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EXTREMADURAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION JOINS EUROPEAN SCHOOLNET'S iTEC PROJECT TO DESIGN THE CLASSROOM OF THE FUTURE

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The Ministry of Education and Culture of the Extremadura region, Spain, recently joined iTEC, a four-year EC-funded project on designing the classroom of the future. This regional government of south-west Spain is a welcome addition to the 26 Partners and 6 Associate Partners, which include national and regional Ministries of Education, universities, ICT providers, and pedagogical specialists from across 20 European countries.

The increasing involvement of various Ministries of Education in the project's scenario development, school piloting and dissemination activities ensures that iTEC results can be adopted by policy makers in different countries and in schools that have reached different levels of ICT implementation and use.

"Expanding the network of partners involved in the iTEC pilots will not only enable the project to better examine how innovative technologies can be deployed in classrooms but also to mainstream innovative teaching and learning practices and take them to scale" explains Marc Durando, European Schoolnet's Executive Director.

The main goal of iTEC is piloting learning and teaching activities using integrated technology solutions in over 1,000 European classrooms, making it by some margin the largest pan-European validation of ICT in schools yet undertaken.

The government of Extremadura has an established track record in introducing technology and innovation to the region's schools. By joining iTEC as an Associate Partner, the region's teachers will benefit further through the principle of innovation being introduced to their classroom practice. Thirty-eight Extremaduran schools will take part in the iTEC activities. Prior to the project announcement, the Ministry of Education of Extremadura had already collaborated on the initiative, by adapting iTEC learning scenarios for local use, including mapping the local environment's biodiversity, and introducing flexible learning across a range of digital platforms.

About iTEC

iTEC (Innovative Technologies for Engaging Classrooms) is a major EU-funded project in which European Schoolnet is working with education ministries, technology providers and research organisations to bring about transformation in learning and teaching through the strategic application of learning technology. With 26 project partners, including 14 Ministries of Education, and funding of €9.45 million from the European Commission's FP7 programme, iTEC is the largest and most strategic project yet undertaken by European Schoolnet, and has the potential to be a flagship project for the design of the future classroom. The project runs from 2010 to 2014. <http://itec.eun.org>

About European Schoolnet

European Schoolnet is a network of 30 European Ministries of Education, based in Brussels, Belgium. A not for profit organization, we aim to bring innovation in teaching and learning to our key stakeholders: Ministries of Education, schools, teachers, researchers and industry partners. Created in 1987, European Schoolnet has developed a unique expertise in: (1) Policy and research (2) School pilot services, (3) Industry-schools collaboration in education, (4) Learning content exchange and (5) Training for educators.

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