

The Standing Conference on Teacher Education, North and South

challenges to teacher education



research North and South

The Standing Conference on Teacher Education, North and South (SCoTENS) has been established to develop discourse among teacher educators across the island of Ireland with a view to encouraging open, critical and constructive analysis of both current provision and future collaboration. Its intention is to stimulate and sustain wide involvement in a continuing process of informed enhancement of professional practice.

Grand Hotel, Malahide, Co Dublin 9-10 October 2003

Challenges to Teacher Education

PROGRAMME

Thursday 9th October
Guttenberg Suite, Grand Hotel

Conference chairperson: **Dr Don Thornhill**

- 2.45 Registration
- 3.30 Official opening: **Mr John Dennehy**, Secretary General, Department of Education and Science, and **Ms Christine Jendoubi**, Assistant Secretary, Department of Education (Northern Ireland)
- 4.00 **Dr David Istance**, OECD Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI), Paris
Towards the School of the Future
- 4.45 **Professor John Coolahan**, National University of Ireland, Maynooth
Positioning the Teaching Career for the Knowledge Society
- 5.15 Four opening workgroups: **Teaching in the Future – The Challenges of Change**
- 7.30 Reception (Tara Suite 1)
- 8.15 Dinner (Tara Suite 2)

Friday 10th October
Guttenberg Suite, Grand Hotel

- 9.15 Reflections of the Conference chairperson, Dr Don Thornhill, on the first day
- 9.45 Workgroups: first session (eight themes):
 1. **Attracting, selecting and recruiting student teachers**
Facilitators: **Professor Sheelagh Drudy** and **Dr Colette Murphy**
 2. **Integrating ICT into teacher education**
Facilitators: **Dr Aidan Mulkeen** and **Dr Roger Austin**
 3. **Teacher education for diversity and citizenship**
Facilitators: **Mr Gerry Jeffers** and **Ms Una O'Connor**
 4. **Teacher education and the integration of special needs**
Facilitators: **Dr Michael Shevlin** and **Mr Hugh Kearns**
 5. **School placements in teacher education**
Facilitators: **Dr Andy Burke** and **Professor Anne Moran**
 6. **Training for school leadership**
Facilitators: **Professor Diarmuid Leonard** and **Dr Tom Hesketh**
 7. **Best practice in teacher induction**
Facilitators: **Dr Conor Galvin** and **Mr Keiron Mellon**
 8. **Policy approaches to continuing professional development**
Facilitators: **Dr Mark Morgan** and **Professor Mr Harry McMahon**
- 11.00 Refreshments

- 11.30 A new departure in teacher education in Ireland: The Standing Conference on Teacher Education, North and South – report of progress, plans for the future and launch of website.
- 12.45 Lunch (Colonnade Restaurant)
- 2.00 Workgroups: second session (eight themes as above)
- 3.00 Final plenary session, with proposals from workshop rapporteurs on areas for future North-South co-operation.
Closing remarks by **Dr Pauric Travers**, President, St Patrick's College of Education, Drumcondra
- 4.00 Close of conference

Note: Information on workgroup rooms will be available at registration.

SPEAKERS AND CONFERENCE CHAIRPERSON



Dr David Istance is a project leader in the OECD's Centre for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI) in Paris, responsible for the CERI project "Schooling for Tomorrow". He is the author of its main report – *What Schools for the Future?* (2001) – which developed a set of schooling scenarios for 15-20 years ahead. More recently, he put together the follow-up "Schooling for Tomorrow" volume, *Networks of Innovation: Towards New Models for Managing Schools and Systems* (2003). He has worked on schooling issues for many years at the OECD, and was author of *The Teacher Today: Tasks, Conditions, Policies* in 1990 and co-author (with John Lowe) of *Schools and Quality: An International Report* in 1989. Another longstanding interest is lifelong learning: he co-edited the 2002 Open University Press reader, *International Perspectives on Lifelong Learning: from Recurrent Education to the Knowledge Society*, with Tom Schuller and Hans Schuetze, and his analysis of schooling and lifelong learning appeared in the *European Journal of Education* in March 2003. He spent several years in academic life in Wales in the 1990s, researching *inter alia* into excluded teenagers, and he maintains an honorary fellowship with the School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University.



Professor John Coolahan is Professor of Education at the National University of Ireland Maynooth. He has lectured extensively in Ireland and abroad, is author of a number of books, has published over 100 articles in Irish and international journals, and has edited several compilations of articles on education. In his public service capacities he has acted as adviser to the Department of Education and Science in a wide range of initiatives over the last fifteen years. He was a member of

and Research, North and South

the Post-Primary Review Body in Northern Ireland (2000-01). At international level, Professor Coolahan has had extensive engagement with the OECD and the European Commission on educational policy issues. He is a past President of the Educational Studies Association of Ireland, past editor of *Irish Educational Studies*, and former Chairman of the Academic Committee of the Association of Teacher Education in Europe. He has contributed to and co-ordinated many international conferences on teacher education issues.



Dr Don Thornhill is Chairman of the Higher Education Authority (HEA) in Dublin. Prior to his appointment to the HEA he was Secretary General of the Department of Education and Science from 1993 to 1998. He was previously an Assistant Secretary in the Office of the Revenue Commissioners and has also worked in the Departments of

Finance and Foreign Affairs, and in the Unilever organisation. He is a member of the Board and Council of the Irish Management Institute; a board member of Digital Media Development Ltd and Science Foundation Ireland; and a member of the Irish Council for Science, Technology and Innovation.

FACILITATORS

Professor Sheelagh Drudy is Professor of Education and Head of the Department of Education at University College Dublin.

Dr Colette Murphy is a Lecturer in Education and Head of External Relations and Publicity in the Graduate School of Education at Queen's University Belfast.

Dr Aidan Mulkeen is a Lecturer in Education at National University of Ireland Maynooth.

Dr Roger Austin is Head of the School of Education at the University of Ulster at Coleraine.

Mr Gerry Jeffers is a Lecturer in Education at National University of Ireland Maynooth.

Ms Una O'Connor is a Research Associate in the School of Education at the University of Ulster in Coleraine.

Dr Michael Shevlin is a Lecturer in Education (Special Education) at Trinity College Dublin.

Mr Hugh Kearns is Director of the Masters Programme in Education at Stranmillis University College, Belfast.

Dr Andy Burke is a Senior Lecturer in Education at St Patrick's College, Drumcondra.

Professor Anne Moran is Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Professor of Education at the University of Ulster at Jordanstown.

Professor Diarmuid Leonard is Professor of Education at the University of Limerick.

Dr Tom Hesketh is Director of the Regional Training Unit in Belfast.

Dr Conor Galvin is a Lecturer in Education at University College Dublin.

Mr Keiron Mellon is an Advisory Officer in the area of teacher induction with the Western Education and Library Board in Derry.

Dr Mark Morgan is Head of Education at St Patrick's College, Drumcondra.

Professor Harry McMahon is retired Professor of Education at the University of Ulster at Coleraine.

STANDING CONFERENCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION NORTH AND SOUTH (SCoTENS)

Interim Committee

Professor John Coolahan and Professor Anne Moran (joint chairs), Dr Roger Austin, Professor Sheelagh Drudy, Dr Tom Hesketh, Dr Ruth Leitch, Professor Richard McMinn, Dr Colette Murphy, Dr John O'Brien, Professor Mona O'Moore, Rev Professor Martin O'Callaghan, Mr Andy Pollak, Dr Pauric Travers.

Introductory note

The Standing Conference on Teacher Education, North and South (SCoTENS), emerged from discussions following a highly successful North-South conference on teacher education in Belfast in May 2000. It was agreed that an effort should be made to set up a North-South standing conference which would promote and assist networks across the Irish border to deal with issues of mutual interest in teacher education.

Following two years of discussions, the Departments of Education in both jurisdictions agreed to support the initiative. SCoTENS is overseen by a committee drawn from leading teacher education specialists in both jurisdictions, and its secretariat is provided by the Armagh-based Centre for Cross Border Studies.

The Standing Conference on Teacher Education, North and South, currently supports a range of websites, research projects, exchanges and conferences. Among these are the

Challenges to Teacher Education

University of Ulster-based Stranding Conference on Teacher Education website (*see below*), highlighting, in particular, resources on special education; a North-South research project on Diversity and Early Years Education (funded by the EU Peace Two programme and managed by the Centre for Cross Border Studies); a North-South Student Teacher Exchange Project (again funded by Peace Two and managed by the CCBS); the June 2003 annual conference of the Irish Association of Social, Scientific and Environmental Education (IASSEE); and forthcoming North-South conferences on early years and diversity (organised by the North-South Early Years Network, which also emerged from the 2000 conference) and on initial teacher education.

Objectives

Among the key objectives of the Standing Conference on Higher Education, North and South, are to:

- Provide a supportive framework for collaborative research and professional activities in teacher education, North and South;
- Hold invitational conferences on themes of mutual interest to teacher educators, North and South;
- Provide seed funding for North-South research projects on teacher education issues;
- Promote position papers on issues of mutual concern to teacher educators, North and South;
- Use its good offices to assist in obtaining funding for approved research activities;
- Support North-South exchanges between teacher educators for approved purposes as part of its concern to strengthen inter-professional and inter-institutional linkages;
- Act as an agency for advice and consultation by policy makers in the Education Departments of both jurisdictions;
- Establish and maintain a website which will provide information and resources of interest to teacher educators and researchers, North and South.

The SCoTENS website has been developed and is being maintained by the University of Ulster. Its address is www.socsci.ulst.ac.uk/education/scte/

The first stage of its development, from September 2003, highlights resources on special education which have been designed for use by student teachers across the island of Ireland working in mainstream education. SCoTENS plans to develop other areas of interest to teacher educators on the website as finances allow.

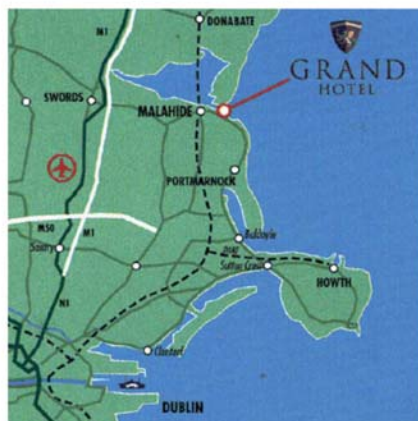
Contacts

Standing Conference on Teacher Education, North and South (SCoTENS)

The head of secretariat of the Standing Conference on Teacher Education, North and South, is **Andy Pollak**; its administrative assistant is **Patricia McAllister**. They can be contacted at the Centre for Cross Border Studies, 39 Abbey Street, Armagh BT61 7EB. Tel. 028 (048 from the Republic)-37-515290. Fax. 028-37-511721. E-mails: a.pollak@qub.ac.uk and p.mcallister@qub.ac.uk

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