



## UNECOSOC Education Innovation Fair

### Name of the Approach:Developing Student's Future Skills

The project includes 3 major research initiatives and the resulting output of these, and how the combination of these three outputs serves to help governments, systems and schools move the agenda ahead around preparing students for life and work. These initiatives are:

**ATC21S:** The Assessment and Teaching of 21st-Century Skills (ATC21S) is a research project that proposes ways of assessing 21st-century skills and encourages teaching and adopting those skills in the classroom. The purpose of the project is Empowering students to succeed with the skills essential for the 21st-century workplace.

**ITL Research:** ITL Research, sponsored by Microsoft's Partners in Learning, investigates innovative teaching practices, the conditions that enable teachers to teach in new ways, and the resulting connection with students' 21st century skills. As the program progresses, these methods will be adapted into tools and processes that educators can use to examine, discuss, and ultimately improve the educational opportunities they provide to students.

**Educator Learning Journeys:** *UNESCO ICT Competency Framework for Teachers + Microsoft Deployment Model*  
The goal of the “ICT Competency Framework for Teachers” (ICT-CFT) project is to improve teachers’ practice. However, the Framework does not merely focus on ICT skills. By combining ICT skills with emergent views in pedagogy, curriculum, and school organization, the framework is designed for the professional development of teachers who want to use ICT skills and resources to improve their teaching, collaborate with colleagues, and perhaps ultimately become innovation leaders in their institutions. The overall objective of the project is to improve teacher practice in a way that contributes to a higher quality education system that can, in turn, produce a better informed citizenry and higher quality workforce that can, as a result, advance a country’s economic and social development.

More specifically, the objectives of the ICT-CFT project are:

- to constitute a common core syllabus (defining various ICT competency skills for teachers) that professional development providers can use to develop learning materials sharable at a global level;
- to provide a basic set of qualifications that allows teachers to integrate ICT into their teaching;
- to extend teachers’ professional development so as to advance their skills in pedagogy, collaboration, and school innovation using ICTs;
- to harmonize different views and vocabulary regarding the uses of ICTs in teacher education.

### ***Microsoft Educator Learning Journeys***

After the UNESCO framework was announced, Microsoft saw an opportunity to partner with UNESCO, governments, and other organizations to help teachers meet new levels of proficiency. Microsoft already had an expansive curriculum of technology education resources for teachers and a leadership position in online training. Microsoft also has a global network of teacher content providers and partners to expand its capabilities. So, Microsoft combined its deep resources with the additional expertise of teacher content partners to form a teacher-development platform of vast width and depth. This was the beginning of the Competency Based Professional Development concept.

The Partners in Learning Competency Based Program (Educator Learning Journeys) builds partnerships with government agencies, teacher development providers, NGOs, and the private sector to deliver new benefits for educational and community improvement:

- The CFT helps ensure continuity of competencies across teacher populations and geographies
- The program delivers competency diagnostics, development resources and support, and internationally-recognized assessment and certification

The Partners in Learning Competency Based Teacher Professional Development concept has many different components. But the overall concept is simple and easy to explain:

1. Governments set competency standards for their teachers.
2. Teachers Identify areas where they need competency improvement.
3. Microsoft and its partners provide online development resources.
4. Partners verify improved teacher competencies with certification testing after a course of study.
5. Support is offered to help teachers carry forward ICT use to the classroom.
6. Teacher competency development is refined and iterated in a continuous-improvement cycle.

This project represents a research based approach to addressing the critical areas of assessment, teaching & learning and teacher competency development towards students developing Future Skills (21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills).

This is the first global project to bring together research of this nature, and resulting solutions in measuring Future Skills, teaching Future Skills and teacher competency for Future Skills. See the following sites for reports on results to date:

<http://www.atc21s.org>

<http://www.pilsr.com>

[http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php?URL\\_ID=22997&URL\\_DO=DO\\_TOPIC&URL\\_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/ci/en/ev.php?URL_ID=22997&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

All of these projects have been developed through cross-sector partnerships. Microsoft's contribution towards these projects is in the US\$4-6M range to date.

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