



# 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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: Siggiewi, 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.