

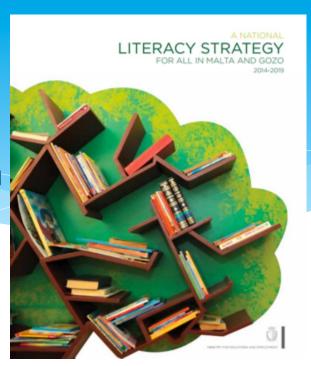
Tablets initiative

- * 'One Tablet Per Child' is the name of the initiative of the current Government. The tablet will be given to ALL students (State, Church, Independent Schools) from Year 4.
- * MEDE regards the 'One Tablet Per Child' initiative as an Educational rather than a Technological project. It is a top priority project.
- * MITA and MUT are partners.



Maltese Context

- * Introduction of tablets in line with the National Literacy Strategy:
 - * Literacy Skills
 - * Numeracy Skills
 - * Digital Literacy Skills
- * National Curriculum Framework (NCF):
 - * 1:1 (One-to-One) learning
 - * Creation rather than passive consumption of knowledge
 - * Digital Literacy regarded as core competence



Scope of Pilot Projects

- * Assessment of the different aspects in view of implementing the 'One Tablet Per Child' initiative.
- * Study impact of tablets on major stakeholders, i.e. students (parents) and teachers.
- * Study teaching and learning potential beyond the classroom and increased access to learning.
- * Evaluate the latest hardware and software and research is shared between MEDE and suppliers.



Timeframes

- --Pilot Project: March 2014-March 2015:
 - a) Teacher only: March-September 2014
 - b) Teacher + class: October 2014-March 2015
- --Procurement: 2015 (after conclusion and evaluation of Pilot Projects)
- --National implementation Scholastic Year 2016/2017



Current status

- * Teacher training by the industry supplier on the hardware/ software is almost ready
- * Teachers have undergone in-service training in July 2014 that focused on 1:1 teaching and learning with tablets in the 21st century classroom
- * LSAs are having their INSET on the 15-16-17 Sept.
- * Tablets to be given to students in the last week of September/ first week of October
- * A Memorandum of Understanding between MEDE and MUT will be signed in September
- * An Acceptable Use Policy for teachers and parents/guardians is being finalised



Pilot Projects' set-up (1)



- * At least 22 classes/groups taking part:
 - * 17 in State Schools (13 classes, 2 complementary groups and 1 Special Schools for SEN)
 - * 3 in Church Schools
 - * 3 in Independent Schools
- * Classes are in Year 3, 4 and 5 with Year 4 given first preference
- * Teachers' participation is voluntary.

Pilot Projects' set-up (2)

- * 13 industry suppliers submitted proposals for the Pilot Project. All were accepted (11 hardware/software 2 software only)
- * 9 proposals based on Google Android, 1 on Apple iOS and 1 on Microsoft Windows.
- * Each supplier assigned a class or more as per submission. Tablets will be on loan from suppliers.



Pilot Projects' set-up (3)

- * The participating State schools are: Siġġiewi, Msida, Gżira, Marsascala, Cospicua, Għajnsielem-Sannat-Victoria in Gozo, Pieta', Paola, Mellieħa, Żurrieq, Baħrija and the Dun Manwel Attard Young Adult Education Resource Centre. Choice depended on volunteering teachers.
- * Wi-Fi will be provided for the pilot classrooms. Cellular (3G/4G) will also be tested with some suppliers.



Pilot Projects' set-up (4)

- * The participating Church Schools are: St. Joseph School (Paola), St. Albert the Great (Valletta), De La Salle College (Cospicua) (with 90 tablets).
- * The participating Independent Schools are: Thi Lakin, San Anton, Chiswick (with 60 tablets).
- * Church and Independent Schools will take part with suppliers' tablets but need to provide their own infrastructure such as Wi-Fi. The suppliers and the Dept. of Learning will provide training.



Experience so far



- * The project is proving to be very complex with many stakeholders
- Focus on the teacher rather than the technology is proving very positive
- * Feedback from teachers in the Pilot is positive so far they are pin-pointing to what should be retained/changed in the national implementation
- * Teacher training has been done with mixed results more hours of training needed and more time given to teachers to assimilate 21st Century teaching and learning techniques. Training should be slightly different to ICT-savvy and less ICT-savvy teachers.



Our biggest fear right now



New technology is used in the same old way to do the same old things



Final thoughts

- * The focus is on the teacher and the learner, not the technology.
- * Pilot Project being done to introduce the new tool gradually and get the feedback of teachers, learners and parents/guardians the implementation phase.
- * Success depends on the contribution of all stakeholders: teachers, learners, parents/guardians, education managers, SMT, industry partners etc.

