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Accredited Training Specialists

## NEWS ALERT

### E-Learning, e-Education and e-Teaching

Much has been said about e-Learning, and the last word hasn't been spoken yet. Everyone who has written about e-Learning has his own definition. Let us remind ourselves what was written in 2004 in the *White Paper on e-Education*, where the Department of Education spelled out their vision on what role e-Learning would play in the future in our education system.

A very comprehensive definition for e-learning was incorporated in the white paper: "E-Learning is flexible learning using ICT resources, tools and applications, focusing on;

- Accessing information,
- Interaction among teachers, learners, and the online environment,
- Collaborative learning, and
- Production of materials, resources and learning experiences.

E-Learning may involve the use of Internet, CD-ROM, software, other media and telecommunications" (p16).

The professional development of all involved was supposed to focus on ICT skills. "Every teacher, manager and administrator in General and Further Education and Training must have the knowledge, skills and support they need to integrate ICTs in teaching and learning." The question is: Are ICT skills enough to ensure a high success rate when "the level of proficiency in the use of ICTs will become an integral part of the Development Appraisal System and whole-school evaluation."

Many computer-labs and nowadays, tablets, have been distributed to schools around the country to implement this noble course. Some teachers have also been trained in basic ICT skills on an ongoing basis. But something that is not mentioned in the ongoing discussion on e-Education and e-Learning is the concept of '*e-Teaching*': What are the didactics behind e-Education and e-Learning?

*Something to think about:* What didactical methodology, skills and tools does the teacher need to implement e-Teaching in the in the classroom?

The White Paper rightfully states: "The challenge facing our education and training system is to create a learning culture that keeps pace with these changes, and equips people with the knowledge, skills, ideas and values needed for lifelong learning."

More about e-Learning and e-Teaching in the next article.



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