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EDUsummIT 2017: Continuing the knowledge building journey

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About EDUsummIT

This ebook is a collection of outcome reports by the thematic working groups (TWGs) of EDUsummIT 2017. EDUsummIT (International Summit on ICT in Education) is a global knowledge building community of researchers, educational practitioners, and policy makers committed to supporting the effective integration of research and practice in the field of ICT in education. EDUsummIT was founded in 2009 to extend and further develop the work undertaken by the authors of the *International Handbook of Information Technology in Primary and Secondary Education*, edited by Joke Voogt and Gerald Knezek (2008). Since its inception, EDUsummIT has been held five times, firstly in the Hague (2009), then Paris (2011), Washington D.C. (2013), Bangkok (2015) and most recently in Borovets (2017). Between 70 and 140 participants from six continents have attended each of the EDUsummIT meetings. While EDUsummIT participants meet biennially, thematic groups focusing on pertinent research topics in ICT and education are formed prior to the Summit to prepare discussion papers. These papers are further developed during EDUsummIT. After each EDUsummIT, TWG findings are published in international journals and presented at major conferences.

Previous EDUsummITs have been organised in association with international and national organisations actively supporting the use of information technology in education. These organisations include the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education (SITE), the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE), Kennisnet (The Netherlands), the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) Working Group 3.3 (Research into Educational Applications of Information Technologies), the Association of Teacher Educators (ATE), the Teacher Development and Higher Education Division at UNESCO and UNESCO Bangkok.

EDUsummIT 2017

EDUsummIT 2017 took place from 18-20 September 2017 in Borovets, Bulgaria and was hosted by the University of Library Studies and Information Technologies, Sofia, Bulgaria and the National Institute for Curriculum Development of The Netherlands. Close to 90 researchers, policy makers, and educational practitioners attended EDUsummIT 2017. These participants came from 31 countries. EDUsummIT 2017 was held under the patronage of UNESCO, Mariya Gabriel, European Union Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society, and Eva Maydel, member of the European Parliament, of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO).

The theme of the EDUsummit 2017 was *Rethinking Learning in a Digital Age*. This theme was inspired by the celebration of the international project *Children in the Information Age* initiated in 1985 in Bulgaria.

Nine TWGs were formed in the beginning of 2017 (refer Appendix 2 for membership of the TWGs). These groups included:

TWG1: Education systems in the digital age: The need for alignment

TWG2: Informal learning with technology

TWG3: Professional development for technology-enhanced learning leaders

TWG4: Digital agency to empower equity in education

TWG5: Formative assessment supported by technology

TWG6: Developing creativity in teachers and learners

TWG7: Learning from national policy experiences

TWG8: Upbringing in a digital world: Opportunities and possibilities

TWG9: Supporting sustainability and scalability in educational technology initiatives: Research informed practice

Focusing on their respective themes, the TWGs started researching and developing their discussion and policy papers from March 2017. The TWGs were guided by the following questions:

- Why is this theme important to education and learning?
- What are the key issues and questions to be addressed?
- What are the research, policy, and practice challenges faced and what are your recommendations to help researchers, practitioners, and policy makers to move forward?

The TWGs were also asked to:

- Conduct a synthesis of relevant research related to the theme's topic.
- Provide examples of innovative practices.

TWGs used a variety of technologies (e.g., Google Docs and Communities) to support pre-Borovets discussions. Drafts of the discussion papers were prepared before the Summit. TWG leaders also prepared questions for discussions, with supporting materials (research articles, reports, website links, etc.). During the two and half day meeting, EDUsummit participants engaged in intense discussions of key issues and challenges related to TWG themes, and developed recommendations and action plans. There were five group sessions, with each session lasting one and a half hours. An additional session was also held to provide "cross-fertilisation" among TWGs, with TWG leaders visiting other groups to share their findings and elicit feedback. A poster session was held followed by a whole group discussion.

A call to action

EDUsummIT 2017 resulted in a Call to Action that was agreed upon by EDUsummIT participants. The Call to Action and findings of the TWGs were presented at the UNESCO International Workshop *Children in the Digital Era* held in Sofia, Bulgaria, September 20-21, 2017 as the first action of EDUsummIT 2017 to disseminate knowledge to the wider international community.

TWG summary reports

At the conclusion of EDUsummIT 2017, each TWG has summarised the background and context of its theme of study, the issues and challenges, recommendations they proposed to researchers, policy makers and educational practitioners, and the action plan to move forward. These reports are published in this eBook.

Looking ahead

Research papers developed by the TWGs will also be published as a special issue in *Technology, Knowledge and Learning* (edited by Joke Voogt and Gerald Knezek).

The next EDUsummIT will be held in Quebec City, Canada, in September 2019. It will be co-chaired by Thérèse Laferrière, Université Laval, Quebec, Canada and Margaret Cox, King's College London, UK. The planning process will begin in 2018.

The photo album

A selection of photos is included in the following section to document the activities undertaken during EDUsummIT 2017.

The Photo Album



EDUsummit 2017 participants in Borovets, Bulgaria



Icebreaker excursion to mountain summit for EDUsummit kick-off



Reception



Opening ceremony

Thematic Working Groups in action



TWG 1. Education systems in the digital age:
The need for alignment



TWG 3. Professional development for
technology-enhanced learning leaders



TWG 2. Informal learning with
technology



TWG 4. Digital agency to empower equity in education



TWG 5. Formative assessment supported by technology



TWG 6. Developing creativity in teachers and learners

TWG7.
Learning
from
nation
policy
experien
ces



TWG 8. Upbringing in a digital world: Opportunities and possibilities



TWG 9. Supporting sustainability and scalability in educational technology initiatives: Research informed practice

Posters for sharing with EDUsummit whole group





Official plenary sessions





Typical informal gathering: Nine participants from seven nations



Formal greeting in informal settings

Reference

Voogt, J., & Knezek, G. (Eds.). (2008). *International handbook of information technology in primary and secondary education*. New York: Springer.