



Study of the impact of technology in primary schools – Case studies

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Brussels – 25 June 2009 – Bert Jaap van Oel

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Case study within steps

Yin (2003)

A case study is an empirical inquiry that

- investigates a contemporary phenomenon within its real-life context, especially when*
- the boundaries between phenomenon and context are not clearly evident*

Allows us to..

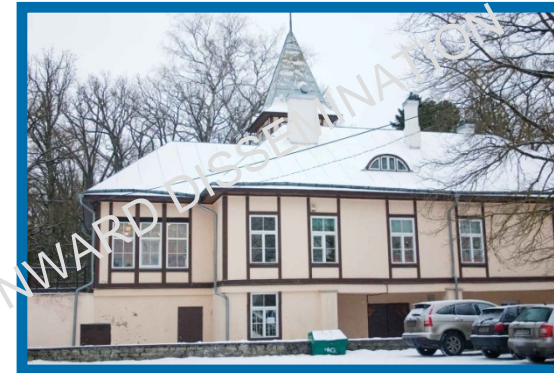
- ... hear the voice of teachers, pupils and school leaders
- ... see what happens in the classrooms
- ... dig deeper when things are unclear

what is a weak guess after one case study, could be a strong signal after several



Wide range of schools

- 1000-25 pupils
- rural and remote <-> innercity
- part of school board or cluster <-> stand alone
- different loci of control: schools from countries with strong national coordination to schools with high levels of autonomy
- schools with relatively low hardware provision and low funding to schools with very advanced hardware
- a geographic spread across Europe
- different pedagogic approaches: from quite classic teacher-led instruction to more inquiry base collaborative work
- representative of different clusters and groups of Learningind



= Opportunity to learn



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Schools

Impact, but...

all school struggled in one way or another with strategies, with designing curricula, with motivating teachers or with lack of or inappropriate support

ICT impacted on...

- ... communication and collaboration
 - important role in home- school link
 - providing access in remote areas
- ... resources allow for flexibility in use of space
- ... rethinking of pedagogies and vision on learning



Schools



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Teachers

Impact, but...

Only under the right circumstances: appropriate technical and pedagogical support, room to experiment, link between ICT and pedagogy. Otherwise: a burden!

ICT impacts on...

... motivation and confidence

renewed interest /discussion teaching, subject, pedagogies

“an internet connected laptop is the best remedy against burnout “.

... communication and confidence: being part of a network of shared knowledge

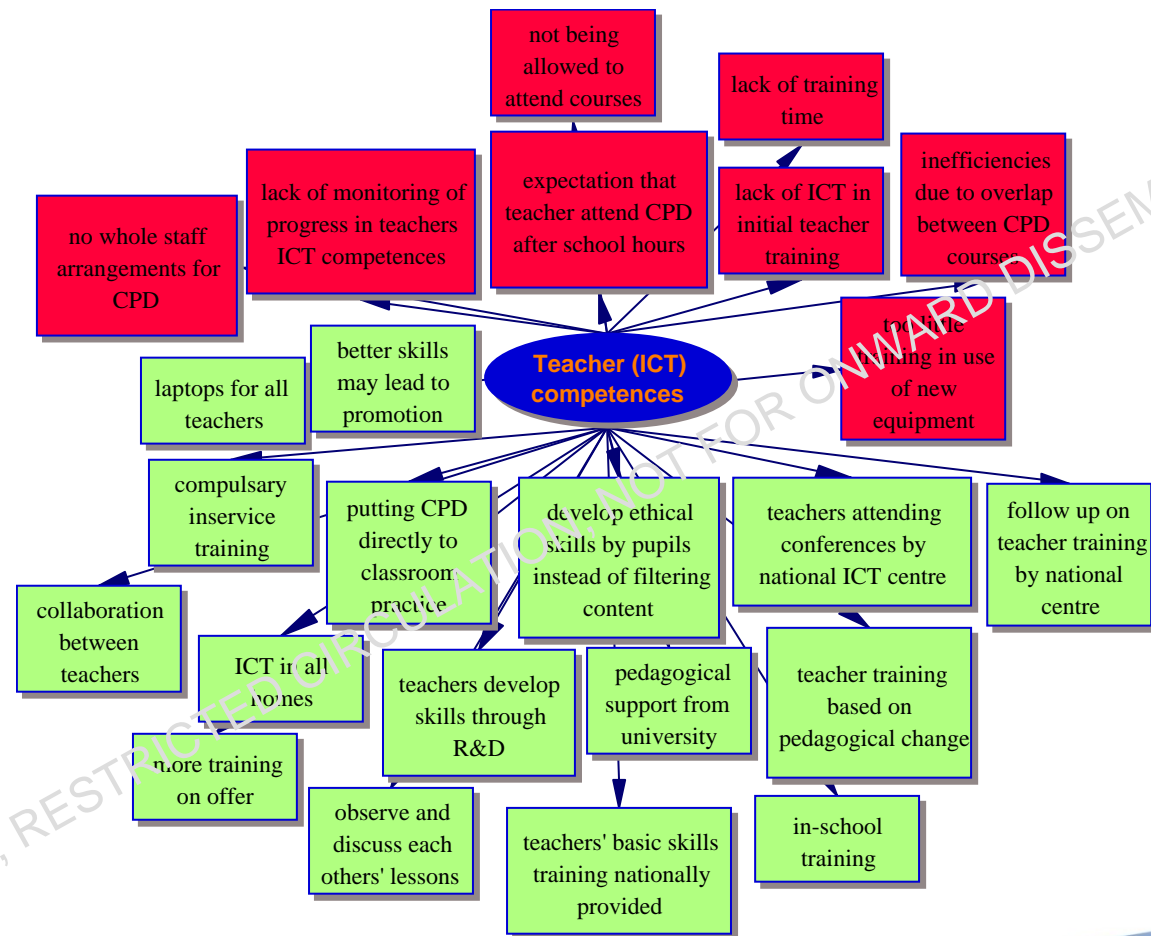
... teaching practice: traditional teaching with a twist

... assessment: if use well, portfolio's and assessment software can give valuable insight



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Teachers



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Pupils

Impact, but...

Little doubt about the value for learning, motivation, competences. But very little view on actual impact on test scores.

ICT impacts on...

... motivation and confidence

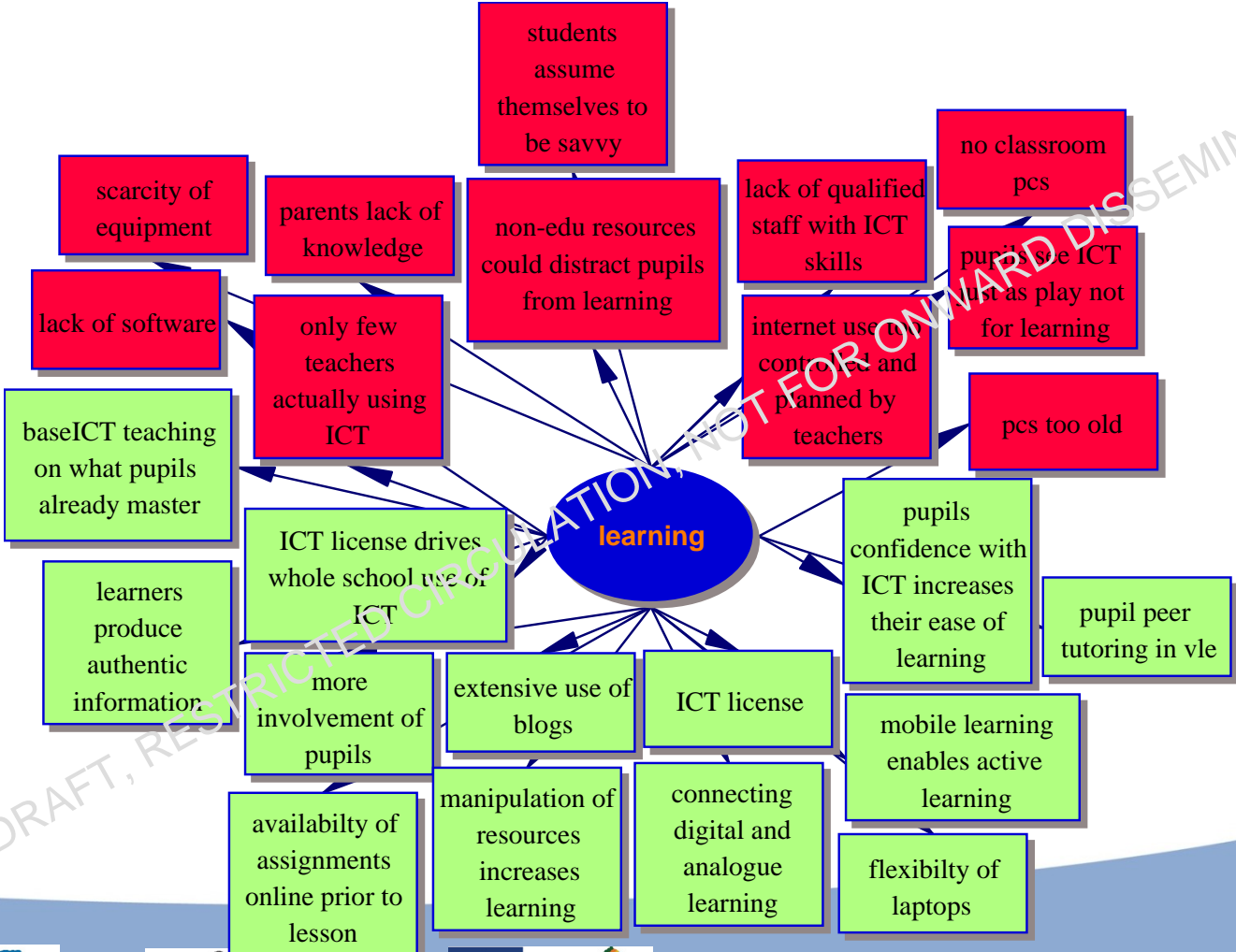
- pupils working outside school hours
- 'difficult children'

... learning

- involvement with subject matter
- more personalised
- cooperative learning
- links learning inside and outside school



Pupils



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- look precisely at the **support** schools need
- Maybe **more models** for different schools
- acknowledge that schools **shape policies** to their local context

- schools define clear **goals** and **strategies, policies, actions**
- **Evaluate** these goals
- Schools need support in measuring impact on **test scores** (precise questions: when, where, how, what?)

- effort by teachers needs **room, time, praise**
- **constant learning** needed

- high expectations** of pupils
- schools have important role to play to help make them **critical, reflective, innovative and creative learners**. ICT can contribute.

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