



An Chomhairle  
Mhúinteoireachta



**The Teaching Council**



# IFTRA Conference 2016

*Leadership in partnership –  
the professional role of teachers*

**16 - 17 June, Dublin Castle, Ireland**

## Fáilte go IFTRA 2016 i mBaile Átha Cliath! Welcome to IFTRA 2016 in Dublin!

On behalf of the Teaching Council of Ireland, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you to the fifth international gathering of professional standards' bodies for teaching from around the world. In collaboration with Michael Salvatori (Ontario College of Teachers), Peter Lind (Teacher Registration Board, South Australia) and Steve Nwokeocha (Teachers' Registration Council of Nigeria), we have put a lot of thought into the theme and content for this year's conference – *Leadership in partnership: the professional role of teachers*. Whether you are presenting or attending, we trust that you will make the most of all the opportunities which our conference offers to share our professional learning and insight with each other on a global scale.

Our teaching councils generally work on the principle of professional leadership – that teachers should be given an appropriate degree of autonomy to lead teaching and learning, in partnership with parents and the wider community, and informed by research. But the concept of professional leadership can also be a double-edged sword. It can give rise to the belief that teachers, and by extension schools, should be the place where all of society's ills are remedied.

From animal welfare to obesity in the wider population to philosophy, we often hear calls for these topics or subjects to be made a compulsory part of schooling for our children and young people. Indeed, initial teacher education often finds itself in the cross-hairs of similar policy debates.

Across a range of social issues, including mental health/ well-being and linguistic/cultural heritage, teachers sometimes feel as if the wider community expects them to be all things to all people – psychologist, counsellor, language planner, to name but a few. There is a risk of polarisation in this debate, where it may be stated that teachers have no responsibility for well-being, that they are there to teach a curriculum or syllabus.

IFTRA 2016 offers an important opportunity to explore the nuances of what the role of teachers should and should not be, and seeks to strike a delicate balance between the breadth and depth of society's expectations on the one hand, and the professional leadership of teachers on the other.

We look forward to hearing your views on how best to nurture and maintain this balance, in the interests of quality teaching and learning for all the learners in our respective education systems.

**Tomás Ó Ruairc, Director (CEO)**  
**The Teaching Council (Ireland)**  
**16 June 2016**

# DAY 1

## THURSDAY 16 JUNE

### Registration from 8.45 am

#### 9.30 am **Formal welcome and official opening**

##### **Keynote**

*What is the professional role of teachers, and how can teaching councils most effectively support that?*

#### **Prof. John Coolahan, Professor Emeritus, NUI Maynooth, Ireland**

Group discussion and plenary feedback

#### 11.30 am **Coffee break**

#### 11.50 am **Initial Teacher Education**

##### **Teacher Education and 21st Century Competencies**

1. Dr Michael Salvatori, CEO and Registrar & Angela De Palma, Chair, Ontario College of Teachers, Canada
2. Melanie Saba, CEO, Victorian Institute of Teaching, Australia

##### **Small group discussion and plenary feedback**

#### 1.00 pm **Lunch**

#### 2.15 pm **Professional Standards**

##### **Keynote**

*Motivation to succeed or resentful compliance – wherefore professional regulation?*

#### **Mr. Harry Cayton, Professional Standards Authority, UK**

##### **Small group discussion and plenary feedback**

#### 4.00 pm **Coffee break**

#### 4.30 pm **Sharing Learning**

A brief opportunity for conference attendees to share what they have learned from the conference thus far.

#### 5.00 pm **Adjourn for the day**

#### 6.45 pm **Dinner in Fire Restaurant**

# DAY 2

FRIDAY 17 JUNE

**9.15 am Induction and Teachers' Learning**

**Plenary workshops**

**Sharing our learning as professional standards' bodies on professional learning frameworks**

1. Dr Peter Lind, Registrar, Teachers' Registration Board of South Australia
2. Tomás Ó Ruairc, CEO, Teaching Council of Ireland
3. Ellen Doherty, Director of Education and Professional Learning, General Teaching Council Scotland

**10.30 am Coffee break**

**10.50 am Teacher Supply and Demand**

**How can we sustain quality learning for the profession given the challenges in this area?**

1. Deanne Fishburn, Professional Standards, Queensland College of Teaching & Melanie Saba, CEO, Victorian Institute of Teaching, Australia
2. Brendan O'Dea, Deputy Director, Teaching Council of Ireland

**11.50 am Coffee break**

**12.10 pm Language and Culture**

**What is the role of the teaching profession with regard to safeguarding / promoting / nurturing indigenous linguistic heritage?**

1. Trevor Smith, CEO, Saskatchewan Professional Teachers Regulatory Board, Canada
2. Graham Stoop, CEO & Leslie Hoskin, Deputy Chief Executive, Education Council, New Zealand
3. Dr Edem Adubra, Head of UNESCO International Task Force on Teachers

**1.15 pm Lunch**

**2.15 pm IFTRA's Contribution to Quality Teaching and Learning – role and structures**

Presentations from each of IFTRA's constituent regions (Australasia; Africa; UK and Ireland; North America) as to their views on what teaching councils can do to support quality teaching and learning.

1. Rej Brijraj, President of AFTRA
2. Dr Phillip Rogers, CEO, National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC), USA
3. Charlaine Simpson, Senior Education Officer, General Teaching Council Scotland
4. Melanie Saba, CEO, Victorian Institute of Teaching, Australia

**3.15 pm Coffee break**

**3.30 pm Presentation on the Draft Paper on Future Structures of IFTRA**

Dr Peter Lind, Registrar, Teachers' Registration Board of South Australia

**3.45 pm Group Discussions on the Next Steps for IFTRA**

**How can we realistically and sustainably support each other through IFTRA to help teaching councils realise their full potential?**

**4.30 pm Sharing Learning**

Plenary feedback on group discussions on IFTRA; agreement of next steps.

**5.15 pm Conference concludes**

Wi-Fi Code: June-2016

#IFTRA

An Chomhairle  
Mhúinteoireachta  
**The Teaching Council**



An Chomhairle Mhúinteoireachta  
**The Teaching Council**

Block A, Maynooth Business Campus,  
Maynooth, Co. Kildare, W23 Y7XO, Ireland

Lo-Call 1890 224 224  
Telephone +353 1 651 7900  
Facsimile +353 1 651 7901  
Email [info@teachingcouncil.ie](mailto:info@teachingcouncil.ie)

[www.teachingcouncil.ie](http://www.teachingcouncil.ie)

