In the current context of rapid social, economic and cultural changes, these questions are timely as they are important. The 'Reforming Learning: Driving Success' Conference at NUI Galway on 5th December, 2014, aims to provide some answers to these questions and related issues.

Policy makers, researchers and practitioners with experience of change and policy development within education and enterprise, both national and international, will share their knowledge and expertise in what promises to be an engaging Conference.

Comprising two exciting keynotes and three robust panel discussions, this one-day Conference will provide an opportunity for those interested in education and its future to engage in collaborative discourse and sharing of ideas. A primary focus of the conference will be the learner experience at upper second level, whether it enables smooth transition to third level, the learner experience in third level and their preparedness for the workplace.

It is the intention of this conference to inform a White paper in this area.

**Book your conference place for Friday, December 5th, 2014, 8.45am - 4.15pm**

**0 hEocha Theatre, Arts Millennium building**

National University of Ireland Galway

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**Conference Chair:**
**Dr. Fidelma Healy Eames, Ph.D (Education)**

**Welcome**
**President Jim Browne, NUI Galway**

**Opening Address:** Our weak education transitions.
**Ruairí Quinn TD**
Former Minister for Education

**Morning Keynote:**
**Dr. Emer Smyth, ESRI**

Leaving School in Ireland: Longitudinal study of post school transitions

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**Education Panel Discussion**
Chair: **Professor John Coolahan**

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**Business Panel Discussion**
Chair: **Mr. Michael Hannon, Registrar, GMIT**

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**Societal Impact Panel Discussion**
Chair: **Dr. Mary Fleming, NUI Galway**

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**Closing Keynote:** **Professor Pasi Sahlberg, Finnish Educator & Visiting Professor, Harvard Graduate School of Education.**
Lessons from Successful Education Systems around the Globe

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Log onto www.conference.ie to book your conference place in NUIG. Conference fee 39 euro to include tea/coffee and lunch. Early Bird Registration on or before Nov 7th is 35 euro. Space limited. Early booking advised.
# Conference Programme
Friday, December 5th, 2014, 8.45am - 4.15am

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Speaker/Role</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.45am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Fottrell Theatre, Arts Millennium Building, NUI Galway</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.15am</td>
<td>Conference Chair</td>
<td>Senator Dr. Fidelma Healy Eames</td>
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<tr>
<td>9.20am</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>President Jim Browne, NUI Galway</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Morning Keynote</td>
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### Education Panel
- **Chair:** Prof John Coolahan
- **Speakers:**
  - Aine Hyland, Emeritus Professor of Education, UCC
  - Mary Nihill (NAPD) & Principal, Calasanctius College, Oranmore - A Ceist School
  - Kevin Donoghue, Students’ Union of Ireland
  - John Hammond, Acting CEO, NCCA
  - Philip Nolan, President NUI Maynooth
  - Helen Mortimer, CEO, National Parents’ Council

### Business Panel
- **Chair:** Michael Hannon, Registrar, GMIT
- **Speakers:**
  - Barbara Nolan, Head of Representation, EU Commission, Dublin
  - Alan Mongey, Principal, Claregalway College, Galway
  - Dr. Emer Mulligan, Head of Business, NUI Galway
  - Sean Cottrell, Irish Primary Principals’ Network (IPPN)
  - Tony Donohoe, Head of Social and Education Policy, IBEC
  - Colm O’Dowd, Entrepreneur, Co-Founder & Business Development Specialist, Vornia
  - John Power, CEO, Aerogen, Galway

### Societal Impact Panel
- **Chair:** Dr. Mary Fleming, NUI Galway
- **Speakers:**
  - Eoghan Harris, Commentator & Journalist
  - Stiofan O’Cualain, Acting Principal, Colaiste na Coiribe, Gaillimh - A GRETB School
  - John Lonergan, Former Governor, Mountjoy Prison
  - Michael Mulvey, Director of Academic Affairs and Registrar, DIT
  - Stephen Donnelly TD
  - Joe Treacy, Addiction Counsellor, HSE West

### Conference Close
- **Speaker:** Senator Fidelma Healy Eames

### Afternoon Keynote
- **Speaker:** Professor Pasi Sahlberg (Harvard)

### Response to Pasi Sahlberg keynote
- **Speaker:** Dr. Philip Nolan, President, NUI, Maynooth