WORK PROGRAMME 2013

Adopted on 13 November 2012

PREAMBLE – LIST OF ACRONYMS USED IN THE DOCUMENT

List of acronyms	
ASPECT	Adopting Standards and Specifications for Educational Content
CALIBRATE	Calibrating eLearning in Schools
CELEBRATE	Context eLearning with Broadband Technologies
CCL	Creative Classroom Lab proposal
ECB	European Coordination Body
Eminent	Experts Meeting in Education Networking
ESSIE	European Survey of Schools: ICT and Education
EUN	European Schoolnet
FCL	Future Classroom Lab
IEA	International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
iTEC	Innovative Technology for an engaging classroom
IWB	Interactive Whiteboard
KEYCONET	European policy network on key competences in school education
LRE	Learning Resource Exchange
LSL	Living School Lab project
MELT	Metadata Ecology for Learning and Teaching
MoE	Ministry of Education
MST	Maths Science and Technology
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PIC	Policy and Innovation Committe
PISA	Programme for International Student Assessment
SENNET	Special educational needs network
STEM	Science Technology Engineering and Maths
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation
WG	Working Group

EUN STRATEGY IN 2013

European Schoolnet's remit is to support mainstreaming teaching and learning practice aligned with 21st century standards and expectations for the education of all students. Because of their potential role in designing future classrooms, ICT and digital media receive particular attention.

To reach its ambitious objective, European Schoolnet has established a unique platform created by 29 ministries of education in Europe in order that they can: exchange experience gained at national level; have access to evidence from research on what works and discuss related policy development issues; jointly implement innovative pilot projects. This set of

activities enables European Schoolnet to position itself as a 'think tank' that is able to help Ministries develop policies to support the educational reform process at European level.

In order to fulfil this remit, EUN activities include three main platforms:

1. **A peer exchange platform:** A Policy and Innovation Committee (PIC) functions as the EUN 'radar' that highlights emerging issues to be put on the European Schoolnet agenda, including both technical developments and social innovations that are likely to transform the education process. In addition, thematic working groups and committees provide other arenas for representatives of education ministries to concretely and regularly exchange about their respective policies, reforms, initiatives, pilot projects, etc., and debate about lessons learned. This process leads to a cross fertilization of ideas and allows Ministries to leverage the experience gained in different countries. In some cases, these arenas are open to other stakeholders (industry, local or regional authorities, external experts, etc.) to enrich the debate and provide a wider perspective. Such a peer learning exchange platform is supported by a repository of country reports that is updated annually which frames and contextualises the debate by providing information on ICT policies across Europe.

2. **A knowledge-building platform**, acting as a brokerage service that filters and synthesises evidence on how ICT and digital media are helping to transform education. Such evidence is collected from different sources: research and study departments of ministries of education, scientific research, key international reports (OECD, UNESCO, IEA), statistics, investigations in non-European countries leading the way in the field (Australia, USA, Korea, etc.). Results and lessons learned from some specific projects developed by European Schoolnet (for example, iTEC, ECB, ACER 1 to 1 projects, ESSIE- the European Survey in schools: ICT in education, Keyconet - the European policy network on key competences in school education, etc.) also fuel this knowledge-building platform. This evidence is usually delivered via both paper and online publications, as well as in face-to-face events and conferences (yearly Eminent conference, ad hoc seminars on key issues on the agenda for ministries, etc.).

3. **A 'changing practice' platform** where ministries of education, researchers, industry and other stakeholders come together to implement projects that develop, investigate, research, design and test: innovative ways of teaching and learning, focusing on new relationships between all stakeholders in the educational value chain; assessment models aligned with new teaching and learning methods and 21st century key competences; new approaches to teacher professional development; effective school leadership that supports innovation; synergies between learning in and out of school; technical standards and specifications for better interoperability; Internet safety, responsible and ethical pupil behaviour, etc. These projects can be funded by European Commission programmes, industry, foundations and other organisations. They very much vary in nature, scope and focus: R&D projects and platforms for rethinking future classroom designs (iTEC, ECB, Future Classroom Lab); action research (ACER 1 to 1 project); school and teacher networking (eTwinning); STEM content and methods (SCIENTIX project,…). The rationale behind all EUN projects and their common aim is to produce a better understanding of the key challenges facing Ministries as well as operational results that can concretely support the transformation of education practice and systems. A major component of several of these projects is the inclusion of networks of innovative classrooms and schools as a way to facilitate the dissemination of innovation at European level and to move forward thinking related to the design of the schools of tomorrow.

The activities developed around these three platforms converge and underpin the role of European Schoolnet as a unique think tank (with both an advocacy and evidence brokering role) that is focused on how ICT and digital media can transform education.

MAIN ACTIVITIES IN 2013

In 2013, EUN will continue the activities developed in the previous years. In addition to the continuation of EC funded projects and to the activities already engaged in 2012, EUN will focus in 2013 on the promotion of the results of the ESSIE study (survey on ICT in schools) and on the development of activities under the umbrella of the Future Classroom Lab supporting validation pilots activities run within different EC funded projects. More particularly, the two major projects, iTEC and the European Coordination Body in the Maths Science and Technology area will impact on future EUN development and feed into the EUN Future Classroom Lab initiative that was launched at the end of 2011.

The emphasis will remain on providing European added value and trans-national peer learning as well as experimentation, good practice and comparative work. EUN will particularly:

- Examine the lessons from the past related to the use of ICT in school education
- Reach a common understanding of new opportunities and challenges for schooling
- Build a vision, priorities and roadmap for schooling in Europe
- Lay the foundations for medium and long-term strategies and activities of EUN.

More particularly:

1. Building on the experience of Ministries of Education in iTEC, and on the first emerging results from the project, EUN will position itself progressively as the key organisation in Europe concerned with the development and demonstration of scenarios for the classroom of the future.

2. EUN knowledge building and policies activities have confirmed the importance to be given to strategic areas such as:

   o School leadership, as a key element for a comprehensive and successful implementation of ICT in teaching and learning processes
   o The evolving role of the teacher plus continuing professional development mostly in the pedagogical use of ICT supported by a new vision about teaching and learning in school education
   o The implementation of teaching and learning processes supporting the development of key skills for the students of the 21st century, through the integration of such skills into the school curriculum accompanied by the requisite adaptation of the teacher training provision, students assessment models and learning resources

3. Recognising the growing needs of schools for assistance to manage their use of technology, European Schoolnet will continue the first pilot project initiated in 2011 and 2012 aiming to bring schools into a "virtuous circle" built on a multi-stakeholder partnership which would enable them to take up the vast and complex challenge of

eSafety and become proactive in addressing it. This pilot project will continue to provide a rigorous, evidence-based framework that will support schools in shaping a holistic approach that links successful existing initiatives and develops a culture of responsible use amongst pupils, teachers and other school staff.

Finally, in 2013 European Schoolnet will continue to provide the services to the Commission and the Executive Agency within the eTwinning initiative at the level of the Central Support Service.

SUB COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

In 2013, European Schoolnet will continue to rely on the work developed by its two sub committees: the Policy and Innovation Subcommittee (PIC) and the Learning Resource Exchange Subcommittee (LRE).

Also three Working Groups will continue their activities – Interactive Whiteboard WG, Digital Skills WG, and Special Needs Education WG.

The various Working Groups will enable Ministries to share experiences and problems and to learn from each other. The EUN research agenda will be defined by these Working Groups and projects will also be launched more to address clearly defined, strategic priorities for the Ministries

AREAS OF WORK

In support of these Working Groups, EUN work will be organised in three areas of activity.

- **School services:** as a leading organisation in providing services to schools in Europe, EUN will be active in supporting school partnerships and networks, the European dimension in education, and animating Maths, Science and Technology (MST) education.
- **Policy, research and innovation** activities concern researching and documenting a range of actions related to innovative approaches to schooling, in particular, the impact of ICT and the exchange of policy and practice. The Insight portal acts as the main hub for actions in this field. It is also proposed that the insight portal becomes the European Schoolnet Observatory portal as it corresponds better to all activities developed.
- **Interoperability and content exchange** facilitates the sharing of educational resources across international borders and thus can support both learning providers and learners by offering access to a critical mass of European educational content.

In addition, three thematic areas, Maths, Science and Technology (MST), e-safety and eskills/digital competences will continue to receive particular attention in 2013.

Maths, Science and Technology education is high on the political and industry agenda owing to declining interest and participation, especially among girls, in scientific and technical studies and careers. The potential of ICT in this domain is obvious. In 2013, EUN will continue the ECB project but will also continue the development of public private

partnerships in that area as well as some innovative projects in areas such as nanotechnologies, or virtual labs' experiments. In addition, 2013 will also consider the launch of the new Scientix 2 platform funded by DG Research, where specific activities at national level will be developed with National Contact Points (NCPs).

eSafety is an important knowledge domain for teachers, pupils and parents as online technologies play a growing role in their lives. In 2013, Insafe 2.0 will continue to raise internet safety awareness through the coordination of a network of 30 centres across Europe. Through the exchange of good practice, targeted training actions and high profile campaigns such as Safer Internet Day, Insafe enhances interaction between specialists, teachers and young people, optimises European added value and promotes a European approach to eSafety. The Insafe team will continue to reinforce its impact through strategic partnerships with industry and public institutions, by building on projects such as the teacher website TeachToday and the "eSafety toolkit", an information and activity package for 6-12 year olds.

The e-Skills/digital competences issue is on the agenda of several European Commission DGs (DG Education and Culture, DG CONNECT, DG Enterprise, …). EUN as the network of MoEs will contribute by helping to set the strategic agenda for the future in terms of education and training.

In 2013 the following contracted or proposed projects and initiatives will contribute to the work programme:

- School services: eTwinning, Futurenergia, Xperimania,
- Policy, research and innovation: iTEC, ACER tablet, ESSIE survey, Keyconet as well as the Special Needs Education network funded under the LLP.
- Interoperability and content exchange: eQNet
- MST: ECB, Nanotechnology projects, Xplora Health, Scientix 2; Desire
- E-Safety: INSAFE, TeachToday, eSafety label
- Future Classroom Lab activities supported by the private sector but also through the CPD*Lab* LLP project, LSL project and potentially the Creative Classroom Lab (CCL) proposal submitted in October 2012.

Projects are part-funded from DG CONNECT, DG EAC, DG Enterprise and Industry, DG Research, and private sector companies. Further information about the projects can be found on EUN's portal (www.eun.org).

In all these activities presented above, EUN will continue to:

- Provide concrete evidence and data for effective use of ICT in schools on which to base policy recommendations.
- Pay particular attention to support schools and teachers in their teaching practices
- Develop and sustain a network of schools engaged in the validation of innovative approaches on how to use ICT in classes.

The cooperation with the industrial sector will continue to represent a key area of development in 2013. Major IT companies will continue to support European Schoolnet through a variety of activities or their engagement in projects. Industry will play a key role in the Future Classroom Lab and the IWB Working Group, as well as in research projects.

CONCLUSION

With all these new activities, EUN is progressively becoming more a multi-stakeholder network that provides MoEs, schools, head teachers, teachers, researchers and Industry with an ideas' lab and collaboration space where they can:

- explore and implement designs for the future classroom
- share experience and stimulate good practice related to MST
- enable schools, teachers and pupils to work together at European level
- rethink educational policy related to ICT in schools
- benefit from content exchange and work on interoperability
- examine and demonstrate how ICT can underpin teaching and learning in all school subjects
- take concerted actions at European level related to various areas (such as eSafety).

MEMBERS

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