

# Enhancing Digital Skills in COVID Times

Virtual session

Tuesday 26 April, 2 PM CET

## 1. Introduction

Despite the current pandemic, the Learn4dev network remains active and continues to offer online activities to its members. In 2022, the network is planning to organize a series of online webinars on selected hot topics. These webinars will include brief presentations and synchronous discussions to continue knowledge-sharing and mutual learning among the institutions of the network.

The objective of this series of webinars is to continue to learn from each other and maintain the sense of community. With the COVID pandemic, many institutions of the network have introduced innovations (by testing new approaches, tools and formats) and learned from their implementation. Now, more than ever, it is important to continue sharing knowledge, so members can benefit from each other's experience, share best practices, and reflect on lessons learned.

## 2. Purpose

Following the pandemic, many network institutions were forced to transform their face-to-face or blended training activities into a fully online modality. This move to fully remote training & learning implied several changes, including upskilling or reskilling their staff to be able to teach and learn online. These skills are undoubtedly a key building block to ensure meaningful and quality learning.

In this session, three member organizations will share their experience-enhancing digital skills, their success stories, challenges and lessons learned. After a plenary presentation, participants will be invited into breakout rooms for further discussion and will have the opportunity to tell their own story and share their views and experiences.

The members of the network will be invited to debate on the following:

- What skills are needed to teach and learn online today? How do you identify such skills?
- What strategies and measures did your institution put in place to ensure staff is equipped with the necessary digital skills?
- What challenges did your institution face when strengthening digital skills? What lessons did you learn?



### 3. The structure

1. Brief presentation of 3 case studies: IIEP, ITC ILO and GIZ
2. Breakout rooms for group discussions: Participants will discuss how their institutions ensured adequate digital skills. Find out the similarities and differences in organizations' approaches and experiences. The discussion will be guided by the questions shared by the organizers.
3. Plenary session: groups will report back on their discussion outcomes in the plenary.

### 4. Organizers

#### **Alessia Messuti, Learning Innovation Officer and eCampus Coordinator, ITCILO**

Alessia Messuti, is Learning Innovation Programme Officer at ITCILO where she is responsible of the thematic cluster on Learning Technologies by ensuring the Centre's in-house capacity to use and mainstream learning technologies in capacity development projects. She is graduated in Foreign Languages for International Communication, with a special focus on the use of new media and web radio for social inclusion and local development. Before joining the International Training Centre of the ILO in 2016, she worked as training specialist in both private and development sector in Italy, Spain, Switzerland and The Netherlands where she gained experience in instructional design and quality assurance for e-Learning, facilitation of online and face-to-face trainings, applied research methods, mobile learning, MOOCs and gamification. As a certified international facilitator (IAF) she is actively involved in training facilitation with a focus on participatory learning approaches.

#### **Miriam Mayer, Specialist Digital Literacy, GIZ**

Miriam Mayer is part of the Action Plan Digital Literacy, a project with the aim of enhancing digital skills in cooperation with GIZ's Corporate Academy and the division Digital Transformation and IT Solutions (DIGITS). She supports in designing and implementing learning offers like the Digital Literacy Festival and interactive webinars targeted at multiplier communities within GIZ. She is responsible for the community management and support of the Digital Pioneers Network, a community for decentralized peer learning and knowledge multiplication among colleagues. Miriam also works on the integration and evaluation of New Learning approaches and methods at GIZ.

#### **Jimena Pereyra, Virtual Campus Coordinator, UNESCO-IIEP**

Jimena Pereyra is in charge of the Virtual Campus within the IIEP Training and Education Programs Unit. She is responsible for designing and implementing online courses, MOOCs and e-fora on topics related to educational planning and management (EPM) in different regions of the world. Jimena also intervenes in technical assistance projects aimed at reinforcing the capacities of national training institutions. Before joining IIEP in 2006, she worked for the Buenos Aires Ministry of Education as well as for the National Ministry of Education in Argentina. Jimena's main areas of interest are learning design for capacity development, and the role of ICTS to achieve inclusive quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all.

#### **Ioanna Kosteridou, Learning Designer, UNESCO-IIEP**

Ioanna Kosteridou is a Learning Experience Design Specialist at IIEP. She supports the design, implementation and evaluation of online training related to educational planning in different regions of the world. She is leading projects in learning innovation towards the improvement of training and learning practices in the IIEP blended training activities. Before joining IIEP, she was part of the Learning Innovation Programme of ITCILO in Turin and worked for Ericsson as the Lead Learning Solution Architect in the Learning Service Delivery. Ioanna holds a Master's degree in International and Comparative Education from Stockholm University in Sweden.



## 4. Tentative agenda

Time	Topic	Description
5'	<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction</b>	Natalie Van Den Plas & Jimena Pereyra
10-15'	<b>Strengthening the digital skills of the IIEP's teaching staff: lessons learned and key takeaways</b>	Ioanna Kosteridou, Learning Designer, UNESCO-IIEP Jimena Pereyra, Virtual Campus Coordinator, UNESCO-IIEP
10-15'	<b>Five ways ITCILO transitioned online</b>	Alessia Messuti, Learning Innovation Officer and eCampus Coordinator, ITCILO
10-15'	<b>Digital literacy for GIZ staff: Compass for digital competences and new learning approaches</b>	Miriam Mayer, GIZ
20'	<b>What strategies did your institution put in place to strengthen digital skills during the COVID pandemic?</b>	Sharing lessons, good practice, common issues in breakout sessions
20'	<b>Summary of discussions &amp; Wrap up</b>	Plenary session, reporting back from breakout groups.
90' MAX	TOTAL LENGTH	

## 5. About the organizers

The institutions are [Learn4dev](#) members, or part of their institutional setting:

### ITC-ILO

The International Training Centre has been at the forefront of learning and training since 1964. As part of the International Labour Organization, it is dedicated to achieving decent work while exploring the frontiers of the future of work. Its mission is to provide people with access to digitally-enhanced capacity development services to successfully manage their future of work transitions.

<https://www.itcilo.org/>

### International Institute for Educational Planning – IIEP UNESCO

Established in 1963 as an integral part of UNESCO, IIEP is the only specialized organization within the United Nations system whose mandate is to support educational policy, planning, and management. IIEP works hand-in-hand with UNESCO Member States to develop the capacities of education actors to plan and manage their systems through its programmes of training, technical assistance, policy research and knowledge sharing.

<http://www.iiep.unesco.org/en>

### GIZ

As a service provider in the field of international cooperation for sustainable development and international education work, we are dedicated to shaping a future worth living around the world. We have over 50 years of experience in a wide variety of areas, including economic development and employment promotion, energy and the environment, and peace and security. The diverse expertise of our federal enterprise is in demand around the globe – from the German Government, European Union institutions, the United Nations, the private sector, and governments of other countries. We work with businesses, civil society actors and research institutions, fostering successful interaction between development policy and other policy fields and areas of activity. Our main commissioning party is the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

<https://www.giz.de/en/html/index.html>



## 6. How to join?

The sessions are available to all staff from [Learn4dev member](#) organizations, free of charge.

To register please click here: <https://unesco-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAode-vpziEtyB91LgudLWejErhUijR5L2>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation e-mail with information on how to join the meeting.