



Policies on Mobile Learning in Europe – a scan



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Introduction – disclaimer

- ▶ "Europe" = European Union, 27 member states
- ▶ Desk research
- ▶ Questionnaire – 2 responses out of 30 (France, The Netherlands)
- ▶ Limited background data, very limited information on governments views



General picture

- ▶ Practice of using mobile phones not widespread
- ▶ Limited if any interest on governmental level
- ▶ Two (three) exceptions
 - ▶ UK – the most advanced country with substantial investments, now policy shift + economic downturn = less vibrant development
 - ▶ Denmark – most promising country: new strategy, guidelines for teachers, dev. of learning resources
 - ▶ Netherlands – national support but no national policy



Two important trends

- ▶ Growing interest in using "tablet computers" (iPads etc.) in schools
 - ▶ Still small scale, driven by enthusiasts
- ▶ Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) – invite students to bring and use own devices in school
 - ▶ School provides the WiFi
 - ▶ Parallel discussion on digital divide
- ▶ Bottom-up innovation, similar to mid 1990ies when Internet came to schools



Research and development

- ▶ Active research community – lots of R&D projects
- ▶ Most of them with EU funding – EC instrumental in establishing successful projects
- ▶ A shift in focus from technology driven process...
 - ▶ development of hardware and software
- ▶ ...to a learner-centred approach
 - ▶ Mobile + fixed techn. support anytime/anywhere learning



Barriers and Drivers

▶ Most important barriers:

- ▶ Low awareness among policy makers and the public
- ▶ Social attitudes – mobile phones seen as disturbing elements
- ▶ E-safety – risk of cyber-bullying, risk of radiation

▶ Most important drivers:

- ▶ Technological development – cheaper, faster, more user-friendly
- ▶ Growing skills and maturity among students, teachers and parents



Insights

- ▶ Mobile technology one part of ICT in learning
- ▶ Should be integrated in general strategies for ICT in education
- ▶ Together with guidelines, teacher support and content it will soon make progress in Europe



Thank you for your attention