

## Microsoft on innovating teaching practices and developing creative classrooms in Europe

In conjunction with other education experts from around the world, Microsoft is developing new approaches and materials that any school or school system can use and the critical leadership development necessary to help students achieve their full potential. The company encourages members of the global community to organize local school communities, visits to other Partners in Learning Schools, hold local workshops, and share best practices. The company considers these as key elements that can help develop innovative teaching and learning best practices in Europe.

Innovating in Education and Training is also a key priority in several flagships of the Europe 2020 Strategy: for example the Agenda for New Skills and Jobs, Youth on the Move, the Digital Agenda and the Innovation Agenda. Throughout Europe there are diverse national policies for ICT in education and many activities are undertaken to promote the use of ICT in education and training in Europe.

However, international surveys such as PISA (OECD, 2011), EURYDICE (2011) and Innovative Teaching and Learning Research (2011) still point out to an implementation gap in formal education settings and the need to take immediate action.

Microsoft aims to conceptualize innovative learning environments that fully embed the potential of ICT to innovate learning and teaching practices in the form of “Creative Classrooms”. The term ‘creative’ refers to the innovation of learning and teaching processes through technologies (e.g. collaboration, personalization, entrepreneurship, etc.). Likewise, the term ‘classrooms’ is used in its widest sense to include all types of learning environments: formal, non-formal and informal.

In one of the latest post on “Education and Skills”, the company explains the conceptualization of Creative Classrooms requiring not only that the key characteristics of innovative pedagogical practices be detailed at organizational, curricular, and assessment levels, but also an articulation of the systemic capability (at micro, meso and macro level) which involves the whole schools community practices. This conceptualization is based on previous and ongoing IPTS research works and also on approaches emerging from the wider international context.

At the Partners in Learning Forum 2012, the company hopes to demonstrate that Innovation goes hand in hand with all eight dimensions, all of which are equally necessary for Creative classrooms, and significant effort should be made to address them all.

To read more on the initiative, click [here](#).

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