

Participant Information Letter

Integration Action Research-Transitions

Eligible Preschool Educators and Primary Teachers are invited to participate in an online focus group discussion facilitated by Donegal County Childcare Committee, Sligo County Childcare Committee and ATU Donegal - Dept Early Education and Social Studies.

If you meet the selection criteria below and would like to contribute, please complete the consent form attached in MS Forms.

Research Project Aim

This research aims to follow some recommendations highlighted in a recent pilot evaluation of a preschool to primary school partnership, between Education Support Centres and County Childcare Committees from 2021-2023. Two of the intended investigators in this current application were involved in the pilot project in their roles as managers of Sligo and Donegal County Childcare Committee.

The aim of this research is to identify perspectives of Educators on the opportunities and challenges experienced by Ukrainian children, their parents and the preschool and primary school staff in relation to the transition process. Examples of good practice will be identified and dissemination of findings in a final report.

Funding is secured from the Department Children Equality Disability Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) to carry out this piece of research regarding Ukrainian family transitions. The research to be led and carried out by ATU Donegal Department of Early Education and Social Studies in collaboration with the two agency managers as additional research investigators.

Overall, the aim is to achieve a minimum engagement of 25 preschool services and 25 Primary schools across all areas.

Selection Criteria for Preschool Educators

Working as a qualified Early Childhood Educator with preschool children now or recently. Currently working in an Early Childhood service located in the targeted area. The service must be a Tusla registered Preschool Service catering for children from 3-5year olds. Ukrainian children and their families must have used or are currently using the service.

Selection Criteria for Primary Teachers

Working as a qualified Primary Teacher now or recently in the Junior or Senior Infant classes. Currently working in a Primary school located in the targeted area. The service must be a Department of Education recognised Primary School catering for children from 4–12-year-olds. Ukrainian children and their families must have used or are currently using the service.

Requests for further information can be sent to the principal investigator patsy.callaghan@atu.ie

Primary Researcher Details:	
Name:	Patsy Callaghan
Department:	Early Education and Social Studies
Email Address:	Patsy.callaghan@atu.ie
Student Number (<i>if applicable</i>):	
Supervisor (<i>if applicable</i>):	Dr. Nigel Mc Kelvey Head of Department Early Education and Social Studies
Position Held:	Lecturer

Other Investigators:	
Name	Position and Affiliation
Dr. Trish McLaughlin	Manager Donegal County Childcare Committee & Lecturer ATU -Donegal Dept Early Education and Social Studies.
Sharon Boles	Manager Sligo County Childcare Committee & Lecturer ATU-Sligo Dept Social Sciences.