

Cambridge English

Train the Trainer

Professional development for English language teacher trainers

Client: Turkish Education Association

Country: Turkey



The Train the Trainer course, from Cambridge English Language Assessment, has helped improve both the training and English language skills of teachers from one of Turkey's largest school chains.

The Turkish Education Association (TED) is a national chain of 35 private schools, from pre-school to secondary level, which actively promotes the teaching and learning of English. Part of this mission is also to support professional development by providing 'extensive in-service training programmes' for TED teachers, especially for those teaching English.

Comprehensive brief

To achieve this, TED identified the need to strengthen its local trainer resource in order to support the broader training objectives of the TED group, as well as the specific development needs of the participants selected for training. In response, Cambridge English Language Assessment provided the *Train the Trainer* course; the only course of its kind for the English language education sector. *Train the Trainer* is designed for experienced teachers and teacher trainers who want to develop knowledge and skills in the field of English language teacher training.

Eighteen participants from TED schools across Turkey attended the course which was held in Ankara and comprised five days of classroom-based training. The course tackled issues such as the analysis and design of training sessions, managing teacher observations and giving feedback. The sessions were delivered by a locally based Cambridge English trainer experienced both in teacher training and in the

demands of the Turkish education system, and who could adapt course content according to the needs and experience of the TED teachers.

Sharing ideas and experience

As is often the case in teacher training, course participants had varied expertise (of both teaching and training), but the face-to-face sessions proved a very successful training strategy for this mixed-ability group. The classroom context encouraged delegates to share ideas and experience, and provided an opportunity to exchange thoughts on a range of relevant issues. Participants with limited training experience welcomed the comprehensive content covered by the course, while older and more experienced trainers appreciated the opportunity to refresh their knowledge, give their feedback on established concepts, and also extend their own understanding, especially of how to observe and give feedback to the teachers they would be supporting.

The overall participant response was highly positive, and TED hopes to run additional *Train the Trainer* courses in the future as a result. In addition, successful *Train the Trainer* course participants were able to put their newly developed or improved skills into practice when they were asked to support colleagues enrolled by TED onto the *CELT-S* qualification from Cambridge English (*Certificate in English Language Teaching - Secondary*). As part of the *CELT-S* course, *Train the Trainer* participants assessed coursework and teaching practice, with some also delivering the face-to-face training element of the *CELT-S* course — real evidence of the increased in-house training capacity delivered by *Train the Trainer*.

'The course encouraged new trainers to explore their role as a trainer. Course participation was incredible and we were all more than prepared to share ideas and experience.'
