Microsoft Innovative Teachers Roadshow 2007

*Education is a huge branch and it is not simple to make changes from day to day. It is necessary to do some work in teachers‘ thinking as well.*

*Ján Mikolaj, Minister of Education Slovakia*

Third year of the Microsoft Innovative Teachers Roadshow took place from November 26th to November 30th and then on December 5th. We have met 660 teachers in 6 cities – Žilina, Prešov, Košice, Zvolen, Nitra and Bratislava – during the roadshow.

Main aims of the roadshow were to meet the teachers, show them how innovations in their jobs may look like, compare their work with the work of their modern and innovative colleagues and challenge them to follow these examples. The main lecture that followed these objectives was called “How the Innovative Teachers portal helps to change Slovak schools to schools that prepare their students for life and work in 21st century.“ Our task is best characterized by the words of Minister of Education – it is exactly that type of work that has to be done in order to change teachers‘ thinking at our schools.

Within the programme, we have introduced the Partners in Learning initiative, the community of innovative teachers around the Innovative Teachers portal, news at this portal and the ITAPA prize (a prize that the portal has won) to teachers. In the last part we have introduced some new tools for innovative teachers – Microsoft Office 2007 and the family of services and applications, Windows Live.

The roadshow has been enriched by the video created by the teachers of Rudolf Dilong Primary School at Trstená that has shown how the digital technologies can be used in the teacher’s work and furthermore the e-learning solution Microsoft LearninGateway as well. This video has held the mirror up to the teachers and it has shown what an innovative and modern teacher can do in an ordinary primary school in a small provincial townlet in usual conditions. According to the reactions of the teachers we know that this video has hit the target and inspired to further work.

During the whole seminar, attendants have rupturously debated how the School v.2.0 should look like and what will be the role of the teachers in this school.

Except teachers, we have been honored to welcome represenatives of the National Institute for Education, National Institute for Information and Forecast of Education and the Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic.

During the whole roadshow, we have co-operated with the non-profit organization P-MAT, n.o. that engages itself in the education of teachers and works with teachers with aim to launch new pedagogical procedures and elements into education.

From the feedback we choose:

Question: Has the seminar fulfilled your expectations? – 1 exceedingly – 2 yes – 3 scarcely – 4 not at all  
Final mark: 1.82

Question: How do you assess the assets of the Innovative Teachers portal for teachers? – 1 very positively – 2 positively – 3 negatively – 4 very negatively – 5 not able to tell  
Final mark: 1.33

Question: How do you assess the activities of the Microsoft Corporation towards the support of the teachers? – 1 very positively – 2 positively – 3 negatively – 4 very negatively – 5 not able to tell  
Final mark: 1.46

Responses of attendants:

* Thanks for a productive day – motivation and suggestions for work, although I do projects – I have new ideas
* I would appreciate these meetings more often, we can learn a lot of new things here, I can meet acquaintances from schools outside of our district and we can share a lot of information and experience
* Very suitable source of materails and inspiration
* Thanks for new thoughts, roadshow has given us a lot of new ideas and propositions in our educational and pedagogical work

Something negative:

* Try to compete with GNU and GPL software – at least by giving something for schools and teachers for free
* MS Office products discounts for teachers
* I would appreciate a bigger space for teachers that use the portal in practice

Media output:

* approx. 3-minute-long report about roadshow at Rádio Slovensko aired on 2007, November 27th at 2:10 p.m. within the Popoludnie na Slovensku programme as a recent event (download link http://cid-8a4a99bd328a28f7.skydrive.live.com/self.aspx/Roadshow%20Microsoft%20Moderny%20ucitel%202007/Vyjadrenie%20pre%20Slovensk%c3%bd%20rozhlas.mp3)
* approx. 1-minute-long report about the roadshow in the local TV Patriot (can be seen at http://video.msn.com/video.aspx?vid=b6d9c704-fcfd-436f-8df2-7ca5c6bdb5f3)
* article about the roadshow in bi-weekly paper Učiteľské noviny (vol. 7, page 12, http://www.modernaskola.sk/directories/file-upload/unoviny/archiv/UN\_2007-08/Ucitelske\_noviny\_07\_2007-08.pdf)

Contributions to the roadshow and video can be seen at pilslovensko.spaces.live.com blog.

