



International Centre for
Guidance Studies (iCeGS)

Annual Review 2015



Welcome to iCeGS annual review 2015

I am pleased to introduce this annual review. The International Centre for Guidance Studies (iCeGS) is a specialist research centre which was established in 1998. iCeGS is committed to producing high quality research in the public interest and in working with practitioners and policymakers to support the development of high quality career guidance services across the world.

We have always produced an annual report and last year we decided to make these annual reports public to make the work of iCeGS more transparent. Our annuals reports aim to provide our stakeholders with insights into our work, our staff and our publications.

2015 was a very exciting year for iCeGS with lots of projects and publications. The careers and education sector is in an exciting period of change and development and we have been working to ensure that policy makers and practitioners continue to hear what the evidence says.

We hope you will find it interesting and that it will encourage you to get more involved in iCeGS.

Professor Tristram Hooley

Key projects from 2015

Economic benefits of career guidance

Careers England commissioned iCeGS to undertake research into the economic benefits of career guidance. Tristram Hooley and Vanessa Dodd produced a paper in 2015 that explored the impacts of career guidance and demonstrated how they related to current government policy. The report was well received and used by Careers England in discussions with the Secretary of State about the future of career guidance. There was also considerable interest in the paper from overseas with researchers being invited to present at conferences in Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Canada as well as in England. The research was also translated into Slovak.

Evaluating North Yorkshire's innovative careers programme

iCeGS has been working with North Yorkshire County Council to evaluate the impact of their innovative careers programme for schools. The programme provides finance to schools to purchase a quality award accredited by the Quality in Careers Standard. North Yorkshire County Council are also providing a programme of continuing professional development to support schools in working for their quality award. The evaluation is being led by Nicki Moore and supported by David Andrews and Claire Shepherd. It uses the Gatsby Benchmarks as an evaluation framework. An interim report has already been produced to provide a baseline and inform the development of the programme.

National Careers Service – Best practice project

iCeGS is working in partnership with SQW to undertake a three year project to support the National Careers Service to identify, synthesise, implement and evaluate best practice in the delivery of the service. The project which is about to enter its third year has focused on mapping new and exciting practice that is being developed by National Careers Service providers in achieving outcomes for their customers. The research team has undertaken international literature reviews, conducted fieldwork

to identify best practice, developed an online learning platform and are currently cascading learning between providers and evaluating the impact on practice.

Developing World-Class Apprenticeship Standards

This project explored what makes a world-class apprenticeship. It identifies standards for awarding bodies which they can use to ensure the delivery of world-class apprenticeships in England. It was commissioned by Pearson Education UK and is based on interviews with experts on vocational education and training from seven countries. The expert opinions supplemented the literature review. The result is that we now know what an apprenticeship is and the features that elevate an apprenticeship into a world-class apprenticeship.

Pearson believes this report and its recommendations provide a valuable insight into how to create and deliver apprenticeships that meet the challenge of the 21st century workplace. Ruth Mieschbuehler, who directed and delivered this project with the team in iCeGS, are exceptionally professional and have an impressive range of experience and knowledge in this field. Their rigorous approach to this piece of independent research will support Pearson in continuing to work closely with both policy makers and stakeholders towards delivering the '3 million target'.

Hayley Dalton, Head of Vocational Design and Research at Pearson Education UK

International work



Erasmus+ (Leader project)

The LEarning And Decision making Resources (LEADER) project has been established to support countries to develop and use a career management skills (CMS) frameworks. iCeGS is one of the partners alongside Cascaid, together with colleagues in Italy, Greece, Spain, Turkey and Romania. The team have undertaken a survey with colleagues to assess levels of understanding and use of career management skills as a concept within their country. This has been collated and has contributed to the development of a career management skills framework which will be piloted in 2016 with practitioners. The framework will be underpinned by online training and resources for practitioners to use with their students.

Colleagues from Hong Kong visit iCeGS

iCeGS hosted a study visit for ten academics and practitioners from Hong Kong. The team from Hong Kong were all working on a five year project funded by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust to provide career support for young people.

The visit took place from Monday January 11th to Thursday Jan 14th and included a half day seminar on online careers resources and a full day seminar which explored a variety of aspects of the UK career guidance sector. The visitors also went to see career development provision at Da Vinci School in Derby, Chesterfield College and the National Career Service provision in Swadlincote as well as meeting with the University of Derby's Career and Employment Team managers.

The University of Derby's Vice Chancellor, Professor Kathryn Mitchell welcomed the visitors to the University and hoped that the visit would encourage an exploration of our mutual research and teaching interests. During the visit, the team at iCeGS working with Hong Kong colleagues identified a range of themes which could form the basis of future collaborations.

ICT in Education in Kosovo

Nicki Moore has been working with a Croatian educational organisation (TechEd) to help develop the ICT infrastructure

in schools in Kosovo. The second phase of the project is to develop and deliver training for education staff to use ICT for various functions and activities in educational settings. The programme started in 2015 when Nicki developed the national standards for ICT in Education in Kosovo and then undertook a training needs analysis. Nicki is now developing a programme of professional development for head teachers and school principals which develops knowledge and understanding about digitally enhanced learning and computer literacy for school management.

Research on new technologies and career guidance in Norway

During the summer of 2015 iCeGS was commissioned to investigate the role of digital technologies in the provision of career guidance. It was commissioned by the committee on career guidance which is advising the Norwegian Government. The commission was established following a review of the countries skills system by the OECD. The research was conducted by Tristram Hooley, Claire Shepherd and Vanessa Dodd who argued in the report (Get Yourself Connected) that career guidance and online career guidance in particular could support the development of Norway's skills system and help to meet the economic challenges that it faces. The research involved an extensive literature review and the collection of case studies from nine countries. Tristram Hooley was invited to visit Oslo and present the research in the autumn of 2015.

Visiting scholars programme

In 2015 iCeGS launched a visiting scholars programme. In this programme we support scholars from other countries to work with us in Derby for a period ranging from a few days to a few months. In 2015 we were very pleased to welcome Randi Boelskifte Skovhus from Denmark and to work with her on her work on career guidance and social justice in Danish schools. 2016 will see scholars from Australia and Pakistan joining us. Please get in touch if you think that you would benefit from joining us as a visiting scholar.



Colleagues from Hong Kong visit iCeGS

Professor Jim Bright's Inaugural Lecture – November 2015



Professor Tristram Hooley's Inaugural Lecture – September 2015



ICT Education in Kosovo



Testimonials

“Teach First commissioned iCeGS as their formal evaluation partner for a key piece of new work. Firstly, on a research project (Careers in the Classroom) to identify the role of teachers in careers and employability learning and secondly on the overall evaluation of Teach First’s pilot work – the programmatic response to the research. This covers initial teacher training, ongoing CPD and a year-long careers leadership programme. It is a pleasure working with the iCeGS team. They not only bring real expertise to the work, but are very collaborative and also flexible and responsive to the needs of our organisation. The interim evaluation report they recently produced for us was excellent quality and we look forward to working with them for the remainder of the pilot and beyond”

Ali Berks, Evaluation Officer, Teach First

“Careers England not only values the work of iCeGS we really enjoy working with them. This year our preferred supplier partnership has produced a number of Position Statements, Policy Commentaries and Research Reports. iCeGS has made a significant contribution to our work and that of the sector as a whole”.

Steve Stewart, Executive Director, Careers England

“We selected The University of Derby this year to carry out an external evaluation of our project because of the excellent work they have done for other organisations in the past and their expertise in the field of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. From the first meeting with iCeGS team it was clear that we had made the right choice. The team working on our project have shown a real understanding and commitment to our project and the quality of their work has been excellent. On this evidence we have already commissioned a second piece of work and we certainly consider them to be a ‘go to’ partner”.

Roy Howard, Regional Director at Young Enterprise

“I designed four teaching activities around the themes of building digital careers literacy that could potentially be incorporated

into a career management skills module. The teaching activities were designed around Tristram Hooley’s 7 C’s of Digital Careers Literacy Framework and his inaugural lecture. The framework, and the lecture, encouraged me to think about my job differently (in a good way!) and I enjoyed creating the activities.”

Kelly Snape, Employment Adviser, Sheffield Hallam University

“In North Yorkshire we have benefitted significantly from the knowledge and expertise that the International Centre for Guidance Studies has brought to our North Yorkshire Careers Guidance Project – Progression for Success. The evaluation framework that the iCeGS is delivering for us has been firmly established, based on a well communicated research evidence base and the Gatsby benchmarks. Field visits have been professional, thorough and valued by the schools. The interim report that we have received is of a very high quality with well supported recommendations that will inform our drive for on-going improvement in Careers Guidance, and a good range of identified case studies of good practice. In addition the Centre has made a strong contribution to the project continuing professional development days, very well received by our participating schools.”

Katharine Bruce, North Yorkshire Careers Guidance Project Lead, North Yorkshire County Council

“During our inquiry, we visited the International Centre for Guidance Studies at the University of Derby. We were struck by the quality of evidence from the staff there. In particular, the Centre corroborated our written and oral evidence on a number of issues. Specifically staff at the Centre told us that, ideally, there should be two levels to good careers guidance: something outside of schools that brokered links with employers and the local labour market, and something inside schools and colleges so that pupils were learning about work at the same time as studying.”

House of Lords Committee on Social Mobility

Clients and partners

iCeGS would like to thank the following organisations which supported its work during 2015.

AIMS (Saudi Arabia)
ASET, The Work Based Learning and Placement Learning Association
Barclays Lifeskills
Careers England
Centro Studi Pluriversum, Italy
CfBT
Chesterfield College
D2N2
Department for Education
Future First
Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)
Johnson and Johnson
Kent County Council
LeftCoast
Lincolnshire County Council
London Legacy Development Corporation
Metropolitan Housing
National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT)
National Centre for Guidance and Education (Republic of Ireland)
North Yorkshire County Council
Pearson Education UK
Pera Training
Royal Mail
SEMTA
Skills Funding Agency
Teach First
TechEd Consultancy Services, Croatia
Ustredie Prace, Socialnych Veci a Rodiny, Slovakia
Vox, Norway
Young Enterprise



About the team

Professor Tristram Hooley

Tristram is Professor of Career Education and Head of iCeGS. He is a mixed methods researcher who has published extensively on careers policy, the evidence base in careers and the role of technology in education and careers. He also has emerging interests in social justice and careers and the role of appearance and attractiveness in career development.

Dr Siobhan Neary

Siobhan is a Principal Research Fellow and Deputy Head of iCeGS. She has a background in the career guidance sector which encompasses over twenty-five years working as a practitioner, trainer, manager, lecturer and researcher. Siobhan's research interests include work on quality, continuing professional development (CPD) and strategic workforce and service developments.

Jane Artess

Jane is a Principal Research Fellow. She has previously worked as a career guidance practitioner, a lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University and Director of Research at HECSU (the Higher Education Careers Services Unit). Her research interests include higher education careers work and the graduate labour market.

Nicki Moore

Nicki Moore is Senior Lecturer in Career Development. She has worked at the Centre since July 2009 and has been involved in research, teaching and consultancy in the UK and internationally. Nicki's primary interest is young people's career development and quality in schools career guidance programmes. Nicki is the programme leader for the Advanced Diploma in Career Development and is Pathway Leader for Bachelors in Education: Career Development Pathway and the Masters in Education: Career Learning Pathway.

Dr Ruth Mieschbuehler

Dr Ruth Mieschbuehler is a Lecturer in Education Studies and a Researcher. She has an MSc in Social Policy Research from the London School of Economics and a PhD in Higher Education from the University of Derby. Her research interests include vocational education, higher education, ethnicity and educational philosophy.

Dr Claire Shepherd

Dr Claire Shepherd is a Researcher. She has experience working as a social science researcher using both quantitative and qualitative research methods and completed her PhD in Social Statistics in 2015. Claire's research interests include the use of secondary and administrative datasets to explore career and career development.

Vanessa Dodd

Vanessa Dodd is a Researcher. She is a trained social science researcher in qualitative and quantitative methods. Her research interest are wide ranging and include community development, globalization, visual sociology, social capital and its linkages to career development, careers policy, career transitions and wellbeing.

Arif Sahar

Arif is a Research Assistant. He has a MA from UCL and is currently pursuing a doctorate on politics in Afghanistan. His research interests include education policy in Afghanistan.

Visiting staff and associates

iCeGS also works closely with Visiting Professors (Professor James Sampson, Professor Wendy Hirsh, Professor Jim Bright and Professor Malcolm Hoare) and with our Visiting Fellow (David Andrews). iCeGS also has an associate network and we welcome applications from new associates.

Publications

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A photograph taken from space, showing the Earth's horizon and atmosphere. The sky is a deep, dark blue, transitioning to a lighter blue near the horizon. The Earth's surface is visible as a curved horizon line, with a thin layer of white clouds and a darker blue area below. The overall scene is serene and expansive.

International Centre for Guidance Studies

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