



# Reading for Pleasure in the Digital Age Workshop

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## Reading for Pleasure in the Digital Age: Viv Bird

- Reading for Pleasure means voluntary reading, and choosing (what) to read, either during school time or in free time. It can be a powerful tool in all age groups and amongst all levels of readers.
- Reading for Pleasure is linked to high student attainment (OECD PISA)
- Reading and book sharing starts early in the home
- Rapid developments in digital technology has created more opportunities for reading: digital literacy is part of everyday literacy



## Reading for Pleasure within ELINET

- Improving literacy policies in all member countries
- Reducing the number of children, young people and adults with low literacy skills in Europe.
- Helping to increase reading skills and reading for pleasure

### **By building a powerful and sustainable network which will**

- Develop common standards and frameworks in a bottom-up process
- Develop evidence-based tools for all actors in the field of literacy
- Support existing and new activities locally, regionally, nationally and transnationally.



## Reading for Pleasure in the Digital Age

- Reading for Pleasure is one of the cross-themes within ELINET
- Digital Literacy is also a cross theme within ELINET
- This workshop explores how the digital aspect is included in reading frameworks, and vice versa, and how digital apps and e-books are impacting on reading motivation
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## Reading for Pleasure

- Reading for Pleasure in national policies and frameworks
  - Reading for Pleasure within ELINET frameworks:
    - Framework of Good Practices
    - Declaration of European Citizens' Literacy Rights
- One of the ten conditions for literacy excellence:

“Reading for Pleasure is actively promoted and encouraged”



## Digital Literacy

The ELINET Position Paper, presented by Fabio Nascimbeni to a meeting of the EU Parliament in Brussels in January 2016, was positively received by EC officers

A number of challenges and opportunities were identified

**Key messages** of this paper are presented by Fabio at a number of workshops this week (including Reading for Pleasure workshops)



## Digital Reading Habits of Children: Book Trust research

Study carried out by Open University among 1500 parents of children aged 0-8 yrs

- Highlighted parents' attitudes to their children's digital reading
- Parents perceive Digital media to be more likely to be used by their children for entertainment, not reading for pleasure
- Parents' biggest concerns around digital media is exposing their children to inappropriate content
  - The study identified an urgent need for advice to parents on digital reading and apps



## Conclusions

- The digital age presents new opportunities and challenges for those engaged in reading promotion programmes and campaigns
  - Digital reading can motivate older children, especially reluctant readers
- Reading promoters are incorporating digital thinking into their frameworks and projects





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## Questions for panel and audience

1. What is the evidence for / experience of using traditional and digital formats to encourage reading for pleasure?
2. How can digital tools - tablets, mobiles, e-books and other platforms - be used in the home and school to support reading for pleasure?
3. What are the challenges / advantages in using digital tools to promote reading for pleasure to different age groups?