Irish Reference Group for EU Initiatives in Education and Skills

Date: 6th October 2016
Venue: River Court Hotel, Kilkenny, Co. Kilkenny

Agenda

10:10 Registration

10:30 Welcome and Introduction

Presentations

- EQAVET Update Dr Beata Sokolowska, EQAVET
- Qualifications Frameworks Update Barbara Kelly, QQI
- Erasmus+ Adult Education, School, VET and Youth Fionnuala Broughan, Léargas
- Erasmus+ Higher Education Patricia Tutty, HEA

11:30 Comfort Break

11:45 New Skills Agenda William O’Keeffe Policy Officer, EU Commission

12:15 Road Map for EU Initiatives - Frazer Wallace, UK Europass ECCTIS

12:45 Q & A

13:15 Lunch and close
What’s happening in EQAVET?

EQAVET Secretariat

Irish Reference Group for EU Initiatives in Education and Skills

Kilkenny, 6 October 2016
Spring 2016

EQAVET PLA in Warsaw

QA process for defining qualifications based on the LOs approach

Summer 2016

ANM in Haarlem

EQAVET work in the context of the new Skills Agenda

Autumn 2016

EQAVET PLA in Cardiff

*Use of destination data and placement rate in VET programmes*

Winter 2016

EQAVET Forum in Brussels

- Tracking of VET graduates
- Improving the QA and effectiveness of apprenticeship training
- Quality assurance of work based learning
- Self-assessment procedures
An opportunity for EQAVET members to add new information which reflects any changes or progression in relation to the on-going development of their national approaches to the implementation of the EQAVET Framework since they last completed the survey in 2013
EQAVET Framework Implementation

Updated information on VET systems, education and training

EQAVET Resources

- VET in employment
- Evaluation and quality improvement culture
- Increase transparency and LLL – a partnership approach

http://www.eqavet.eu/tns/EQAVET-Resources.aspx
Thank you for your attention
Highlights

  NFQ self certified as compatible with the Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area (the Bologna Framework).
- 2006: NFQ used to classify skills in Ireland’s National Skills Strategy.
- 2006/7: NFQ was referenced to the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (EQF).
- 2009: NFQ – currently includes only national awards (underpinned by Quality Assurance).
- 2016: Recommencing a national dialogue on NFQs.
  Planning a Review of the NFQ to assess impact.
  Seeking a legislative amendment to better support recognition of foreign awards.
  EQF levels appear on many qualification certificates issued in Ireland and also on Certificate and Diploma Supplements.
National Framework of Qualifications

AWARDING BODIES
- Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) makes awards in further and higher education and training
- SEC - State Examinations Commission (Department of Education and Skills)
- Institutes of Technology
- Universities

AWARDS IN THE FRAMEWORK
There are four classes of award in the National Framework of Qualifications:
- Major Awards: named in the outer rings, are the principal class of awards made at a level
- Minor Awards: are for partial completion of the outcomes for a Major Award
- Supplemental Awards: are for learning that is additional to a Major Award
- Special Purpose Awards: are for relatively narrow or purpose-specific achievement

For further information consult: www.nfq.ie  www.QQI.ie

QQI, an integrated agency for quality and qualifications in Ireland
Economic & social

• Nearly one in eight people living in Ireland comes from abroad (11.8%)...........the sixth highest proportion of foreign nationals in Europe
• Diverse Labour force
• Matching skills & labour market needs
• Social inclusion - promoting one step up
• Maximising potential & talent
• Recognition of qualifications
The European Commission published a New Skills Agenda in June 2016. It sets out a number of key actions that relate to qualifications. These include:

• A **Skills Guarantee** to help low-skilled adults acquire a minimum level of literacy, numeracy and digital skills and progress towards an upper secondary qualification.

• A review of the [European Qualifications Framework](#) and the related annexes for a better understanding of qualifications and to make better use of all available skills in the European labour market.

• The 'Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition' to support co-operation among education, employment and industry stakeholders.

• The 'Blueprint for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills' to improve skills intelligence and address skills shortages in specific economic sectors.

• A 'Skills Profile Tool Kit for Third Country Nationals' to support early identification and profiling of skills and qualifications of asylum seekers, refugees and other migrants.

• A revision of the [Europass Framework](#), offering people better and easier-to-use tools to present their skills and get useful real-time information on skills needs and trends which can help with career and learning choices.

• **Making Vocational Education and Training (VET) a first choice** by enhancing opportunities for VET learners to undertake a work based learning experience and promoting greater visibility of good labour market outcomes of VET.

• A review of the [Recommendation on Key Competences](#) to help more people acquire the core set of skills necessary to work and live in the 21st century with a special focus on promoting entrepreneurial and innovation-oriented mind-sets and skills.

• It is anticipated that the above will have a significant influence and impact in terms of developing, awarding and recognising qualifications going forward.

• QQI will keep abreast of developments.
Where to?

- Qualifications Frameworks and systems need to be dynamic and innovative
- Informal and non-formal learning
- Private, professional, sectoral and international qualifications
- Neighbouring country arrangements
- Development of Regional Frameworks and interest in World Reference levels/learning outcomes
- The EQF can play an important function in facilitating the recognition of European qualifications internationally and the recognition of qualifications from around the world in Europe.
- European New Skills Agenda (Driver) including revised EQF Recommendation
- Next phase important - new challenges.......... new supports needed
- Crossroads.......... Fix or Grow
Thank you
Update on Erasmus+ in Ireland: Adult Ed, School Ed, VET, Youth

Fionnuala Broughan
Léargas Communications

Leargas.Ireland  @Leargas  www.leargas.ie
Introduction

- Erasmus+ Reminder
  - how it works
- Erasmus+ in 2015
  - the numbers
- Erasmus+ Promotion
  - our approach
- Erasmus+ Dissemination
  - online and in real life!
- Erasmus+ Challenges
  - what lies ahead
Erasmus+ Reminder

KA 1: Learning mobility of individuals
- Staff mobility, in particular for teachers, trainers, school leaders and youth workers
- Mobility for students in higher education and in vocational education and training
- Youth volunteering and youth exchanges
- Master degree scheme
- Mobility for higher education for EU and non-EU beneficiaries

KA 2: Cooperation for innovation and exchange of good practices
- Strategic Partnerships between education, training and/or youth organisations and other relevant actors
- IT-Platforms including EYP, eTwinning and EPALE
- Large-scale partnerships between education and training establishments and business: Knowledge Alliances and Sector Skills alliances
- Cooperation with Partner Countries

KA 3: Support for policy reform
- Open method of Coordination
- EU tools: dissemination and exploitation
- Policy dialogue with stakeholders, non-EU countries and international organisations
- Large scale prospective initiatives

léargas

www.leargas.ie
Erasmus+ in 2015

4 Sectors
- Adult Education
- School Education
- VET
- Youth

3 Key Actions
- KA1: Mobility of Individuals
- KA2: Strategic Partnerships
- KA3: Support for Policy Reform

€10.4m Funding allocated in 2015

162 Projects

6,500 Participants
- 2,584 KA1 participants across all fields
- 3,251 KA2 participants across all fields
- 668 KA3 participants across all fields

léargas
www.leargas.ie
Erasmus+ in 2015

Erasmus+ Adult Education

€896,710
Total Allocated Funding

Mobility of Individuals
Key Action 1 (KA1) €22,430

- 2 Projects
- 10 Participants

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.

Strategic Partnerships
Key Action 2 (KA2) €874,280

- 4 Projects
- 179 Participants

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

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Erasmus+ in 2015

Erasmus+ School Education

€2,903,915 Total Allocated Funding

Mobility of Individuals

Key Action 1 (KA1) €440,122

18 Projects

204 Participants

Mobility projects for school 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.

Strategic Partnerships

Key Action 2 (KA2) €2,463,793

Strategic Partnerships €1,922,101

8 Projects

509 Participants

School-to-School Partnerships €541,692

20 Projects

2,384 Participants

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

léargas www.leargas.ie
Erasmus+ in 2015

Erasmus+ VET

**Mobility of Individuals**

- **Key Action 1 (KA1)**: €1,724,797
  - 17 Projects
  - 726 Participants

**Mobility projects for staff and learners**

This action allows VET organisations to send learners and/or 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.

**Strategic Partnerships**

- **Key Action 2 (KA2)**: €2,145,193
  - 7 Projects
  - 28 Participants

**Strategic Partnerships**

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

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Erasmus+ in 2015

Erasmus+ Youth in Action

Mobility of Individuals
Key Action 1 (KA1)
€1,740,390

- 74 Projects
- 1,644 Participants

This action enables organisations active in the Youth field to carry out Youth Exchanges, host and send volunteers on European Voluntary Service (EVS) and send youth workers to international learning opportunities.

Strategic Partnerships
Key Action 2 (KA2)
€942,312

- 9 Projects
- 179 Participants

Strategic Partnerships allow organisations active in Youth to cooperate to develop innovative methods. KA2 also includes Transnational Youth Initiatives organised by young people.

Support for Policy Reform
Key Action 3 (KA3)
€68,346

- 3 Projects
- 668 Participants

KA3 promotes the active participation of young people in democratic life in Europe. It funds ‘Structured Dialogue’ between young people and policy makers.

léargas
www.leargas.ie
Erasmus+ Promotion

CoderDojo

léargas

www.leargas.ie
Erasmus+ Promotion: Online

- Choices, choices!!!
  Stick with fewer than five... match to audience behaviour
  Takes time and commitment

- 1500 followers on Twitter

- 1800 likes on Facebook

- Send people there through other media

www.leargas.ie
Blog | VET

Categories
IAESTE
Adult Education
Languages
School Education

VET
Project Insights
eTwinning
Léargas
Erasmus+
European Voluntary Service
Youth
Project Lifecycle

Archive

The best three weeks of my life
Thu, Jun 9th, 2016
"The placement was one of the best things I ever got out of this course": Three dance trainees from Inchicore College of Further Education talk to us about their Erasmus+ placements, learning dance and choreography in France and Austria.

All-neu experiences for a VET trainee in Berlin
Tue, May 24th, 2016
"For anybody looking to broaden their horizons I would definitely recommend a work placement abroad": For Sound Engineering trainee Martin Larkin, an EU-funded work placement in Berlin led to a whole new direction for his career.

CoderDojo: Creativity with code
Tue, Apr 5th, 2016
Ross O'Neill is Community and Communications Lead at CoderDojo. In 2015 CoderDojo received funding under Erasmus+ KA2 Vocational Education and Training for a Strategic Partnership project involving five organisations in Ireland, Spain, and Poland. "CoderDojo is a global movement of free, volunteer-led, community-based programming clubs for young people. At a Dojo, young people aged between seven
Erasmus+ Challenges

- **Resources**: way below capacity for several years
  - will be hiring in the coming months
- **Ensuring demand** for increased funding allocations over the coming years:
  - building on networks in VET sector
  - continuing supportive model for all sectors
  - Inclusion Officer for youth sector
- Possible **IR issues** in SE sector
- Building awareness of how Erasmus+ can support national and European skills agendas
Erasmus+ and National Strategies

- **Who can benefit:** Trainees, apprentices, learners; Trainers and educators; ETB key staff; Local employers; Apprenticeship Council; Regional skills fora; SOLAS; youth and community groups

- **Key Action 1 - Mobility**
  Staff/trainers explore practice, develop skills, new methodologies, exchange practice.
  Trainees/apprentices practice skills in a realistic work setting in another country; develop language skills etc.

- **Key Action 2 – Strategic Partnerships**
  share experience or policy perspectives or to develop new approaches or methodologies in training

- **Key Action 2 – Sector Skills Alliances**
  €0.5m to €1.5m in funding
  minimum of two partner institutions , across at least 12 programme countries.
  managed in Brussels
Erasmus+ and Skills Agenda for Europe

Making VET a first choice by enhancing opportunities for VET learners to undertake a work based learning experience and promoting greater visibility of good labour market outcomes of VET.

A Skills Guarantee to help low-skilled adults acquire a minimum level of literacy, numeracy and digital skills and progress towards an upper secondary qualification.

The Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition to develop a large digital talent pool and ensure that individuals and the labour force in Europe are equipped with adequate digital skills.

The Blueprint for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills to improve skills intelligence and address skills shortages in specific economic sectors.
Communications Unit
Tel: 01 887 1280
Email: comms@leargas.ie

SAVE THE DATE*
Léargas Forum 2016
* 13.12.16

Leargas.Ireland
@Leargas
www.leargas.ie
EU Reference Group Meeting

Thursday 6 October 2016
Launch of Erasmus Learning Area
National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin
Friday 23 September 2016
Mobility between programme countries

No changes in the area of standard mobility

Final reports are in the process of completion for 2015/16

Year on year we are seeing a 10-15% increase on mobilities. Next year we will see the number of third level students who have gone out on Erasmus exceed 50,000 since it’s inception in 1987
## International Credit Mobility

Round 1 for 2016/17 completed and allocated

Round 2 for 2016/17 call currently under evaluation;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applicant HEIs</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Countries (13)</th>
<th>Total Students</th>
<th>Total Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UL, TCD, DCU, DIT IADT, LIT, MIC</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>Russian Federation, Belarus, Algeria, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Lebanon, Tunisia, Serbia, Jordan, Palestine, Ukraine, Morocco</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>48</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Western Balkans</td>
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<td>ENI East</td>
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<td>ENI South</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Strategic Partnerships

2016/17 completed and allocated

Applications received from four HEIs- DCU, UCC, UL & TCD

Successful applicant- DCU
Project entitled “Development of an Online Programme for Teachers of Gifted Students in Regular Classrooms”
30 years of Erasmus

Planning underway to celebrate anniversary next year - possibility of Multi agency effort

Suggestions welcome
ELGPN and Euroguidance Ireland

Jennifer McKenzie, Director
Liz Glennon, Guidance Officer/Euroguidance
National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE)
National Centre for Guidance in Education
2008 Council Resolution on better integrating lifelong guidance into lifelong learning strategies: Strengthen European cooperation on lifelong guidance provision, in particular through the ELGPN, with the support of the Lifelong Learning Programme, and in liaison with CEDEFOP

European Lifelong Guidance Policy Network (ELGPN)

www.elgpn.eu

- Funded by EU Commission
- Work Programme 2007-2015
- 30 Member countries across EU Member States
- NCGE representative for Ireland
- Lead and Co-Lead on Quality Assurance working groups
- Active participant in Career Management Skills group
2008 Council Resolution on better integrating lifelong guidance into lifelong learning strategies: Strengthen European cooperation on lifelong guidance provision, in particular through the ELGPN, with the support of the Lifelong Learning Programme, and in liaison with CEDEFOP

ELGPN Publications 2015

• Guidelines for Policies and Systems Development for Lifelong Guidance: A Reference Framework for the EU and for the Commission

• Strengthening the Quality Assurance and Evidence-base of Lifelong Guidance

• Designing and Implementing Policies Related to Career Management Skills (CMS)
2008 Council Resolution on better integrating lifelong guidance into lifelong learning strategies: Strengthen European cooperation on lifelong guidance provision, in particular through the ELGPN, with the support of the Lifelong Learning Programme, and in liaison with CEDEFOP

Implications for Ireland

- NCGE co-ordinates National Forum on Guidance to support co-operation and collaboration across guidance sectors
- Develop Quality Assurance guidelines for Guidance in education and FET sector
- CMS informing development of guidance learning outcomes in post primary / Junior & Senior Cycle & FET
NCGE hosts the Euroguidance Centre for Ireland
• promote EU dimension of Guidance
• promote mobility for learning opportunities across EU
• Support provision of information from Ireland to the Learning Opportunities portal (PLOTEUS)

Network of 64 Centres across EU
• Euroguidance Highlights booklet 2015
• Insight Newsletter
• Network meetings twice per year
• Mobility Guidance Counselling Online-CPD Modules for Guidance Counsellors

• Work with EU networks
  create awareness of EU Initiatives for general public

• DES/SOLAS FET Strategy 2014-2019
  focus on Mobility for FET students – role for EG in 2016-2017
www.euroguidance.ie


- [www.euroguidance.eu](http://www.euroguidance.eu)

- [http://euroguidance.ie/resources](http://euroguidance.ie/resources)
Go raibh maith agaibh!
Thank You!

www.ncge.ie
www.euroguidance.ie
Irish Reference Group for EU Initiatives in Education and Skills

New Skills Agenda for Europe: Key elements and actions

DG EMPL – Skills and Qualifications
My Role

DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion
Directorate E: Skills/ Unit E2: Skills and Qualifications

Europass*

European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations (ESCO)

Validation of Non-formal and Informal Learning

European Qualifications Framework (EQF)

Guidance Policy* (Euroguidance + ELGPN)

Sectoral Skills/Skills Strategies

Digital Competence Framework *

Entrepreneurial Competence Framework (EntreComp)*

New Skills Agenda for Europe

June 2016
3 priority areas for a New Skills Agenda for Europe:

1. Improving the quality and relevance of skills formation

2. Making skills and qualifications more visible and comparable

3. Improving skills intelligence and information for better career choices
A Skills Guarantee

Skills assessment
Tailored E&T offer
Validation and recognition

Cooperation and Partnership
Outreach, Guidance and Support Measures
Monitoring and Evaluation
Review of the 2006 Key Competence Framework

- Communication in the mother tongue
- Communication in foreign languages
- Digital
- Learning to learn
- Maths, science and technology
- Social and civic competences
- Sense of initiative and entrepreneurship
- Cultural awareness and expression
Digital Competence Framework for Citizens

Entrepreneurship Competence Framework

5 AREAS

21 COMPET

- Communication
- Safety
- Problem solving
- Information and data processing
- Content creation

- Ideas & opportunities
- Financial & economic literacy
- Learning through experience
- Self-awareness & self-efficacy
- Spotting opportunities
- Envisioning
- Creativity
- Valuing ideas
- Planning & management
- Initiating
derisk

Into action
Resources

- Motivation
- Mobilising resources
- Working with others
- Perservering
- Confronting ambiguity, uncertainty & risk

Entrepreneurship & sense of initiative
Making VET a first choice

Revision of ECVET and EQAVET

Increase work-based learning opportunities

Higher level VET Skills

VET Skills Week

Streamlining governance for cooperation on VET

...and boost VET mobility
DISCOVER YOUR TALENT!

European Vocational Skills Week
5-9 December 2016
Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition

National Digital Skills Coalition

Pledges to provide training to individuals
EQF Revision

Commitment to regular update of referencing of NQFs

Common principles for quality assurance and credit systems

Encourage use of EQF

Coordination with Third Countries
Skills Tool for Third Country Nationals
Goals of the new Europass Decision

- Dynamic Platform
- Interoperability
- Integrated/User-Friendly
- Digital/Online
- Flexibility to adapt
Key Features of the new Europass

- E-portfolio
- Dynamic document tools
- Self-assessment tools
- Store and manage personal info e.g. open badges

- Real time LMI data
- Information on guidance services
- Learning opportunities
- Validation

- Open Standards for job vacancies, learning opportunities
- Supports web-crawling and use of big data
Future Governance

National Centres:

- 1 intermediary for administration/finance
- Easier cooperation/financing for joint projects
- Greater opportunity for synergies/strategic cooperation

EU level group:

- Shared strategic direction for tools and services
- Coordinated input and expertise
- Easier cooperation/decision making
Blueprint for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills

1. Selection of sector
2. Set-up EU platform
3. Set-up national platforms
Graduate tracking
DELIVERING THE AGENDA
I. IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND RELEVANCE OF SKILLS FORMATION

1. Proposal for a Skills Guarantee
2. Proposal for the review of the Key Competences
3. Proposals on the modernisation of VET (e.g. revision of EQAVET and ECVET)
4. Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition

II. MAKING SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS MORE VISIBLE AND COMPARABLE

5. Proposal for the revision of the EQF
6. Skills Profile Tool for Third Country Nationals

III. IMPROVING SKILLS INTELLIGENCE AND INFORMATION FOR BETTER CAREER CHOICES

7. Proposal for the revision of the Europass Framework
8. Blueprint for Sectorial Cooperation on Skills
9. Analysis and sharing of best practice on brain drain
10. Proposal on Graduate Tracking

Actions in bold adopted in the June package
Thank you
Roadmap for EU Initiatives

Frazer Wallace, Coordinator of the UK National Europass Centre
Why did we do it?
What is it?

Signposting website:
• Simple
• Attractive
• User-friendly
• Tailored to the user
• Basic information on initiatives
• Links to related initiatives
• Explains what the links are
The result:

Understanding the many EU initiatives and links between them, can often be difficult.

This webpage aims to provide information on a range of EU initiatives to individuals, employers, career professionals and providers.

These European initiatives and tools are free of charge and designed to help if you are:
- An individual, wishing to work or study at home, or in another European country;
- An employer recruiting individually and looking to understand skills, qualifications and achievements;
- A careers professional advising adults or students looking for work or study opportunities; or
- An education institution wishing to understand qualifications or to get your qualifications recognised overseas.

This guide has been devised by the UK and Irish National Erasmus+ Centres. We hope you find it useful.
Who is it for?
What initiatives are covered?

- EQF
- Euroguidance
- EURES
- Erasmus+
- National Contact Point for Professional qualifications
- YouthPass
- EPALE
- EQAVET
What information is provided?

What does it do?
Euronguidance is a network of centres that share and distribute information on lifelong guidance, which includes advice on careers, study and working abroad - particularly in Europe.

How does it help?
Career professionals abroad may access information and resources about learning mobility and lifelong guidance in Europe via the Euronguidance centre. This information can then be passed on to individual job-seekers and learners.

Who is it for?
Career professionals.

Related Initiatives
- EURES
- Erasmus+
- UK NARIC
- Eurodesk
- UK NCP
- EPALE
- European Qualifications Framework

EURES
Euronguidance centres point career professionals to the EURES website as a means of identifying job opportunities across Europe.

View Initiative
Where is it?

- On the developer’s staging website
- Checking final amendments
- Needs to be signed off by NEC IE and NEC UK
- Will be migrated to UK NEC’s servers and go live soon.

[Preview roadmap]