



MenSI

Mentoring for
School Improvement

MenSI Learning Labs

Beta School, Israel

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Table of Contents

National Context	2
Fostering a learning lab	3
Launching a learning lab	3
Local, regional and national support	3
Collaboration with the private sector.....	3
School training activities	4
National workshop and events	4
School training sessions.....	4
<i>School network</i>	4
<i>Workshops and other training events</i>	5
Beyond MenSI	6
Future plans.....	6
Challenges.....	6
Opportunities.....	6





National Context

Short description of your local/regional/national context (depending on range of impact of your activities) with a specific focus on innovative whole-school approaches to implementing ICT.

Israel is known as the Start-up nation and as such innovation is everywhere even in education. In 2010 the MoE introduced the plan for adapting schools to the 21 century and since then a lot happens in introducing and implementing ict and tec innovations in schools.

A lot of devices and digital equipment entered the schools, extensive professional development was done for the ICT coordinator (a new role that was added to the system following the program) and for the teaching staff, managers and supervisors.

Beta School is in Petah Tikva, the fourth largest city in Israel, in the center of the country and belongs to the Tel Aviv district at the MoE. A city with 37 primary schools and 22 secondary schools almost all of which are equipped with interactive classrooms (interactive classroom = computer + projector and audiovisual system).

Since 2018 the dept of education at the Municipality decided to move to work in the cloud. give each Ss and teacher cloud 365.

In addition, from 2018, the education department in the municipality decided to move to work in the corporate cloud – Microsoft 365. Since then, and with training and professional development courses, the entire education community in the city - student, Principals and teacher – are able and work with the cloud, fact that helps a lot during the Covid.

During Covid the schools need to work online, and Teams began to be used more and more. Beta School also began targeted trainings and webinars online in relevant topics and hundreds of teachers joined them.

According to the numbers the primary schools excelled in usage. After the corona and with the thought of preserving the strengths of distance learning, several innovative initiatives emerged. The most prominent among them and still operates today, is Alpha School.

Alpha school is a virtual school for elementary schools in the city that offers classes on curricular and extracurricular topics that allows students to connect from the classroom or from home.



Fostering a learning lab

Launching a learning lab

Beta School was created in 2015 after our participation in the ITEC project. We were very inspired about the learning zones and the scenarios. The activities in the FCL in Brussels served us a great example of new practices in the classroom augmented using digital tools to promote personalize learning, teamwork, creative thinking, and skilled communication. Betas main mission is to be an enabler to create the future education today.

Local, regional, and national support

We receive fully support from the Municipality of Petah Tikva in terms of infrastructure and physical space and from the MoE in terms of techno-inno -pedagogical instructional personal .

Collaboration with the private sector

Microsoft and Intel are partners, and we collaborate to enable teachers and students to use digital technologies in an efficient way to help them in their future

In addition, we also have collaborations with associations like and small companies connected with innovation in education to promote the implementation of new trends in education like immersive learning experience, gaming and so.



School training activities

National workshop and events

Please describe here the different type of conferences, webinars, workshops, symposia, educational fairs, in-service trainings, events in your country in which you usually participate as a learning lab.

Beta School as a learning lab is a space for the development of educational innovation. This is a teaching laboratory for students and educators (supervisors, instructors, managers and teachers). The laboratory invites them to be exposed to the latest technologies available today, with the aim of inspiring and encouraging innovation and initiative in the various fields of study and teaching methods.

Beta leads workshops (3 hours length), annual courses and Hackathons.

Our workshops for teachers are about new digital techs and how to implement them in the classroom from a techno-pedagogical view. We also lead workshops about theory of change including Design Thinking methodologies.

A new trend we are exploring is the Immersive Learning Experience. After in-depth research and professional development that our team has undergone in the field, a month ago we started a course (hybrid one) on a very interesting topic: Immersive Learning Experience in a fully immersive 3 walls classroom – the ImagineBox.

For students we ran courses about coding, gaming in the classroom by Minecraft and cloud computing. We promote the SDGs, Code Week and Climate education.

**Note: these activities can go beyond your collaboration with MenSI.*

School training sessions

School network

Please describe here how do you invite schools/teachers to participate to workshops and training sessions.

Beta School trained teachers from TLV District but from 2021 mainly from Petah Tikva. We publish our workshops and courses with the help of MoE supervisors, in our FB page and also by a mailing list we built of our target population.



Workshops and other training events

Learning labs have been invited to work with other schools in order to accelerate the adoption of the FCL model and the innovative pedagogical practices involving ICT that are available in these labs.

How would describe a typical workshop of your learning lab?

We have a workshop of about 3 hours called Redefining the learning process or the classroom. The workshop aims to challenge educators and teachers with the question: how the classroom will look like in 2030? The workshop has 4 parts: Inspire – Empower – Create and Share.

In the workshop the teachers learn about the FCL model, and they are asked to imagine how it will look like? What will be the great changes in teacher's role? In the look and feel of the classroom. They work in small groups and at the end of the process each group present before the whole group their new vision.

In the workshop the teachers work with Lego learn to learn to create their vision/model and at the create stage they chose a digital they chose from a list we provided them.

The workshop is prepared in a shared OneNote and they enter it by a link we provide them at the beginning of the workshop. In their OneNote they are invited to write notes and share insights as well as pictures of their group and results.

Any relevant links/examples to be shared?

Here is a link to:

1. our [web page](#)
2. [FB page](#)



Beyond MenSI

Future plans

What are the plans for your organization regarding the dissemination of innovative practices and ICT within your school network.

In six months, BETA moves to a new home in Petah Tikva. A huge space called "The House of Innovation" an ecosystem that includes industry, education, and employment with the aim of providing students of all ages to learn and experience skills and fields that are not available in school.

Betas activities will be more focused on students but also on trainings and pd of teachers and on special techno-inno-pedagogical courses (see page 4 training activities).

In addition to these and following our participation in the MENSİ project, we plan to create another webinar (the first one was about the theory of change) on the topic of collaborations between schools in which we will offer a model inspired by Mensi - school to school mentoring. Both will be added to our list of regular courses/meetings that will be open for booking upon request.

Challenges

Description of challenges when implementing your agenda as learning lab.

Our main challenges are promoting digital innovation inclusiveness, providing equal opportunities to all – no matter gender, religion or nationality and succeed in reducing gaps.

Opportunities

Opportunities for collaboration, suggestions, enablers?

BETA's connection to the Innovation House is a huge opportunity to expand its fields of activity as well as its target audiences. Already today, before we entered the new house, we have new collaborations – for example, [Appleseeds Association](#), and we are part of TEALS program.



Coordinator



Partners



EDUCAÇÃO



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