Experts workshop on descriptors of

Digital Competence

Definitions of digital competence

Anusca Ferrari
Project manager
JRC-IPTS
1 March 2012
Collecting definitions

- 17 definitions
- Length: from 19 to 309 words
- More variety in the input of experts than in definitions of frameworks
- Experts’ definitions changing over time
- Some trends/commonalities – although further analysis will be needed
A note on definition

- In research, formulating definitions is a rather futile thing as those definitions are seen as stipulative, attempts to freeze a concept.
- Rather, definitions should be real definitions (as they are called) and should reflect our present understanding of a notion.
- This leaves room for conceptual development, which is necessary for scientific progress. And it leads to discussions which are not futile but productive.
- Definitions may either be given in the form of a list of typical examples (a notion's extension), which is useful to get a feel for something, or a set of characteristics that one attempts to be necessary and jointly exhaustive (a notion's intension). Even though that hardly ever is possible, attempting to do so makes for precision of formulations.
- We should aim for real definitions, both of a notions extension and intension.
digital competence use

information purposes order particular tool

competent devices

ICT using internet covers

media digital

knowledge literacy content

society skills
Recurring themes

• Technology rapidly changing (so definitions/descriptors should follow this trend)
• Social capital or cultural background (as learning domains)
• Personal goals or necessity to adapt digital competence descriptors to individual needs
• Technology as tools (mediator)
• Personalisation: granularity of a framework
Thank you for your attention

Anusca.Ferrari@ec.europa.eu

http://is.jrc.ec.europa.eu/pages/EAP/DIGCOMP.html