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eVET: Innovating vocational education and training

Digital technology to support, enrich, intensify and extend learning and teaching

A great variety of innovative digital solutions, such as mobile messages, online games, offline multimedia-content and collaborative platforms, can contribute to VET: They can make learning and teaching more interactive and effective and support the school-workplace integration. The development of eVET solutions is not a trivial task, but there are strategies, rules and guidelines that can help you avoiding mistakes and creating effective solutions in your respective context.

Interested?

Image 1: Offline open educational resources (OER) provide authentic learning material



A variety of innovative eVET solutions ...

There is a great number of low tech and high tech digital solutions, which can intensify and extend learning and teaching in vocational education and training (VET) in manifold ways. For example, ...

- Apprentices can gain access to multimedia content in remote locations without internet access;
- Self-directed learning with interactive features helps learners to grasp basic concepts;
- Animations and simulations compensate training with scarce resources such as laboratories;
- Guiding questions related to animated pictures support the reflection of ethical decision-making;
- Online games trigger the collaborative solving of authentic problems;
- Short texts and questions on mobile phones help building and reinforcing basic knowledge;
- A range of online tools enable student projects in corporate settings to co-develop solutions and interact with companies – they also support individual coaching and communication;
- Augmented reality immerses apprentices in authentic learning situations or
- Electronic learning journals stimulate the self-reflection of apprentices.

These are just a couple of examples from the long list of “e”-VET solutions and scenarios.

... impacts learning and teaching in VET in several areas.

In an ongoing review, we have identified more than 180 studies, reports and evaluations of eVET. Research has documented a variety of effects of eVET solutions, such as:



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- Better learning results.
- Increased levels of participatory learning and teaching.
- Reduction of cognitive load during situated learning activities.
- Increased flexibility of the learners.
- Enhanced access to learning content and coaching.
- Tighter integration of learning in workplaces and schools.
- Increased inclusion, for example of women and elderly people.

However, not all of these studies have found significant effects. The success of eVET very much depends on a number of factors that need to be taken into consideration during design and implementation.

Image 2: Nepal: The use of tablets to train villagers leads to the inclusion of women



How can we develop effective eVET solutions?

Some key aspects in the development and implementation of effective eVET solutions are:

- **Alignment of goals and activities:** The pedagogical (or learning) goals always come first, and you need to identify specific learning activities that help you reaching these goals. A key mistake in many projects is that they are driven by the idea to implement novel technology instead of focusing on goals and activities.
- **Alignment of activities and technology:** Only with goals and activities defined, technology, which best supports these activities, should be evaluated and selected. With regard to technology selection, it is often not the most advanced feature but simplicity and robustness of a solution that leads to success.
- **Contextualised implementation:** Much attention needs to be paid to the analysis of the context of implementation of the solution. Existing human-, organisational- and technical resources need to be analysed. Training, change management and sustainable support need to be carefully planned.



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In a series of three webinars, we will ...

1. Show you how to align goals, activities and technology.
2. Discuss with decision makers how to focus on contexts that are promising to implement innovative eVET; how to identify benefits as well as overt and hidden costs associated with sustainable VET; and how to support eVET projects during planning, development and continuous deployment.
3. Discuss with project leaders how to focus on learning goals and innovative learning solutions (and not on technology); how to evaluate feasibility and improve sustainability of their solution; and how to implement an eVET solution.

Register [here](#) for the first webinar.

For further information, please contact:

- Rahel Guntern, Advisor Vocational Skills, SDC Focal Point e+i, rahel.guntern@eda.admin.ch, +41 58 483 97 62
- Urs Gröhbiel, Director SNBI, urs.groehbiel@snbi.ch, +41 78 843 53 81