Innovative Schools –
Teaching & Learning in the Digital Era

Committee on Culture and Education – European Parliament

Giovanni Biondi – Chair of European Schoolnet – 4 May 2015

www.europeanschoolnet.org
• Network of 30 European Ministries of Education
• Through its activities, EUN aims to transform teaching and learning processes, using the integration of ICT as a force for improvement.

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<tr>
<th>Evidence based activities</th>
<th>Support to schools and teachers</th>
<th>Validation of innovative approaches</th>
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<td>Providing concrete evidence and data in the area of innovation in education on which to base policy recommendations</td>
<td>Supporting schools and teachers in their teaching practices in particular through teacher innovative professional development</td>
<td>Developing and sustaining a network of schools engaged in innovative teaching and learning approaches</td>
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Support to schools and teachers

School networking

**eTwinning**

The community for schools in Europe.
**320000 teachers**, 40890 projects, 140000 Schools
[www.etwinning.net](http://www.etwinning.net)

**STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)

**inGenious**

Brings teachers and industry together to excite pupils about STEM [www.ingenious-science.eu](http://www.ingenious-science.eu)

**SCIENTIX**

The community for science educators in Europe
[www.scientix.eu](http://www.scientix.eu)

**SchoolEducationGateway**

Enrich your career with like-minded education professionals and experts throughout Europe.
[www.schooleducationgateway.eu](http://www.schooleducationgateway.eu)

eSafety

**ins@fe**

To empower children to use the internet safely [www.saferinternet.org](http://www.saferinternet.org)

Esafetylabel.eu for all schools/teachers
[www.esafetylabel.eu](http://www.esafetylabel.eu)
Validation of innovative approaches

Fully equipped, reconfigurable, teaching and learning space developed by European Schoolnet [http://fcl.eun.org](http://fcl.eun.org)

Largest initiative across Europe on the design of learning and teaching for the future classroom [http://itec.eun.org](http://itec.eun.org)

Network of digitally advanced schools [http://lsl.eun.org](http://lsl.eun.org/)

eSafety label for schools and teachers [www.esafetylelabel.eu](http://www.esafetylelabel.eu)
### Current education issues

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
<th>Issues</th>
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<td><strong>Education and employability</strong></td>
<td>• 1 in 4 students are early school leavers (40% do not find a job)</td>
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<td>• 1 in 5 young people are unemployed versus 500 000+ ICT jobs</td>
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<td><strong>Teacher capacity building and supply</strong></td>
<td>• Are current in-service training programmes meeting needs of (aging) teachers?</td>
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<td>• Retention rate of new entrants after 3 years</td>
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<td>• New teachers have very low level of ICT competence</td>
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<td><strong>Digital competence and the digital divide</strong></td>
<td>• Use of technology in schools (few time a months (\rightarrow) never)</td>
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<td>• Lack of ICT infrastructure (still)</td>
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<td>• Technology-enhanced teaching competence and students’ digital competence</td>
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<td><strong>Innovations fail to scale</strong></td>
<td>• How to mainstream successful innovation?</td>
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<td>• How to enable large scale adoption by practitioners?</td>
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Proposals to support of the transformation of the educational model

The Industrial Model of Schooling
Mainstreaming successful innovation 
(engaging school leaders, adaptation and localisation issue)

Professional development of teachers and initial teacher education

From innovative teachers to innovative schools 
(Pedagogical use of ICT and responsible use of ICT)

Interest of young students in STEM studies and STEM jobs

Challenges identified by EUN
Structural impact
(transferring results of innovation to initial teacher education)

Pre-service and In-service training programme
(Future Classroom Lab and EUN Academy)

Major initiative for Heads of schools – school leadership programme

Network of digitally connected schools

Balance approach between mainstreaming innovations and continuation of R&D activities
## Recommendations to European decision makers

| Duration of the initiative and of the support | • Inscribe actions in the duration and not only on a project basis of 2/3 years |
| Knowledge building | • It is important no to reinvent but to support and strengthen what has already proven its success. |
| Capacity building | • Support for skilled, digitally competent teachers and students (coding, eskills, STEM, …) |
| Global school approach | • Move from innovative teachers to innovative schools  
• Support an ambitious programme of connected schools with the full involvement of school leadership |
European Schoolnet Academy

- European Academy for the in service training of teachers
- An European MOOC for teachers in different languages versions
- Issues related to the innovation of the educational model and the use of ICT
The European Schoolnet Academy is a platform for online professional development of teachers in Europe.

PAST COURSES

Future Classroom Scenarios (x2)
- 3150 teachers

Innovative STEM Teaching (x2)
- 1750 teachers

Games in Schools
- 1600 teachers

Competences for 21st Century Schools
- 1550 teachers

How to Teach Computing for Secondary / Primary (x2)
- 2250 teachers

Creative use of Tablets in Schools
- 3350 teachers

UPCOMING COURSES

Games in Schools 2nd Round
- (600 enrolments)
- Teaching creative thinking
- Evaluating Digital Competences

Future Classroom Scenarios 3rd Round

MOOCs for teachers: #EUNAcademy
A digital library in different languages versions of digital contents.

It is an open library of materials produced by teachers.

Only those most voted are translated.

The condition is that they can be used for free.
A European network to support small rural schools

In Europe there are numerous experiences of using technology to support schools in the mountains and small islands.

These schools have few students and are often closed because they are unable to provide the teachers needed.
There is a network dedicated to small schools (called "Piccole scuole crescono/ Small schools grow"), where the use of technology is central.