



Under embargo until Thursday 10 October 2013 – 9.00 am

**PRESS RELEASE: “EVERY CLASSROOM A FUTURE CLASSROOM” –
MAINSTREAMING INNOVATIVE PEDAGOGY IN EUROPEAN CLASSROOMS**

Brussels, 10 October 2013 – **160 senior policy makers** from 30 Ministries of Education, **decision shapers in regional authorities, ICT suppliers** and **teacher educators** from across Europe are meeting today and tomorrow in Brussels to reach an agreement on how to up-scale innovative and effective pedagogical practice to meet Europe’s current and future learning challenges.

Decades of research and investment in Europe have demonstrated some key drivers and mechanisms for improving standards in schools. Each country has its own examples of excellent, leading edge schools producing impressive results. However, a clear challenge remains - the mainstreaming gap.

Since September 2010, a partnership of leading education suppliers, researchers and European education ministries has been working on overcoming this challenge, through the European Commission supported iTEC project that is coordinated by European Schoolnet. Initial project impact has been provided through development and piloting of innovative learning and teaching scenarios in more than **2,000 classrooms across 17 countries**. Through this work the partnership has developed effective mechanisms for ensuring that the advancement of schools, and of teaching practice keep pace with changes in society and technology.

“The iTEC consortium of ministries of education, leading researchers and ICT suppliers into schools, have developed a set of tools and processes which have proven to effectively bring innovation to the classroom. The adoption of these toolkits will be supported by a wide scale programme of online and offline training, intended to impact at scale in schools across Europe to ensure that the advancement of teaching practice keeps pace with changes in society and technology,” affirms Marc Durando, Executive Director of European Schoolnet.

On the agenda

Speakers at the conference have been selected for their valuable experience and knowledge, specifically relating to the challenge of **introducing sustainable change and innovation in learning and teaching in Europe**, with a focus on the role of technology.

Among the key note speakers are **Showkat Badat** (Principal, ESSA Academy, UK), **Kristen Weatherby** (Lead for OECD's Teaching and Learning International Survey), **Niel McLean** (Head of Centre, Futurelab Research at National Foundation for Educational Research, UK), **Lord Knight** (former UK Education Minister), **Dr Eduardo Marçal Grilo** (former Portuguese

Education Minister), **Patricia Manson** (Head of Unit: Inclusion, Skills and Youth, DG Connect, European Commission), and **Xavier Prats Monné** (Deputy Director General, Education and Culture, European Commission).

An **exhibition area** will showcase European Schoolnet's main activities and projects on innovative pedagogies. **Industry partners and providers** will also have dedicated stands to showcase technological solutions and teachers will demonstrate how they have been implemented in their schools.

Follow the progress of the conference on Twitter **#ITEC_eu**.

Results of the conference will be published on the ITEC project website. Should you want to learn more about the event and the project or wish to visit a school in your country which is experimenting with ITEC tools and methodology, please contact us.

Useful links:

Conference agenda and speakers: [Every Classroom a Future Classroom](#)

iTEC website: <http://itec.eun.org>

Full report "[Evidence of the impact of iTEC on learning and teaching](#)" (PDF)

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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 the network of 30 European Ministries of Education, based in Brussels. As a not-for-profit organisation, we aim to bring innovation in teaching and learning to our key stakeholders: Ministries of Education, schools, teachers, researchers, and industry partners. www.europeanschoolnet.org Follow us on Twitter [@eu_schoolnet](#) and on Facebook [european.schoolnet](#).

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