

## **Expert Meeting on Mathematics Education**

**Dublin. June 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> 2010**

In Ireland, the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) is running **Project Maths**, an initiative which is aimed at improving the teaching, learning and assessment of mathematics. The initiative arose from concerns about student performance in mathematics, in both national and international tests of mathematics achievement, and the relatively low proportion of the student cohort who study mathematics at Higher level in either lower secondary or upper secondary education.

In a developmental initiative which began in September 2008, a small number of schools introduced a changed mathematics curriculum on a phased basis and they are providing feedback to the curriculum development process. Following a lead-in of two years, all schools will begin the phased change in September 2010. Changed syllabus 'strands' in mathematics are being introduced, which will facilitate continuity and progression from primary school mathematics. A bridging framework is also being developed as part of the project, so that developments at lower secondary level are linked to the changes which have already taken place at primary level. This bridging framework includes a common introductory course in mathematics for all students at the start of their lower secondary education, and is intended to assist teachers at both first and second level to plan and monitor student learning and progress in mathematics. Further information on Project Maths can be accessed on the NCCA website ([www.ncca.ie/projectmaths](http://www.ncca.ie/projectmaths)) or by contacting [projectmaths@ncca.ie](mailto:projectmaths@ncca.ie)

The NCCA plans to host a Maths Expert Meeting in June, under the auspices of CIDREE, and would welcome expressions of interest from agencies who have already undertaken, or plan to undertake, reforms in mathematics education at secondary level. We have in mind that those CIDREE partner agencies who are interested in participating would identify a person who has experience and or expertise in the area of mathematics curriculum development to attend this event.

We intend to focus the meeting on topics such as;

- Having the school as the centre of curriculum development
- Aligning assessment with changed learning and teaching approaches
- Re-invigorating and improving the pedagogical skills of a teaching cohort more familiar with traditional teaching approaches
- The challenges presented by the parallel (and simultaneous) development of curriculum, continuing professional development (CPD), resources for learning and teaching, and assessment approaches.

Expressions of interest by April 1<sup>st</sup> please.

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