

GOOD PRACTICE SUMMARY

TITLE OF THE GOOD PRACTICE: Educational Innovation Network (Xarxa d'Innovació Educativa)

SUBMITTED BY: Viladecans City Council

Introduction

One of the main challenges of Viladecans City Council is educational success. And although, as a local government, Viladecans does not have direct jurisdiction, we do everything we can to cooperate with the regional government to equip our schools with the best tools possible. We believe that quality education of children is the basis for the improvement of society, both present and future.

We are supporting the Generalitat and educational institutions in promoting education in the city in order to improve it. And we do this through innovation, bringing the most important technological developments into schools and involving all citizen agents in this task. In this respect, we continue to deploy the ambitious Local Improvement Plan for Educational Success, with the support of the Department of Education, to create new learning methodologies that bring us closer to true educational success. That is why we have created Educational Innovation Network (EIN - <http://xieviladecans.cat/>).

The Educational Innovation Network (EIN) is a network led by Viladecans City Council and composed by the public administration, primary and secondary schools and other educational centres, education professionals, families and enterprises. It has a total of 850 members.

The problem and proposed solutions

The network is born in order to fight against some problems and necessities detected: mainly high level of school failure and drop out and the need to develop new technologies and skills in educational institutions in accordance with the changing times and emerging needs.

The network was launched in October 2013 with the aim to improve the city's educational success by stimulating innovation & creativity at schools by means of (1) promoting ICT projects & (2) the collaboration between different local stakeholders.

The network aims to be a space for reflection where different stakeholders meet and interact in order to stimulate innovation in education and to open primary and secondary schools to the local reality, that is, students, teachers, families, enterprises and public administration work together and get all benefited.

Timeframe, dates and important milestones

The network was created in 2013 and has been active since then. It should be highlighted the participatory session in November 2014 where the members of the network proposed its roadmap for the following 3 years (10 projects).

Main outputs

Since October 2013 several projects have been implemented. Nowadays there are more than 10 active projects. Below a few examples:

- Emotional education and wellbeing project
- Plan for the Introduction of Learning and Knowledge Technologies - provision of digital devices to schools.
- Breakfast/lunch between students and entrepreneurs
- Co-tutoring (support in the elaboration of research work at last year of Secondary School and Vocational Training
- Training on parents on digital devices and skills

More info: <http://xieviladecans.cat/projectes/>

Results

It should be highlighted the high involvement and good acceptance of the network at local level. As aforementioned, there are 850 members, all schools are involved in more than 1 project and more than 30 local enterprises have taken part in some activity.

The work of the network during these 3 years has made possible a real renewal of Viladecans primary and secondary education:

- In terms of ICT, there has been a significant improvement of the number of devices at schools, as well as the digital skills of teachers, students and families.
- It has established the basis for a collaboration relationship between different local stakeholders.
- It has made possible a close relationship between primary & secondary schools and local enterprises, which allows, on the one hand, to focus the studies on the companies real needs, and on the other hand, the student's contact with the real professional world.
- It has trained teachers and families on Emotional Education.

And also important: the awareness of the active role all stakeholders have in education.

Link to the city specific strategy

EIN is farmed within "The Local Improvement Plan for Educational Success". Education is one of the 4 priorities established by the City's smart development strategy.

Potential for re-use and improvement

This initiative is easily scalable to other contexts and cities. The practice can be adapted to other cities with different realities by adapting the stakeholders and the activities to the different context, needs and actions to be carried out.

The network has still margin for improvement. During the first 3 years, EIN, by means of the City Council, has established the basis for collaboration, has put stakeholders in contact and promoted several projects. The aim now is that this collaboration space is consolidated and synergies are

created so the different stakeholders collaborate among them without the need of a first push by the Public Administration.