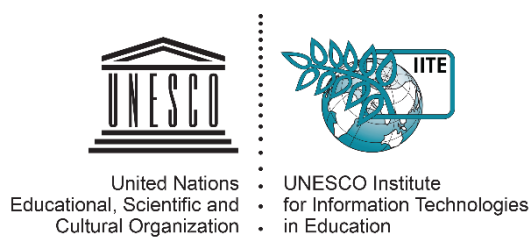


**Online expert meeting for Central Asia
within the UNESCO-WEIDONG
joint project
“Building future schools through
ICT competency development”**

23 December 2020



Background

Technical and vocational education and training (TVET) today faces buoyant requirements, challenges and opportunities. Demand vector changes rapidly on labour markets, while youth unemployment and social disengagement still belong to the panoply of pressing concerns for countries and regions. Worldwide, governments and other stakeholders expect TVET to address multiple social and economic development priorities, from poverty reduction, food security and social cohesion to economic growth and competitiveness. In the contexts of chronic joblessness and underemployment, young people themselves are demanding more opportunities for education and training, and improvements in the relevance of education and training to the present world of work.

Nowadays, digital technologies proliferate worldwide at an accelerating pace impacting all disciplines, economies, industries and the world of work. It is clear that the use of ICT can offer significant new possibilities for improving efficiency and equity in TVET . A strong argument is often made that ICT use is also a route to innovation and lifelong learning in TVET and the workplace, through for example, social networks, e-learning and access to open educational resources.

The international community requires collaborative actions to close the digital divide and reduce disparities in quality and access to education services with a view to ensure wider benefits from sustainable development.

The aspiration behind the project jointly inspired and implemented by UNESCO and Weidong Cloud Education Group (PRC), entitled *“Building future schools through ICT competency development”*, involves supporting Member States in Central Asia and the African Region in leveraging digital technologies to secure that lack of essential skills does not preclude countries from advancing towards digital transformation, and assure that the benefits from emerging technologies are widely shared in and through education.

Scarce capacity and lack of viable partnerships proves to be among major concerns for many countries worldwide. To support the project implementation, UNESCO and Weidong focus on ways of creating effective institutions and partnerships across governments, between stakeholders and institutions involved in TVET at the national and local levels.

Within the framework of the joint initiative, the project Member States are rendered relevant support and assistance in defining appropriate policy measures to promote equity in and through TVET; to ensure all youth and adults, women and men, have equal opportunities to learn, develop and enhance their knowledge, skills and competencies; and to address the wide variety of learning and training needs.

Event Agenda

Date: 23 December 2020

Time: 12:00 Moscow time (GMT +3)
14:00 Tashkent (GMT +5)
15:00 Almaty (GMT +6)
15:00 Nur-Sultan (GMT +6)
15:00 Bishkek (GMT +6)
17:00 Beijing (GMT +8)

Link to join the webinar: <https://unesco-org.zoom.us/j/97610338465>

Meeting ID: 976 1033 8465

Passcode: 766416

Organizers: UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education (UNESCO IITE) and
UNESCO Almaty Cluster Office for Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan (UNESCO Almaty Office)

Language of the meeting: Russian, English

12:00 – 12:10	Welcome & Opening <u>Speakers:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ms. Natalia Amelina, Senior National Project Officer in Education, UNESCO IITEMs Meirgul Alpysbayeva, National Professional Officer, UNESCO Almaty Office
12:10 – 12:55	Presentations of the findings of the conducted home-based needs assessments: Ms Gulnana Kussidenova – National Expert, Republic of Kazakhstan; Ms Onolkan Umankulova – National Expert, Kyrgyz Republic; Mr Kadambay Saytov – National Expert, Republic of Uzbekistan
12:55 – 13:15	Discussion with the government stakeholders and leading institutions
13.15-13.35	Presentations on the next steps of the project development <ul style="list-style-type: none">Ms. Natalia Amelina, Senior National Project Officer in Education, UNESCO IITEMs Amélie Wang, Specialist, Weidong Cloud Education Group (PRC)
13:35 – 13:45	Q&A Session Closing Word