



PRESS RELEASE

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## New project will promote migrant integration and alleviate teacher shortage

A project launched today at Marino Institute of Education (MIE) will provide a bridging programme to enable Immigrant Internationally Educated Teachers (IETs) gain employment in Irish primary and post-primary schools. The Migrant Teacher Project, coordinated by researchers at MIE, is funded by the Office for the Promotion of Integration of Migrants, in the Department of Justice and Equality.

Welcoming the funding for this project, Dr Rory Mc Daid, Project Coordinator stated that: “Research shows the benefits to schools and students of having a diverse teaching staff. However, teachers from immigrant backgrounds can face challenges gaining employment in Irish schools, despite having appropriate qualifications and valuable experience. This project is designed to open up pathways for these teachers to access employment, with benefits for both individual teachers and the school communities where they work.”

There are four components to this innovative two-year project.

- (i) A needs analysis will be conducted to identify barriers to employment for Immigrant Internationally Educated Teachers.
- (ii) A Bridging Programme will be established to provide these teachers with additional knowledge and skills to help them to gain employment.
- (iii) The project will include information and professional development for employers.
- (iv) A support network will be established for IETs working in schools and those seeking employment.

The launch of this project coincides with increasing concerns about teacher shortages in both primary and post-primary schools<sup>1</sup>. Supporting qualified IETs to enter the workforce will help to address teacher supply shortage.

Ends. For more information contact:

Dr Rory Mc Daid  
Project Coordinator  
Migrant Teacher Project  
Tel 01 8535168 / 087 6612079  
[mtp@mie.ie](mailto:mtp@mie.ie)  
[www.mie.ie/mtp](http://www.mie.ie/mtp)

Notes: Marino Institute of Education (MIE) is a teaching, learning and research community committed to promoting inclusion and excellence in education. MIE is an associated college of Trinity College Dublin, The University of Dublin and offers undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in education, including initial teacher education programmes.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.rte.ie/news/education/2017/1020/913810-school-leaders-conference/>  
<https://www.independent.ie/irish-news/education/teacher-shortage-worsens-for-stem-subjects-35557297.html>