***VISIR keeps stakeholders alert: e-Learning micro-innovation matters!***

**Press release – 31 March 2014**

The VISIR partners[[1]](#footnote-1) believe that **successful mainstreaming of ICT-enhanced and of Open Education strongly depends on uptake** **of grassroots practices.** In the last two years VISIR has been researching and identifying innovations from all over Europe to collect and analyse evidence. Based on real-life practices, the VISIR team has been investigating what are the main barriers and the favourable conditions for mainstreaming bottom-up innovation in education and training. A key finding is that **institutional education environments are often not supportive to grassroots innovation**. Educational settings are still based on outmoded ‘industrial’ models which work in a reproductive rather than transformative mode, and are too often based on organisational cultures which are hierarchical, segmented, slow in response to external change and based on an ethic of conservatism. Our host of the seminar Markku Markkula, member of the Committee of the Regions states:“ *Lifelong learning and the full use of ICT are cornerstones for this change of mind-set towards entrepreneurship and innovation.”*

Innovators, experts and stakeholders gathered together on 25-26 March in Brussels **to reflect upon a way forward in order to make education systems more receptive towards grassroots innovation**. Barriers and success factors for the transformation of new ideas into mainstream practices were discussed and strategies that can facilitate scalability of innovation were proposed. Some really **inspiring micro innovation cases where ICT is successfully applied to learning practices** to build digital and other key competences were showcased and used as a starting point of a discussion on what can be transferred to other contexts and how to support innovation for learning. Anthony Camilleri, Policy advisor EFQUELmentioned "*The breadth of case-studies collected by the project shows that when given the appropriate space and technology-support, educators are able to innovate to improve learning experiences and improve student engagements. The challenge for policy-makers is to foster the right conditions to allow more of these innovations to germinate."*

**VISIR** represents an unprecedented networking effort, bringing together seven European networks and a renowned research institution in the field of learning innovation in order to make Europe a better learning place, by **understanding**, **networking** and **mainstreaming** ICT-for-learning ideas that work. VISIR is identifying, analysing and promoting **opinions** of practitioners and policy makers, **research** results and **trends** as well as **innovative** **practices** on the use of ICT for learning and teaching.

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1. VISIR brings together, under the coordination of the [MENON Network](http://www.menon.org/), some key associations in the field of education and training: the European Association for Adult Learning ([EADL](http://www.eadl.org/)), the European Distance and E-learning Network ([EDEN](http://www.eden-online.org/)), the European Foundation for Management Development ([EFMD](http://www.efmd.org/)), the European Learning Industry Group ([ELIG](http://www.elig.org/)), the European Interest Group on Creativity and Innovation ([EICI](http://www.creativity-innovation.eu/)), the European Foundation for Quality in e-Learning ([EFQUEL](http://www.efquel.org/)), as well as KU Leuven. The project is supported by the LLP programme of the European Commission. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)