

Euro-Quest Resource for Transition Year



NCGE/Euroguidance Ireland is developing a new classroom resource for Transition Years. The Euro-Quest resource contains ICT classroom-based materials and self-directed research assignments which encourage students to explore the possibility of studying/ training in another European country, either for the entire duration of their undergraduate degree/ training or as part of an Erasmus+ exchange. The resource encourages students to consider their own preparedness for a period of learning mobility and challenges initial preconceptions and expectations.

The resource is a response to feedback from guidance counsellors, in particular those who completed the online NCGE/Euroguidance Ireland Mobility Guidance Counselling Module, indicating that there was a growing demand from students for information on studying in Europe. This growing demand may in part be attributable to Brexit. With the UK destined to leave the EU, uncertainty remains as to what implications this will have for Irish students choosing to study in Britain. While it appears at present that EU students entering courses in 2017/18 and 2018/19 will continue to enjoy the same privileges as UK students in terms of fees and finance, there is less clarity for those entering third level post 2019.

Meanwhile, many universities across Europe are offering a wide range of courses through English with modest fees.

Guidance counsellors, in feedback to NCGE/Euroguidance indicated a shortage of resources specifically for use with post-primary students. Guidance counsellors further highlighted the fact that researching options for study or training in Europe is complicated by the fact that there is no one comprehensive pan-European database of

course provision. While the Learning Opportunities and Qualifications in Europe Portal (PLOTEUS), funded by the European Commission, provides information on learning opportunities and qualifications in Europe, it is limited by the fact that not all European countries have a national database of course provision. NCGE/Euroguidance Ireland, with Dublin Institute of Technology, is working with European colleagues to find an IT solution which will allow for more efficient interlinking of multiple national data sources to PLOTEUS.

The NCGE/Euroguidance Euro-Quest modules have been specifically designed for Transition year where there is more flexibility in the curriculum and students have the time and space to explore career options. As one guidance counsellor stated in the evaluation of the Mobility Guidance Counselling Module, 'it would be more useful and beneficial at that stage when students are more open to other learning experiences rather than in Fifth and Sixth Year'.

It should be noted that Euro-quest can be adapted by the guidance counsellor for use with other cohorts. Schools may also choose to deliver the unit using a cross-curricular approach.

The resource contains 5 self-contained modules:

Module 1 includes an overview of the European Union and explores what it means to be an EU citizen including various rights to live, study, train and travel in member states. It investigates the pros and cons of a period of mobility.

Module 2 explores the opportunities for studying / training abroad, introduces information on Erasmus+, uses student blogs to consider others experiences of studying abroad and invites students to reflect on their own motivation for studying abroad.

Module 3 is designed to enable students prepare for a period of learning mobility and examines the practicalities of living in a different culture, dealing with homesickness and making friends in the host country.

Module 4 provides students with the skills to research study/ training options in Europe. The objective is not only to familiarise students with reliable data sources for searching courses in their chosen field, but also to provide students with the skills to process and evaluate information.

Module 5 asks students to research options for studying abroad in their chosen field of interest and to prepare and deliver a presentation to their peers of their selected course.

The suggested final project involves students developing a website which collates learning from the unit. The form of the culminating project is at the discretion of the guidance counsellor.

NCGE/Euroguidance will begin a pilot of the Euro-Quest resource in early 2018.

NCGE/Euroguidance would like to thank those who have already expressed interest in being involved in the pilot phase and look forward to working with you.

If your school would like to participate in the pilot phase of the module, please contact NCGE/Euroguidance

Email; euroguidance@ncge.ie



Telephone: 01 8823815

There are still a limited number of places available.

Mobility Guidance Counselling



'An excellent overview of a systematic approach to supporting a student before, during and after a foreign learning experience.'

The CPD online Mobility Guidance Counselling module aims to provide guidance counsellors with the skills they need to support students in their quest to study, work or volunteer abroad

The module explores the process of mobility- preparation, induction and re-integration and contains resources that will assist the guidance counsellor in empowering students to make informed choices about learning mobility. The process is based on a model developed by Soren Kristensen PhD, an expert in Youth Mobility.

It includes information on the practical, linguistic, cultural and mental preparation students should undertake prior to going abroad. It addresses the issue of contracts between hosting and sending institutions, supports for students while abroad and underscores the importance of re-integration for students on their return home.

The module is divided into 4 parts, each taking approximately 45 minutes to complete and can be completed at the convenience of the individual guidance counsellor. The module is recognised for the purpose of CPD by the Institute of Guidance Counsellors and is delivered via the NCGE Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).

The module may be of particular interest to guidance counsellors who encourage students to consider studying/training in Europe and indeed those interested in piloting the NCGE Euro-Quest resource. It is particularly useful for guidance counsellors who support students undertaking an Erasmus+ placement.

For more information on the online CPD Mobility Guidance Counselling Module please contact:

euroguidance@ncge.ie

