

Porto Declaration

SiS Catalyst & EUCU.NET Conference
Universidade do Porto – Reitoria
28th November – 1st December 2012

Technology, education and young people

Science in Society activities are central building blocks of lifelong learning. In an open and informal way they promote curiosity, inquiry, creativity and critical thinking.

Today's children and young people are growing up in an information-rich society that is very different from the past. The opportunities they have to access and use information and communications technologies (ICTs) enable them to become active global citizens. They are able to participate in education and research almost anywhere in the world, at any time and often for little cost.

Access to knowledge that is not dependent on time or place, together with the development of technology-based learning environments, will fundamentally change education and research systems. Science in Society activities must also change.

ICTs have the potential to make knowledge about science much more accessible. However, we must consider the ethical issues they raise, the implications they have for the rights of the child, how children and young people can use ICTs safely and digital literacies. We must also consider equality of access, for while digital access will foster opportunities, digital gaps will contribute to disadvantage.

The universities and research organisations that will become the incubators of new ideas for the future will be those that integrate new technologies effectively into their research, teaching and engagement with society.