

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON 1-TO-1 IN EDUCATION:  
CURRENT PRACTICES, INTERNATIONAL COMPARATIVE RESEARCH EVIDENCE  
AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

**February 22-24, 2010**

**Vienna (Austria)**

[www.bildung.at/nml-conference2010](http://www.bildung.at/nml-conference2010)

*An international conference hosted by the Austrian Ministry of Education and jointly organised by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the World Bank (WB).*

**Background**

Low-cost computer devices, ranging from handhelds to the current reinterpretation of laptops or netbooks, have gained an important market niche. To some, they represent an open window of opportunity in education: by allowing every pupil to connect to the Net and access valuable resources irrespective of place and time, they cannot only help to bridge the digital divide but to transform education to better suit the needs of networked societies.

Some countries are beginning to make (or seriously considering) massive investments in '1-to-1 computing' (i.e. every child receives her/his own personal computing device -- usually a laptop). This is based on a belief that, by enabling EVERY pupil to connect to the Internet, and to each other, to access valuable resources irrespective of place and time, countries can help to bridge the digital divide while at the same time transform education to better suit the needs of networked knowledge societies.

Countries as varied as Uruguay (where every primary school student now has a free laptop) and Portugal (where the government is rolling out a scheme for every student to have their own personal laptop) have made bold decisions to invest in '1-to-1 computing' for all of their students, and many other countries are engaged in pilot projects at a smaller scale.

While many initial investments in this area were, truth be told, based more on faith in a concept than on hard evidence, some interesting and useful lessons and models are emerging to help answer questions such as:

- What does this cost?
- What is the impact of these sorts of initiatives (and how should we measure such impact)?
- What useful implementation and procurement models are emerging?

- What challenges do these sorts of initiatives present for policymakers, and what are some useful policy responses?
- What technologies should we be considering?
- To what extent -- and how -- do we need to re-engineer our education systems (teacher training, curricula, content, assessment) if we want to take advantage of such investments?

It is against this context that this international conference should provide an opportunity for engaging in a dialogue, drawing on existing experiences and discussing their benefits and the problems encountered with a forward looking perspective. Both developing and developed countries could benefit from such a discussion.

### **Objectives**

1. To present the main experiences in large-scale uses of digital devices (ranging from handhelds and cellular phones to netbooks and notebooks) under the paradigm of 1-to-1 computing, and examine the opportunities and risks from an educational and socio-economic perspective.
2. To review the research evidence about the cost-effectiveness of these experiences, the effects on teaching and learning processes, and on educational performance, as well as the wider benefits (local providers, families, communities).
3. To identify the knowledge gaps and suggest opportunities for further research.
4. To discuss the lessons learnt and the eventual policy implications.
5. To provide opportunities for peer-learning among countries and international networking.

### **Draft program**

#### ***Monday, February 22. Background and opportunities.***

- 9-930: Opening session by Austrian authorities
- 930-1015: **Opportunities and risks of 1-to-1 in education: international perspectives.**  
**Speakers:** Eugenio Severin (IDB), Michael Trucano (The World Bank), and Francesc Pedró (OECD)
- 1030-1215: **Session 1: The policy expectations: why countries are investing on 1-to-1?**  
**Speakers:** Miguel Brechner (Plan Ceibal, Uruguay), John Kershaw (New Brunswick, Canada), Bette Manchester (Maine, United States)
- 14-1545: **Session 2: Supporting users: how teachers and pupils are supported?**  
**Speakers:** Isabel Almeida (Magellan, Portugal), Alicia Bañuelos (San Luis Digital, Argentina), Jaume Graells (Generalitat de Catalunya, Barcelona)

- 1615-18: **Session 3: Monitoring use and results: how countries know what is going on in the terrain?**

**Speakers:** Oscar Becerra (Una laptop por niño, Perú), Jeff Mao (Maine, United States)

*Tuesday, February 23. Benefits and barriers. Research evidence and gaps.*

- 9-10: **Key note speech: What do we know about the impact of the use of technology in education?**

**Speaker:** Peter Baumgartner (Donau-Universität Krems, Austria)

- 1015-1215: **Session 1: The transformation of teaching and learning: are there new learning models or environments emerging?**

**Speakers:** Isabel Almeida (Magellan, Portugal), John Kershaw (New Brunswick, Canada), Oystein Johannessen (Norway)

- 14-1545: **Session 2: Impact on student outcomes: does 1-to-1 improve student results?**

**Speakers:** Angela McFarlane (Kew Gardens, United Kingdom), Patricia Sierra (Fundación Piés Descalzos, Colombia)

- 1615-18: **Session 3: Impact on equity: does 1-to-1 help to bridge the digital divide in education?**

**Speakers:** Cecilia Alcalá (Paraguay Educa, Paraguay), Angela McFarlane (Kew Gardens, United Kingdom)

*Wednesday, February 24. Lessons learnt and policy implications.*

- 9-10: **Keynote speech: Looking into the future: the importance of applications and quality content.**

**Speaker:** Miguel Nussbaum (P. Universidad Católica, Chile),

- 1015-1215: **Session 1: Is 1-to-1 worth the investment? How does this policy align with other educational policies?**

**Speakers:** Oystein Johannessen (Norway), Jaume Graells (Generalitat de Catalunya, Barcelona), Alejandro Piscitelli (Argentina),

- 1215-13: **Closing session: lessons learned and next steps**

**Speakers:** Eugenio Severin (IDB), Michael Trucano (The World Bank), and Francesc Pedró (OECD), and Christian Dorminger (Austrian Ministry of Education).

There will be only one key note speech per day. The rest of the sessions will be organised as panels involving up to three country representatives and one chair. The chair will introduce the topic and act as time keeper and organise the open discussion with all participants. Country presentations

should not be longer than 15 minutes each. One hour of threaded discussion should allow participants to express their own views and engage in a debate.

**Dates and venue**

- February 22-24, 2009
- **Euro plaza Conference Center**, A-1120 Wien/Vienna, Am Europlatz 2, Gebäude (Building G); Tel: 00043-1-71728. [www.europalaza.at](http://www.europalaza.at)