



2Enable: Facilitator Training for

Mpumalanga Education Department Participants

Microsoft sponsored a SchoolNet-led training of potential facilitators for the Mpumalanga pilot implementation of the 2Enable digital content learning resource. Previously Microsoft had commissioned a course that would help teachers to effectively use digital content learning resources in the classroom. The draft course, *Using Digital Resources in the Classroom*, was written and published at <http://schoolnet.org.za/PILP/2enable/>.

Training took place at the Anglo American ICT Resource Centre near Witbank on 2 and 3 June 2015 in the computer room sponsored by the Vodacom Foundation. It was facilitated by SchoolNet SA master trainer and the developer of the course, Gerald Roos. The venue was quite suitable in terms of the provision of computers and other facilities, but the network was tightly controlled and at times it was disruptive because it blocked access to resources such as OneDrive and made registration on 2Enable problematic. This was partially solved by not using Chrome. Appropriately, Internet Explorer was used and solved most issues. The Internet connection was very slow and the presence of the SchoolNet router for those with laptops was fortuitous.

The Mpumalanga Department of Education was responsible for inviting suitable potential trainers to attend training and arranging for their travel and accommodation. This was facilitated by Isaac Zitha assisted by Deon van Vuuren. Isaac Zitha was available at times to do the coordination of the workshop. Victor Ngobeni, Microsoft in Education Training Manager attended the whole course – with a view to him being able to run future training sessions in other projects or provinces and Megan Rademeyer, SchoolNet's Programmes Manager attended the second day of training.



Participants were:

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| AZ Khumalo | CIE Head Office |
| DR van Vuuren | DDG Office |
| L Mkhonto | CIE Bohlabele |
| BT Magubane | CIE Gert Sibande |
| HS Oberholzer | CIE Nkangala |
| MJ Madonsela | CIE Ehlanzeni |
| MM Mavimbela | CIE Gert Sibande |
| VJ Ngwenya | CIE Nkangala |
| N Keninda | CIE Nkangala |
| AQ Mashego | CIE Head Office |
| SL Mahlabane | CIE Ehlanzeni |
| T Maunye | CIE Bohlabele |
| TB Tshiredo | CIE Nkangala |
| V Ngobeni | Microsoft SA |
| ZM Mthethwa | CIE Bohlabele |

MJ Masilela (jerrymasilela92@gmail.com) was absent from the workshop.

The objective of the workshop was to prepare the participants to facilitate the course with teachers in schools. In the process it was intended that these participants would give feedback about the draft course itself. This feedback was constructive and several changes were made to the course during the workshop. Some additional changes were also made by the course writer/workshop facilitator. The most significant of these involved rewording of questions and the restructuring of the lessons. The order of the original lessons 3 and 4 was changed. The latter half of lesson was moved to lesson 5, while lesson 4 and 5 were merged.

The discussion during the course was very constructive and good input was provided. The input was all shared on OneDrive documents. The links to these documents were made available to all participants on a group email address (2enable@emaildodo.com).

It was interesting how the various components of the course cropped up at unintended stages so that, for example, by the time we formally addressed differentiated learning and group work on day 2 these topics had been discussed several times on previously on day 1. It can be concluded, from the nature of these discussions during activity feedback, that the scenarios and the questions after each scenario covered a comprehensive field of issues relating to the integration of digital content in the curriculum.



The last activity was a task in which the participants had to develop a lesson plan which aligned to the curriculum and integrated 2Enable resources as modelled in the scenarios during the course. For some reason most participants missed the point entirely and presented lessons plans that made no reference to 2Enable resources.

In the original programme for the course, participants were expected to present these lesson plans to the rest of the group in this final session in the form of a showcase. Usually, this showcase activity works well in that it provides the group with an opportunity to see one another's ideas and to discuss these further if required. It also provides an opportunity to see how well the course content has been grasped and the extent to which participants can apply it. In a training of trainers' session, it also provides the master trainer with an opportunity to see the presentation skills of the participants in order to determine whether they would make good facilitators.

In the case of the Mpumalanga 2Enable Training of Trainers session the showcase session unfortunately did not take place as delegates complained that they had a far way to travel and needed to leave at lunch time. This was disappointing to both the Master Trainer, and to Megan Rademeyer from SchoolNet who had driven to Emalaheni primarily to observe the showcase session as it was felt that an opportunity to see the new trainers in action was missed. It was especially disappointing that the times for the workshop had been agreed to beforehand and the workshop had been planned to run over two full days.

We look forward to hearing how the Mpumalanga Department of Education officials who attended the training session progress with their training rollout. We believe that on the whole they are well equipped with a knowledge of the course to be able to train others to make use of the 2Enable content as part of sound teaching and learning.

Gerald Roos (Facilitator) and Megan Rademeyer (SchoolNet Programmes Manager)

22 June 2015