

Meeting of education experts from "5+5" countries



TUNIS, March 3, 2010

Experts and representatives of education ministries from the "5+5" countries (Tunisia, Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Spain, France, Italy, Malta and Portugal) met, on Wednesday in Tunis, to identify joint action plans to develop education and digital contents at schools, promote digital education infrastructure and enhance training of teachers in pedagogical uses of new technologies.

Identified action plans will be submitted to the next ministerial meeting "5+5" Education, set for late 2010 or early 2011 in Tunis. Experts, whose meeting will last till Thursday, examined progress of implementing recommendations of the first "5+5" Education meeting held in Biarritz, France, in September 2009.

The Biarritz ministerial meeting put forward five proposals: drawing up a Mediterranean charter, use of the Internet in schools, joint certification of teachers' skills, setting up of information and training system on use of ICTs in classes, strengthening of co-operation between educational institutions and exchange of digital pedagogical contents.

Experts said that, despite differences in the educational systems, the ten involved Mediterranean countries have expressed the same concerns in this area, particularly, the good use of Internet and digital technology, securitisation of digital education tools, availability of digital equipment, appropriate training of teachers, ethics and integration of good educational practices, improvement of pedagogical methods and access of a large number of pupils to schools.

During the 2009-2010 school year, Tunisia started digital education in scientific classes in the first year of secondary education in pilot schools. This will be generalised in secondary classes (from the first to the fourth years) in all high schools by 2014.