

New Learners, a French national perspective

Georges-Louis Baron. Université Paris Descartes

georges-louis.baron@paris5.sorbonne.fr

Eric Bruillard, Université Paris 12, University college of education

Eric.bruillard@creteil.iufm.fr

A Changing French Context

- Toward a new balance between the national state and local governments...
 - *Local governments*
 - **In theory** have responsibility for infrastructure and hardware **only**
 - **In practice** are launching political initiatives with pedagogical impact
 - Eg: equipping every high school student with computers
 - Or with interactive white boards
- Ongoing reforms
 - *Toward a culture of assessment and accountability...*

“New” learners ?

- Students : a (seemingly) easy rapport with ICT
 - *Computers: trivial things*
 - *A great extension of some uses*
 - Games
 - Exchange with friends
- But little technical and cultural knowledge
 - *No awareness of underlying processes*
 - *In practice, problems to operate the computer alone*
 - *A lack of words and concepts*

A wide gap between Home and School...

- Importance of the social milieu
- Students' private activities are seldom in line with what is expected by teachers.
 - *E.g. plagiarism*
 - *Importance of wikipedia...*
 - *School: essentially boring?*
- A growing interest of parents' associations for ICT
 - *And correlative fears*

ICT in French schools

- Computers now common
- Many successful innovations
 - *Few seem to be sustainable...*
 - *Overall, no real **integration** in curriculars*
 - **Except in technical fields**
- Outside of school:
 - *new private providers emerging*
 - *Initiatives from associations*
 - **Free software...**
- Teacher education: a series of issues

ICT in Teacher Education

- Specific University courses in the first 3 years
 - *With a specific national certification: C2i*
 - Testing a list of competencies
- Later, complementary professional training
 - *Focus on*
 - Practicum
 - Specific subject matter courses
 - *A complementary ICT certification (C2i2E)*
 - Few specific courses
- A sustained need for professional development

Perspectives

- At stake for students
 - *Appropriation of a culture for the young generations*
 - Is practice enough?
 - How to ?
- At stake for the teaching profession
 - *Appropriation of ICT*
 - Depends very much on teachers' ability to *modify* existing situations
 - And to invent new didactical artifacts
 - No mastery needed
 - But a sufficient level of conceptualization is required