A BLACK HOLE IS FOUND!
OR ED-PUBLISHERS AND MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IN LATVIA

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The aim of this presentation was to provoke a discussion with other EEPG members attending the meeting regarding digital learning materials (DLM) in their countries, esp. commercial vs. funded materials and requirements for the different DLM as to more technical specifications.

The first part of the presentation includes a brief explanation of the past situation regarding DLM in Latvia focusing on the fact that most often DLM created by MoE/EU funds are not functional in a couple of years.

The final part of the presentation gives a brief explanation of the last tender (ending 13.05.2019.) and requirements for DLM created by publishers/IT companies and DLM created within the MoE project.
• New curricula and digital materials: 2016-2019

• A question: what are the difference between digital content created by publishers and/or IT companies and MoE or other state institutions in EEPG member states?
JULY 2005 – AUGUST 2008

• New curricula developed for secondary schools (Forms 10-12)
• Priority – Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Natural Sciences and Maths
• 34 digital materials: PowerPoint presentations, materials in PDFs, animations, videos.
• Digital materials for whiteboards are created for Promethean whiteboards with Active Inspire tools (by ed-publisher Lielvards only).
• The years when whiteboards are introduced in schools and become widely used.
DECEMBER 2008 – OCTOBER 2011

• Curricula is revised for primary schools (Grades 7-9) in Natural Sciences, Maths, Biology, Physics and Chemistry
• More than 4 milj. EUR from EU funding (content, materials, teacher trainings)
• Technologies – municipalities support their schools + EU funding
• Both Promethean and Smart Board technologies compete in schools
• Digital content: similar to previous years (videos, animations, etc.)
PROJECT «SKOLAS.LV» - STARTED IN 2008, NOT FINISHED

• A single access point for schools regarding different services, including digital content
• Initiated by Ministry of Education
• No clear vision, lack of project management
• More than 3,5 milj EUR lost due to mismanagement, criminal proceedings started in 2014
• Tender for innovative digital materials
• Educational establishments, associations, universities, municipalities – allowed to participate

**NO to educational publishers!!!**

• 20 projects, total funding 300 000 LVL (more than 400 000 eur)
• Word docs, worksheets, presentations, videos, materials for whiteboards, etc.
PROJECT «SKOLA 2030»–OCTOBER 2016 – OCTOBER 2021

- Completely new curricula and guidelines for all educational stages, including kindergartens
- New content and materials
- Curricula for pre-schools and primary schools approved in November 2018
- September 2019 – preschools
- September 2020 – Grades 1, 4 and 7
- Total funding (incl. from EU funding) – more than 18 milj. EUR
DIGITAL MATERIALS CREATED BY THE PROJECT

• A special platform is being built
• **Word, PDF materials**
• Teachers could upload their own materials
• Ed-publishers and IT companies could provide links to their digital content
• Supposed to be active from January 2019, then April 2019 – in reality does not function yet
TENDER FOR DIGITAL MATERIALS (PART 1) – FEBRUARY 11 – MAY 13, 2019

- Part 1 – digital materials for pre-schools and elementary schools
- Total funding – 2 milj. EUR
- Ed-publishers and IT companies can participate, with a total limit for one company being 200 000 eur (in total in 3 years time)
- Max duration for content development – 24 months (September 2019-2021)
- Detailed documentation of more than 100 pages
- Digital materials = online materials
• Company is responsible for supporting digital content for at least 3 years after the project deadline (thus 2 years + 3 years)

• Digital content can’t be changed, modified, updated

• **Digital content = inclusive interactivity!!!**

• Multimodality, audio, video, textual, theory+exercises also for self-evaluation, tests should be printable, teacher guides, lesson plans with at least two scenarios for every topic

• Should be compatible with all major devices, browsers, etc., etc.
THE QUESTIONS…

Should requirements for digital content differ according to the company or institution developing them?

Should the very notion of «digital learning material» differ?

What is the experience of other EEPG members regarding digital materials developed by the state and the publishers/IT companies?
THANK YOU!

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