4. FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING (FET) SECTOR ACTIVITIES

AEGI SUPPORTS

The agreed Service Level Agreement 2015, relevant in 2017, between DES, Léargas and NCGE clarifies the revised role of NCGE in relation to the AEGI.

SOLAS is responsible for the funding, coordination of the development and evaluation of the Adult Education Guidance Initiative (AEGI) within the Education and Training Board management structures. SOLAS will fund the NCGE work to support the development of guidance policy and provision in FET, with ETBI and ETBs to develop and implement the strategic priorities of the FET Strategy as it relates to guidance.

The Adult Guidance Management System (AGMS), the client information and management database of the AEGIs, is monitored and supported by NCGE. Based on information from AEGI Services and reporting requirements of DES. NCGE identifies changes and developments needed in the AGMS with the IT provider. NCGE met with SOLAS in 2017 to discuss and agree changes to the qualitative and quantitative reports for 2018. NCGE provided technical support to the AEGI Services and staff and liaised with ETB management in relation to the AEGI services on a regular basis. NCGE completed the 2017 AEGI Summary Report of statistics and qualitative returns.

<https://www.ncge.ie/ncge/adult-educational-guidance-services>

DES FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING STRATEGY

NCGE continued as an active member of the SOLAS Strategic Implementation Advisory Committee (SIAC) in 2017.

DES requested that the draft national framework document for an Integrated FET Guidance Strategy be put on hold pending the outcome of the DES Guidance Review. In the interim NCGE continued to work closely with ETBI in maintaining quality guidance practice.

NCGE participated in the SOLAS Steering Committee for the review reports for PLC and Youthreach.

FET GUIDANCE HANDBOOK

NCGE manages and develops the online handbook for FET Guidance Staff which can be accessed via the NCGE website home page. Additional work on this handbook will be undertaken in line with the developing FET Guidance Strategy.

<https://www.ncge.ie/FET-guidance-handbook>



OTHER ACTIVITIES

Pilot of FET Guidance Programme – My Futures+

NCGE collaborated with Careers Portal in the development of MyFuture+; this programme is designed to assist learners (within FET) develop and progress their careers. It contains a number of interactive tools to help learners explore the world of education, work and employment.

<https://careersportal.ie/myfuture/>

TIME TO MOVE Events

NCGE attended and encouraged participation by Youth Information workers, Training Centre Managers, Adult Education Guidance Counsellors and Guidance Information Officers, Youthreach Advocates, Jobsclub Guidance Counsellors, Mediators and other organisations working with young people and adults, in a number of 'Time to Move' events. This is a Eurodesk Europe-wide campaign which informs young people and those who work with them about opportunities to work, study, train and volunteer in Europe.

<https://timetomove.eurodesk.eu/>

Survey

As part of the scoping report compiled on behalf of DES (*see p19*) NCGE surveyed FET Directors regarding current FET Guidance practices.

5. HIGHER EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

DIRECTORS OF STUDIES IN GUIDANCE COUNSELLING (DSGC)

NCGE hosted and chaired two meetings of the Committee of the Directors of Studies in Guidance Counselling in 2017. This Committee represents the five universities in Ireland which were providing initial education and training programmes for guidance counselling. These include the Directors of the programmes in Dublin City University, National University of Ireland Maynooth, University College Cork, University of Limerick and Trinity College Dublin. The remit of the Committee is to examine policy, social and practice issues in guidance counselling and the implications of these for the development, delivery, content and review of initial education and

training programmes in guidance counselling. Revised Terms of Reference were adopted by the Committee in 2017.

<https://www.ncge.ie/ncge/directors-studies-guidance-counselling>

DSGC / PSI AGREEMENT ON PSYCHOMETRIC TESTING

NCGE continued to support this Agreement through promotion of the 'Register'. This PSI register is referred to in [DES Circular 0035/2017](#). See p.20 on the Advisory Committee on Psychometric Testing for more details.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- NCGE continued to liaise with the HEA in relation to the Springboard helpline programme.
- Representatives of the Association of Higher Education Careers Services (AHECS) attended the National Forum on Guidance meetings.
- *NCGE News* included articles on guidance issues in higher education and highlighted examples of innovative practice and resources.

6. EUROPEAN GUIDANCE SECTOR

GUIDANCE PROVISION TO EUROPEAN SCHOOLS

NCGE/ Euroguidance Ireland co-ordinates the provision of educational guidance to the children of Irish parents attending European Schools on an annual basis, on behalf of DES.

117 students availed of guidance provision across 12 European Schools (in Belgium, Luxembourg, Italy, Spain, and Germany) between November and December 2017.

Guidance was delivered both on-site and via Skype and Adobe Connect and included individual and group guidance sessions to years S4 to S7 inclusive.

<https://www.ncge.ie/ncge/guidance-european-schools>

EUROGUIDANCE IRELAND

The Euroguidance network consists of Euroguidance Centers in 35 European countries. Its mission is to promote the European dimension in lifelong guidance in the member countries as well as to foster international learning mobility by means of guidance services. Its key target group is guidance practitioners in education and employment, who provide information and guidance on international mobility to end-users seeking studying and training opportunities abroad. The Euroguidance Ireland Centre, hosted by NCGE, promotes the European dimension in guidance and provides quality information on lifelong guidance and learning mobility for guidance professionals and individuals seeking to study abroad.

<https://euroguidance.ie/>

STUDY VISITS

NCGE /Euroguidance Ireland hosted study visits as outlined in the grant request for the Euroguidance programme of activities 2017. Study visits aim to support the sharing of best practice in guidance among guidance practitioners and other relevant professionals.

Study Visits hosted by NCGE:

- In February 2017 NCGE/Euroguidance Ireland hosted a study visit to Ireland for members of the Placement and Career Guidance Unit (PCGU) of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). The visiting group works in UNRWA schools in the various camps in Lebanon as guidance counsellors, registrars and school principals. The purpose of this study visit to Dublin was to allow for a sharing of policy and best practice, the learning from which would inform future guidance provision. Various presentations and workshops were delivered from DES, NCGE, QQI, JCT (Wellbeing), DCU, TY Ireland and CareersPortal. The study visit also included site visits to a number of second-level schools, an adult education and training centre and two universities - DCU and Maynooth University. The group comprised of nine Palestinian guidance counsellors, registrars and school principals from Lebanon.
- In November 2017 NCGE/Euroguidance hosted a group of 12 guidance professionals from 7 European countries. This 3 day visit hosted in the Euroguidance Centre, Ireland, explored strategic planning in guidance and the resources needed to support guidance practice.

An additional study visit was hosted by NCGE in November for the Korean Research Institute for Vocational Education and Training. Discussions focused on the delivery and evaluation of guidance delivery.

<https://euroguidance.ie/study-visits>

<https://www.ncge.ie/ncge/study-visits-hosted-ncge>

Study Visits participated in:

- On behalf of DES, the NCGE Chairman and NCGE Director attended the ICCDPP Conference in June in Seoul, South Korea. DES was instrumental in the original establishment of the ICCDPP. The focus of the global discussion was on the future of guidance (also referred to internationally as career development) and its continued relevance in the context of changes in education and employment in recent years. Representatives of OECD, CEDEFOP and the European Training Foundation participated in the three-day symposium whose theme was - Career Development: At the Crossroads towards Relevance and Impact. A communiqué for dissemination globally was issued following the symposium.
- In November 2017 NCGE Director, Jennifer Mc Kenzie participated and presented at the 5th Seminar of Psychology & Guidance in a School Context , held in Lisbon, Portugal.

<https://www.ncge.ie/ncge/external-ncge-participation>

THE EUROGUIDANCE NETWORK

Euroguidance Ireland is an active member of the Euroguidance Network, attending network meetings and participating in the work of the Strategy and Quality Working Group. During 2017 the Strategy and Quality Working Group (SQWG) kept in touch with relevant stakeholders and promoted Euroguidance in various ways on the European level.

Network Meetings attended

- Euroguidance Network Meeting, Malta, 16-18 April, 2017
- Euroguidance Network Meeting, Estonia, 27-28 September, 2017

Alongside the Euroguidance Network Meeting, Estonia also hosted the European Lifelong Guidance Conference as part of the Estonian Presidency of the European Council. Over 200 representatives from Member States attended. The NCGE Director both presented at a workshop with ICCDPP Director Dr. John Mc Carthy and participated in the plenary discussion panel. The Euroguidance Officer presented a workshop on the Euroguidance Ireland Mobility Guidance Module (*see CPD on p.18*)

<https://www.ncge.ie/ncge/external-ncge-participation>

INTERNSHIP

NCGE hosted an Internship programme in May – June, in partnership with Mannheim University. A career guidance student applied to work with NCGE / Euroguidance for 5 weeks as part of her programme. This was an excellent opportunity for NCGE to provide support for a genuine mobility option for an EU Student of guidance. The programme was arranged and coordinated following connections and communications established through Euroguidance / Academia colleagues. The Intern worked closely with the Euroguidance Officer to review and develop existing Euroguidance resources. She had the opportunity to attend site visits to guidance services in a youth information center, an adult guidance center and Intreo / DSP. She visited QQI (Europass/NARIC) and the Eurodesk office. She also composed an article for NCGE News Issue 47.

[NCGE NEWS Issue 47](#)

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS IN EUROPE PORTAL

NCGE / Euroguidance Ireland liaised and collaborated with QQI as the national data source for core information and EQF-NCP Ireland to ensure that appropriate guidance, EQF and Europass information is included within the information provided to the Learning Opportunities Portal. NCGE/Euroguidance Ireland checks information provided for validity twice yearly and collaborated with EQF-NCP Ireland in ensuring information is kept up to date. NCGE/Euroguidance Ireland continued to work on a cloud based solution for the interconnection of national data sources to the Learning Opportunities and Qualifications in Europe.

IRISH REFERENCE GROUP FOR EU INITIATIVES IN EDUCATION AND SKILLS

NCGE/ Euroguidance Ireland is an active member of the Irish Reference Group for EU Initiatives in Education and Skills. Other members include Quality Qualifications Ireland, Europass, EQF, EQUAVET, ENIC NARIC, and Léargas. The primary objective of the Irish Reference Group for EU Initiatives is to disseminate information on EU Initiatives. NCGE/ Euroguidance Ireland participated in a meeting of the Irish Reference Group for EU Initiatives in Education and Skills in Tullamore in October, 2017. NCGE updated the group on developments in guidance as a whole.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Euro-Quest Resource

Euroguidance Ireland continued to develop a transition year resource for learning mobility during 2017. Euro-Quest is a short programme which is designed to give Transition Year students an opportunity to explore the idea of studying abroad for a semester, an academic year, or for an entire degree. This programme has been informed and adapted from feedback received directly from Guidance Counsellors. This resource is to be piloted in 2018.

<https://euroguidance.ie/euro-quest>

European Day of Languages Initiative

To celebrate the European Day of Languages on 26 September 2017, NCGE/ Euroguidance Ireland and Léargas promoted a competition to encourage learners and teachers to engage with languages in different ways. The 2017 Competition was entitled: 'My Dream Job in...'. Secondary school pupils, with the help of their language teacher and guidance counsellor, were invited to apply for their dream job in the country where a language they are learning is spoken. Pupils were required to put together a cover letter and Europass CV in the relevant language. Teachers and Guidance Counsellors select one entry per class to submit, and two winning classes (one each from Junior and Senior cycle) will win a trip to a European country to explore the dream career path! Winners will be announced in 2018.

<https://euroguidance.ie/european-day-languages-competition>

Euroguidance Network Website and Publications

Euroguidance Ireland contributed financially and through the provision and revision of content to the development of the new Euroguidance Network website. Euroguidance Ireland also contributed to the Euroguidance Network's 'Highlights' publication for the Year 2017.

<https://www.euroguidance.eu/>

<https://www.euroguidance.eu/euroguidance-highlights-2017>



7. CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

In accordance with NCGE's terms of reference, the Centre advises on high quality and relevant initial guidance counselling education and training and provides Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for guidance practitioners. All CPD programmes are informed by NCGE's Quality Assurance Procedures.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WEBINARS

In 2017 NCGE invited experts to present 4 professional development webinars to guidance counsellors working in educational settings in Ireland.

- **February** - [Resilience, Character Building and Identity- Terri Morrissey, CEO of the Psychological Society of Ireland](#)
- **April** - [Improving Career Interventions with Cognitive Information Processing Theory - Jim Sampson, the Mode L. Stone Distinguished Professor of Counselling and Career Development from the Department of Educational Psychology and Learning Systems at Florida State University](#)
- **May** - [Developing a Mindful Approach in Guidance Counselling: Care for Self and Others - Paul King, a lecturer in the School of Human Development and Chair of the MSc. /Graduate Diploma in Guidance Counselling programmes in Dublin City University \(DCU\)](#)
- **December** - [An introduction to Technology Enhanced Guidance - Jannie Meedom Nielsen, Aarhus University, Denmark](#)

POST PRIMARY

Psychometric Testing

In January 2017 the NCGE Guidance Programme Coordinator was invited to speak at a guidance day for the ETB schools (principals, deputies and guidance counsellors were there from about 20 schools) on psychometric testing: good practice considerations for schools.

Twice in November 2017 NCGE delivered CPD in Psychometric Testing directly to Guidance Counsellors working in Schools. The CPD programme consisted of an online component (pre and post-workshop) and a full day face-to-face workshop (in two locations). The purpose of the online component in advance of the workshop was to provide participants with the opportunity to re-familiarise themselves with the theory and principles of psychometric testing, which facilitated a face-to-face workshop which was skills and practice focused and experiential in nature.

EGuide

NCGE piloted the use of the EGUIDE career guidance tool with a number of schools. 8 Guidance counsellors attended a CPD event hosted by NCGE and piloted EGUIDE with their students. The pilot commenced in late 2016 and concluded in the spring of 2017.

FET

PLC Guidance Counsellors

In May, NCGE coordinated a one day meeting of Guidance Counsellors working in a PLC setting. NCGE engaged with participants regarding ongoing developments in the area of FET Guidance, and also surveyed PLC Guidance Counsellors regarding current practice. This was the first NCGE coordinated meeting with this cohort.

AEGI

In conjunction with The Dyslexia Association of Ireland (DAI), NCGE provided CPD for staff in the Adult Education Guidance Services (AEGI).

- October - for Guidance Information Officers
- November - for Guidance Coordinators and Guidance Counsellors

These provided an introduction to the NCGE CPD 'Virtual Learning Environment' (VLE) and also detailed considerations regarding challenges faced by adults with Dyslexia, introducing the 'Pyramid Support Model' now recommended by DAI to support adult learners who may have Dyslexia.

Youthreach and CTC Advocates

In October, NCGE coordinated a 1 day meeting of guidance practitioners working in Training Centres. Again, NCGE engaged with participants regarding ongoing developments in the area of FET Guidance.

EUROGUIDANCE

CPD for Guidance Counsellors in Mobility Guidance Counselling

Between April and June 2017 an online CPD Module in Mobility Guidance Counselling was completed by 35 guidance counsellors working in post primary schools. With a growing number of students going abroad to study, either as part of an Erasmus+ exchange or for the entire duration of their degree, the Mobility Guidance Counselling Module provides guidance counsellors with the skills they need to support students in their quest to study, work or volunteer abroad.

8. COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

NCGE convenes and participates in committees and working groups for and on behalf of DES. The activities for 2017 were as follows:

Scoping Report to DES

NCGE met with several sections of DES at meetings chaired by an Assistant Secretary, to discuss planning of the DES Guidance Review. NCGE was requested to submit a Scoping Report on current guidance provision. This was submitted in June 2017

FET Strategy Implementation Advisory Committee

NCGE was invited by DES and SOLAS to participate in the FET Strategic Implementation Advisory Committee (SIAC) as an implementing partner of the FET strategy 2014-2019 (*see FET Guidance Section P12 for detail*).

Post Primary Guidance Working Group

Following the publication of the NCGE *'Review of Guidance Counselling provision in second level schools, 2012-2013: Report of the findings'*, the Management of Guidance Committee requested that NCGE convene the Post Primary Guidance Working Group and agreed the Terms of Reference for the Group. This group was requested to continue for 2017 – 2018. Membership of the Working Group, chaired by the NCGE Director, includes representatives from DES Inspectorate, DSGC, IGC, NCCA, NCGE and NEPS. This group met twice in 2017 to:

- collaborate on the sign-off of the NCGE Whole School Guidance Framework and its distribution to schools
- advise NCGE in advance of the TCA on data gathering for schools (*see Post Primary Section P11 for detail*)

DES Post Primary Guidance Counselling Supervision Steering Group

NCGE was appointed to the Supervision Steering Group by DES CAP. This group oversees the provision of guidance counselling supervision for post primary school based guidance counsellors. This is hosted by DES Teacher Education Section 3 times per year. The service is managed by the Monaghan Education Centre and coordinated via the IGC branch network. NCGE attends these meetings in an advisory capacity and liaises with the DES Inspectorate to ensure representation from DES at each meeting.

Advisory Committee on Psychometric Testing

The Advisory Committee on Psychometric Testing is convened by NCGE on behalf of DES and to review and update the list of psychometric tests and assessments approved by DES for use in post-primary schools. A meeting was held in May 2017. The following organisations are

represented on the Committee: IGC, ILSA (Irish Learning Support Association), PSI (Psychological Society of Ireland), NEPS (National Educational Psychological Service), DES, NCGE, DSGC, School of Inclusive & Special Education (DCU St. Patrick's Campus).

Careers Net

In spring 2017 Cedefop Department for Learning and Employability issued a call for applications for one national expert from each country covered by the Cedefop database on lifelong guidance systems and practices. Following the application process, the NCGE Director was invited to participate as the expert for Ireland. More details - [CareersNet](#)

9. PROMULGATION

NCGE provides information to clients and stakeholders on the role and activities of NCGE through various means including its online properties, social media, printed publications, showcasing at conferences/exhibitions and direct presentations to stakeholders. NCGE provides access to quality information on lifelong guidance and mobility for learning purposes as a core element of the Centre's work. Through the Communications Officer, NCGE contracts the services of appropriate external suppliers to ensure quality development and delivery.

NCGE & EUROGUIDANCE IRELAND WEBSITES

In November 2017 NCGE launched revised NCGE and Euroguidance Ireland websites. These were developed over nine months with the aim of consolidating NCGE's online presence. This work enabled easier access by the guidance community to all of NCGE's online resources including:

- the School Guidance Handbook
- the FET Guidance Handbook and
- the NCGE Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)

The development gave increased prominence to existing popular sections such as - 'How to Become a Guidance Counsellor', The 'NCGE Newsletter', The 'National Forum on Guidance' and 'Resources'.



Statistics on usage – www.ncge.ie

There were a total of 22,958 unique visitors to this website in 2017, recording 30,662 sessions (81,622 total page views). Of these, 87% were first time visitors to the site and 13% returning visitors.

Statistics on usage – www.euroguidance.ie

There were a total of 18,494 unique visitors to this website in 2017, recording 24,436 sessions (61,584 total page views). Of these, 82.2% were first time visitors to the site and 17.8% returning visitors.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/EuroguidanceIreland>

The NCGE Euroguidance Facebook Page was set up to promote the activities of the Euroguidance Ireland Centre. By the end of 2017 the amount of likes had risen from 1457 to 1635 (12% increase).

The most popular post was a competition highlighting Euroguidance Ireland’s attendance at a number of exhibitions between September and November. 14,000 people were reached by this post and there were 19 comments and 25 shares, with 169 entrants to the associated contest.

<https://euroguidance.ie/current-euroguidance-ireland-competitions>



Twitter - <https://twitter.com/ncgeguidance>

NCGE continued to engage with members of the Guidance Community through its Twitter account. By the end of 2017 there were over 593 followers (compared to 250 in 2016); gaining on average 7 additional followers each week.



NCGE NEWS

NCGE News (ISSN 2009-6941) is the NCGE online interactive newsletter /magazine which provide articles and reviews on guidance provision across the education sector. NCGE News was produced in an electronic (e-zine) format twice in 2017, providing spring and winter editions. The NCGE Communications Officer coordinated the process, including editing of articles submitted, producing draft copies and liaising with the design and publication team. All staff in NCGE source and/or write articles for NCGE News on an on-going basis. Providing NCGE News as an online publication allows the opportunity to disseminate it both nationally and internationally. In addition to being published online for download, each issue was also sent directly to over 3900 NCGE News Subscribers.

In 2017 NCGE also published each edition in Irish.

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



CONFERENCES & EXHIBITIONS

NCGE hosts stands each year at a number of conferences and exhibitions. This provides direct access to NCGE for guidance counsellors and other clients of the Centre. For 2017, Euroguidance Ireland increased its presence at various events in promotion of the European dimension of guidance.

Attended in 2017:

March	IGC National Conference - Cork
September	Higher Options Expo - Dublin
September	TY Ireland Expo - Kildare
September	National Ploughing Championships- Offaly
October	Zeminar Expo - Dublin
October	'Time to Move' Events – <i>Multiple locations (see p.13 for more)</i>

ICT DEVELOPMENTS IN NCGE

In line with the strategic objective to ensure and promote the use of ICT where possible and appropriate, NCGE makes use of the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) to support the work of committees convened by NCGE. This includes – the MGC, School Guidance Handbook Editorial Panel, the DSGC and other relevant programmes.

<http://vle.ncge.ie>

NCGE continued to use Survey Monkey™ questionnaires for online feedback and evaluation of CPD/Workshops and FET delivery and activities as well as creating engagement with participants of the National Forum on Guidance.

NCGE continued to use the NCGE Vimeo channel to host video based resources on the NCGE School Guidance website and in promotion.

<https://vimeo.com/ncge>

NCGE holds a license for Adobe Connect in order to facilitate online synchronous meetings and CPD. A number of meetings were hosted by NCGE through Adobe Connect and resources were developed to support NCGE staff and external users in using the Platform.

The increased functionality associated with the revision of NCGE websites in 2017 allowed for the streamlining of delivery to Irish students in European schools through the use of a ‘web form’ for the scheduling of guidance sessions.

<https://euroguidance.ie/template>

NCGE CONTACT DATABASE

In May / June 2017 NCGE undertook an exercise to bring its contact database up to date. This involved the employment of an additional resource to manually source and record current and accurate contact information of individual guidance professionals working in Ireland (employed across a spectrum of settings).

From Q3 2017 this accurate information was then uploaded to NCGE’s secure MailChimp™ E-mail automation client. This resulted in:

- a greater overall number of permitted contacts held by NCGE
- the increased and accurate segmentation of messaging
- higher engagement with communications

TRANSLATION TO IRISH

Throughout 2017 NCGE engaged the services of a translation company in order to translate key information and resources into the Irish Language. These consisted of:

- 15 School Guidance Handbook Articles
- The NCGE Whole School Guidance Framework publication
<https://www.ncge.ie/school-guidance-handbook/>
- The 2016 NCGE Output Statement
<https://www.ncge.ie/ncge/reporting>
- Two issues of NCGE News
<https://www.ncge.ie/ncge/newsletter>
- The 'landing page' of the NCGE virtual learning environment
<https://vle.ncge.ie/>
- Various letters of correspondence
- Issued press releases

NCGE entered into a 12 month partnership agreement for the continued development of www.saoloibre.ie and associated resources for 2017/2018. This partnership promotes the development of resources in Irish for guidance counsellors and their students, additional work was done in profiling careers with Irish with a significant focus on opportunities in Europe.

In May 2017 the NCGE Communications Officer successfully completed a QQI Level 3 Certificate in Professional Irish.

OTHER ACTIVITY

Reporting

Throughout 2017, NCGE continued to provide briefing documents and information on guidance counselling and guidance related issues to DES. NCGE also provided information to SOLAS and other Departments and agencies. As highlighted previously in this statement NCGE provided DES with a report of a scoping exercise undertaken by NCGE on guidance service delivery to inform the DES Review of Guidance Services as part of the Action Plan for Education 2017.

As part of Euroguidance Erasmus+ funding requirements; NCGE submitted the report of activity for 2016 to the Education, Culture and Audiovisual Executive Agency of The European Union.

Press / PR

Three press releases were issued by NCGE in 2017 relating to key activities undertaken during the year.

<https://www.ncge.ie/ncge/ncge-issued-press-releases>

Three feature articles were published on behalf of NCGE in 2017 promoting both the general work of the Centre and the NCGE Whole School Guidance Framework

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

Advertising

NCGE placed 'paid for' advertising in four offline publications and one online in 2017. These promoted the overall work undertaken by the Centre and were selected based on the relevancy of their audience and were - Education Magazine, the IGC Yearbook and Diary, ETBI Magazine, IGC 'Guideline' and careersnews.ie,

10. NATIONAL FORUM ON GUIDANCE

NCGE coordinated and hosted two meetings of The National Forum on Guidance in 2017 on the 5th of April and 18th October, in The Clock Tower, DES.

Agendas, presentations and reports from each meeting are available on the NCGE website.

<https://www.ncge.ie/ncge/national-forum-guidance-first-meeting-2017>

<https://www.ncge.ie/ncge/national-forum-guidance-second-meeting-2017>



11. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION & PROTECTED DISCLOSURES

NCGE became subject to the Freedom of Information Act with effect from 31st May 2006.

For more details see:

<https://www.ncge.ie/ncge/foi-aie-protected-disclosures>

Section 22 of the Protected Disclosures Act 2014 requires the publication of a report each year relating to the number of protected disclosures made in the preceding year and any actions taken in response to such disclosures.

No protected disclosures were received by NCGE in the reporting period up to 31st December 2017.

12. FINANCIAL REPORT

NCGE FUNDING

NCGE core funding is provided by DES Skills Curriculum and Assessment Policy Unit (CAP) Unit; SOLAS provides the grant to NCGE to fund the FET programme, including AEGI supports within NCGE; the DES International Section funds the European Schools programme; EU funding via the Erasmus+ supports the Euroguidance Centre and other European activities within NCGE.

NCGE continued to ensure compliance with completion of various reports to DES and other Government departments on issues such as finance, environment, energy efficiency, procurement and parliamentary questions, etc.

NCGE SUMMARY ACCOUNTS 2017

Expenditure as detailed below includes coordination and delivery of programmes across the guidance in lifelong learning spectrum, staff salaries and Centre overheads.

Detailed financial reports are provided quarterly and annually via Income and Expenditure returns to DES, Board of Léargas and annual financial returns to EU Commission for EU funded programmes.

NCGE Summary Accounts as detailed in the Léargas audited accounts:

	Income Euro	Expenditure Euro
DES CAP Unit	600,000	519,542
SOLAS	277,572	277,572
Other Total (Including NRC Euroguidance)	58,804	139,262
Total	936,376	936,376

NCGE STAFF IN 2017

Note: Two fulltime staff absent on long term sick leave in 2017

Jennifer McKenzie	Director
Linda Darbey	Guidance Programme Coordinator (Post Primary)
Mary Stokes	Guidance Programme Coordinator (FET)
Elizabeth Glennon	Guidance Officer – Euroguidance (from October 2016 until October 2017)
David Cullen	Communications Officer (from February 2017)
Jean Rafferty	Office Administrator
Aoife MacMahon	Guidance Programme Assistant (until July 2017)
Luke Dunne	Guidance Programme Assistant (from August 2017)

NCGE MANAGEMENT OF GUIDANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Management of Guidance Committee 2017

Paul King (CHAIR)	DCU
Jennifer McKenzie (ex-officio)	NCGE
Karen Murtagh	DES
Linda Neary	DES
Jim Mullin	Léargas
Máire Quinn	Léargas
Josephine McGread	AEGAI
Eddie McGrath	IGC
Kathy Finnegan	NAPD
Shira Mehlman (to May 2017)	SOLAS
Orla Christle	HEA
Mary B. Ryan	DSGC
Stephen Fitzgerald	DSP

GLOSSARY

AEGAI	Adult Educational Guidance Association Ireland
AEGI	Adult Educational Guidance Initiative
AGMS	Adult Guidance Management System
CAP	Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment
CFE	College of Further Education
DES	Department of Education and Skills
DSGC	Directors of Studies in Guidance Counselling
DSP	Department of Social Protection
ELGPN	European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network
ETB	Education and Training Board
HEA	Higher Education Authority
IAEVG	International Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance
IGC	Institute of Guidance Counsellors
NAPD	National Association of Principal and Deputy Principals
NEPS	National Educational Psychological Services
NCSE	National Council for Special Education
PSI	Psychological Society Ireland
SOLAS	An tSeirbhís Oideachais Leanúnaigh agus Scileanna.
VLE	Virtual Learning Environment

APPENDIX - NCGE Strategic Plan 2015-2017

Foreword

The NCGE Management of Guidance Committee (MGC) was established by the Department of Education and Skills (DES) in 2010, as a sub-committee of the Board of Léargas. The MGC agreed the NCGE Strategic Plan for 2012-2014.

In 2014, the MGC began the process to agree the Strategic Plan for 2015-2017.

NCGE commissioned Prospectus Management Consultants to carry out a consultation with all stakeholders to inform the planning process. To complete their report, Prospectus Management Consultants met with the Management of Guidance Committee, staff of NCGE and the members of the National Forum on Guidance and invited all stakeholders to provide their comments and responses directly to Prospectus via an online Survey Monkey questionnaire in late 2014.

A report was provided to the MGC to inform the Strategic Planning process and to identify the Key Goals and Objectives for 2015-2017.

The Strategic Plan 2015-2017 outlined below takes account of the issues arising in the consultation, current national priorities and was agreed by the MGC in May 2015.

The Committee reviewed the Strategic Plan for 2015 -2017 and agreed that a formal decision on the Strategic Plan 2018-2020 would be best informed by the outcome of the DES Career Guidance Review. As a result the Committee agreed that the objectives and appropriate activities of the Strategic Plan 2015-2017 would be extended into 2018 pending the outcome of this review.

Paul King
Chair, Management of Guidance Committee
2017-2019

National and European Union Guidance Context and the Role of the NCGE

National Guidance Provision

Post Primary and Further Education and Training

Lifelong Guidance is provided within education and training, for and with the labour market, and requires delivery approaches that are tailored to the target client group (e.g. students/adult learners, etc.).

The Education Act 1998¹ requires that a recognised school provides access to appropriate guidance for its students. Hence, DES is responsible for the guidance provision within post primary schools and Further Education and Training centres.

Higher Education

Careers services in Higher Education institutions currently operate within the student support services in collaboration with student counselling services, etc. The Higher Education Authority (HEA) provides the Springboard Guidance phone line each year to support applications for specific Springboard courses.

Department of Social Protection (DSP)

Under current government priorities, DSP is responsible for the provision of the Intreo Service – providing career and employment guidance for unemployed adults and the signposting of adults to the FET/HE sector as appropriate.

Role of NCGE

NCGE is an agency of DES and hence the provision of post primary schools and FET centres falls within its remit.

Working in collaboration and co-operation with the HEA to support good practice, NCGE has advised on and supported the development of this Springboard Guidance Phone Line.

While NCGE does not have a direct role in the development of guidance policy and provision in DSP, where the roles of the DSP and the FET guidance services are interconnected through the AEGI² services and the FET strategy, NCGE has a key role to play in the development of such guidance policy and practice.

¹ <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/1998/en/act/pub/0051/>

² AEGI: Adult Educational Guidance Initiative: DES / SOLAS funded guidance services for adults managed by ETBs and WIT nationally.

European Union Guidance Context

The EU Council Resolutions in 2004³ and 2008⁴ outline the vital role of guidance in lifelong learning and the requirement of Member States to support and develop guidance policy at national level. Member States are encouraged to develop Career Management Skills, Quality Assurance in guidance, and to support the access to and co-operation and co-ordination of guidance services

Role of NCGE

NCGE hosts the Euroguidance Centre for Ireland, which is part of the European network of National Resource and Information centres for guidance funded by the EU Commission. The role of Euroguidance is to support mobility throughout Europe through the provision and exchange of information about learning, study and training opportunities available to those working and living within the member states. The main target group of Euroguidance is guidance practitioners and policy makers from both the educational and employment sectors in all European countries.

NCGE is the DES designated representative for Ireland at the European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network (ELGPN).

Guidance Definitions

Two key national definitions inform the developments of guidance policy and provision in Ireland:

'Guidance facilitates people throughout their lives to manage their own educational, training, occupational, personal, social and life choices so that they reach their full potential and contribute to the development of a better society' (National Guidance Forum Report 2007)⁵

'Guidance in schools refers to a range of learning experiences provided in a developmental sequence that assist students to develop self-management skills which will lead to effective choices and decisions about their lives. It encompasses the three separate but interlinked areas of personal and social development, educational guidance and career guidance' (pg. 4 Department guidelines, 2005)⁶

³ EU Council resolution 2004 Strengthening Policies, Systems and Practices in the field of Guidance <http://register.consilium.europa.eu/doc/srv?l=EN&f=ST%209286%202004%20INIT>

⁴ EU Council resolution 2008 ...on... better integrating lifelong guidance into lifelong learning strategies http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/educ/104236.pdf

⁵ http://www.nationalguidanceforum.ie/documents/NGF_Guidance_for_Life%20final.pdf

⁶ Guidelines for Second Level Schools on the Implications of Section 9 (c) of the Education Act, 1998

http://www.education.ie/servlet/blobervlet/pp_guideliines_second_level_schools_gc.pdf?language=EN

The Education Act 1998, Section 9 (c) states that a recognised school shall...'*use its available resources to (c) ensure that students have access to appropriate guidance to assist them in their educational and career choices*'.

VISION

Leading and shaping guidance practice to enable the learner to make informed and appropriate life choices.

MISSION

Develop, support and influence quality guidance provision in the education and training sector as part of lifelong learning in accordance with national and international best practice.

AIMS

The National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE) is an agency of the Department of Education and Skills, established in 1995, operating under the aegis of Léargas.

The Aims of the NCGE, as outlined by the Department of Education and Skills, include to:

- 1. promote the implementation of best practice in guidance counselling in schools, centres for education, and Further Education and Training settings*
- 2. promote the implementation of best practice in guidance counselling in non-formal settings in accordance with national priorities*
- 3. advise on policy and strategies for the promotion of a continuum of guidance in the context of lifelong learning*
- 4. provide advice, support, materials and resources for guidance counselling in education and FET*
- 5. advise on high quality and relevant initial guidance counselling education and training and to provide continuing professional development (CPD) for guidance practitioners*
- 6. organise the provision of guidance to Irish nationals in the European Schools*
- 7. contribute to the exchange of information on guidance counselling provision and practice with other guidance and employment services, through the National Resource Centre, (Euroguidance Centre) both in Ireland and in other Member States of the EU.*

In fulfilling its aims NCGE, as a constituent part of Léargas, is committed to working in collaboration and partnership with relevant stakeholders including the Department of

DES, SOLAS, DSGC, IGC, AEGAI, HEA, NAPD, DSP and other Government Departments and National and Employer agencies where appropriate.

NCGE Strategic Plan 2015-2017

Strategic Objectives

In giving expression to the Aims of the Centre, notwithstanding that guidance is provided throughout the employment, education and training sectors *and* that the focus of lifelong guidance remains lifelong and life-wide, the key focus of NCGE Strategic Objectives for 2015-2017 will include to:

- (i) inform and support the development of DES lifelong guidance policy in the education and training sector
- (ii) develop and support quality guidance practice in post primary schools and the FET sector
- (iii) promote and support a national and EU focus to guidance policy provision and practice

In its commitment to the above, the NCGE will remain adaptable and responsive to the requirements and priorities of the Minister and the Department of Education and Skills.

Strategic Activities

The detailed actions and key performance indicators for the activities listed will be outlined in the NCGE Annual Plan. These activities include to:

1. inform, influence, facilitate and support the development of guidance policy in post primary schools and FET
2. inform, influence, facilitate and support the development of guidance provision and delivery in post primary schools and FET
3. co-ordinate the provision of Continuing Professional development (CPD) for guidance counsellors and practitioners in post primary schools and FET
4. establish, support and promote quality assurance and best practice guidelines for guidance in Post primary schools and FET
5. provide quality information, resources and materials to support guidance provision and practice

6. exchange information on guidance and support development of policy at national and EU level via Euroguidance Centre and National Forum on Guidance, and ELGPN (or its successor as appropriate)

The NCGE Management of Guidance Committee will review the activities and achieved objectives annually. In fulfilling these aims and objectives, NCGE will:

- (i) ensure and promote use of ICT where possible and appropriate
- (ii) engage with all relevant stakeholders
- (iii) establish a process to review and reflect on development of activities and programmes
- (iv) ensure compliance with governance requirements



NCGE: A Whole School Guidance Framework

ON the 6th of September Minister Bruhan welcomed the launch of The National Centre for Guidance in Education's (NCGE) 'Whole School Guidance Framework'.
The document highlights the key role of the guidance coordinator in schools, working with other school staff, in the delivery and planning of guidance to students.
A copy of the document has been issued to every post primary school in the country.
Welcoming the launch, Minister Bruhan said, "This framework is the product of continuing work in the area of school guidance undertaken by my Department, The Action Plan for Education 2017, launched in February, committed to leading the framework by the end of this year."
The delivery is therefore ahead of schedule, and highlights the importance and urgency of developing a whole school approach for guidance delivery in Irish education.
I would like to thank the NCGE and the relevant committee bodies for their work in producing the Framework which I hope will assist schools in developing and updating their guidance plans."
The Framework was developed over a three year timeframe and was informed by similar frameworks published internationally. It follows a public consultation process from late 2016, ministerial review, and receipt of commentary from other stakeholders including employer organisations.



L to R: Linda Dunne, NCGE, Jennifer Mc Keenan, NCGE, and Director KAPD, Emma Moran, DEK

Areas of learning for students highlighted in the framework include:

- Developing Myself
- Developing My Learning
- Developing My Career Path
- With associated competences
- Developing & maintaining self-esteem & a positive self-concept
- Interacting effectively with others (face-to-face & online)
- Developing & growing throughout life
- Employing effective personal learning/learn strategies
- Making educational choices in line with career aspirations
- Using career related information & sources appropriately
- Understanding the world of work & its roles
- Managing career development & decision-making

"Guidance in schools is offered on an individual or group basis as part of a development learning process and at moments of personal crisis"

Speaking at the launch, Jennifer Mc Keenan, Director NCGE said "The aim of the guidance programme in schools is to help students to develop an awareness of themselves and their interests, so that they can learn to make choices for their future education, career and indeed life plans."



Jennifer McKeenan, Director, National Centre for Guidance in Education



NCGE: A Whole School Guidance Framework
National Centre for Guidance in Education
June, 2017

ncge
Gairmál Náisiúnta on Threoir san Oideachas
National Centre for Guidance in Education

