

**Irish Presidency Conference**

***Integration, Innovation and Improvement – the Professional Identity of Teacher Educators***

***18-19 February 2013***

# Draft Programme

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## Description

The Teaching Council, the professional body for teaching in Ireland, is hosting the EU Presidency Conference on teacher educators. The conference will take place on 18 and 19 February 2013 in Dublin Castle and will be attended by approximately 200 delegates from the EU.

The theme of the conference is “Integration, Innovation, Improvement - the Professional Identity of Teacher Educators”. The programme structure includes keynote speakers, plenary sessions and parallel interactive workshops. The programme of speakers includes a wide range of EU experts in the field of teacher education.

Teacher educators are sometimes called ‘the hidden profession’. In part, this is because the title relates to a very heterogeneous group and to many different realities: higher education staff who teach pedagogy or didactics, university lecturers in all the different subjects that future teachers study, researchers in education and allied fields, teaching practice or school placement supervisors, heads of department, curriculum developers, experienced teachers who act as mentors to beginning teachers in schools, professionals who offer in-service training courses for teachers and school leaders, policy makers and more. All of these play a part in educating our teachers.

This conference will seek to make the professional identity of all teacher educators explicit and will address the following questions: Who is the teacher educator? What do they do? How can we develop the profession of teacher educators? How can we support them?

The Conference will emphasise the need to identify policies that support the profession of teacher educators to support a high-quality teaching workforce.

## Aims

* To improve policy support for the Teacher Educator profession
* To explore the concept of the teacher educator along its historical continuum, from the more traditionally understood area of initial teacher education to emergent areas such as mentors, co-operating teachers on school placement and in-service providers.

## Objectives

* To support policy exchange, learning and development
* To share experiences and views on the multi-faceted roles and the professional quality and development of teacher educators.
* To build on the work of the European Commission (2012) Conclusions of the Peer Learning Conference ‘Education: Policy Support for Teacher Educators’. Brussels, 26-28 March, 2012.

## Context

Teacher educators are the key players in the endeavor to improve the quality of teacher education. The issue of the quality of teacher educators has been identified by Member States and the Commission as being a very important contributor to overall quality within education systems. The term ‘teacher educator’ is used to describe all those who actively facilitate the formal learning of student teachers and teachers (PLA, Iceland, 2010). This includes Higher Education academics responsible for teacher education, research and subject didactics; the school leader as teacher educator or school mentor, school placement tutors (or teaching practice supervisors), cooperating teachers, school mentors, induction tutors/facilitators, induction supporters’ networks, continuing professional development (CPD) teacher educators.

In Council Conclusions of November 2009, adopted during the Swedish presidency, Ministers agreed that teacher educators should have “solid, practical teaching experience, good teaching competence and a high academic standard.”[[1]](#footnote-2)

The European Commission Peer Learning Conference held in Brussels on 27 & 28 March 2012 also highlighted that teacher educators, whether they work in schools or in Higher Education, play key roles in every education system.

## Monday 18 February – Morning

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| **9.00 a.m.** | **Welcome** by Tomás Ó Ruairc, Director, the Teaching Council |
| **9.10 a.m.** | **Official opening** by Minister Ruairí Quinn, Minister for Education and Skills |
| **09.25 a.m.** | **Official opening** by Minister John O’Dowd, Minister for Education, Northern Ireland |
| **09.40 a.m.** | **Opening remarks – European Commission** |
| **10.20 a.m.** | **Keynote address: Teacher Educators – The Hidden Profession**  **Professor Kay Livingston**, Professor of Educational Research, Policy and Practice in the Faculty of Education, University of Glasgow, Scotland |
| **11.00 a.m.** | Break |
| **11.30 a.m.** | **THEMATIC SESSIONS** – delegates must select one session when registering online |
| **1.** | **The Profession of Teacher Educators**  **Dr Rose Dolan,** NUI Maynooth, Ireland and **Prof. Jean Murray**, University of East London |
| **2.** | **The Development of the Profession and Identity of Teacher Educators**  **Dr Anja Swennen,** Vrije University, Amsterdam, the Netherlands and **Prof. Teresa O’Doherty** and **Prof. Jim Deegan,** Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, Ireland |
| **3.** | **A Collaborative Approach by Teacher Educators to Programme Design**  **Dr Judith Harford, Dr Gerry Mac Ruairc, Dr Maria Meehan, Prof. Peter Duffy, Prof. Joe Carthy,** University College Dublin, Ireland **and Dr Peter Gray**, Norwegian University of Science and Technology |
| **12.30 p.m.** | **Plenary session** |
| **1.15 p.m.** | Lunch |

***Monday 18 February –Afternoon***

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| **2.15 p.m.** | **Keynote address: The Lives and Work of Teacher Educators - A Life History Perspective**  **Professor Ciaran Sugrue**, Professor of Education, UCD, Ireland |
| **3.15 p.m.** | **THEMATIC SESSIONS** – delegates must select one session when registering online |
| **1.** | **Teacher Educator Narratives in School Placement – Ecologies of Practice andPolicy**  **Dr Bernadette Ní Aingléis,** Director of Teaching Practice, St. Patrick’s College, Drumcondra and **Claire Connolly,** School Experience Coordinator, St. Mary’s University College, Belfast |
| **2.** | **Professional Development of Teacher Educators through Networks of Teacher Educators**  **Professor Mary O’Sullivan,** Dean of the Faculty of Education and Health Sciences, University of Limerick **and Jo Van den Hauwe**, Co-ordinator of the Antwerp network of expertise |
| **3.** | **Leadership**  **Breda Sunderland and Gerard O’Sullivan,** Instructional LEADERSHIP Programme, Ireland and **Professor Olof Johansson**, Umeå University, Sweden and European Policy Network on School Leadership |
| **4.15 p.m.** | Break |
| **4.30 p.m.** | **Plenary session** |
| **5.15 p.m.** | **Close** |
| **6.45 p.m.** | **Bus pick up from hotel to conference dinner** |
| **7.15 p.m.** | **Pre-Dinner reception,** Royal Hospital Kilmainham |
| **8.00 p.m.** | **Conference dinner** |
| **11.00 p.m.** | **Bus transport back to hotel** |

***Tuesday 19 February – Morning***

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| **9.30 a.m.** | **Keynote address**  **Professor Dr Kari Smith**, Department of Education, University of Bergen, Norway |
| **10.30 a.m.** | **THEMATIC SESSIONS** – delegates must select one session when registering online |
| **1.** | **Supporting, Challenging and Guiding Novice Teachers: The key role of the mentor in teacher induction**  **Mary Burke and Billy Redmond,** National Coordinators, National Induction Programme for Teachers (NIPT)and **Maria P. Figueiredo,** Institute of Viseu, Portugal |
| **2.** | **Teacher Educator Development as a Collaborative Enterprise**  **Dr Therese Dooley and Dr Dolores Corcoran,** St. Patrick’s College, Drumcondra, Ireland and **Dr Colette Murphy,** Senior Lecturer, Queen’s University, Belfast, Northern Ireland |
| **3.** | **What Role for the University Teacher Educator in Teacher CPD?**  **Professor Kathy Hall,** University College Cork, Ireland and **Ms Ulrike Greiner,** University College of Teacher Education Upper Austria |
| **11.30 a.m.** | Break |
| **11.45 p.m.** | **Plenary session** |
| **12.30 p.m.** | **Rapporteur’s Report by Dr Alain Michel** |
| **1.30 p.m.** | **Closing Remarks – European Commission** |
| **2.00pm** | Lunch |

Department of

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1. Conclusions of the Council and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council of 26 November 2009 on the professional development of teachers and school leaders (OJ 2009/C 302/04). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)