

# Policy Review on Mobile Learning in Europe

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# Introduction

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- ▶ "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

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- ▶ 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

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- ▶ 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



# Research and development

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- ▶ 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

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- ▶ **Most important barriers:**

- ▶ Low awareness among politicians and the public
- ▶ Social attitudes – mobile phones disturbing element
- ▶ E-safety – risk of cyber-bullying

- ▶ **Most important drivers:**

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



# Important insight

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- ▶ Mobile technology one part of ICT in learning
- ▶ Should be included 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