

## **INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC POLICY**

### **-STRENGTHENING POLICIES FOR LEARNING, WORK, AND SOCIAL INCLUSION**

#### ***THE FIRST STEP***

**The Centre** was established in 2004 to improve career guidance policies and provision within education, employment and social inclusion fields worldwide through making international knowledge and expertise available to policy makers, researchers and career development professionals.

The Centre grew out of a concern of international institutions such as OECD, the World Bank, the European Commission, of international professional associations such as IAEVG, and of several individual countries, that links between career development services and policies for education, training, employment and social inclusion were weak and needed to be strengthened in many countries and regions worldwide. The creation of the Centre as an international focal point to share international best practice, knowledge and expertise, was viewed as a means of optimising available resources internationally.

#### ***ACTIVITIES AND BENEFICIARIES***

The Centre's **main activities** to date have been:

- To provide information and advice on how to develop and improve national and regional policies and systems for career development services in the fields of education, training, employment and social inclusion
- To develop an international knowledge base on policies and systems for lifelong career development services
- To make this knowledge available internationally
- To create learning links and partnerships between policy makers, researchers and expert sources
- To support the organisation of international symposia (Australia 2006, UK 2007) and European Union Presidency conferences (Finland 2006) on career development and public policy

**The beneficiaries** of these activities have been:

- Ministry and local education and employment officials, e.g. Australia, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, UK, South East Europe/Balkan countries, and Middle East and North African countries,
- International institutions, e.g. the European Commission, European Training Foundation, European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, International Labour Organisation
- International networks, e.g. the European Commission's Expert Group on Lifelong Guidance, the emerging European Policy Network for Lifelong Guidance, the Euroguidance network, and European Union Learning Regions
- National policy and systems co-ordination institutions/mechanisms, e.g. National Guidance Forum (Ireland), CINOP (Netherlands)

- National institutions and agencies, e.g. National Centre for Guidance in Education (Ireland), Association Nationale pour la Formation Professionnelle des Adultes (France), Instituto de Orientacao Profissional (Portugal), Institute for Adult Education (DIE) (Germany)
- National professional associations, e.g. Institute of Career Guidance (UK), National Association for Educational and Vocational Guidance of Adults (UK) Australia Careers Service, Australian Association of Career Counsellors, Career Education Association of Victoria (Australia)
- Partners in guidance projects funded by the European Union, e.g. European networks of national guidance forums

### ***THE TOPICS***

Among the **policy issues** which the Centre has addressed are:

- Developing national policies and systems, including co-ordination mechanisms for lifelong guidance provision
- European lifelong guidance policy development
- Developing common European reference tools for lifelong guidance
- National reviews of policies for career guidance provision (e.g. Croatia, France)

**Themes** which it has addressed include:

- Workplace guidance
- Career guidance and vocational training
- The centrality of the user in lifelong guidance provision
- Qualifications and training of guidance workers
- Quality assurance for lifelong guidance provision
- Broadening access to lifelong guidance provision
- Career management competency development
- Guidance in higher education
- Parents and guidance
- Developing an evidence base for policy decision-making

### ***KNOWLEDGE SHARING***

The Centre uses the following **means to share international best practice, knowledge and expertise**

- Web site: [www.iccdpp.org](http://www.iccdpp.org)
- *Policy Points* – the Centre’s newsletter
- Publications in professional journals
- Group presentations, panel discussions, workshops, keynote addresses
- Face-to-face meetings, telephone, emails

### ***FUNDING***

**The Centre is supported by and receives funding from**

Department for Education, Science and Training, Australia,  
 Department of Education and Science, Ireland,  
 Careers Scotland HIE, UK  
 Learndirect, UK

New Zealand Careers Services,  
National Career Development Association, USA

### ***NEXT STEPS***

As it grows, the Centre's vision is to lead and develop a **multi-lingual global learning network** dedicated to improving policies, systems and practices for lifelong guidance provision. The Centre will promote and support the emergence of national focal points for the collection and sharing of policy reports and relevant research, and the presentation of these to an international audience according to an agreed protocol. The Centre will initiate this process and its web site will act as an international gateway to such resources.

### ***YOUR ROLE***

You could help support this vision.....

### **You are invited to get involved**

By posting your research and reports on the website, [www.iccdpp.org](http://www.iccdpp.org)

- or e-mailing [jmc@iccdpp.org](mailto:jmc@iccdpp.org) to allow us to post them for you

By sharing ideas

- in online forums or by running a country or service blog within the ICCDPP website

By funding the Centre and its activities

- through the ICCDPP to deliver international support, build international knowledge and increase your contacts across a range of issues.

By getting involved in international project teams

- supporting and using ICCDPP as a means to collaborate with other countries or international experts in addressing issues of interest to you

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