

Teachers as agents of change in inclusive digital learning and recovery for all children

CONCEPT NOTE

Background and rationale

The 2022 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region is a unique opportunity to take stock of progress and challenges in achieving SDG 4 commitments in the light of unprecedented educational crises that call for system-level strategies to promote solutions for improving the inclusiveness of education systems. The large-scale roll-out of digital technology in learning during education crises provides an opportunity to build more robust, inclusive, and equitable systems for all children. The countries in the UNECE region have already begun to leverage digital technologies to make schools more resilient and accelerate learning recovery. The integration of digital technology can enhance the transformation of the education system, which will need to be accompanied by continuous professional development (CPD) for teachers. Teachers need sustained support for improving their pedagogical and digital skills to encourage innovations in education and develop competencies required for inclusive teaching and learning. The event will feature innovations and partnerships harnessed by UNICEF and UNESCO to strengthen teachers' digital-pedagogical competencies to drive equitable, inclusive learning for all learners, building resilience to adapt to the evolving contexts. It will reflect progress and challenges in achieving SDG 4 during the pandemic, which reconstructs the concept of teaching and learning and redefines teachers' role in enhancing inclusiveness and learning recovery in the digital era. It will discuss why strengthening educators' digital-pedagogical capacity must be central in responding to the learning crisis and transforming education systems. Speakers from the Education Ministry and UNICEF/UNESCO offices will present using interactive formats.

Session objectives and expected outcomes

The event will highlight innovative strategies, partnerships and programmes developed by the UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (ECARO), UNESCO Regional Office for Science and Culture in Europe and select Field/Country Offices in supporting capacity strengthening on teachers' digital-pedagogical competencies to stimulate a discussion on the importance of equitable, inclusive digital learning for all children and learners. It will demonstrate how relevant and central the strengthened educators' digital-pedagogical capacities would become in response to the current crises and their recovery processes at the country level. The event will also explore the evolving concept of teaching and learning and the potentially growing role of teachers in improving inclusiveness and learning in the digital era to empower and motivate all children and learners. Hands-on knowledge and

experiences at the country level will showcase how reshaping national teacher CPD systems helps advance inclusive education reforms and build more resilient and transformative education.

Organizers

Lead organizer: UNICEF Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia

Contributors: UNESCO Regional Office for Science and Culture in Europe, UNESCO Education Sector, HQ

Focal point: Malin Ljunggren Elisson, Senior Adviser Education, ECARO

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Agenda and Structure

5 minutes	Whole group	<p>Welcome to the Side Event/ Topic introduction and introduction of the moderator</p> <p>Moderator clarifies the objectives of the session, shares the information (recording, chat function, muted video and audio ...), and introduces the first presenter</p>	<p>Phillippe Cori, Deputy Regional Director, UNICEF, Europe and Central Asia Region</p> <p>Carlos Vargas-Tamez, UNESCO, Chief of Section, Section for Teacher Development, ED Sector, HQ</p>
10 min	Presentation	LearnIn - UNICEF's regional initiative to utilise digital technology for improving inclusive quality education	Christina Sina, Education Consultant, UNICEF, Europe and Central Asia Region
2 min		Moderator briefly reflects on the presentation and introduces the next speaker	Moderator
10 minute	Presentation	Evolving concept and approach of teaching and learning in the context of the Futures of Education	Sobhi Tawil, UNESCO, Director, Future of Learning and Innovation Team, ED Sector, HQ
5 min		Moderator reflects on key points and introduces the next block of presentations	Moderator

7 minut.	Presentation	Harnessing the power of teachers in the digital era	Vera K Mitkovska, UNICEF, Education for Development Specialist- Programme Section, North Macedonia
7 minut.		Innovative national strategies in supporting teacher development in South-East Europe	Megumi Watanabe, UNESCO, Programme Specialist, Regional Office for Science and Culture in Europe
7 minut.		Harnessing the potential of digital technologies for improved inclusive teaching and learning in Montenegro	Maja Kovacevic, UNICEF, Education Officer, Programme Section, Montenegro
5 minut.		Brief reflections on key points from the presentations and introduction of the panelists	Moderator
25 minutes	Moderated panel discussion	Redefined role and competencies of teachers in inclusive, digital education	Panellists: Malin Ljunggren Elisson, Senior Adviser Education, UNICEF, Europe and Central Asia Region Sobhi Tawil, UNESCO, Director, Future of Learning and Innovation Team, ED Sector, HQ Shpetim Latifi, Education Advisor, Cabinet of the Minister of Education and Science, North Macedonia Tamara Milic, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Montenegro, Head of Department for Inclusive Education
5 minutes	Whole group	Final reflections- Closing	Carlos Vargas-Tamez, UNESCO, Chief of Section, Section for

			Teacher Development, ED Sector, HQ Malin Ljunggren Elisson, Senior Adviser Education UNICEF, Europe and Central Asia Region
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List of Panellists

Speakers and Panellists:

Phillippe Cori, Deputy Regional Director, UNICEF, Europe and Central Asia Region

Sobhi Tawil, UNESCO, Director, Future of Learning and Innovation Team, ED Sector, HQ

Malin Ljunggren Elisson, Senior Adviser Education, UNICEF, Europe and Central Asia Region

Tamara Milic, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Montenegro, Head of Department for Inclusive Education

Shpetim Latifi, Education Advisor, Cabinet of the Minister of Education and Science, North Macedonia

Megumi Watanabe, UNESCO, Programme Specialist, Regional Office for Science and Culture in Europe

Christina Sina, Education Consultant, UNICEF, Europe and Central Asia Region

Vera K Mitkovska, UNICEF, Education for Development Specialist- Programme Section, North Macedonia

Maja Kovacevic, UNICEF, Education Officer, Programme Section, Montenegro

Moderator: Carlos Vargas-Tamez, UNESCO, Chief of Section, Sector for Teacher Development ED Sector, HQ