

## English Programmes

---

# Skills and Well-being in Teacher Learning Opportunities (SWITLO)

### Background

The British Council **Teaching and Learning in Difficult Times (TLiDT)** project was launched in August 2022 in response to the needs of Ukrainian teachers, providing them with some practical approaches to teaching in the challenging context of the war. During this first year 1,585 teachers of English from all regions of Ukraine took part in the project. The initiative was based on the needs analysis research conducted in May 2022 which highlighted that teachers need support in coping with their learners' psychosocial needs and trauma, and dealing with their own mental health and wellbeing.

The main project activity was the **TLiDT** course. The course objective was to help Ukrainian teachers identify the inherent difficulties that they may have to face in their context and explore ways in which they can support learners. The content and approach were based on British Council Language for Resilience portfolio, and resources created over the past decade for teachers and youth in conflict areas.

### The re-visioned project

The immediate initiative [was successful and beneficial](#) for teachers from Ukraine. In August 2023 the **TLiDT** project was re-visioned, addressing both requests from the Ministry of Education for an upscale and the project participants' feedback to provide the training to more teachers across the country. The new project approach will also allow for an embedded continuing professional development (CPD) opportunity that will provide a sustainable way for teachers to access professional development.

The new name of the re-visioned Teaching and Learning in Difficult Times project is Skills and Well-being in Teacher Learning Opportunities (SWITLO). The project aims to support teachers in getting experience of a) building and sustaining their community of practice through meaningful interaction and reflection and b) building their capacity to design their own CPD programme driven by their professional needs. This will also allow more teachers of English across the country to benefit from the content and training. The SWITLO project is based on the [Teacher Activity Groups \(TAGs\) approach where teachers learn with each other and from one another](#). Thus, the concept is fully aligned to the main principal of the New Ukrainian School Reform in Ukraine

### The project participants

The SWITLO project will be implemented from November 2023 until March 2026.

We plan to strengthen the capacity of 1500 teachers of English (TAG facilitators) who will be provided with full support to organise, run and facilitate the work of TAGs in their communities or regions. The TAG facilitators are expected to build a TAG of about 10 teachers in their communities or schools. This will result in engaging an estimated 15,000 teachers across the country in professional communities of practice. It is expected that the groups will meet maximum twice a month for facilitator-led professional development sessions.

The 15,000 teachers in TAGs will be provided with relevant materials to raise awareness of a trauma-sensitive education environment, to support teachers and learners' well-being, to discuss their professional needs in the current challenging situation and beyond the wartime in Ukraine.

We will also be engaging with TAG coordinators who could be representatives of Centres of Professional Development or school leadership (school principals, vice principals or head of units). The work with TAGs coordinators in the project will be based on regular communication with the British Council project team. This group will get support via specific training sessions, webinars or professional development courses.

The role of the In-Service Teacher Training Institutes (INSETT) in the project is identified as a supporter of the TAG facilitators that will provide them with meaningful supervision. The INSETT teacher educators will receive specific guidance on how to build capacity of communities of practice created in their regions.

For more details visit [British Council SWITLO project](#) or contact project team at [ep\\_team@britishcouncil.org](mailto:ep_team@britishcouncil.org)