**Promoting Education and Employment Resources for**

**People with Intellectual Disabilities in Ireland**

**(PEER-4-ID Project)**

**Participant Information Leaflet**

Dear Higher Education Providers/ Employers,

You have been invited to participate in this research study as a service provider for people with intellectual disabilities who are pursuing higher education or employment in Ireland.

This information leaflet will detail the following:

1. What the project is about
2. Why the research is being undertaken
3. Participation
4. What is involved?
5. What are the benefits?
6. What are the disadvantages?
7. What happens to the results?
8. Further information
9. What personal information (data) will be collected?
10. How your data will be securely processed
11. Data protection – your rights
12. How do I take part?
13. Contact details.

You are invited to read/listen (by using a screen reader) to the following information before deciding whether you would like to participate. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Section 1) What the project is about**

The PEER-4-ID project has been organised by Dr Donatella Camedda, supported by Research Assistant Catherine Murray, at Trinity College Dublin, in partnership with Inclusion Ireland, WALK Ireland, Colaiste Ide and the Inclusive National Higher Education Forum (INHEF).

The research investigates the challenges and opportunities in the education-to-employment transition for individuals with intellectual disabilities (ID) in Ireland. The project aims to enhance understanding of the multifaceted issues faced during this critical transition, informing future policies and research. By bridging the gap between education and employment support, the project seeks to create an inclusive and empowering environment that enables individuals with ID to excel in their educational and professional pursuits and improve life quality.

**Section 2) Why the research is being undertaken**

People with intellectual disabilities face a complexity of systemic factors that increase barriers to personal life achievements in both education and employment sectors. The lack of equal opportunities compared to peers without ID results in a higher risk of exclusion (Van Asselt et al., 2015), especially when transitioning from different educational provisions (Banks et al., 2022). Systemic factors influence access to employment, too (TCPID, 2022; May-Simera, 2018). The importance of equal opportunities both in education and employment is widely acknowledged. Furthermore, there is evidence of an association between paid employment and people’s well-being, this being true for those with and without intellectual disabilities (Robertson et al., 2019; Kocman & Weber, 2018).

This project seeks to bridge an identified gap in research on these two societal challenges for people with intellectual disabilities. Although there is existing literature about post-school transition for people with ID in Ireland (McConkey et al., 2017; Banks et al., 2022) and some recent work has been carried out on employment opportunities (TCPID, 2022), the two areas have never been examined under a cross-sectional perspective. Understanding the direct experience of people with ID transitioning between school and employment is a core element of the PEER-4-ID project; this angle can meaningfully inform future policies and guidelines on transition at a national level and beyond.

Findings from the PEER-4-ID project will contribute to a better understanding of the complex issues faced by people with ID when transitioning education towards employment and how services can support them through transitional phases, especially in a post-pandemic time that has magnified barriers more than ever.

The project addresses three main research questions:

RQ1) What challenges do people with ID face when transitioning from school to educational/training provisions and/or services for supported employment?

RQ2) What challenges do service providers face when supporting the transition of people with ID towards next-level education/training or supported employment?

RQ3) What resources support the transition between education and employment for people with ID nationally?

**Section 3) Participation**

We are interested in engaging with and seeking the lived experience and expertise from:

1. people with intellectual disabilities (those with mild-moderate ID)
2. parents/carers of people with intellectual disabilities
3. service providers (higher education providers and employers in Ireland)

If you are a higher education provider or employer who wants to provide service to people with intellectual disabilities in Ireland, you are welcome to participate in this research project. Participation in this project is completely voluntary; you do not have to participate if you do not wish to. You can withdraw from the research at any point without providing a reason.

**Section 4) What is involved?**

You will be asked to participate in:

1. Questionnaire (Maximum 30minutes)
2. Interview (Maximum 1 hour)
3. Focus group (Maximum 1 hour)

Questionnaire: You can complete the questionnaire independently without the researcher's involvement.

Interview: Dr Donatella Camedda/Cait Murray will conduct the interview with you. You will have an option of where to complete the interview (i.e., in person, in a location convenient for you/at a research partner organisation/Zoom). The time and date will be flexible and organised in partnership with the researchers.

Focus Group: Dr Donatella Camedda/Cait Murray will conduct the focus group with you and a small group of other higher education providers/employers. As a group, you will collectively agree on the location of where to complete the focus group (i.e., in person in one of the partner organisations/Zoom). The time and date will be flexible and organised in partnership with the researchers.

**Section 5) What are the benefits?**

There are no direct benefits to taking part in this study. You will not be paid. Your knowledge and expertise in this area will inform future policy and practice, improving the lives of people with intellectual disabilities, in addition to the workforce for employers and inclusive education practices in higher education.

**Section 6) What are the disadvantages?**

You must allocate and plan for participation in the questionnaire, interview, and focus group (2.5 hours). The date and times will be provided in advance. There will be flexibility in finding a date and time which is most convenient for you.

**Section 7) What happens to the results?**

Information collected in the questionnaires will be anonymised before the researchers receive the questionnaires. The interviews and focus groups will be audio-recorded and then transcribed. However, all information will be anonymised using pseudonyms. The data collected may also be presented at national/international conferences or published in academic journals.

A launch event will be organised to engage with a wider audience, including people with ID, families, associations, policymakers, and the wider community. The project report will be shared with relevant policymakers and government bodies to inform future policies and research.

**Section 8) Further information**

This project has been approved by the Ethics Committee in the School of Education, Trinity College Dublin. This project is funded by the Irish Research Council 2023-2024.

**Section 9) What personal information (data) will be collected?**

During participation, your name, email address, and opinions will be collected by the researchers Dr Donatella Camedda/Cait Murray Research Assistant.

**Section 10) How your data will be securely processed.**

Data will be accessed by the research team only. All data collected will be anonymised and kept safe and private using password-protected Trinity devices. We will not use your data for anything without your consent and will only store your data for 1 year before safely disposing of it.

If you would like further information regarding the safe storage of your data, please contact the data controller, who is the data protection officer at Trinity College Dublin.

Email: Information.Compliance@tcd.ie; Phone: (01) 896 2154/1892

**Section 11) Data protection – your rights**

* The data is being processed where ‘the data subject has given consent to processing his or her data for one or more specific purposes’ Article 6.1( a).
* Right to Withdraw Consent/Stop Taking Part - You can withdraw your consent. This means that you have a right to stop taking part.
* Right to Complaint - You have a right to lodge a complaint with the Data Commissioner.

Data Protection Commission 21 Fitzwilliam Square Dublin 2, D02 RD28

Phone: +353 57 868 4800

Email: dpcaccessofficer@dataprotection.ie

* Right to Your Copy - You can ask for your information. You have a right to a copy of your consent form.
* Right to Stop or Object to the Use of Information - You have a right to stop your information from being used.
* Right to having information about you corrected - If any information about you is wrong, you have a right to have it fixed or deleted.
* Right to move your information - You have a right to move your information from one Data Controller to another. This means that you have a right to get a copy of your information to give to someone else.
* Right to know if your information is being used outside Ireland or in another country - The study will not go to a country outside the European Economic Area (EEA). The data is not going outside the current EEA. If something changes with this, then we will contact you and ask for your consent in this case.

**Section 12) How do I take part?**

If you wish to participate in this research, you must complete and sign the consent form.

Please send it to murrac56@tcd.ac.uk BEFORE April 15th 2024

**Section 13) Contact details**

If at any time you have any queries/issues concerning this study or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact the research team. Our contact details are provided below:



 Dr Donatella Camedda (Principal Investigator)

 Email: cameddad@tcd.ie



Cait Murray (Research Assistant) – key lead for research correspondence

 Email: murrac56@tcd.ie

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