

# Building a Research Infrastructure for School Teachers

Newsletter 1, May 2021



Welcome to the BRIST project newsletter from the project leader, Dr Sarah-Louise Jones (University of Hull, UK)

Welcome to the first newsletter for our Erasmus+ Project: Building a Research Infrastructure for School Teachers (BRIST). The project began back in September 2020 with COVID-19 hitting us shortly after take-off. However, having only met once in person as a trans-national team we've managed to pull together and make great progress and you can read about some of the activities we've been engaged with, in the items below. BUT let's start with the Why question... WHY BRIST?

Every day, teachers around the world make decisions about how to help their pupils and need easy to access and up to date evidence to inform those decisions. However, access to *evidence* or as it is sometimes called, '*research informed knowledge*', is not readily available and where it is, it is well documented that busy teachers who are often time poor, find it hard to translate this into practice. Moreover, the research is not always of use to the teachers as it has been conceptualized by researchers who themselves are often not based in classroom practice.

Our aim is to develop and share understanding of 'translational research' in the context of school education, supporting teachers by first engaging with them in their many and varied school contexts and then by developing a teacher *and* evidence informed research infrastructure, so that they can create, share, access and utilize research, thereby giving back agency to the very people who will need to make use of and should be driving forward research in schools.



UNIVERSITY OF HULL



ELLINOGERMANIKI AGOGI

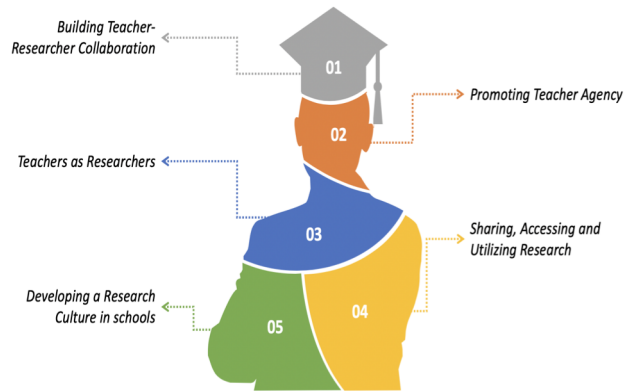


Education Futures Collaboration



# Understanding Translational Research

During the first year of this project we have collected evidence of best practice from across the globe to increase our understanding of translational research and to inform the development of both the mobile app and the in-service teacher training programme. The work has been submitted for publication and can be summarized in this diagram which shows the five key themes that have emerged from our systematic literature review.



## Teacher Training Course in Educational Research

The **BRIST** Teacher Training Course in Educational Research aims to analyze and deepen the contributions educational research can make in transforming and fostering an improvement in Education.

This involves teachers reflecting about both teaching practices and educational processes, school and classroom dynamics, as well as studying the curricular and organizational elements of schools to develop research capacity and educational improvements. The training is also aimed at expanding the existing vision of initial and in-service teacher training, especially in terms of developing research competence.

In this sense, the Teacher Training Program of the BRIST project seeks to develop research competencies and networking practices of participating teachers. The training is organized in different sections, which are arranged in two main phases (1) educational research and (2) case studies with practical examples of research carried out in the classroom by active teachers. The course content will involve: Literature review, Aims/Research Questions/Hypothesis, Research design /Research methods, Ethics, Results/Analysis, Discussion, Writing Conclusions, Research limitations and future research, Dissemination/Impact and finally Case studies. The teaching staff participating are expected to be able to design a research proposal to implement afterwards in the classroom

## Project Team News

Dr Tony Hall, NUI Galway, was invited to launch, with the Irish Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Ireland's national Student Teacher Educational Research (STER) Journal, at the Annual STER Conference this year, Thursday 15th April, 2021.

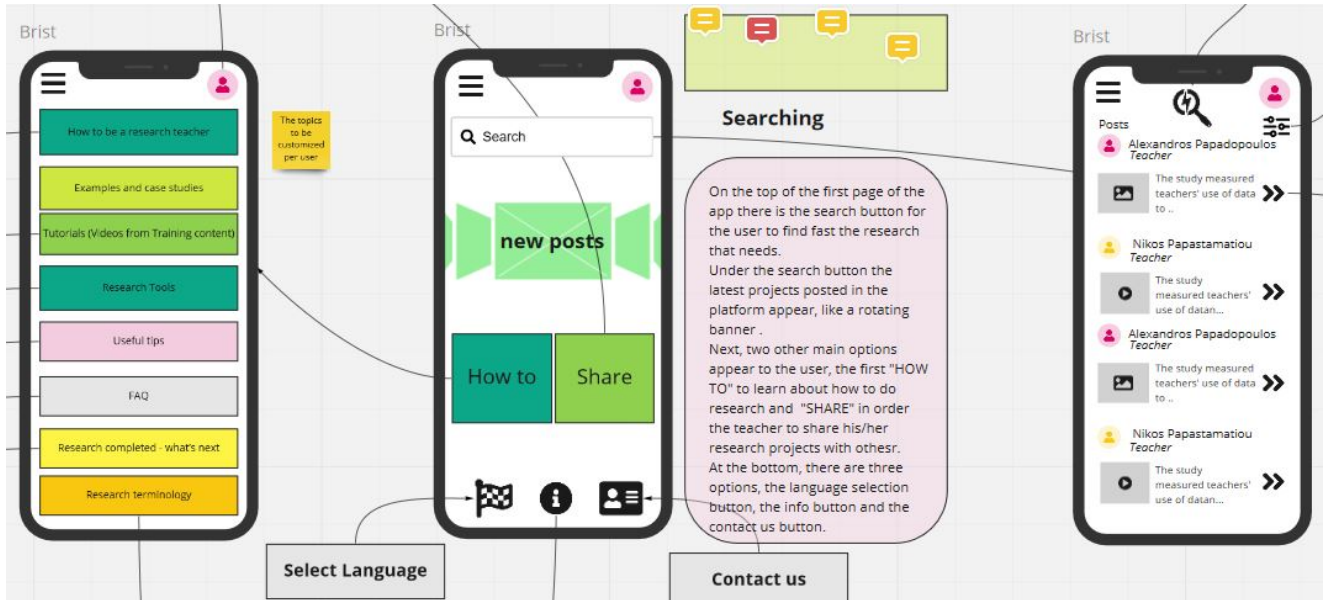
STER <http://www.ster.ie/> is the flagship annual and national conference, journal and platform for supporting and promoting educational research among pre-service and early-career teachers in Ireland. Informed by **the BRIST project**, and particularly the systematic literature review, Dr Hall's Foreword was titled, "Researching together to learn from one another in precarious times: The criticality of publishing educational research in an era of global pandemic".

As General Editor of Ireland's national educational research journal, *Irish Educational Studies*, Dr Tony Hall, NUI Galway led the editing of a special issue of the journal, *COVID-19 and Education: Positioning the pandemic; facing the future*. Aligned with the aims and vision of **BRIST**, included in this special issue are articles by teacher researchers, alongside academic-led contributions.

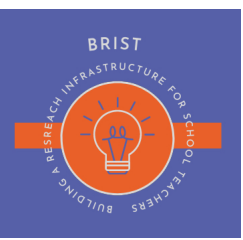
### Project Publications:

Connolly, C., Hall, T., Jones, S. & Procter R., (2020) Research Informed Teaching in a Global Pandemic: Opening up Schools to Research. In Ferdig, R.E., Baumgartner, E., Hartshorne, R., Kaplan-Rakowski, R. & Mouza, C. (Eds.) *Teaching, Technology, and Teacher Education during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Stories from the Field*, pp. 609-617, Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education, <https://www.learntechlib.org/p/216903/>

# The BRIST Mobile Application



The BRIST Mobile Application is developed to host the research work of teachers and help them to share and discuss it with other peers and educational experts. The application has been designed in a co-create approach with the participation of teachers in a number of focus groups organized in different EU countries (UK, Greece, Ireland, Poland and Spain). The app has two roles, on one hand to inform teachers on basic topics on what is research and how they can apply it in the classroom and on the other hand to help them share this research with other interested teachers. The application was designed with MIRO software that allows online real-time collaboration and a commenting functionality on the App's wireframes making the design of the app a participative and interactive task.



## An Invitation

If you are interested in learning more about this project, getting involved or signing up to our newsletter, then please register your interest here: [REGISTER INTEREST](#)



Alternatively, you can contact the project leader for more details: [sarah-louise.jones@hull.ac.uk](mailto:sarah-louise.jones@hull.ac.uk)

