



Project Spotlight: Kosova

Project Name: E-Learning Kosova

Website: <http://elearningkosova.org/>

Overview: e-Learning for Kids (EFK) was first introduced to Kosova in September 2008 to neighborhood children via the EFK learning portal and later via the Kosova Youth website. In April 2010, a pilot project was started at the eOffice Prishtina premises that offered the various EFK courses online to 30 children aged 5 to 12. A team of four educators that included an IT specialist, a psychologist, an environmental specialist, and a teaching methodology specialist were engaged to work with the children. The training of the teachers was an important task.

Usage: Teachers were asked to prepare the courses at home and worked together to support each other. For the pilot, six computers and one projector were used. Typically two teachers were in front of the class and the EFK courses were displayed on a big screen for all to see. Children worked in small groups, usually two per computer. Teaching was interactive and the teachers asked many questions. Courses were organized twice a week—one class on Wednesday and two classes on Saturday. The courses were used in English and teachers translated the subject matter as needed thus allowing the kids to learn the topic as well as learn the English language at the same time.

Impact: Children were observed to have changed their behavior and became more open and interested in the subject matter of the courses. It has positively impacted their behavior at school too. They like the EFK digital lessons as a preferred way of learning. Although it was at first a challenge for teachers to be part of this program, teachers also like the courses and this new way of teaching. At the end of the pilot, students were given final tests and presented Certificates of Attendance, and teachers were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation. The transformation of the children was visible. They became pragmatic and started thinking “out of the box.” The launch of the e-Learning for Kids in Kosova was broadcast on national TV. Kosova has the youngest population in Europe and thus the learning continues today as the number of children expands and more schools become involved. Translating some of the EFK courses into Albanian and developing new courses to offer to the Albanian diaspora will be considered in the future as a way to help with integration into society in both the US and in Europe.