Opportunities and challenges the increasingly digital world brings to educators

Erki Urva

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Digital world

• We don’t know what equipment and gadgets we’ll use in 10 years
• We don’t know what is the oil price in 10 years
• We don’t know whether the global warming will continue in 10 years
• We don’t know billion of other things what will happen after the next 10 years
But we do know that we’ll be living in the digital world after 10 and 20 and more years.

And this means that we all need up-to-date digital competences to deal with that world.

And this means that we need a digital era education.
Opportunities

- Unlimited access to the information
- Also a threat!
Opportunities

• Virtual world
• Virtual realities
Opportunities

- New wave of digital technology innovations - IoT
Opportunities

• New wave of digital technology innovations – IoT
  • New learning methods
  • BYOD
New learning methods

• Is this a future?
• Definitely not!
• But the changes have to come.
Opportunities
Big Data – learning analytics
Digital world challenges

• Digital gap
  • Rising average age of teachers
  • Kids start with smart-devices already before the school
Challenges

“De-skilling”
Challenges

• Infrastructure
  • Access to the broadband network
  • Broadband availability in schools/universities
  • Personal devices/BYOD
  • Open repositories vs publishers closed e-learning materials – copyright issues
Challenges

- Methodology and training
  - It is relatively easy to obtain new equipment or technology
  - The challenge is how to use it
Challenges

Threat of “over-digitalization”
Challenges

• Cyber hygiene
• Internet abuse
• Protection of personal data
Challenges

Health concerns
Information Technology Foundation for Education

- Founders:
  - Estonian Republic; Tartu University; Tallinn University of Technology; Telia Eesti; Association of Estonian Information Technology and Telecommunications Companies

- Started May 2, 2013, after a merger of:
  - Estonian Information Technology Foundation
  - Estonian Education and Research Network – EENet
  - Tiger Leap Foundation

- Number of employees: 99
- Annual budget 2016: 15,2 MEUR
- Non-profit organization
- Offices in Tallinn and Tartu
- Activities:
  - IT in education
  - Supporting ICT education
  - Developing and maintaining information systems and ICT infrastructure for education
Thank you!