Intercultural Education
Strategy 2010-2015

Lóchrann,
Coláiste Mhuire
MIE
Lóchrann: Centre for Intercultural Education, Marino

- Established in 2007
- Aim is to ‘enhance the development of best practice in intercultural education in Irish schools, through its engagement in teaching, learning and research’
- [www.mie.ie](http://www.mie.ie)
Work of Lóchrann

- Complements the principles and components of the IES, in relation to the following three goals in particular:

  1. *Enable the adoption of a whole institution approach to creating an intercultural learning environment*
  2. *Build the capacity of education providers to develop an intercultural learning environment*
  3. *Support students to become proficient in the language of instruction*
Lóchrann initiatives: CPD

- On-line courses in ‘Teaching English as an Additional Language’ (2007-2009 in association with the INTO): c.1,800 teachers have participated to date (to Sept 2010)

- Post Graduate Diploma in Intercultural Education launched in 2009, accredited by Trinity; will be offered as a Masters in 2011: four modules – school diversity & intercultural education, EAL, religious diversity, and school-based research project
The adoption of a whole institution approach to creating an intercultural learning environment

- Actively facilitate groups of staff from individual schools to undertake PG Diploma, recognising the potential impact of a cluster of teachers in one school embarking on this learning together
Support students to become proficient in the language of instruction

- Recognising that language proficiency is central to academic progress and critical to success in Irish society
Build the capacity of education providers to develop an intercultural learning environment

- Emphasising link between language and identity: ‘language both forms and is a symbol of our identity’ (Skutnabb-Kangas, 2000)

- Promoting sociocultural approaches to language and literacy: recognising prior learning, seeing children’s lives & experience as ‘entry points’, valuing first language and culture and acknowledging these as central to learning (IES 5.3.2)
Comprehensive approach to intercultural education

- Responses to 2008 Green Paper placed intercultural education behind language learning, partnership with parents and teacher education – Lóchrann philosophy would concur with the need to combine these factors to create a comprehensive Strategy for intercultural education (IES 4.3.3)
Post Graduate qualification in EAL (IES 6.3.2)

- Recommend that this qualification be offered in a holistic way, with language seen in its sociocultural context rather than as a collection of ‘skills’
Lóchrann initiatives: Initial teacher education

- Elective course on EAL offered since 2007
- Opportunity for student teachers to specialise, c.100 enrolled to date

- From September 2010: all Year 2 students now receive a year-long course in Language Studies
- Will provide all B.Ed students with comprehensive preparation in the principles and practice of teaching primary school children from minority language backgrounds
- All educators have a responsibility as teachers of language (IES 5.3.4)
For the future…

- PG Diploma / Masters in Intercultural Education: creating network of educators with competence & theoretical understanding of education in diverse settings, who will contribute to development of research in this field.

- Need to continue interrogating key ideas such as ‘intercultural’ education, its meaning, its distinctiveness from ‘multiculturalism’, and how it translates into practice.