

Research Experiments

Links-up has recently entered into the core phase of its action-research approach, by implementing on-the-field experiments, aiming analysing the three general *Links-Up research questions* through five “innovation laboratories”:

1. Is learning 2.0 really supporting inclusive life-long learning?
2. Can isolated experiments be mainstreamed?
3. Is learning 2.0 fundamentally changing the educational landscape?



The laboratories have already started and will end in October-November 2011, though a follow-up will be carried out until the end of the whole project, according to the action-research approach adopted by Links-Up.

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Upcoming relevant events

[26-28 May 2011, New opportunities for an independent \(immigrant\) voice in the public debate, The Hague, The Netherlands](#)

[19-22 June 2011, EDEN 20th Anniversary Annual Conference, Links-up workshop, Dublin, Ireland](#)

[26 - 28 October 2011, eChallenges e-2011 Conference & Exhibition, Florence, Italy](#)

Research Methods

The evaluation design adopts a multi-methodological approach combining qualitative and quantitative aspects through interviews, questionnaires, observation etc., in order to examine ‘success’ and ‘failure’ factors and impact on individuals, organisations and communities. Our analysis is based in three key factors:

- **innovation** - examining how far innovative learning approaches and pedagogies are facilitated and supported by particular Learning 2.0 initiatives;
- **key learning competences and social inclusion skills acquired** - exploring whether and in what ways Learning 2.0 initiatives and innovations foster new kinds of e-skills beyond the level of basis computing skills; whether and in what ways such initiatives support soft’ skills;
- **institutional change associated with the intervention** - assessing and reflecting on how far the institutional framework of teaching and learning affects and is affected by Learning 2.0 and Web 2.0, particularly changes in the educational enterprise.

Highlights – local initiatives introduced

FreqOut is a UK-based initiative that uses technology to engage socially excluded young people aged from 8 to 25, inspiring them to tell their stories and giving them the opportunity to work with artists and industry professionals. The target groups are broad and provide a wide range of 'exclusion' scenarios involving marginalised groups in the local area: young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET), young people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups, ex-offenders, those at-risk of offending, refugees and immigrants.



MyMobile- Education on the move

In Italy the innovation laboratory is organized and held in conjunction with Grundtvig mobility project "MyMobile-Education on the move" (2010-2012) through the collaboration with the Educational Technology Laboratory of the University of Florence, the Italian Grundtvig project partner. The pilot case is TRIO (<http://www.progettotrio.it/trio/>), the official e-learning platform of the Tuscany Region. The pilot is named 'Tell Your Resume' and consists in the implementation of a short series of podcasting workshops, where a group of migrants and unemployed people will learn how to promote themselves on the labour market producing, publishing and sharing their multimedia CV. This pilot exploits and leverages TRIO educational network. TRIO (Technology, Research, Innovation and Vocational Guidance) is a public portal providing free access to a wide variety of contents and services, and offering learning opportunities to a large and heterogeneous audience at both a regional and national level. The workshop series will be conducted in blended learning using TRIO distance learning open source LMS and Social Network platform as well as TRIO physical territorial poles. A blog has been implemented to support the pilot's action.

