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PRESS RELEASE

European Schoolnet and partners launch the largest European test of technology in schools

Innovative Technologies for an Engaging Classroom (iTEC) is the largest pan-European test of learning and teaching scenarios using ICT in more than 1,000 classrooms in 12 countries. With funding of 9.5 million € from the European Commission's FP7 programme, iTEC will investigate how established and emerging technologies can be used effectively in classrooms in the next 5-10 years.

The four year project involves 27 partners – including 14 Ministries of Education – working in close collaboration on a range of pedagogical and technical challenges and solutions. The project looks beyond the way schools are currently using learning platforms (learning management systems, virtual learning environments, etc.) and builds upon the popularity of community-driven learning based on personalised learning spaces created by individuals through interaction with multiple online services. Technical strands within iTEC examine the integration of web services that allow teachers and learners to collaborate and reliably discover and fully exploit online tools and data. The project moves forward the integration of these services with the emerging range of interactive, multi-touch technologies being deployed at large scale in classrooms across Europe.

At the project kick-off meeting, Marc Durando, European Schoolnet's Executive Director said:

"iTEC is undoubtedly the largest and possibly the most strategic project that European Schoolnet has yet undertaken with its supporting Ministries of Education and a number of key technology suppliers, including Promethean and SMART who have been working with us for some time in our Interactive Whiteboard Working Group. In the coming months we will also be making a series of announcements concerning how other major technology vendors and Ministries of Education will be joining iTEC as Associate Partners."

iTEC brings together policy makers, practitioners and suppliers in this uniquely large-scale practical study into the innovative deployment of learning technologies. 14 Ministries of Education are participating with a determination to ensure that the outputs of iTEC provide clear guidance to support policy-making in the future. Key technology suppliers are



contributing to the project, providing expertise and resources to support educationalists develop reliable and replicable learning and teaching strategies. The suppliers will benefit from the opportunity to demonstrate and test their technologies. Suppliers will also be able to take advantage of the expertise of the international team of experts, and the wide scale school pilots to help ensure that their future product development plans are in tune with users' evolving needs.

For more information about iTEC

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About European Schoolnet

European Schoolnet (www.europeanschoolnet.org) is a network of 31 Ministries of Education in Europe and beyond. European Schoolnet was created more than 10 years ago to bring about innovation in teaching and learning for its key stakeholders: Ministries of Education, schools, teachers, and researchers. European Schoolnet is now emerging as Europe's central authority on the use of learning technology, strengthened by its collaborative approach drawing expertise from across the continent.



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