As students discover new ways to communicate and interact, the school environment must adapt to keep pace. The introduction of new technologies into the school environment can be a turning point. Communicating with students and involving them in a fun and engaging way positively affects both their learning performance as well as the relationship between student and teacher. On this premise, Acer has decided to invest in the world of Education to facilitate and support the ongoing changes taking place in this particular area.

The goal of Acer’s education project is to foster a new kind of interaction between teachers and students through the introduction and use of technology. Today’s students must have 21st century skills such as creativity, problem solving, communication, and analytical thinking to compete in the increasingly digital global marketplace. However, education administrators and educators have limited budgets and resources to achieve these goals. As a global leader in personal computing solutions, Acer plays an active role in developing and cultivating the school of the future, providing innovative and extremely affordable solutions for the global education community.

Acer believes that innovation must go beyond the creation of new technologies and solutions, and guarantee that users actually receive the full benefits of advancements, helping them feel truly empowered. It’s time to bring IT into the classroom not only as a topic of study but as a new means of teaching and learning and as a consequence, making education closer to the students everyday life.

Technology unlocks a wealth of possibilities: exploring the human body or the universe with a 3D projector; sharing content on an interactive whiteboard; using netbooks and notebooks for collaborative projects or personalized teaching; managing the entire classroom with intuitive, easy to use software, to name just a few.

The Acer Education division is totally dedicated to addressing the needs of education. Its commitment goes full circle, with several different projects running all around EMEA aimed at establishing new best practices involving teaching and technology.
Acer co-operates with European Schoolnet to promote innovative ways of teaching and learning.

As the introduction of new technologies rapidly impacts on every aspect of our lives, it also affects the Education sector and determines new ways of interacting between teacher and students.

Acer has decided to support the world of Education in this transition and co-operates with European Schoolnet (EUN), a network of 30 Ministries of Education whose activities include carrying out research studies and implementing innovations, the supply of scholastic services, and the introduction of new opportunities for learning and interaction.

Acer’s collaboration with EUN has the ambitious goal of helping the school move into the 21st century through innovation and providing the opportunity to develop new ways of teaching and learning through the use of technology.

Started in 2009 with the Acer-European Schoolnet Educational Netbook Pilot, the partnership now embraces four more European projects and initiatives: the Acer Interactive project study, Acer involvement in the Interactive Whiteboard Working Group, Acer participation in the iTEC project and Acer support for the European Schoolnet’s Future Classroom Lab, covering various aspects of interaction between education and technology.

Interactive boost to school

The project involved 245 classes in secondary schools in six European countries (Italy, France, Spain, UK, Germany, Turkey) for a total of 10,000 teachers and students.

Each student received a netbook and each teacher a notebook to evaluate how classes can take advantage of a more modern and engaging approach to learning.

The project explores how the introduction of netbooks and 1:1 pedagogy in schools can have an impact on the processes involved in teaching and learning, both inside and outside of schools.

The results are published in the Report “Introducing netbook pedagogies in schools”. We can say that netbooks in schools hit the mark. With its enormous potential, the computer is perceived as a valuable resource for teaching, individually or in groups, at school or at home.

Over 70% of teachers, students and parents involved in the Educational Netbook Pilot agree that the use of netbooks for school related activities has a positive impact on learners’ motivation in school and learning.

It seems clear that the Acer-EUN project successfully passed the experimental stage, and is ready to go further.

The full report can be downloaded from the www.acer.com/education website.

Acer-European Schoolnet Educational Netbook Pilot

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Acer tablet project study

As a follow-up to the Acer-European Schoolnet Educational Netbook Pilot, Acer decided to commission a new study to examine how the use of Acer Iconia tablets can impact on teaching and learning practices in classes and support, as a consequence, new ways of learning and teaching.

The pilot project will run from September 2011 to June 2012, involving more than 60 schools. A total of 400 Iconia tablets will be distributed to schools from eight European countries. Working with these devices, teachers can integrate the use of the tablets within their education practices to develop an innovative pedagogical approach: they can prepare lessons, develop learning resources, use them in class or with other school colleagues, etc.

With the Iconia tablet pilot project Acer aims to identify good practices for teaching, and to provide example scenarios or recommendations for other schools looking to implement this technology.

Whiteboard and projectors: supporting interactivity

The European Schoolnet Interactive Whiteboard Working Group was established in 2008 to help Ministries of Education share experience connected to the use of IWB in school and identify issues of common concern. Fifteen Ministries of Education are currently members of the group. Acer, together with five other IWB vendors, is supporting the development of new Working Group guidelines and studies, the aim of which is to develop a better international understanding of how, in practice, the use of IWB technology should be employed to deliver educational benefits.

As well as this, Acer decided to support research to understand and document how the use of Acer interactive projectors and netbooks can be combined to support new ways of learning and teaching. This new project involves 24 classes from 12 schools in 6 countries already participating in the netbook project. Objectives of the study are to identify and examine best practices through working with teachers, and to provide scenarios for other schools, so as to further implement this technology and identify the key factors for a successful integration.

iTEC partnership

Acer is an Associate Partner in iTEC, a four-year, pan-European project focused on the design and validation of innovative teaching and learning scenarios for the future classroom.

The iTEC project involves 27 partners – including 14 Ministries of Education – and includes piloting and validation in more than 1,000 classrooms across 12 countries in Europe. The goal of this major project is to investigate how established and emerging technologies can be used effectively in classrooms. More specifically it will focus on community-driven learning and examine the integration of web services that allow teachers and learners to collaborate and reliably discover and fully exploit online tools and data.

This new partnership will help Acer develop its global educational strategy by demonstrating and testing its technology and by enabling it to deliver products that are in tune with the teaching and learning needs of the future classroom and other learning environments.

Future Classroom Lab

The Future Classroom Lab is a reconfigurable teaching and learning space that is part of European Schoolnet offices in Brussels.

Initially designed to showcase scenarios for teaching and learning developed in the iTEC project, the Future Classroom Lab will also provide training, workshops and other events for teachers, ICT advisors and policy makers at both national and regional levels.

Acer has been one of the first ICT vendors to support the Future Classroom Lab initiative and has initially supplied devices such as netbooks, tablets, notebooks and desktops. This technology will particularly allow EUN to show how a traditional classroom setting can use technology to enhance interactivity and student participation.
Acer’s mission is to provide the education environment with the digital framework to enable a new way of interaction.

Digital learning refers to creating real-world 21st-century learning environments that break through conventional barriers – an approach that combines the best of traditional classroom teaching with digital learning tools and methods to make learning more fun and improve academic results.

The digital framework also plays a huge role in bridging the gap between how students learn in schools as compared to their social interactions outside of schools using Web 2.0 technologies – the interactive, or read/write, Internet.

To create a digital classroom framework, Acer provides a suite of products and services to serve the education community, from portable devices (netbooks and notebooks) to facilitate intelligent classrooms and mobile learning, to fixed solutions (desktops, displays, projectors and interactive whiteboards) designed to provide reliable classroom solutions.

As a leading vendor of IT products, Acer is the only player in the market offering a global solution for the education customer.

Tablets are a new category of products that can answer very well the Educational customers’ needs. Extremely easy to use, thanks to the multi-touch screen, tablets are optimized for basic activities, such as enjoying content, surf the web, drawing or writing simply using fingers. This is why they are ideal as mobile learning devices for young learners.

Designed to simplify communication and to enhance ease of use, netbook is a great tool for learning. Small and light enough to fit a student’s backpack, it allows to create or edit content and share it with friends and schoolmates. Especially designed for secondary schools, it comes with a rubber shell to minimize damages. Plus, the netbook is provided with a special pocket to insert the name tag, to avoid any confusion. What’s more, the extended battery life allows it for a full school day.

A complete line up of notebooks with several configurations and sizes allows users to find the solution which best meet their needs. Notebooks are best suited for secondary schools or higher education, where more performance is required. Acer’s notebooks offer full connectivity, manageability and security and are ideal for both content creation and consumption. Allowing smooth multitasking as well as the playback of multimedia contents, deliver exceptional flexibility for educational tasks.

Mobility at school
The interactive whiteboard is replacing the traditional blackboard bringing lessons to life with sound, motion and visually engaging graphics. Its teaching and learning potential is huge. The large 77-inch interactive display combines the ease of use of a traditional slate board with the power of a computer and the opportunities offered by a projector.

The Acer Interactive Whiteboard comes with an electronic pen allowing users to control the computer from the board surface and interact with the images displayed, highlight content or write notes. Sixteen hot-keys on both sides of the IWB make the interaction easier allowing users to quickly change functions.

The digital classroom is completed by a range of ultra short throw projectors, also featuring interactive models, allowing the reproduction of educational videos and movies. Specifically developed for the educational segment, they can be placed very close to the screen and still display large images. Thanks to this feature, teachers can avoid projector beams in the eyes and don’t cast shadows on the screen during their lessons.

The interactive projectors come with Acer SmartPen, that turns any screen into an interactive space. Using the Acer Smart pen anyone can draw or write on the projected image from anywhere in the room, for more interactive lessons and enhanced learning.

Acer projectors are 3D ready to transform any lesson into a totally immersive experience.

Interactivity at school

With 1:1 teaching it is important to have solutions to store and secure such valuable assets as netbooks and notebook. Through Acer partners, the education customers can find customized solutions that will meet any school needs, needs whether it is for mobile carts or large storage cabinets. Storage cabinets are also available with smart charging system, so that the devices can be seamlessly recharged when not in use or integrated wireless connectivity for easy Internet access from the classroom. For total peace of mind they also feature anti-theft systems.

Video projectors arms and board stand complete the Acer product offer. With them a complete IWB solution is possible, either mobile or wall mounted. Several models of wall mounting arms are available to accommodate both short throw and ultra-short throw projectors. To better meet the school’s needs the board stands are available with or without wheels as well as with height adjustable feature.

A range of accessories
Acer Classroom Manager: simplicity at school

Acer Classroom Manager (powered by Netsupport) provides teachers with the ability to instruct, monitor and interact with their students. Combining advanced classroom PC monitoring and management, this software rises to the challenge and requirements of today’s modern classroom.

Teachers can easily control and interact with their students individually, in groups, or with the entire class: switch on and log all of the computers in the classroom, keep a record of attendance and a history of student activities, see what students are doing and check their progress, test students comprehension and understanding.

Acer Classroom Manager also enables users to interact directly with the whiteboard through a wealth of tools for improved collaboration within the classroom. It is designed to simplify the management of the classroom IT infrastructure, and allow teachers to focus on teaching. It has the potential of dramatically changing the didactic approach of the classroom.

Easiteach, how to make lessons more engaging

RM Easiteach Next Generation* is the latest interactive software for your classroom for use on any whiteboard, projector or hardware devices. Designed to help you create and deliver motivational and engaging lessons, Easiteach enables users to create personalised lessons and resources from scratch as well as access a wide range of content that can be used or adapted to suit your needs. Easiteach has a wide range of key features including a vast media bank, handwriting and shape recognition tools, text to speech capabilities, language and numeracy tools, a wide range of free content and much more. Access a range of free mini apps too that bring you a growing bank of added extras such as calculator, clock, protractor, word builder cards, Sudoku and more. There are over 40 widgets currently available in the widget bank. Easiteach Next Generation is also available for users in a wide variety of languages that can be accessed from within the product in just a few clicks. There are over 30 languages available including French, German, Spanish, Arabic and Chinese. Find out more at www.easiteach.com.

* Acer offers Easiteach as optional software for the interactive whiteboard and projector.

From elementary to high school, Cabrilog software makes the approach to maths, geometry and physics easier and more fun, even allowing a 3D interaction. Cabri 3D leads students from exploration to understanding. With just a few clicks, they can construct geometrical figures, from the simplest to the most complex; create algebraic expressions; explore a figure’s properties and observe the effects of dynamic transformations.

While teachers have a tool that promotes the discovery and understanding concepts, instead of just showing them, as well as assessing individual student comprehension.

Cabri II Plus is the interactive software to dynamize math learning with easy to use tools. Colourful and enticing, 1 2 3... Cabri guides the pupils first steps into the world of math.

Fourier MultiLab™, a lab in your computer

Carrying out scientific experiments has never been easier when Fourier’s innovative software and hardware are used with a PC, creating a powerful science station right on your desk. Fourier’s equipment enables students and teachers to perform scientific experiments, collect data and analyze them in an easy and user-friendly environment.

Acer’s Aspire netbooks come with a downloadable demo version of Fourier’s MultiLab™ data analysis software and Content Viewer, which provides interactive simulations, product training, period table and proprietary scientific content. MultiLab™ is the leading data analysis software in the science education industry, allowing students to directly experience and understand otherwise intangible principles.

The demo version also includes synchronized multimedia analysis capabilities.
Acer has created a specific channel certification - Acer Education Center - with the objective of building a network of dealers capable of satisfying the education market. Thanks to its long-term success in indirect marketing, Acer is an expert in channel dynamics and has applied its experience to create a professional network that offers specific know-how and background in an educational environment.

Acer Education Centers act as a link between the dealer and the world of schools by helping them meet their technological needs, because no matter what the required technology is, it is important that the solution fits the specific school setting.

Certified partners offer proven expertise and professionalism throughout Europe and deliver in-depth knowledge of Acer products and the world of Education.

To help teachers and students to continue to benefit from regular exchange contacts and activities, Acer will support the development of a community, a permanent EUN platform. The community will bring together not only Acer users, but any future class which may be equipped with one-to-one devices, no matter where the class is.

Teachers will be able to exchange information among themselves on forums but will also have access to:

- digital resource sections
- scenarios library
- newsletters
- specific practice and learning groups (either moderated or not moderated)
- online learning events
- online chats
- incentives (competitions, awards...) for specific activities

To join the community, visit the Acer education website: [www.acer.com/education](http://www.acer.com/education)