

### **HOSTING OF THE NEXT FOCUS GROUP:**

- Date: 26<sup>th</sup> March 2015
- Time: 12pm to 2pm

Topic and Venue TBC



### **Setting the scene**

The BRIDGE Western Cape ICTs in education Community of Practice met on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February 2015 at the Cape Town Science Centre for an engaging reflection on the use of information and communications technologies to improve teaching and learning in the classroom. The meeting was co-hosted by Edunova and Green Shoots.

### **Overview of presentation**

Working Practice Profile: Green Shoots

As a commitment to sharing reflective working practice amongst members, this CoP has pledged to profile member organisations in efforts to find out what work each is doing in this field and what aspects of their programmes could provide for good working practice for all. This meeting showcased the work done by Green Shoots with Jo Besford as the presenter. Jo spoke briefly about the usage of the Green Shoots educational software and how it has been developed by ex-teachers who saw a need for good educational technology. It has a holistic approach which looks at Maths & Science, Curriculum &

Pedagogy, Technological Innovation and Youth Development. Jo discussed how technology is not the 'magic bullet' that will solve all problems within education highlighting the most important aspect is questioning how technology will change teaching. Green Shoots is a teaching tool not to replace teachers; but rather teachers work with the tool to improve their learners' capabilities and knowledge.

**Key lessons :** 1. When technology is introduced to a school, continuous support is required  
2. Technology models cannot be seen as a 'one size fits all' when applying a technological model to different schools.



## Discussion

The key discussion points from this meeting were that technology should not be used as a 'replacement' tool to replace teachers in the classroom. Instead, teachers should be able (and willing) to use different modes of technology to integrate into their classroom and teaching practice. Despite the hesitance of many experienced teachers in schools, the reality is that technology is a big part of the teaching and educational environment, which needs to be embraced and encouraged. The group also discussed which level of a school technology should be integrated and led by- the SGB, the Principal, the teachers or the learners? The consensus was that even though all need to be on board with the integration of technology, teachers are the main avenue of a school which will determine the success of technology integration. A suggestion to contend with the reluctance faced from teachers is for schools to employ a full-time IT integrator. This person would work in the classrooms with teachers integrating technology with the required curriculum. The teacher could learn alongside their learners of how to work with technology in their classroom. After a period, both teacher and learners would be 'integrated' with using technology alongside the curriculum standards.

### Decisions and Suggested follow up

Despite only 6 people present at session, there was a general consensus that it was a worthwhile session whereby ideas can be shared among those with a similar frame of thinking. All who participated would like the group to continue on a month to month basis, discussing the salient points surrounding ICT in education. The use of mobile technology in schools and how some schools have successfully navigated the tricky path of introducing it into classrooms was suggested as a topic to explore at the next CoP session. Arrangements to reach out to Shaun Kirk - Director of Learning Commons, Bridge House School as one such speaker are underway.

Attendance:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Contact details</b>
John	Thole	Edunova	john.thole@edunova.org
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