Digital Turn

Organisation: Tallinn University
Kontaktpersons namn: Mart Laanpere
Kontakt epost: mart.laanpere@tlu.ee
Kontakt telefon: +372 640 9355
Projekt namn: Digipööre (Digital Turn)

Summary:
Digital Turn is a digital training curriculum for teacher teams to prepare Estonian schools for one to one computing

Project website: http://digipoore.ee
Slide share:

Summary and magnitud:
Digital Turn training programme was launched in 2014. In the first year, 8 school teams participated the training programme. In 2015, 12 school teams participate the training programme. From each school there are 6 team members, thus 120 teachers have been involved in teacher trainings. However, the project has a larger impact since more teachers are involved in project activities in each school.

Argument for nomination:
Digital Turn is a digital training curriculum for teacher teams to prepare Estonian schools for one to one computing. Focus of the training curriculum is based on the Estonian Strategy for Lifelong Learning in 2014–2020. The strategy outlines changing approaches to learning and use of modern one to one digital technology as key areas. This involves digital turn in formal education system, digital learning resources, digital infrastructure for learning, and digital competences of teachers and students.

Digital Turn is different from other teacher training programmes in Estonia, since it is focused on the school-level change management towards digital innovation, not on teachers' ICT skills. Pilot schools chosen to the programme will focus on the whole school policy development in order to improve their digital infrastructure, pedagogical innovation (creative, collaborative learning), and systemic diffusion of digital innovation within the school and local community, involving parents and municipality.

In 2014, 8 pilot schools were selected by jury from 43 applicants. In 2015, the project was expanded to include 12 pilot schools from 68 applicants. Each school is represented by a six-member school team that drives the innovation in a school. The training consists of four 8-hours training days that take place over a 6-month period. The trainers team consisted of researchers and lecturers of Tallinn University, teachers and industry partners. Between the trainings, the school teams are mentored by the Digital Turn trainers. A whole day visit is made to each school to consult the project teams, observe lessons and interview the school principal, IT-specialist, teachers and representatives of the local municipality.

The training curriculum covers the following topics:
– planning the digital turn in a school
– use of mobile devices and cloud services
– project management and communication in a school team
– planning the development of school ICT infrastructure
– digital safety
– virtual learning environments in the context of digital turn
– monitoring the digital turn in schools
– open educational resources
– e-textbooks
– self-reflection through digital storytelling
– information graphics
– learning analytics

The success of pilot projects was evaluated against a set of criteria derived from Michael Fullan's "Stratosphere: Integrating Technology, Pedagogy, and Change Knowledge": digital infrastructure development, pedagogical innovation, and school-level change management. A new school-level digital turn evaluation framework (DigiPeegel – DigitalMirror) was created in cooperation with pilot schools.

In 2014, digital turn had an important impact in all of the pilot schools. Regarding the digital infrastructure, 6 out of 8 pilot schools installed a next generation Wi-Fi network (remaining 2 schools already had done it before the project started), funded by local municipality. 4 pilot schools improved significantly their internet connection. All schools experimented with BYOD model, created rules and digital safety policy for that. All pilot schools set up an online collaboration and knowledge sharing space for teachers.

Pedagogical innovation in pilot schools involved innovative pedagogical scenarios, such as flipped classroom, game-based, project-based, inquiry-based, and problem-based learning. Pupils were involved as creators of digital learning resources: 30+ apps, tens of video clips, web pages, presentations, quizzes, and online games.

The schools made also important progress in change management. In three pilot schools, 100% of teachers were engaged in teaching with technology. In all other schools, at least 25% of all teachers participated in the project activities. All pilot schools managed to get their local municipalities and parents informed about and engaged in the digital turn project. All pilot schools monitored their digital turn through surveys and reporting.

In the final event of the training programme, all schools present their digital turn projects and receive feedback from the jury. The jury will also decide on the winner of the project. In 2014, the first Digital Turn project was won by Valga Russian Gymnasium.

Digital Turn training programme is funded by Samsung. Each year, a winning school will receive Samsung digital devices worth of 10 000 euros.

The project was considered a success by all trainers, participating schools and jury. The pilot schools will continue their digital turn projects and will establish a new network of regional model schools coordinated by the Tallinn University. A similar model could be implemented in other Nordic and Baltic countries to support the digital turn in schools.