

Reform of ITE in Ireland, 2012-2018

Presentation by
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The Context



Population of Ireland

- The population of Ireland is just under 5 million.
- C. 70,000 births p.a. plus inward migration.
- Ireland's population has been growing in recent years and is forecast to continue growing.

The Irish School System

School System in Ireland

- Pre-school (ISCED Level 1): 3 to 4 year olds
- Primary Schools (ISCED Level 2): 4 to 12 year olds
- Post-primary schools, Junior Cycle (ISCED Level 3): 13 – 15 years olds
- Post-primary schools, Senior Cycle (ISCED Level 4): 16-18 year olds

School Population

Primary Schools (ISCED Levels 1 and 2):

- c. 550,000 pupils in 3,300 primary schools taught by c.33,500 teachers.

Post-primary Schools (ISCED Levels 3 AND 4):

- c. 350,000 students in 700 post-primary schools taught by over 25,000 teachers.

Cultural Diversity

- Between 10% and 15% of the school-going population were born outside Ireland. In some schools the proportion of newcomer children can be as high as 50%.

The Irish (Initial) Teacher Education System

Building a High-Quality Teaching Profession

“The challenge is to equip all teachers, and not just some, for effective learning in the 21st century. This will require rethinking of many aspects including how to optimise the pool of individuals from which teacher candidates are drawn; recruiting systems and the ways in which staff are selected; the kind of initial education recruits obtain before they start their job and how they are monitored and inducted into their service and the continuing education and support they get....”

(OECD Building a High-Quality Teaching Profession: Lessons from Around the World 2011)

Initial Teacher Education (ITE)

All teachers must complete at least a Bachelors degree (usually 240 ECTS credits).

Preparation of primary and post-primary teachers takes place separately.

Initial teacher education programmes can be “concurrent” or “consecutive”.

Education related components must account for 120 ECTS credits, including school placement.

Entry Requirements for ITE

- The calibre of students entering ITE, both primary and post-primary, is high. Entry is highly competitive, attracting those in the top academic 15%.
- Prior academic performance is the key criterion used for entry to most ITE courses.

Teacher Education Providers: pre- 2012

Sligo – St. Angela’s College

Letterfrack – GMTI

Galway – NUIG,

Limerick - UL; Mary I;
LIT (Art and Design);

Cork - UCC; CIT (Art and Design);

North Dublin - DCU; Mater Dei Inst; St. Patrick’s College Drumcondra; Coláiste Mhuire, Marino

Maynooth – NUIM
(including Froebel College)

South Dublin - UCD; TCD.
CICE; NCAD

Thurles - St. Patrick's College



Review of Initial Teacher Education Sahlberg Report, 2012

- “The Review Panel’s vision for the structure of ITE provision in Ireland is that by 2030 Ireland will have a network of teacher education institutions based on a small number (six) of internationally comparable institutes of teacher education. Each of these institutions will offer research-based teacher education in internationally inspiring environments, provided at Masters level initially or through CPD. Each will also offer further professional development services on the continuum ranging from early childhood to in-service training of teachers and leaders”.

2018 - Seven Centres of Excellence

- Institute of Education, DCU
- Maynooth University and Froebel College
- UCC and Crawford College of Art
- NUIG, St. Angela's Sligo and GMIT
- Limerick (MICE, St Patrick's Thurles, UL and LIT)
- Dublin (TCD and Marino)
- Dublin (UCD and NCAD)

Discussion??

Questions??



.Thank You.