Schola Europaea

Office of the Secretary-General
Pedagogical Development Unit

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Orig.: **EN**

Report on the IT-PEDA Strategy Working group activities – 2023

Working Group IT PEDA 0178

I.   Background and structure

A. Creation of the IT PEDA WG

At its meeting of 15, 16 and 17 April 2015[1], the Board of Governors took the decision to create two groups in the ICT area:

- one with the skills required to guide strategic choices for communication, administrative and financial tools: **IT ADMIN**,
- and the other with a more *pedagogical orientation*: **IT PED**[2].

The organisation of the activities, i.e. the common core coordinating the development measures in both fields, guarantees that the pedagogical development is planned in accordance with the financial and human resources constraints both on the central and on school levels.
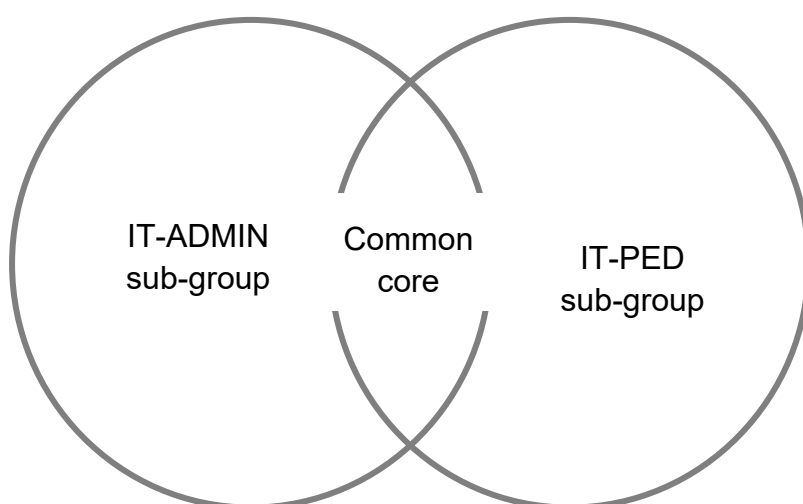

Figure 1. IT Strategy Group

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[1] For the composition and mandate of the WG see Creation of a group responsible for indicating the IT strategy for communication, administrative and financial tools (ref. 2014-11-D-13-en-1). This decision responds in particular to the observations of the external evaluation made by the UCL Institute of Education (Gray, Scott, Gutiérrez-Peris, Mehisto, Pachler & Reiss. 2015. External Evaluation of a Proposal for the Reorganisation of Secondary Studies in the European School System).

[2] IT PED is also referred as IT PEDA, with the code 0178.

B. Composition of the IT PEDA WG

The IT-PEDA Sub-Group is obliged to meet at least twice a year and its members are:

- the Head of the Pedagogical Development Unit, as chair of the subgroup, who would be able to invite outside contributors (experts, etc.),
- the Head of the ICT Unit,
- the Head of the European Baccalaureate Unit,
- 1 representative of the Directors,
- 1 representative of ICT technical assistant,
- 2 representatives of the teachers (one for the Nursery/Primary Cycle and one for the Secondary Cycle), one of whom is an ICT coordinator,
- 2 representatives of the inspectors, one for the Nursery and Primary Cycles, the other for the Secondary Cycle,
- 1 member designated by Interparents,
- 1 member designated by COSUP,
- 1 representative of the Directors of the Accredited Schools (guest).

C. Functions of the IT PEDA WG

At its creation, it was made clear that the IT PEDA WG would have to focus on the following pedagogical tasks:

- suggest the actions required to ensure that pupils' digital competence is properly enhanced at all stages of their education,
- evaluate pilot projects launched in the schools involving pedagogical innovation in IT and deploy them in harmonised fashion in all the schools in the event of success,
- propose models for IT use for pedagogical purposes, including for children with special educational needs,
- review the role of IT in the organisation of studies and in syllabuses,
- define guidelines and objectives for the training of teaching staff in IT,
- put forward proposals to promote and facilitate the use of distance learning, in accordance with the European Schools' strategy (observance of predefined technical and financial limits),
- put forward recommendations for the pedagogical use of environments for education and training, including remote ones,
- ensure two-way communication with the end users of the European Schools' IT-PEDA system (pedagogical staff),
- contribute to production of the annual ICT report by providing input in terms of pedagogical innovations associated with use of new information and communication technologies,

- produce the multi-annual plan for IT-PEDA,
- look into the burning issues of data protection and internet safety.

II. Main activities in 2023

A. Dates of the meetings

The WG met in plenary three times:

- 2023.02.14 (online)
- 2023.04.26 (online)
- 2023. 06.29 (online)
- 2023.10.03 (online)

B. SMS advisory board

The working group was informed of the School Management System (SMS) and of its interaction with other projects. It was decided that the Head of ICT Unit will liaise with the SMS advisory board.

C. LMS for schools and LMS for CPD

In the context of the replacement of SMS, the working group discussed the need for an LMS (Learning Management System) for the schools (all cycles), and for an LMS for continuous professional development (CPD). A workshop with the WG IT Strategy (IT PEDA and IT ADMIN) was organised in April 2023 to further develop the vision and the requirements. A vision document with a set of requirements was written for the school LMS.

Link with multiannual ICT plan 2022-2026: 5.5, Privilege innovation technology for the area of pedagogy.

D. Digital portfolio

The working group followed the pilot of a digital portfolio solution (Qridi) at the primary school Evere (Brussels II Woluwe).

Link with multiannual ICT plan 2022-2026: 5.1, Develop measures to support the schools during ICT integration; 5.5, Privilege innovation technology for the area of pedagogy.

E. Online training courses and LMS for CPD pilot

The working group followed the online training pilots developed in collaboration with the Educational Support Coordinator. An LMS was rented from a third-party provider (MySkillCamp). Several online trainings were developed and delivered to approximately 500 educational staff (certificates were issued).

Link with multiannual ICT plan 2022-2026: 5.5, Privilege innovation technology for the area of pedagogy.

F. Digital examination (online assessment platform) pilot

The WG discussed the dimensions of implementing digital examinations across schools, emphasising the technological aspects, content, and legal considerations. It noted the need to account for digital capacity, devices, and infrastructure in schools and for training for staff and pupils to adapt to digital exams. Against this background, a pilot was launched in 2023 with a third-party provider (TAO Ignite).

Link with multiannual ICT plan 2022-2026: 5.5, Privilege innovation technology for the area of pedagogy.

G. Suspension of the provision of MS365 accounts to pupils in Nursery and Primary 1 and 2.

The WG advised the Secretary-General on suspending the provision of MS365 accounts to pupils in Nursery and Primary 1 and 2 due to GDPR concerns, licensing issues, and limited pedagogical needs. The Secretary-General sent the Memorandum 2023-07-M-7 on 20th July 2023.

H. Restriction on e-mail communication by pupils

The WG advised the Secretary-General on restricting pupil email usage to internal communication and whitelisted domains up to s4 (allowing external communication to s5-s7). The Secretary-General sent the Memorandum 2023-07-M-5-en-1 on the 11th of July, 2023.

I. BYOD: survey and report on the state of play in the schools

The WG IT PEDA launched a survey on the status of 'Bring Your Own Device' (BYOD) and WiFi deployment in the European Schools. The primary aim of this initiative is to gauge the current level of BYOD and WiFi integration within our educational settings, and subsequently to identify opportunities for improvement and effective strategies, in coordination with the WG IT ADMIN. The schools were asked in November and

December 2023 to update the data communicated during the previous administration of the survey (2021). The report should be presented in early 2024.

Link with multiannual ICT plan 2022-2026: 5.7, Evaluation and analysis of the implementation of BYOD project for all Schools. Define criteria, needs, objectives and indicators, and support. To be in line with the Digital Education Vision approved by the BoG in April 2019 (2018-12-D-7)

J. ICT 4 course in s6-s7

In the frame of the curricular changes (supported by the multi-annual pedagogical priorities: 'Pedagogical Reform Working Group: Curricular Proposals' - 2022-09-D-59-en-3), the WG discussed the creation of an ICT 4 periods course in s6-s7. Additionally, the importance of providing necessary infrastructure and digital resources in schools was emphasised. The representative of the inspectors in secondary (Ms Elisabeth Niido, inspector for Estonia) took the chair of the dedicated working group.

Link with multiannual ICT plan 2022-2026: 5.3, Define quality criteria for the syllabi in terms of digital competencies. Evaluation in the light of the Pedagogical MAP and the introduction of the 8 key competences.

K. Impact of Generative AI on Education

The WG identified the need for guidance and training on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in education, particularly regarding assessment as well as digital competence of pupils and teachers.

Link with multiannual ICT plan 2022-2026: 5.5, Privilege innovation technology for the area of pedagogy.

L. Restriction of Applications due to GDPR issues

In order to safeguard minors' data security, a decision was made by the Secretary-General, based on the proposal of the IT PEDA Working Group, to suspend the use of MS 365 accounts in the years Nursery 1-2 and Primary 1-2.

M. Long- and medium-term projects planned for the coming years

As the Board of Governors decided to create the posts of a CPD coordinator, a Digital Media Officer, and an Educational Data Analyst to the PDU, the WG will have to engage in further projects. Among them, the CPD platform for online training to be

produced or procured will have to be mentioned. As preparation, a Proof of Concept has been established.

Two online courses (one on Inclusion and Accessibility and one on Universal Design for Learning) have been designed and performed by the joint effort of the Educational Support Coordinator and the Digital teaching and learning Coordinator of the OSG. A dedicated platform (MySkillsCamp) was used for this purpose, in association with MS Teams.