eLearning and the Digital Agenda for Europe

Modernising education in Europe

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Europe is still suffering from the financial crisis

- Almost all Member States had negative employment growth in 2009
- Employment declined most in construction and manufacturing. Young adults were hit hardest.
- Higher long-term unemployment will probably be the most enduring consequence of the economic crisis for the labour market

Source: Eurostat
Europe needs sustainable growth

Europe’s economy needs to build upon **knowledge** and **innovation** to grow.

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Europe 2020: ambitious aims

>10% early school leavers

>40% should have tertiary degree

Investment in R&D > 3%

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The DAE calls upon member states to *mainstream eLearning* (…) for the modernisation of education (…).

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We need to teach how to „learn to learn“

“What percentage of the knowledge you need to do your job is stored in your own mind?”

- 1986 ~ 75%
- 1997 ~ 20%
- 2006 ~ 10%

Source: Robert Kelley (www.kelleyideas.com)
"Learning is like taking medicine. It must taste bitter or it will have no effect."

Feuerzangenbowle (1944), Professor Crey
Some challenges

- Only 5% of Europeans used the Internet for doing an online course in 2009.
- The educational systems vary a lot across the EU member states, sometimes formal degrees and diplomas don't mean anything or are not recognized in another member state.
- Curricula are inflexible and are very language- and culture-specific.
The EC helps to make a change

- **DG Information Society and Media (INFSO)**
  - *Digital Literacy*: Use of ICT for Digital Literacy (Dir C, DG Infso)

- **DG Education and Culture (EAC)**
  - Lifelong Learning Programme

- **DG Enterprise (ENTR)**
  - Cooperation with CEN/CENELEC on interoperability standards for learning technologies.
  - Policy driver for eSkills/Digital Skills
eContentplus (2005-2008)
Too few users of eLearning resources

IN PRIMARY EDUCATION, COMPUTER SOFTWARE AND INTERNET MATERIALS ARE STILL NOT ACTIVELY USED TO TEACH READING
Eurostat – report "Key data on Education in Europe 2009"

- Use **across borders and cultures** is very difficult.

- eLearning resources are **difficult to deal with**.

- **Little encouragement** for teachers

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Vision: A socially powered learning platform for Europe

- CIP ICT PSP Call 2011 (Deadline 1 June 2011)

- We are looking for large-scale European projects that
  - create a socially-powered educational portal
  - allows teachers, pupils and parents to discover, discuss and improve eLearning resources
  - test the use of eLearning resources in real life and identify best practices.
  - motivates teachers, pupils and parents to take part actively.
We need to adapt to the new challenges

- To change and modernise education for the benefit of us all
- Devise new business models
- Make curricula more flexible
- User-generated content and professionally produced content must co-exist.

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Thank you very much for your attention!

Questions?

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