



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

**EBU**  
OPERATING EUROVISION AND EURORADIO

## Education Response to COVID-19:

# Virtual knowledge-sharing workshop on distance education programmes using radio and television

Wednesday 27 May 2020 - 11h00-12h30 CET (Paris time)

Link to the virtual forum:  [Join via Zoom](#)

### Organizers

UNESCO

European Broadcasting Union

In the framework of the UNESCO Global Coalition for Education

[Register](#)

### Context

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused education disruptions in most countries around the world. Many governments have temporarily closed educational institutions in an attempt to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. These nationwide closures have affected more than 90% of the world's student population. Several other countries have implemented localized closures affecting millions of additional learners.

Many countries rushed to online distance education to ensure continuity of education. However, some 826 million students (50%) who are kept out of schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic, do not have access to a computer, about 706 million (43%) lack Internet access and 56 million live in areas not covered by mobile networks.

For many teachers, [the use of digital tools is also a challenge](#). The closure of schools has left them with little time to find solutions to ensure continuity of teaching. As such, many do not have the skills required or digital equipment, while others lack connectivity due to insufficient financial means and/or lack of local supply

In light of the technological divide that exists, even in most developed countries (in Europe, 14% of households do not have access to the Internet and 22% do not have access to a computer), almost all states have already set up or wish to develop educational broadcasts on mass media such as television and radio, in order to reach a greater number of learners, especially the most vulnerable. These "traditional" media channels enjoy wide coverage and have taken advantage of the digital revolution of the past decade to increase their power and reach.

The value of educational broadcasts through TV and radio often goes beyond the needs of students

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alone. In some countries, such as Mexico, TV programmes are conceived as opportunities to provide intergenerational learning, including in local languages, to out-of-school children, youth and illiterate adults. They include issues such as health and psychosocial well-being, both of which are important in supporting populations affected by the threat of COVID-19. The programmes are also designed to provide a platform for the exchange of information and experiences between generations.

The following are some of the questions that are frequently raised across countries and that led [UNESCO](#) and the [European Broadcasting Union](#) (EBU) to organize a series of virtual workshops to facilitate knowledge sharing on educational radio and television broadcasts, in the context of school closures during the COVID-19 and beyond.

- How can quality audio-visual educational programmes be developed and implemented? What capacities are needed?
- What is the role of educators and communicators?
- What are the pitfalls to be avoided?
- What learning outcomes can be expected?

### **Objectives and Expected Results:**

The objectives of the virtual workshop are to facilitate knowledge sharing on good practices in the development of educational audio-visuals and, in doing so, to strengthen collaboration between educational content developers and audio-visual specialists.

The recordings of these workshops will serve as a basis for the production of modules and other resources for all interested countries. More technical follow-up sessions will be considered according to the needs expressed by participating countries.

At the end of the virtual workshop, participants will have acquired the knowledge necessary to:

- Draft a roadmap for the establishment of a distance education programme via radio and TV;
- Outline the human, technical and financial resources needed to carry out such a programme;
- Define the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder in this project (education manager, audio-visual professionals, content providers);
- Identify sources of information and expertise to support this programme.

### **Target audience and panellists**

The target audience will be education officials and managers, television and radio broadcasters as well as teacher trainers and teachers involved in the production of educational content.

The panellists are educators and professionals in public radio and television, with wide experience in the development and dissemination of educational content through radio and television in diverse contexts.

**Kindly note, to facilitate the transmission of the documents of the virtual workshop report, your registration is encouraged using the link '[Register](#)' provided above.**

## Agenda

| Wednesday 27 May 2020 - 11h00-12h30 GMT+2 |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>11:00 – 11:05</b>                      | Opening Remarks: Introduction to the impact of COVID-19 on learning and the role of the media in ensuring #Learningneverstops.   | Mr. Borhene Chakroun, Director, Division for Policies and Lifelong Learning Systems, UNESCO Education Sector  |
| <b>11:05 – 11:10</b>                      | Presentation of the global mapping of radio/TV-based distance education  | Mr. Gwang-Chol Chang, Chief Section of Education Policy UNESCO Education Sector   |
| <b>11:10 – 11:40</b>                      | Educational Radio and TV programmes: successful cases and select examples <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Elene Gabashvili, International Relations Manager, Public Broadcaster, Georgia</li> <li>• Mr. Robert Fortuijn, Channel Manager Zapp &amp; Zappelin, Public Broadcaster, NPO, Netherlands</li> <li>• Mr. Gytis Oganauskas, Deputy Director General of the Lithuanian National Radio and Television</li> </ul> |   |
| <b>11:40 – 11:50</b>                      | #Learningneverstops in Mauritius: The response strategy of the education authorities to the closure of schools   | M. Ricaud AUCKBUR Director of e-learning, Ministry of Education of Mauritius  |
| <b>11:50 – 12:00</b>                      | Asia Pacific lessons learnt and perspectives regarding educational broadcasting  | Ms. Annabel Astbury, Head of Digital Education, ABC Australia. Representing the Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union                                     |
| <b>12:00 – 12:25</b>                      | Questions and answers  | All participants  |
| <b>12:25 – 12:30</b>                      | Conclusions and closing remarks  | Nicola FRANK Head of Institutional and International Relations EBU and Gwang-Chol Chang, Chief Section of Education Policy UNESCO Education Sector. |