

Rolling Out the Enter to Transform Hub in Ireland

After months of promotion, the **Irish Enter to Transform Training Programme** kicked off on 19th October 2021. **30 participants** from more than **15 nationalities** joined the Irish team for a three-hour workshop designed to show recognised refugees that **entrepreneurship is a real possibility** for them. The training programme is being **rolled out nationally** with participants from locations all over the country. To accommodate this, the team has chosen to deliver all workshops via Zoom in a **virtual format**. It is hoped that it will **improve accessibility and remove any logistical challenges** that participants may face.

The main objective of the workshop was to **raise awareness about opportunities in Irish entrepreneurship**. This included delivering information relating to **what it means to be an entrepreneur**, what **personal characteristics** an entrepreneur needs to have, what the **entrepreneurial ecosystem looks like in Ireland** and **how to join the Enter to Transform Training Programme** to get started. The workshop was delivered in a **dual-language format**, providing information in English and Arabic, devised to accommodate the large amount of participants who come from an Arabic-speaking background and may face **barriers to entrepreneurship due to language difficulties**. It is hoped that this approach will **empower more newcomers to explore the possibility of being self-employed**.

The Enter to Transform Team also organised for a **guest speaker**, Thoiba Ahmed of *Donegal Intercultural Platform* to **discuss aspects of cultural awareness** with participants. This was included in a bid to **introduce Irish culture** to participants who may not have fully integrated socially into their new homeland. Project Manager Juanita Blue states “When we started promoting the training, we had no idea how many candidates would register to join. **We are delighted to see such a high turnout** and really hope the participants will **continue to attend upcoming workshops** where we address aspects of the **Stand-Up, Start-Up and Scale Up phases of entrepreneurship in Ireland**”.

The **workshops will continue weekly** until the end of December when participants will move to the **one-to-one mentoring** element of the training programme. The **Enter to Transform team are excited to see the forthcoming results**, and hope that **many** recognised refugees will **benefit** from the training.

