Abstract: In the educational process, any teacher who wants to be in touch with the updates in some areas, cannot remain outside the new Web 2.0 technologies which facilitates this. Such a technology that allows collaborative editing and not only, is VoiceThread.

Voice Thread is part of a class of applications such as Cooliris or SlideShare allowing easy assembly with visual media elements into a presentation.

It can integrate comments and other multimedia effects presentation, creating an original application. It is an environment suitable for pupils and students who have not advanced ICT competences. They can interact online to create virtual portfolios of a large effect. Also, VoiceThread is also an environment for collaborative activities coordinated by a teacher, where personal reflections, guidance and teacher assessment may be collected and preserved.

In this paperwork it will be spoken about these facilities but also about integrating this technology into other Web 2.0 technologies, as follows. As conclusions, it will be presented some ideas on using these technologies in education, all of which being integrated by the author of the article in her teaching.

Keywords: education, web 2.0, VoiceThread, collaborative editing.

International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) has completed in the recent years the technological standards for students, teachers and administrators of educational platforms.

Figure 1. Capture from http://www.iste.org

ISTE [5] has defined the technical standards that students must achieve based on the courses taken in college. NETS Standards for students were until 2007: Basic Operations and Concepts, Social, Ethical, and Human Issues, Technology Productivity Tools, Technology Communications Tools, Technology Research Tools, Technology Problem-solving and Decision-making Tools.

It can be seen that the focus is on using applications. In June 2007 due to rapid evolution of technology, these standards have changed radically considering «What students should know and be able to do to learn effectively and live productively in an increasingly digital world ...». Actual standards are: Creativity and Innovation, Communication and Collaboration, Research and Information Fluency, Critical Thinking, Problem Solving, and Decision Making, Digital Citizenship and Technology Operations and Concepts.
One of the main principles that teachers use is "technology to enhance professional practice and productivity. As students use technology to enhance their learning process, their productivity and promoting creativity, teachers should use technology to support instructive practice and to improve productivity.

To develop students' ability to achieve the required standard NETS # 2 - Communication and Collaboration ("Students use digital media and environments to communicate and work collaboratively, including at a distance, to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others."), I think it would be good to use in educational activities the on-line application VoiceThread (www.voicethread.com).

"What is VoiceThread?"

"VoiceThreads might best be described as interactive media albums. They are essentially online slide shows of images, documents, or videos that enable viewers to comment on any slide (or at any point in the video) by typing, recording an audio or video comment, or drawing on the image itself. Teachers have been early adopters of the easy-to-learn technology, which has led the company to launch Ed.VoiceThread.com, a secure site just for educators and their students", says VoiceThreads cofounder Ben Papell.[1]

"An interactive online tool that allows groups of people to leave comments at different times around images and videos, yet still allows easy access to the conversation at any time through a simple link. But commenting in a VoiceThread is a unique experience because you have options! When you participate in a VoiceThread conversation, may choose to type your comment in text, use your own voice or record a video with your webcam!"[2]

VoiceThread can integrate comments and other multimedia effects into a presentation, creating an original application. It is an environment suitable for those students who have not advanced ICT abilities that they will be able to interact online to create virtual portfolios with a large effect. Also, VoiceThread is a favorable environment for collaborative activities coordinated by a teacher, where personal reflections, guidance and teacher assessment can be collected and preserved.

VoiceThread offers free educator accounts on its public site, but as we can see in the next figure, all options offered by the platform are not accessible.
Technical features:
- No need to install any software;
- It must be created an account (a pre-existing e-mail is required);
- Loading of preexisting multimedia documents (digital photos, PDF, Word, Excel, PowerPoint files, images and videos);
- Possibility to specify titles, descriptions, tags;
- Pictures that are loaded can be taken from the del.icio.us account and can be rotated and enlarged;
- The current user can make an audio or text comment of the images, or draw on them; also other users from the group or any user can do that, if the presentation is public. Comments may be posted in 5 variants: using your voice via microphone/telephone, using webcam videos, drafting a text or loading an audio file;
- It offers a collaborative browser.

The platform offers to the teachers a payable variant (recommended by the undersigned) with the following options:
- To create interactive presentations (we must consider the Creative Commons licenses);
- To collect presentations all over the world;
- To share online the results of the didactical activity (the presentations), in various forms (by publishing them on the platform browser, sharing them or embed, download or email them); The Publishing Options selected in this illustration are an excellent option for educators. This combination results in a VoiceThread that accepts comments but does not appear in the public Browse area of VoiceThread and is not found through web searches (i.e. Google). Of course, you need to find a combination that works for your own needs but this is a great starting point.
- To export presentations in offline mode (for PC/flash or mobile phones/mp3);
- To develop and manage accounts for students;
- To manage the students’ activities;
- To create private or public groups;
- To start/launch collaborative projects;
- To develop virtual communities;
- To post comments/offer feedback for students or persons who post their presentations online.

Figure 4: VoiceThread - details
From personal experience in using Voce Thread in my courses (lesson/seminary/laboratory) I could ascertain the development of the following competences of a student, as follows:

- development, implementing and communicating of new ideas to others;
- openness to new and different perspectives, treating them responsibly;
- understanding, managing and creating of an effective oral communication, written or multimedia, in a wide range of forms and contexts;
- analyzing, accessing, managing, integrating, evaluating and creating of information in different forms, using different media instruments;
- exercise personal responsibility and flexibility in a private sector, at work or in social contexts;
- determination and respect for standards and high level purposes for oneself and others;
- adapt to different roles and responsibilities
- respect other different opinions
- productive collaboration
- locating appropriate resources;
- responsible action, following extensive community interests;
- demonstration of ethical conduct in personal, professional and social context.

Conclusions

VoiceThread is a rich resource that motivates us through the diversity of existing media and offers as well the potential to create an infinite number of new discussions, based on an individual’s ideas, a class task or a learner’s personal interests.

VoiceThread offers support for conferences or other events (information sessions, workshops): it is a simple way for participants in a scientific event to share thoughts about a particular session and the activities taking place during the session, being useful for those who cannot participate, or for the others who will have further reflections.

By far the greatest potential of VoiceThread lies in the creative opportunity it provides for students to tell their own stories and to contribute to or directly critique the narratives of their peers.

References