Pan-European policy experimentations with tablets
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How can tablets support new ways of teaching and learning in schools?

The Creative Classrooms Lab (CCL) project is developing innovative teaching and learning scenarios involving the use of tablets in and out of school.

It will validate these in policy experimentations involving nine Ministries of Education in Europe and 45 classes that are already making use of tablets from different suppliers.

Ministries of Education will also seek to co-design action research pilots with industry partners that will be project Associate Partners.

Creative Classrooms Lab Partners

– European Schoolnet, BE
– University of Wolverhampton, UK
– Direção-Geral da Educação (DGE), PT
– Centre of Information Technologies in Education (CITE), LT
– National Education Institute, SL
– Bundesministerium für Unterricht, Kunst und Kultur (BMUKK), AT
– Dům zahraničních služeb, CZ
– Flemish Ministry of Education, BE
– Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles, BE
– e-Learning Foundation, UK
– INDIRE, IT

Project facts

Start: April 2013
End: March 2015
Total budget: ca. 1 Million Euro
Coordinator: European Schoolnet
Partners: 10 partners from 8 countries
What is the Creative Classrooms Lab project about?

The 1:1 computing paradigm is rapidly changing, particularly given the speed with which tablets from different vendors are entering the consumer market and beginning to impact on the classroom. Over the next 2-3 years policy makers will face some difficult choices: How to invest most efficiently in national 1:1 computing programmes? What advice to give to schools that are integrating tablets?

To address these challenges, the Creative Classrooms Lab project will carry out a series of policy experimentations to collect evidence on the implementation, impact and up-scaling of 1:1 pedagogical approaches using tablets. This evidence will enable policy makers to take more informed decisions. Lessons drawn from the policy experimentations will also:

- Provide guidelines, examples of good practice and a training course for schools wishing to include tablets as part of their ICT strategy.
- Support capacity building within Ministries of Education and regional educational authorities and encourage them to introduce changes in their education systems.
- Enable policy makers to foster large-scale uptake of the innovative practice that is observed during the project.

Who is involved?

The project is coordinated by European Schoolnet, a unique network of 30 Ministries of Education in Europe and funded by the European Commission’s Lifelong Learning Programme. Nine Ministries of Education or organisations nominated to act on their behalf are project partners: Austria, Belgium (Flanders), Belgium (Wallonia), Czech Republic, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Slovenia and the United Kingdom. The observation and documentation of innovative practice in participating schools is led by the University of Wolverhampton from the UK.

In addition, a number of leading ICT vendors have expressed an interest in being involved in the project as Associate Partners.

What will the project do?

The Creative Classrooms Lab project will:

- Act as an ideas lab bringing together policy makers, innovative teachers and technology suppliers to jointly develop innovative pedagogical scenarios on how tablets can support new learning and teaching methods.
- Carry out action research pilots based on these scenarios in 45 classrooms that are already equipped with tablets from different vendors.
- Focus on how practice is changed as a result of tablets being used for collaboration, personalisation and active learning.
Explore how tablets can be successfully integrated with classroom technologies already in mainstream use.

Provide capacity building workshops to support ministries to introduce changes in their education systems in order to foster large-scale implementation of innovative practice involving 1:1 computing approaches.

How can industry partners participate?

European Schoolnet industry partners can become involved in the project by:

1. Participating in a pilot within the CCL project that is in line with the Ministries’ thematic priorities for policy experimentations.
2. Funding an action research pilot with schools which runs in parallel to the project.

How will the project work in concrete terms?

The Creative Classrooms Lab school pilots will take place in two cycles, the first one from May 2013 to June 2014 and the second one from May 2014 to March 2015.

1st Mainstreaming workshop May 2013

Development of the first set of Policy Scenarios and Learning Stories Jun - Sep 2013

First round of classroom pilots using the developed Scenarios and Learning Stories Nov 2013 - Apr 2014

Initial observation results and 2nd Mainstreaming workshop Jun 2014

Second round of school pilots with the new set of scenarios Oct 2014 - Jan 2015

Development of the 2nd set of scenarios and Learning Stories based on the initial results May - Sep 2014

Final observation results and 3rd Mainstreaming workshop Mar 2015
PEDAGOGICAL SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT

- For the scenario development, the project builds on the expertise of the iTEC project. This flagship project on the design of the future classroom, which is also coordinated by European Schoolnet, is providing a Future Classroom Scenarios Toolkit that is being used by participating Ministries of Education in the CCL project.
- From the Creative Classrooms Lab pedagogical scenarios, teachers can derive concrete learning activities for their classes that incorporate the use of tablets. The aim is that these scenarios engage teachers, learners and stakeholders both inside and outside the school.

What will be the outcome of the project?

FOR POLICY MAKERS

The Creative Classrooms Lab project will:

- Support capacity building within the Ministries of Education at both national and regional level in order to mainstream and foster large-scale implementation of the identified innovative practices.
- Enable policy makers to make more informed policy decisions related to the procurement and implementation of tablets as part of their 1:1 computing strategies.

FOR TEACHERS

Lessons drawn from the tablet pilots will be used to provide:

- A Creative Classrooms Lab Course for teachers.
- Guidelines for successful classroom integration of tablets.
- Examples of good practice.

FOR ICT VENDORS

The project action research pilots will allow ICT vendors to:

- Better understand the priorities of policy makers and the challenges faced by schools wishing to deploy tablets.
- Assess the potential impact of tablets in a fast moving market and how these fit into a 1:1 computing paradigm.

Read more at: http://creative.eun.org

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