

## Regional Hubs

The Regional Hubs working within the Living Schools Lab project have highlighted the importance of creating working clusters that are located near to each other as this allows teachers opportunity to visit and work together in face to face sessions more easily. Regional Hubs should:

- Have a common focus for Advanced Schools and Advanced Practitioners and bring teachers together (face to face or online) to address common issues and potential resolutions.
- Use a common planning framework and language, as in the LSL project (STEPS Plan and 'showcase, demonstrate, validate' – reference course supporting documents). Every school should be encouraged to write its own STEPS plan at the start to identify a single aspect of school development using ICT that will be developed as part of their participation in the regional hub. Schools/teachers should then be encouraged to share their STEPS plans with other teachers and schools in the regional hub meetings and across wider linked groups.
- Be coordinated by someone responsible for being the main point of communicate and contact for the schools, coordinating across the schools, supporting the development of the regional hub, linking to wider perspectives, coordinating school observation visits (as appropriate), and on-going dissemination through various channels such as a community of practice, electronic forum/teachers' blog, focus group meeting of schools/teachers.
- Meet 2-3 times per year
- Meet with regional funding bodies to discuss access to shared support for schools. Whilst regional funding is likely to be varied, there should be a more direct link to the school leadership about how this is connected to long-term development. E.g. it is not productive to provide schools with a pot of funding that is unconnected to whole school plans.
- Explore opportunities for joint training in schools, for example, schools may be able to cluster together and share expertise.
- Seek opportunities to explore additional funding for professional development and ICT infrastructure and collaborative projects to investigate practice.
- Support schools to develop a broader focus for whole school development, rather than a technology-specific plan.
- Explore opportunities to work with commercial companies to access new resources, professional development and opportunities to undertake investigations to develop concepts and pedagogical approaches.
- Publish investigations and findings to the wider community.

Regional Hubs - management and administration:	Draft time/costings to organise and support regional hub meetings:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Setting the objectives;</li> <li>- Developing timetable and action plan;</li> <li>- Getting key stakeholders buy-in, links with school policy and curriculum change;</li> <li>- Invitations and agenda for meetings;</li> <li>- Organisation of hub meetings (F2F, Virtual);</li> <li>- Preparing/coordinating on content;</li> <li>- Facilitation of the meetings;</li> <li>- Leading/moderating Community of Practice/social media tools;</li> <li>- Answering questions;</li> <li>- Developing linkages with other initiatives, projects;</li> <li>- Dissemination and communication of results;</li> <li>- Follow-up.</li> </ul>	<p>One regional hub meeting/term: ~ 3 to 5 days</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Set-up</li> <li>- Content</li> <li>- Organisation</li> <li>- Attendance</li> <li>- Follow-up</li> <li>- Moderation</li> </ul> <p>Support of travel costs for schools/teachers to attend regional hub meeting: €250/meeting</p>
<p>Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- STEPS plans – selected theme</li> <li>- Sharing of practice – around selected theme</li> <li>- Demonstrations – around selected theme, including use videos and webinar to share with colleagues</li> <li>- Input to school plan and vision</li> <li>- Team to act as catalyst for change in schools</li> </ul>	



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