

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS EDITION

Global Launch of New ECDL / ICDL Programme

ECDL-Government of Montenegro Project for Teachers and Civil Servants

## WELCOME TO THE MAY 2013 ISSUE OF THE ECDL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

**ECDL / ICDL IN ACTION AROUND THE WORLD**



## **ECDL-GOVERNMENT PROJECT FOR TEACHERS AND CIVIL SERVANTS - MONTENEGRO**

On 19 April, a press conference was held in Podgorica to mark the beginning of the project 'Implementation of the ECDL Standard into the Education System'.

The project is financed by the European Union's IPA fund, with participation from two Montenegrin ministries (the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of the Information Society and Telecommunications). It is being implemented by ECDL Foundation and its National Operator for Serbia and Montenegro – JISA. During the project, 3,500 employees in education institutions and in public administration will be trained and certified in accordance with the ECDL standard.

"This project will provide a powerful stimulus and will be a turning point in the development of the information society in Montenegro, and in increasing national levels of digital literacy. Growth in the use of modern technology is directly related to the growth of the economy, and knowledge is one of the largest resources of a country; so, the Ministry will continue its activities in all fields in order to realise its objectives and, by the end of 2016, to match European standards", said the Deputy Minister for Information Society and Telecommunications, Radule Novović.

More information about the project can be found at [www.ecdlfor.me](http://www.ecdlfor.me)



## **ICDL GAINS GROWING RECOGNITION IN ASIA AND AUSTRALIA**

### **Universities in South East Asia Adopt the ICDL Programme:**

#### **Al-Madinah International University – MEDIU Training and Continuing Education Centre, Shah Alam, Malaysia**

An ICDL delegation was recently welcomed by the university's Manager of Administrative Affairs Division, Mr. Fuad Ahmad Umar Al'As, along with the Director of MEDIU Centre for Training and Continuing Education, Asst. Prof. Dr. Saeed Ahmed Saleh Faraj.

Al-Madinah has recently become an ICDL Accredited Test Centre (ATC). It will become the first ATC to offer both English and Arabic Testing in the region. The university has a large number of international students, and the ICDL offering is expected to be well received by this group, with plans to offer it to the general public in the near future.

According to ICDL Asia Regional Development Executive, John McCormack:

*'Having worked with the new ICDL Team at Al-Madinah from the application stage right through to becoming an ICDL Accredited Test Centre...It was great to visit the lab facilities and meet with the team. I was very impressed with the trainers and facilities, and I feel positive about the team's plans for implementing the ICDL programme across the university'.*

#### **International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**

ICDL Asia has recently re-engaged with the university and it is now officially accredited to offer the ICDL programme again. During a recent visit by the





ICDL Asia team, IIUM representatives were very excited about the new flexible structure of the ICDL programme; they believe it will make the programme a lot more attractive to students, colleagues, and the wider community, as they can provide a tailored combination of ICDL modules to match the varying needs. They were also enthusiastic to learn about the potential to offer ICDL in Arabic, and noted that this would create new possibilities to offer the programme to a wider audience.

### **UIA - Indonesia**

Daniel Palmer, General Manager of ICDL Asia, attended an event in Jakarta, celebrating the first university to become ICDL-accredited in Indonesia. UIA joins a growing network of universities who have adopted the ICDL programme as the means to provide students, administrative staff, and lecturers with the necessary ICT skills.

### **ICDL Recognised by Queensland Studies Authority - Australia**

ICDL Asia is now formally recognised in Australia by the Queensland Studies Authority (QSA) as the entity responsible for reporting student results to achieve credits towards the Queensland Certificate of Education. The Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE) is Queensland's senior school qualification, which is awarded to eligible students usually at the end of Year 12.

ICDL Asia Regional Development Executive, John McCormack welcomed the new recognition agreement between ICDL Asia and QSA:

*'This will be a significant attraction for schools across the State of Queensland. Many of which are not aware of the value the ICDL programme can offer and contribute to a student completing their High School Diploma. The 'traditional' 7 ICDL modules are worth 2 credits out of the 20 credits required'.*

ICDL - QCE Recognised Studies:

[http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/downloads/senior/qce\\_recognised\\_icdl.pdf](http://www.qsa.qld.edu.au/downloads/senior/qce_recognised_icdl.pdf)

### **Visit to First of Indonesian Schools Participating in ICDL Pilot**

Mr. Daniel Palmer, General Manager of ICDL Asia visited two key schools on 25 - 26 April: Madrasah Aliyah Negeri 1 Kota Bekasi and Madrasah Stanawiyah Negeri Setu Bekasi. The schools are among the first to implement the ICDL programme as part of the MORA project officially launched last month in Jakarta by Mr. Damien O'Sullivan CEO, ECDL Foundation and Mr. Datuk Agung Sidayu 'Yayasan Pendidikan Indonesia' (YPI), the ICDL Asia Accreditation Partner in Indonesia.

The shared objective for making ICDL available in schools is to provide young Indonesians with access to an internationally recognised computer certification, at an affordable cost.

### **ECDL ROMANIA SUPPORTS THE 'INFORMATICS CHAMPIONS'**

Over 500 students and teachers in secondary schools across the country participated in the 'National Olympiad in Informatics' during early April. The high school students gathered in Timisoara, as the junior school students met in the city of Oradea. ECDL Romania maintained the tradition of granting medals to all winners, awarded for the best results for high schools and junior secondary schools participating in the initiative.

The National Theatre in Timisoara hosted the opening ceremony for the High



Teachers' confidence in using ICT can be as crucial as their technical competence.

Source: 'Survey of Schools: ICT in Education' - European Commission (2013)





Only 30% of students...in vocational education can be considered as digitally positive students, i.e. associated with high access/use at school and at home.

Source: 'Survey of Schools: ICT in Education' - European Commission (2013)

School National Olympiad in Informatics that gathered over 300 students from all over Romania. They were awarded on 3 April, and Vlad-Andrei Tarniceru, a 9th grader at a high school in Piatra Neamt achieved a maximum score - 600 points - after 2 days of competition.

The city of Oradea hosted over 200 secondary school students on 6 & 10 April, who competed in the 'Junior National Olympiad in Informatics'. The winners were awarded in the festivities hall of the 'Ady Endre' High School in Oradea.

The final results of both sessions decided the national group that will represent Romania at the International Olympiad in Informatics and other international competitions.

This initiative, which encourages excellence in Romanian schools, is supported by the Ministry of Education and the School Inspectorates.

### **ICDL COLOMBIA AS A MAIN PARTICIPANT IN NATIONAL E-LEARNING CONFERENCE**



ICDL Colombia, with the support of ICDL Latinoamérica, will be participating in the IV edition of EXPOEARNING, an International Congress and Professional fair organised by AEFOL, which will take place 13 June in Bogotá, Colombia. Companies, HR professionals and training specialists will be meeting in this event focusing on innovation in online training, knowledge sharing and business. Paula Alvarez, from ICDL Colombia, will be one of the main speakers on the conference, talking about the relevance of digital competences in the world of online and distance learning, highlighting successful instances of the ICDL digital skills certification's successful implementation in the public and private sector around the world. Additionally, panel discussions and workshops will be organised, some of them on a pre-conference day, 12 June. More information and updates available on [www.expoelearning.com](http://www.expoelearning.com)

### **INSPIRING ICDL STUDENT FROM ZIMBABWE**



Daniel Goncalves has had a busy few weeks in the spotlight in Africa. That what happens when you create your own version of Facebook in your spare time. He created 'Tymzchat', an alternative to Facebook, targeted at people in Africa. Daniel is a student at Lomagundi College in Chinhoyi, approximately 100km northwest of the capital Harare.

Influences and ICDL - Daniel became interested in computers and technology from a very young age as his Dad works in the field. He completed ICDL certification (7-modules) in Form 3 in Lomagundi College and is thinking of taking new examinations to update what he had learned originally. With the successful introduction of new ICDL in Zimbabwe in February, Daniel will now have the opportunity to create his ICDL Profile and continue his lifelong learning in ICT. Daniel believes that taking ICDL has benefitted him in many ways and he would recommend it to other students.

Advice for others - Daniel's advice for others is that, "no matter what people say, continue to strive and make your dreams a reality." He actively encourages other people his age to learn about ICT and to continuously develop their skills. He notes that ICT is a continuously expanding area, with more and more technologies becoming integrated with ICT. Daniel thinks people should definitely take part in learning ICT because it offers unlimited possibilities.

## FOR DISCUSSION



### TECHNOLOGY IN CRISIS: MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU THINK

Technology connects people, objects and data more than ever before. We can see live traffic data on a smartphone map and we can hail a taxi to our exact location using an app – and we don't even consider it remarkable.

There are heart-stopping, gratitude-soaked moments we do notice these connections however – in times of crisis.

In the phone line-jammed hours after the Boston Marathon bombings, Google's People Finder was a lifeline for worried relatives and friends. After China's devastating earthquake in Sichuan, one of the key services of disaster relief units was mobile phone charging stations. After a natural disaster, Google's Crisis Response Unit facilitates other response agencies to share alerts on Google's platforms.

They all prove that technology is a reactionary tool in times of disaster and crisis; we use it to inform, help and understand.

Now a new study released by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) goes much further.

They claim that the latest communication technology could be used to prevent conflict, violence and man-made crisis. Threats of unrest or conflict can actually dissipate when handled with the right technology locally and in real-time.

Consider the tools at hand. There's the explosion of data available from mobile phones, social media, crowdsourcing, crisis mapping, blogging and big data. Add to that increasing global interconnectivity and the growing penetration rate of mobile phones (particularly in regions such as sub-Saharan Africa), and what you have is quite startling potential.

Harness these technologies in the right way, and you have a method to forestall crises, and address the root causes of violence.

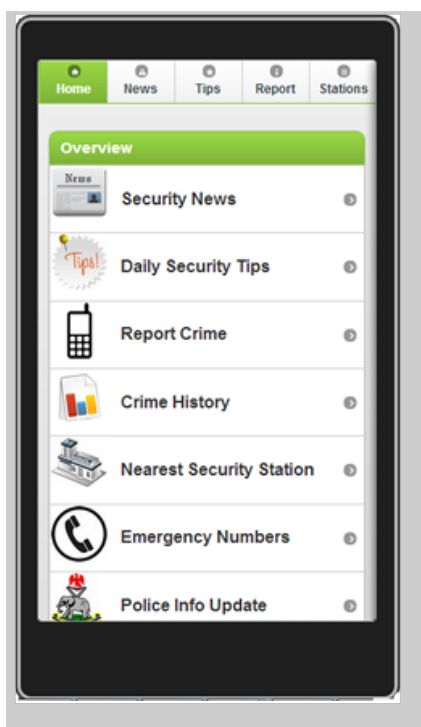
UNDP has the case studies to prove this is already happening.

In Kenya, deadly post-election violence in 2007 led to grave concern around this year's elections in March. But a toll-free SMS service gave citizens a simple way of reporting perceived threats to a message hub. The local reports were then analysed centrally so police and other responders could make informed decisions on where they were needed. Combined with the 'Uchaguzi' crowdmapping site, the result was a relatively peaceful election day.

As technology advances and mobile penetration continues, similar success stories will multiply.

These systems bridge the gulf between warning and response, and better yet – it's empowering for individuals to feel they can protect their community.

Three app creators from Nigeria already know this – and have a Mobile World Summit Award to prove it. 'iPolice' is a community policing platform that lets citizens connect with security agencies to report crimes and provide valuable information via their mobile phones. It's essentially Neighbourhood Watch gone mobile, but it allows police to follow and analyse security and crime trends. They can identify crime black spots to avoid, and warn users of growing crime trends.



Of course technology isn't always used for good, which the UNDP concedes. It can be harnessed to incite conflict too, as we saw with the London riots.

Now that we know citizens can use technology to work with NGOs, police and responders to protect their community, it makes the case for digital literacy even more urgent.

Just like Twitter evolved into an ecosystem of real time news when needed, we're excited about a new application for technology: an ecosystem of conflict prevention.

## INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND REPORTS



Between 80% and 90% of students have more than four years of computer experience at home compared to 40-60% of students in this situation at school.

Source: 'Survey of Schools: ICT in Education' - European Commission (2013)

### **DIGITALLY SKILLED TEACHERS ARE KEY TO DRIVE THE USE ICT IN THE CLASSROOM – EUROPEAN COMMISSION SURVEY**

According to this EC survey only a handful of European teachers use ICT during lessons even though the majority of them (75%) use ICT to prepare their teaching. 'The Survey of Schools: ICT in Education' report was commissioned by the European Commission to benchmark access, use of and attitudes to ICT in schools in 31 European countries.

### **ICDL IN SRI LANKA: MEETING EXPECTATIONS DURING WAR AND BEYOND - CASE STUDY**

During both war and peace, education has been an absolute priority to the people living in the north of Sri Lanka. Considering this, ICDL Sri Lanka did its utmost to develop the IT skills of the teachers of the north with the support of the Ministry of Education. ICDL Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Education shared the same view that equipping the teachers with ICT skills is the best method of making a society digitally literate.