An LSL Validation Service

Jim Ayre, EUN
An FCL Ambassador Programme and Validation Service

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Future Classroom Lab
5. Develop a sustainable network of schools offering a validation service for future projects and research.
By the end of the project the Commission hopes to have a network of schools interested in:

- Testing and providing feedback on the results from EC-funded projects.
- Running school / classroom pilots with ICT vendors, content providers and other stakeholders.

What will motivate LSL schools and teachers to want to do this?
Future Classroom Lab

A space for policy makers, companies and teachers to rethink future learning strategies

A flexible learning space with state-of-the-art technology to experiment with different styles of learning
THE FCL IN SCHOOLS ACROSS EUROPE

Ancona, Italy

Ghent, Belgium

Crema, Italy

Setubal, Portugal
Synergies with LSL

iTEC http://itec.eun.org
- Development and testing of future classroom scenarios
- 17 MoE, testing in 2,000 classrooms

Creative Classrooms Lab http://creative.eun.org
- Policy experimentation on pedagogical use of tablets
- 9 MoE, 45 classrooms

CPD Lab http://cpdlab.eun.org
- Courses on Future Classroom Scenarios IWBs, eSafety
ITEC Toolkits

1. Eduvista: The Future Classroom Scenario Toolkit
   (Change management and self review)

2. Edukata: The Innovative Learning Activity Design Toolkit
   (Innovation in learning, advanced competencies and 21st century skills)

3. Eduteka: Technologies for Advanced Learning Activity Design
   (connecting, sharing, collaborating)

• iTEC is a methodology and process for rethinking teaching and learning and implementing change at the local level.

• ITEC Toolkit for change management.
Free online professional development courses for teachers.

- **Innovative Practices for Engaging STEM Teaching**: #STEMcourse
- **Future Classroom Scenarios**: #FCScourse
- [www.EuropeanSchoolnetAcademy.org](http://www.EuropeanSchoolnetAcademy.org) #EUNAcademy
Creative Classrooms Lab project
April 2013 – March 2015

- 9 MoE - AT, BE/FL, BE/FR, CZ, IT, LT, PT, SI, UK

- ‘Policy experimentations’ on use of tablets in primary and secondary schools (45 classrooms)

- Tablet scenarios that can be mainstreamed now - plus some more leading edge ‘proof of concept’ scenarios

- Some ICT companies providing hardware and software – Samsung, NEC, SMART Technologies….
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Future Classroom Ambassador Teachers?

Teacher Communities

Toolkits for school leaders and teachers

Training and CPD

Living Schools Lab

Creative Classrooms Lab

iTEC

CPDLab
What do we currently know?

- **Survey of Advanced School requirements**
  - Questionnaire, online discussion group

- **Interviews with relevant EC-funded projects**
  - >25 identified, 14 completed questionnaire
  - 11 showed interest, discussions ongoing with with 9

- **Discussions with over 30 ICT vendors**
  - Future Classroom Lab partners
  - SMEs – Grabmark, DisplayNote, Planet PC
Teacher Motivation for joining LSL

- To be recognised as an innovative teacher/school making use of ICT in...: 7 (extremely important), 8 (very important)
- Opportunities to meet and have peer exchanges with other teachers in...: 10 (extremely important), 12 (very important)
- Professional development opportunities offered by the project: 10 (extremely important), 9 (very important)
- Opportunities to participate in action research pilots: 9 (extremely important), 6 (very important)
- The possibility of receiving hardware/software/content from organisation: 10 (extremely important), 7 (very important)
- The small amount of financial support being provided to schools in th...: 2 (extremely important), 5 (very important)
Teacher Validation Rewards / Incentives

- **Donate their technology and provide a free license to use their software/content after the end of the pilot.**
  - Extremely important: 10
  - Very important: 7

- **Recognise the schools by promoting their work (e.g. via case studies, or videos).**
  - Extremely important: 7
  - Very important: 5

- **Involve the school in an ambassador programme.**
  - Extremely important: 8
  - Very important: 3

- **Reward schools financially for the work involved.**
  - Extremely important: 6
  - Very important: 4
Validation Process for Schools

- Training is important
  - Synchronous/asynchronous, some face-to-face
  - Role of CoP, help line.....

- Simple data recording
  - Time-efficient & flexibility
  - Online meetings, short & simple surveys, videos of practice
  - Dependent on validation technology

- Timeframe
  - At least six months

- Timing
  - October to May, excluding December & January
Potential collaboration with 9 projects
- educational games, artificial/intelligent tutors, learning agents.....

Possibility that they can provide:
- professional development workshops
- or community of practice

Unlikely to provide hardware/software
Many developing research prototypes
Hard to work with running projects (fixed budget)
ICT companies

- Are interested in a validation service
- Need *faster* research than in EC projects
- Possibility to provide *some* hardware, software, content, services
  - (e.g. Creative Classrooms Lab project on tablets)
- Even SMEs can provide a free licence for software
Lessons Learned

- Material benefits for **schools** is preferred over personal benefits for teachers

- Hardware donations are a key incentive and training could be an important incentive

- Even SMEs can provide some training and possibly software
  - But software may not be an incentive if it requires teachers to invest a lot of time (e.g. a new learning platform)

- Many ICT vendors have unrealistic expectations about what is needed to conduct an impact study
Validation Spectrum

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FCL ambassador teachers

“Heavy” Classroom Application €€€€€

Example:
- Feedback on the use of technology x for assessment purposes in the classroom
- Possibility of classroom observation

“Light” teacher testing €€

Example:
- Feedback on a web portal or content
- Mainly online feedback?

......INCENTIVES and REWARDS......
FCL Ambassador teachers - profile

1. Innovative teachers with experience of being in an EUN project or school pilot - LSL, iTEC, CCL....

2. Have shown a high level of commitment

3. Able to present at both national / international level and run webinars

4. Carry out a regular audit on the school’s access to ICT if you want to be involved in validation pilots

5. Have carried out a national self-assessment process?
   - maybe used the Future Classrooms Scenarios toolkit?
   - or completed the Future Classrooms Scenarios course?
Ambassador teacher benefits

- FCL ambassador certificate
- Participation in future projects
- Regular CPD opportunities
- Part of an online community
- Invitations to take part in validation pilots
FCL ambassador teachers

How do we make the concept of Future Classroom Lab ambassadors and a validation service really work?

- CPD on how to innovate with ICT and manage change
- Peer exchanges with other teachers in Europe – an active community
- Industry support - some free hardware, software, content for schools?
- MoE support for a lead FCL ambassador in each country?
Questions

1. What do you see as the main challenges in being an FCL ambassador and part of a validation network?

2. What sorts of incentives or rewards are important for you or your school in order to make this participation worthwhile?

3. What do European Schoolnet and Ministries of Education need to do in order to make this work?
Thank You!