

Accelerating Educational Change

Evaluating the development of the 'ability to innovate' within teacher training institutes

Jos Fransen, Pieter Swager, Jeroen Bottema
Inholland Research Centre 'Teaching, Learning & Technology'

ιηh

Presentation overview



Introduction to 'Learning from the Future'

Goal, question & structure of both studies

The 'ability to innovate' model explained

Overview of results and key conclusions

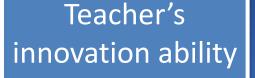
Reflection and some recommendations



Goal of the evaluation research

Experiences with, and appreciation of, innovative ICT use

The project's effect on the programme's ability to innovate



Team's innovation ability



Programme's innovation ability





Student's innovation ability





Institution's innovation ability

Central research question



How does the 'ability to innovate' of teacher training institutes taking part in the 'Learning from the Future' project, develop?

[central question in both studies]



Design of the evaluation (study 1)

Developing the 'ability to innovate' model based on theory -> research tools

Participants → participating teachers/students + non-participating teachers

Participating teachers

Individual interviews [8]

Participating students

Focus group
[4 participants]

Non-participating teachers

Focus group [5 participants]

Transcripts of all voice recordings → analysis and interpretation of the data



Design of the evaluation (study 2)

participants → participating teachers/students + non-participating teachers

Participating teachers

Focus group [8 participants]

Participating students

Focus group
[4 participants]

Non-participating teachers

Focus group
[4 participants]

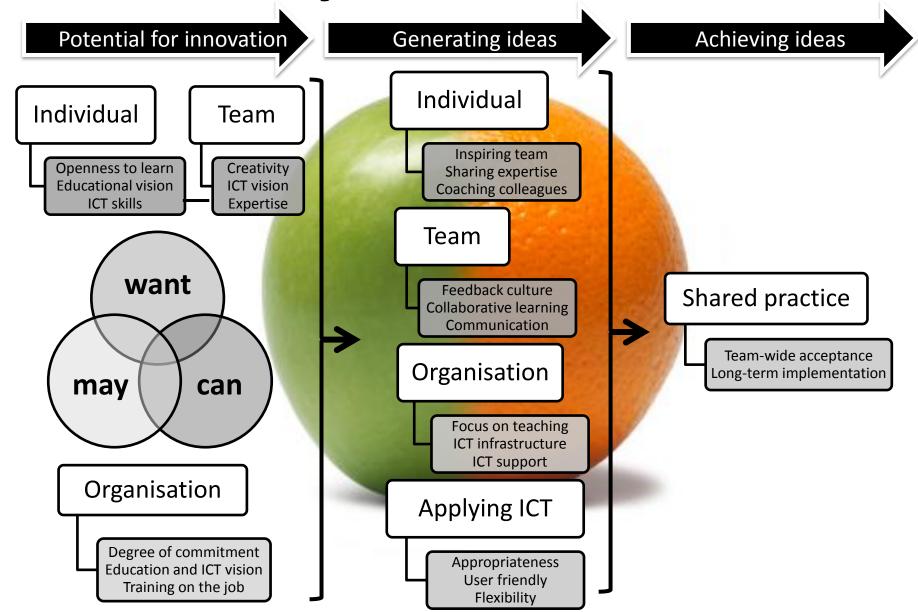
Manager and board members

interview [individual]

Transcripts of all voice recordings → analysis and interpretation of the data



The 'ability to innovate' model





Sub conclusions (study 1)

Group

Sub conclusions

Teachers [active]

- The project is a powerful instrument to strengthen one's development
- Transfer only possible when based on shared vision and strong guidance
- Time available to experiment with ICT is a deciding factor for success
- Support from Kennisnet important, but they should not be in the lead

Students [active]

- Project contributed to gaining insight into one's innovation potential
- Effect of project is visible mainly in those who were actively involved
- Management needs to encourage teachers to experiment with ICT
- Involve the primary schools since they are an important target group

Teachers [other]

- Need for a shared educational vision on focused ICT implementation
- Limited ICT skills and minimal trust is a potential risk for dropping out
- Specific support from Kennisnet is also necessary for the follow up
- ICT innovation preferably in small steps within a small scale context



Factor

Relationship to 'ability to innovate'

Time to learn

Conditional for a successful innovation process

ICT vision

No shared vision on the educational use of ICT

Leadership style

Committed to innovation + investment focused

ICT characteristics

ICT must contribute to achieve educational goals

Infrastructure

Pedagogical - and technical support are needed

Project approach created a distance between both groups

Can/want/may plays important role at the individual level

If applying ICT is voluntary, 'ability to innovate' is reduced

Lack of feedback culture limits the team's learning process

Collaborative learning will make innovation more likely

The management needs to guide the innovation process



Characteristics of front-runners

'want' more important than 'can' and 'may'



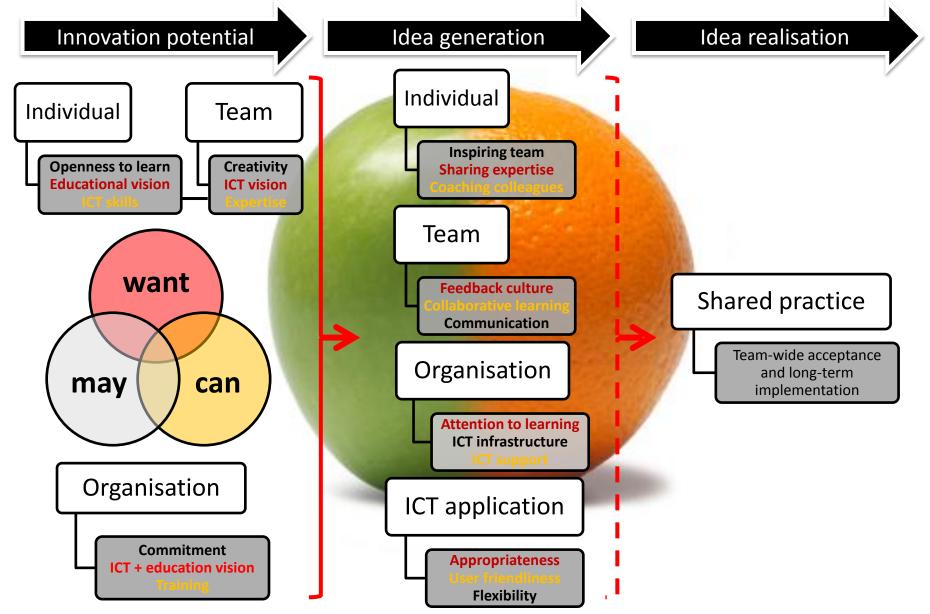
Characteristics of [later] followers

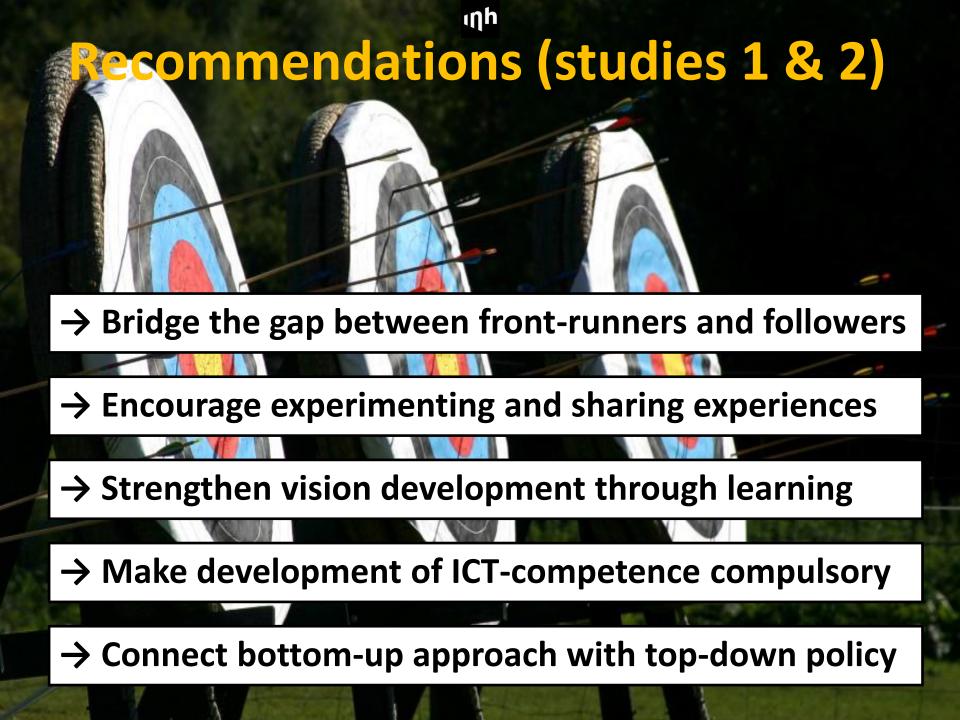
→ 'can' more important than 'want' and 'may'





Reflection on 'ability to innovate'





Discussion

- → A shared educational vision [and vision on the role of technology in teaching and learning] is conditional for developing and implementing 'innovative' practices.
 - → Combining a bottom-up approach and a top-down approach [training/accountability] is conditional for developing the organization's 'ability to innovate'.
 - → Followers [late adopters] can only be successfully linked to front-runners [early adopters] in teams with characteristics of 'professional learning communities'.

jos.fransen@inholland.nl