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**FOR: IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Ireland's Education and Training Boards lead national education response to those fleeing Ukraine**

### **Sixteen one-stop shops for all schools, English classes, and ICT devices amongst measures**

Education and Training Boards (ETBs) are coordinating the development of sixteen multi-agency Regional Education and Language Teams (REALT), delivering English Language classes, and deploying laptops and tablets to support schools providing places for Ukrainian children.

Each Regional Education and Language Team includes professionals and representatives from Tusla's Education Support Service, school psychological services, special education needs specialists and school management bodies. ETBs also have

- A dedicated Coordinator to support each Regional Education and Language Team
- A dedicated school support email and phone number
- A dedicated register of ICT devices (laptops, notebooks, tablets, and other mobile devices) to facilitate eLearning.

While schools continue to be the primary contact point for Ukrainian families seeking places for their children, the Regional Education and Language Teams will assist those schools in terms of supporting capacity, sharing information and resources including those for ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages).

ETB Further Education & Training (FET) services will play a key role in the delivery of ESOL (English Speakers of Other Languages) providing

- A single point of contact for ESOL provision through their Adult Education Officer
- Access to nationwide network of adult guidance services
- A Family Learning ESOL toolkit.

Welcoming these developments, ETBI General Secretary Paddy Lavelle stated: "Because of our nationwide locations and in-house administrative supports, Education and Training Boards are ideally placed to co-ordinate this response in collaboration with our partners across the entire school sector. We are all focussed on making the initial entry into our education system as stress-free as possible for our Ukrainian arrivals. ETBI has also appointed a designated lead to support our ETB members and we are liaising closely with the Department of Education and the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science."

"I have also been delighted to hear stories of compassion and warmth about our member ETBs, their staff and learners from welcome and information sessions in Co Dublin to a traditional music and dance school welcome and parent and baby English classes in Co Clare" he concluded.

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### Notes to the Editor

For more information go to <https://www.etbi.ie/regional-education-and-language-teams-for-ukraine/> and [gov.ie](http://gov.ie) also in [Ukrainian](#) and [Russian](#)

**Available for interview:** Paddy Lavelle, General Secretary, ETBI

### [About Education and Training Boards Ireland](#)

Education & Training Boards Ireland (ETBI) is the national representative body for our member Education & Training Boards (ETB) and negotiates on behalf of the ETB sector at various forums both within the education sector, the wider public service and at EU level. Our mission is to lead and advance the continued development of education, training, and youth work in Ireland. Our vision is to harness our strength to influence and promote a strong education and training sector through collaboration and collective effort. ETBI is guided by the principles of people, partnership, and potential in all its activities.

### [About Education and Training Boards](#)

Education & Training Boards are Ireland's leading statutory providers of Education and Training and are unique in providing whole of life education and training to all. Collectively, the sixteen Education and Training Boards deliver services to over 368,000 learners in 1000 locations. ETBs have responsibility for 27 Community National Schools and 250 Community Colleges (more than one third of all post primary schools) with over 112,000 students. ETBs are also the largest provider of education through the medium of Irish at post primary level with 48 schools. ETBs deliver Further Education and Training to 200,000 participants in over 500 locations nationwide and play a central role in the delivery of apprenticeships and traineeships in partnership with employers. ETBs also support, monitor, and deliver youth services. The ETB Sector employs over 32,000 people and has a combined annual spend more than €2.2bn. [Directory of ETBs](#)

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