Mobile Learning Week Policy Forum

Friday, 24 March 2017

Harnessing e-skills and mobile learning for inclusive sustainable development

UNESCO Headquarters
Fontenoy Building
125, Avenue de Suffren
Paris, France

The Policy Forum will examine the changing e-skills required in societies increasingly dependent on digital technologies. Participants will consider how e-skills and the growing ubiquity of mobile technology can enable learning that advances progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including in contexts of emergencies and crises.
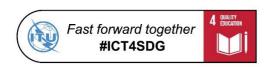
As digital technologies become increasingly central to work and education, learning the skills to leverage them has never been more important. Recent analysis shows that within developed economies 90% of jobs require at least some level of e-skills, despite the fact that more than one third of the labour force has an extremely limited ability to use information and communication technology (ICT) productively. Without e-skills, people are at risk of social and economic exclusion. They have difficulty accessing information, services and mobile learning content that can open doors to education and employment.

The Policy Forum will help to clarify the interrelations between e-skills, mobile learning, employment, protection and inclusion. Mobile learning is both reliant on e-skills and a vehicle for the development of these skills. E-skills can foster the creativity and innovation needed in knowledge societies and catalyze desirable social and economic change.

Forum participants including Ministers of Education, Ministers of ICT, and representatives from the private sector will discuss how e-skills and mobile learning can help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG4: 'Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all'. They will share experiences of successful e-skills and mobile learning initiatives and outline strategies to create synergies between national policies in the areas of technology, education, telecommunications and innovation.

In alignment with the 'Education in emergencies and crisis' theme of Mobile Learning Week 2017, the Forum will give special attention to policies, partnerships and strategies that help vulnerable groups, including refugees and other displaced people.

The Forum will be co-organized by UNESCO and ITU, in close collaboration with UNHCR.

Provisional Agenda

UNESCO-ITU Policy Forum
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Friday 24 March 2017: Morning		
10:00 – 10:30	**Welcome and Introduction**	Mr Qian Tang, Assistant Director-General for Education (UNESCO) Mr Brahima Sanou, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (ITU)
10:30 – 11:45	**SESSION 1: E-skills for mobile learning and sustainable development** 1) How do countries identify and teach essential e-skills? 2) How can countries take advantage of newly affordable mobile technologies to improve e-skills education and lay foundations for mobile learning and sustainable development? 3) What policy solutions exist to continuously update e-skills education and keep pace with rapidly changing technology?	
11:45 – 12:00	**Break**	
12:00 – 13:00	**SESSION 2: E-skills and mobile learning for socio-economic inclusion** 1) What policies can ensure universal access to e-skills and mobile learning? 2) How can e-skills be acquired by vulnerable and displaced populations? 3) How can mobile learning create stronger bridges to work, aid social inclusion in national systems and promote protection for refugees and other displaced people arriving in new communities?	
13:00 – 14:30	**Lunch**	
Friday 24 March 2017: Afternoon		
14:30 – 15:45	**SESSION 3: Partnerships for e-skills and mobile learning** 1) How can public-private dialogue about e-skills and mobile learning be organized at national level? 2) What are examples of successful partnerships to improve and expand e-skills education? 3) What roles should national authorities, mobile network operators and technology companies play in the development and provision of e-skills programs, especially those conducted with and through mobile devices?	

15:45 – 16:00	**Break**	
16:00 – 17:00	**SESSION 4: The big picture and the way forward** 1) How can e-skills and mobile learning support progress toward the SDGs, in particular SDG4? 2) How can countries ensure the new and powerful technologies support inclusion and equity in education and beyond?	
17:00 – 17:30	**Closing**	Mr Kemal Huseinovic, Chief of the Infrastructure, Enabling Environment and E-Applications Department (ITU) Mr David Atchoarena, Director of the Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems (UNESCO)