

Supporting transformational reform of state secondary education

Ministry of Education and Science

Ukraine



Cambridge Assessment English, Cambridge University Press and the British Council have together delivered a major teacher training programme to support the implementation of transformative secondary school reforms launched by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. The Ministry's 'New Ukrainian School' reform has shifted the focus of Ukrainian education onto 21st century skills, and introduced communicative teaching methodologies to improve English language competence. These changes have required an extensive programme of teacher training across Ukraine, together with greater access to long-term professional development opportunities.

The teacher training programme was initially piloted in 100 selected schools, over one year, before being rolled out nationally. Training was delivered both face-to-face and through the Cambridge online course, 'Teaching Primary Learners Communicatively', which provided deeper insights into the communicative approach for teaching English, together with practical ideas for the classroom. We also delivered training on young learner English teaching and assessment, and introduced teachers to two of our best known professional development qualifications, the Teaching Knowledge Test (TKT), and the Certificate in English Language Teaching – Primary (CELT-P).

We also collaborated with the British Council and Cambridge University Press on the development and implementation of an innovative online platform for teachers across Ukraine, which provides access to teaching resources and modules, sample test questions, and TKT preparatory materials. The platform has proved so successful that all Ukrainian teachers – around 17,000 – must register before they can deliver the new curriculum to first grade students. The platform can also be accessed by parents and other organisations free of charge. The Ministry is also planning to introduce a new professional development programme for its secondary school English language teachers, with Cambridge English professional development qualifications now recognised as alternatives to courses currently offered by the Ministry.

The reformed curriculum was first introduced in Ukrainian schools in September 2018. Our contribution has generated significant and positive national media coverage, showcasing our expertise in the delivery of national education reform. The project has also demonstrated our ability to collaborate to meet complex challenges, and to provide practical solutions of real value both to national education outcomes and individual careers.

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