



Exploring the role of Lifelong Guidance in Sustainable Development – an example from Ireland

*Euroguidance Conference 2021
Green Guidance - Focusing on Green educational and career pathways*

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



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Legislation & Definitions of Guidance in Ireland

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

Section 9 A recognised school shalluse its available resources to -

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

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

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

- * **National Guidance Forum Report 2007**

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

NCGE – who we are & what we do!

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

ROLE

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

ACTIVITIES

- inform and support the development of DES lifelong guidance policy in the education and training sector
 - develop and support quality guidance practice in post primary schools and the FET sector
 - promote and support a national and EU focus to guidance policy provision and practice
- * Representative for Ireland in EU / Internationally – e.g. in ELGPN, Cedefop, ICCDPP etc

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



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Presentation plans

- What is the National Forum on Guidance (NFG)
- Why focus – Forum 2020? – role of the Forum -
- UN SDGs – introduce and explore
- Invited Professor Mary McMahan to provide theoretical background to the discussion



National Forum on Guidance



Fóram Náisiúnta um Threoir
National Forum on Guidance

The National Forum on Guidance provides an informal communication and cooperation facility for those involved in the provision of guidance and the development and support of guidance practitioners and services.

Convened by NCGE , Supported by Dept of Education since 2011.

[National Forum on Guidance | NCGE - National Centre for Guidance in Education](#)



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Just Some of the Topics discussed:

- * Building the Evidence Base / Data Gathering *in* Guidance and *For* Guidance
- * Opportunities for Guidance in the Skills Agenda.
- * Addressing the challenge of Diversity for Guidance
- * Social Justice; the role of guidance in the support of active inclusion for all. Prof Ronald Sultana
- * Guidance Matters: An exploration and discussion on strategic developments in guidance - linking policy and practice.
- * 'Career Development as a Superpower' – Sareena Hopkins



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Ireland's Approach to Sustainable Development – to date

National Implementation Plan 2018-2020

Dept of Education – Action Plan 2019Action No 63

Dept of The National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development in Ireland, 2014- 2020

NCGE Strategic Plan...Goals 4,5 8.

Dept of Education Consultation 2021– Education for Sustainable Development

Future:

Project Ireland 2040

Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021



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National Forum on Guidance 2020-2021



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22 October 2020 : An initial investigation into what is the role of Lifelong Guidance in promoting Sustainable Development and Change

14 April 2021 : promoting Sustainable Development and Change - What is the contribution of Lifelong Guidance?



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Promoting Sustainable Development and Change: What is the Contribution of Lifelong Guidance?



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Where does Guidance have a role & Why?

GOAL 4 Insure inclusive & equitable quality education & promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Goal 4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

Goal 4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

Goal 4.7 - By 2030 ensure all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's "contribution to sustainable development

Where does Guidance have a role & Why - contd

Goal 5.1 *End all forms of discrimination* against all women and girls everywhere

Goal 5.5 Ensure women's *full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership* at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

Goal 8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support *productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation....*

Goal 8.5 By 2030, achieve *full and productive employment and decent work for all* women and men

Goal 8.6 By 2020, substantially *reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education and training*

Where does Guidance fit in?

Focus on Individual at centre of SDGs



Career guidance in complex systems: *Context, culture, and career theory*

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- Noted that Guidance remains needed and relevant, and both must keep pace and seek to positively engage with relevant developments as they occur.
- Sustainability - the ability to exist constantly and to keep up or keep going

Introduced UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals

Referenced International Labour Organization (ILO) - *Decent work* puts money in the pockets of individuals and families that they can spend in the local economy.....Decent work for all reduces inequality and increases resilience

- ❑ **How, Where and When Guidance policies, systems and practices can and do support individuals, communities and government departments to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) -**

October 2020- participant contributions

Online Discussion – Asked Participants to consider and engage via “ Slido”

1. What are you currently doing in your Guidance policy or practice to contribute to Goals 4, 5 and 8 (and others)?
2. From the presentations today, what changes to your Guidance policy and practice could you make now or plan for in 2021 and beyond?
3. What are the key Guidance messages from the Forum on Guidance contributions to these SDGs?

Promoting Sustainable Development and Change - What is the contribution of Lifelong Guidance?

- * **Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) to 2030**
– Dept of Education , Ireland – national govt policy context / what has been achieved to date
- * Invited Forum to inform NCGE Submission to the national consultation 2021
- * **Professor Peter Plant** – topics such as empowerment of learners to perform career research under a Green theme /transition to sustainable and “ green” approaches in some careers

Introduced

- * European Pillar of Social Rights
- * EU Green Deal
- * Focus on the individual

April 2021 - participant contributions and Outcome

Online Discussion – Asked Participants to

1. What more can the Department(s) of Education do within the overall education sector, under ESD, to ensure we achieve SDG 4.7 and contribute to Agenda 2030?
2. What Guidance related activities could be included in the ESD Strategy to achieve SDG 4.7
3. From these, what actions can Guidance services take to support ESD?
4. What could the Department(s) of Education do to support Guidance Practice in accordance with ESD?

Intended outcome – to inform the NCGE Submission to ESD

NCGE submission to ESD 2030

NCGE Submission to DoE Consultation included detailed outline of :

* Guidance contribution to UN SDGs

Goal 4, To suggest that social inclusion is the remit of community groups, NGOs or social welfare supports only, completely negates the role of Dept. Ed and DFHERIS in ensuring that Education and Training will enhance the individual's career and life opportunities.

Goal 5, by ensuring that girls and women explore all education, training and future career options, from a young age, and contribute to a more equal, less male dominated society

Goal 8 Where "Guidance" focuses on career exploration and planning, the development of career management skills and competences and setting personal and career goals, embedded within education and training across schools, FET and HE will support individuals to be innovative, creative and not just choose traditional career paths

* Detailed feedback from participants [30-06-21-NCGE-ESD-Strategy-Submission.pdf](https://www.ncge.ie/30-06-21-NCGE-ESD-Strategy-Submission.pdf)

November 2021

Ireland Government – published “ Climate Change Plan..”

Key element of current Govt agenda with broad cross party agreement for need for a national Plan.

Developments in Ireland in Apprenticeships, Focus on upskilling ,Climate Action and low carbon economy

Genuine National interest – in media, social media, discussions in COP 26 , national approach to climate change etc

National Forum on Guidance November 24th 2021



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Career Guidance for the Green Economy

- * National Forum on Guidance November 24th next
- * ***Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Mr Eamon Ryan TD, will address the topic of ‘Career Opportunities in the Green and Zero Carbon Economy’.***
- * Laois / Offaly ETB presentation on work undertaken in that region in relation to the “Green Economy” and role of Guidance in supporting learners and individuals to consider courses and jobs in this sector.
- * Consideration of initial development of NCGE good practice guidelines for “Green Guidance” – to inform any future National Guidance Strategy; ensuring that sustainable and green Guidance principals underpin the future development and delivery of national Guidance practice.



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and then

- * Reflect on the outcome of the 3 Forum events
- * Consider the feedback on Nov 24th
- * Work on Draft of “ NCGE Guidelines for Green Guidance” and
- * Consult with national stakeholders
- * Collaborate through Euroguidance Network
- * Contact Euroguidance Austria to learn from each other
- * Consider Guidance as a “Green Job”
- *etc.... etc.... etc ...



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Relevant Links

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[Education Act, 1998 \(irishstatutebook.ie\)](http://irishstatutebook.ie)

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

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

Dept Wellbeing policy statement 2018

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

Indecon Review of Career Guidance, 2019

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

International Labour Organisation (ILO) - DECENT WORK AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---europe/---ro-geneva/---ilo-lisbon/documents/event/wcms_667247.pdf

Investing in Career Guidance (Cedefop, 2019)

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

Programme Recognition Framework (Ireland, 2016)

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

Project Ireland 2040

<https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/09022006-project-ireland-2040/?referrer=http://www.gov.ie/2040/#:~:text=Project%20Ireland%202040%20is%20the%20government%E2%80%99s%20long-term%20overarching,didn%E2%80%99t%20align%20with%20a%20well-thought-out%20and%20defined%20strategy>

Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/984d2-climate-action-and-low-carbon-development-amendment-bill-2020/>

NCGE submission to ESD Strategy

[30-06-21-NCGE-ESD-Strategy-Submission.pdf](#)



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Danke schön
Go raibh maith agaibh
Thank you



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