

EDUFOR INNOV@TIVE CLASSROOM LAB

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ABSTRACT

EduFor Innov@tive Classroom Lab is an Edufor Training Centre Project. EduFor is an Association of Schools in the following municipalities: Nelas, Mangualde, Penalva do Castelo, Sátão and Vila Nova de Paiva – with its headquarters at Felismina Alcântara Secondary School, in Mangualde, Portugal. A learning space was opened on 10 May 2016 with two classrooms containing six learning areas, as well as easy access to an auditorium for major learning activities and seminars.

Forty stakeholders are involved in this partnership, which is used for teacher training (not only national) and pupils, who use it as a classroom (regular syllabus and special needs). EduFor Innov@tive Classroom Lab is inspired in the “Future Classroom Lab”, designed by European Schoolnet, located in Brussels.

This is an Innovative Learning Environment which challenges its users and visitors to rethink technology’s supporting role, the design and devices used in their own classrooms. It embraces teachers and pupils, several business partners and other professional educators (higher education, associations, projects, etc.) aiming to develop insights into the School of the Future and strategies on how to achieve this.

The Future Classroom Lab (FCL) was created to help visualize how conventional classrooms and other learning spaces can be reorganized to support changing styles of teaching and learning. It has been designed as a “Living Lab” showing how ICT can be implemented in schools and where policy-makers, ICT suppliers, teachers and educational researchers can come together to:

- Rethink how new technologies can support the educational reform process at both the national and European level;
- Engage in regular workshops, seminars and courses on how existing and emerging technologies can have a transformative effect on teaching and learning processes.

EduFor Innov@tive Classroom Lab is formed of six different learning spaces. Each space highlights specific areas of learning and teaching and helps to rethink different points: physical space, resources, changing roles of pupil and teacher, and how to support different learning styles.

All together the^o spaces form a unique way to visualize a new, holistic view of teaching. The zones reflect what good teaching should be about: being connected, being involved, and being challenged. Education should result in a unique learning experience, engaging as many types of pupils as possible. This space has been visited by many entities and teachers, considering that one of the aims of the project was for this to serve as an inspiration to open up other rooms. This already happened, in February 2017 when the second Classroom in the Centre Region was opened in a school in Covilhã and more recently another was opened in Sátão School Group.

Teachers from various schools have visited the room together with their classes. Among the various examples we could mention, we will highlight the project by a class from the alternative curricula in

Vila Nova de Paiva School Group, who created a garden in the form of the map of Europe in their school, a collaborative project begun in the EduFor Innov@tive Classroom Lab.

EduFor Innov@tive Classroom Lab is aligned with AEI network, General Education Department (DGE), as well as with the European Schoolnet FCL network.

This communication is about the Future Classroom Labs already existing in Portugal, about this Lab in Mangualde and the activities that we have developed since 2016.