We Are All Digital Natives – Policy Recommendations – http://www.digital-natives.org

Name	We are all Digital Natives - Sharing digital methods for digital citizens www.digital-natives.org
Programme	Erasmus Plus Adult Education – Key Action 2 Strategic Partnership 2014-1-DE02-KA200-000615
Title	Teach digital! Nine Recommendations to make education digital. Findings of a cross-sectoral good practice assessment of digital methods in Europe.
Partner	Comparative Research Network e.V., Berlin, Germany. COSV, Milan, Italy. CFR Vigo, Vigo, Spain. Crossing Borders, Humlebaek, Denmark. People's Voice Media, Manchester, United Kingdom.
Contact	Martin Barthel, Comparative Research Network e.V., Kreuzbergstr. 43, 10965 Berlin. Tel. +491717791386 Email: mabarthel@comparative-research.net
Background	The Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership "We are all digital natives" stands for a new way of thinking about education and lifelong learning. In Europe, learners need to know how to act and live with digital reality. Younger users need to achieve digital responsibility. Older learners and workers need to be introduced to and made proficient in the navigation of the digital world in order to qualify them for jobs needed today.

Becoming digital natives and using digital methods, has a long history. The project partners are aware of this and made a careful research on existing projects and concepts. A number of approaches and projects had been made especially on the concept, on how to share digital skills.

The European Commission understands the support of digital skills not just as an integrative strategic aim of their Strategy 2020, but made it a determent priority in the Erasmus Plus programme, reflected in the European Charta for adult education. The European Commission initiated a coalition for digital working places and claimed that teachers need higher digital competences: http://www.euractiv.de/forschung-und-innovation/artikel/digitale-kompetenz-von-lehrern-starken-007454 The main challenge to become and stay a "digital native" is faced by teachers and trainers in all education sectors, in formal and non-formal education. For them it will be increasingly important to keep pace with the latest digital methods and technologies in order to keep their curricula up-to-date. |

This project therefore defined and compared, published and promoted good practice examples of digital methods used in all education sectors in Europe. The aim of the project is to evaluate and define good practice of use of digital methods in different education sectors in Europe. In this way it can be ensured that everyone becomes a digital native. The partnership consisted out of five transnational meetings. At each every partner prepared and presented two good practices. External stakeholders joined the meetings, giving feedback on the evaluation grid and providing external perspectives. The lessons learned resulted in closing conclusions leading to a number of recommendations which are shared in a policy brief with decision makers.

With the evaluation grid on hand more than 40 good or smart practices had been identified. The results came from primary and secondary education, higher education, adult and vocational training. The project analyzed formal and non-formal approaches. The identified practices had not just been evaluated but as well categorized, resulting in the scheme of the `digital sun` - summarizing six topics which currently dominate the digital teaching and learning:

1. Entering the digital world

2. Connecting offline and online world (blended learning)

3. Finding digital solutions

4. Navigating the digital world

5. Digital Creativity

6. Digital participation and empowerment

Recommendations

Based on the above made findings, the Strategic Partnership "We are All Digital Natives" has the following recommendations in order to perform good digital teaching and training:

1. **It's about you, not the technology** – We understand technology as a tool for a new freedom of expression and creativity. Use technology to meet your needs as an educator and solve your education issues

2. T**each how to learn and manage change** - In the digital world the pace of change is high – technology and tools outdate within a

short time period. The ability to learn new things and cope with change in an ever changing digital landscape is key in digital education

3. **Open the classroom to the world** - Digital tools are a platform for sharing and creating contents. The learning products gain relevance when they are shared with the local community, families but as well the general public. Use this relevance in order to produce sustainable outcomes, boosting the self-confidence of your learners.

4. **Break down barriers of knowledge and perception** – Digital tools enable international collaborative networks, making knowledge transparent and visible. This collaborative approach helps to overcome geographical barriers, offers new perceptions and help to deconstruct stereotypes.

5. **Make your class sustainable** - Using sustainable communication and eliminating printing helps to save natural resources while making knowledge constantly available - anytime, anywhere.

6. **There are no experts in the digital world** - Digital education is a dialectical process in which the power relations between students and teachers are flexible. The teacher is a learner and the learner is a teacher at the same time. Teachers should embrace the knowledge from their learners, society should embrace the new pathway in lifelong learning provided by the digital reality.

7. **Connect the offline and online world** – Educators have to find ways to transfer offline problems into digital solutions and provide offline solutions for digital problems. The future will bring more and more blending between those two worlds, educators have to prepare and adopt with blended learning processes.

8. **Digital tools are a compass** - digital tools help to navigate the digital world. Educators need to keep in mind access to this digital world through 'technology in-the-pocket-devices', which will increase access, transferability and replication which are important for digital learning.

9. **Let the voices of your students be heard** - Digital storytelling is an empowering way to form a more complex picture of reality. You will empower your learners to tell their own stories in their own terms.
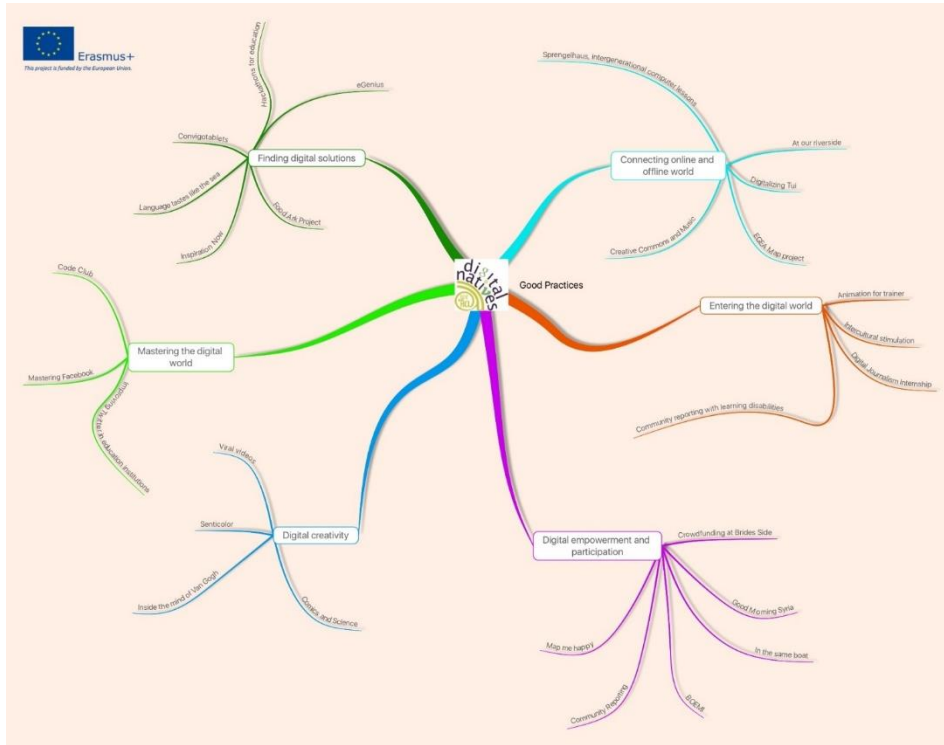
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