Computers and Multimedia Boost Bilingual Education in Peru

Source:

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Sector:

Education

Primary schools and some secondary schools in the Peruvian Andes and Amazon regions are going to use computers and multimedia to boost intercultural bilingual education. This programme is supported by international organisations IICD and Edukans.

Computers and other information and communication technology will contribute to the improvement of the quality, equity and relevance of intercultural bilingual education. Students will for instance use interactive bilingual modules to improve their learning in the classroom. This training will be part of the Peruvian Intercultural Bilingual Education (IBE). As in five other Andean countries in Latin America, IBE is an educational policy in Peru that, among other things, guarantees indigenous children the right to education in their mother tongue. This means that students will be educated both in their mother tongue Quechua and in Spanish.

Five ICT for education projects

The computer education is one of the outcomes of a workshop held by IICD and Connect4Change consortium partner Edukans. At this 'roundtable workshop' local Peruvian educational organisations had the chance to think about how to integrate ICT for education in their existing schools. This resulted in five projects currently in formulation and that will start in the fourth quarter of 2011.

All project partners expressed the need for computers, but without making it too expensive for their organisation. That's why low-cost ICT solutions will definitely be part of the projects.

Multimedia

In 3 projects multimedia will be a focus point. Teachers will use tools such as digital photo and video cameras and PowerPoint to produce images, audio and video recording of local knowledge to prepare and present their classes.. They will also train the pupils in using those tools to produce content in Quechua in relation to their own culture, which will enhance their learning abilities. The Quechua culture is a predominantly oral culture so audiovisual tools are an added value in those projects.

IICD advises the partners in formulation, training, capacity building and implementation. IICD will also use its experience in knowledge sharing to strengthen the existing networking platform of the Education partners called 'Ruta de Sol'. The new networking platform will be up and running at the end of August. IICD also makes sure that partners are regularly updated on relevant technologies. In addition to that, IICD also links the ICT for Education partners in Bolivia and in Peru for future peer exchange and opportunities for projects to expand.