



## Webinar

# e-PASS: A comprehensive tool to assess youth and adult literacy

Focus on countries of the Global Alliance for Literacy (GAL)

Tuesday, 14 March 2023, from 13:00 to 14:30 (GMT+1)

Language: English

### **Context and rationale**

Youth and adult literacy and numeracy are vital for employment, social inclusion and sustainable development. Societies become more resilient to external shocks when they achieve higher levels of literacy and numeracy. Yet, many people around the world lack basic literacy and numeracy skills.

To understand how to improve literacy around the globe, it is important first to understand the state of literacy. While concerted efforts have led to gradual progress in increasing literacy rates, global data on literacy remain inadequate. Estimates are often based on self-reports that distinguish between those who cannot read or write at all and those who have some very basic skills, and typically do not capture

numeracy. Currently, only a few of the world's countries have data on literacy and numeracy skills based on direct measures, such as surveys.

Without an accurate idea of the distribution of skills in the youth and adult population, it is difficult to design policies and programmes to address low literacy skills. It can also be challenging to identify the sub-populations most at risk of being left behind. Understanding how to invest in and develop these skills requires comprehensive data about people’s functional literacy and numeracy skills and the extent to which they can participate in their communities and the labour market. High-quality data on adult skills and competencies enables evidence-based policy-making to improve skills governance and adult learning systems.

Sustainable Development Goal 4.6 calls on countries to ‘ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy’. In an effort to achieve this goal, the [Global Alliance for Literacy within the Framework of Lifelong Learning \(GAL\)](#) was launched in 2016 to advance global literacy efforts and address challenges in promoting literacy around the world. Today, GAL comprises [30 countries](#)<sup>1</sup> strongly committed to improving youth and adult literacy. The UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) serves as the GAL Secretariat.

Closely aligned with the [UNESCO Strategy for Youth and Adult Literacy \(2020–2025\)](#), GAL developed a strategy which functions as a guiding framework for its work. The [GAL Strategy 2020–2025](#) focuses on five areas to advance literacy and numeracy in GAL member countries: (1) policy and planning; (2) equity and inclusion; (3) innovation; (4) data and monitoring; and (5) partnerships and cooperation. The priority given to data and monitoring reflects the need for accurate information in order to design targeted programmes and policies, which in turn improve literacy and numeracy. The GAL strategy thus reflects the importance of measuring literacy, as noted in the Sustainable Development Goals.

In response to the need for more and more accurate data on literacy and numeracy skills globally, UIL offers the [everyday-life Skills and Practices Survey \(e-PASS\)](#). It is a simple, cost-effective, flexible and practical methodology and tool for assessing the literacy and numeracy skills of individuals aged 15 and older. e-PASS provides reliable and comparable information based on sound methodology to assist national and international policy-makers in planning, developing and monitoring literacy programmes. It enables Member States to generate data for reporting on SDG 4.6 and supports knowledge and capacity-building in participating countries.

## Webinar

To highlight the importance of high-quality data for evidence-based policy-making and present the e-PASS, UIL will host a webinar on e-PASS for GAL countries. As GAL countries have a particular need to invest in literacy and have committed to pay special attention to this area, the e-PASS survey may be of particular interest to them. The highly interactive webinar will introduce the assessment and provide a range of practical information on how to implement a large-scale national assessment. It is meant to be technical while providing various opportunities for participants to get involved.

During this webinar, participants will have the opportunity to learn about the features of the e-PASS, as well as the accompanying materials and technical support. They will also learn about best practices and common implementation hurdles and will be able to ask questions and discuss challenges they may encounter when planning to implement the assessment.

The webinar will open interactively by inviting participants to share their national experiences in Mentimeter as well as questions or challenges they envision when implementing a national skills assessment survey. Following that exchange, the webinar will focus on providing information about e-

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<sup>1</sup> Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, People’s Republic of China, Comoros, Côte d’Ivoire, Arab Republic of Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Republic of Liberia, Republic of Mali, Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Mexico, Kingdom of Morocco, Republic of the Niger, Nigeria, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Senegal, Sierra Leone and South Sudan. Morocco officially joined the Alliance in June 2022.

PASS and addressing the challenges and questions raised. Afterwards, a representative from a country currently engaged in implementing e-PASS will share their experience. The final part of the webinar will be devoted to open discussions, based on inputs from GAL countries and technical partners. It will provide an opportunity for an exchange of concepts, best practices, and concerns, to jointly reflect on future opportunities for youth and adult skills assessment in various national contexts.

**Main objectives:**

- Highlight the importance of data for designing policies and programmes that enhance youth and adult literacy skills
- Introduce e-PASS to GAL countries
- Provide a platform for sharing knowledge about the implementation and the benefits of e-PASS

**Target group:**

- Representatives and partners from GAL member countries
- Technical partners, such as national statistical agencies or companies specialized in survey implementation
- Stakeholders involved in youth and adult skills assessment

**Modality**

To ensure an engaging webinar and give all GAL country participants the opportunity to participate, it will be held in two separate sessions in English and French.

## Agenda

| 14 March 2023, 13:00 – 14:30 (GMT +1) |   |
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| 13:00 – 13:15                         | <p><b>Opening</b></p> <p>Welcome remarks – Mr David Atchoarena, Director, UIL</p> <p>GAL and GAL strategy - Ms Sofia Chatzigianni, Assistant Programme Specialist, UIL</p> <p>Mentimeter – Ms Katharina Duermeier, Inclusive Learning Programme, UIL</p>  |
| 13:15 – 13:25                         | <p><b>Introduction to the e-PASS</b></p> <p>Mr Nicolas Jonas, Team Leader, Inclusive Learning Programme, UIL</p>  |
| 13:25 – 13:50                         | <p><b>Tracking global commitments for adult literacy</b></p> <p>Chair: Mr Nicolas Jonas, UIL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mr Roshan Bajracharya, Regional Advisor for Asia/Pacific, UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)</li> <li>- <u>Romania</u>: Country testimonial on e-PASS implementation<br/>Ms Corina Buzoianu, Associate professor, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (SNSPA), Romania</li> </ul>   |
| 13:50 – 14:20                         | <p><b>Discussion</b></p> <p>Chair: Mr Nicolas Jonas, UIL</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you have accurate data on youth and adult literacy and numeracy skills in your country? If not, why?</li> <li>• What aspects of e-PASS are well suited to your national context and what is missing at the moment?</li> <li>• Who could lead the e-PASS implementation in your country and which expertise and partners would you need to bring on board to facilitate it?</li> <li>• What are the challenges regarding the implementation of a large-scale assessment like e-PASS in your country?</li> </ul> |
| 14:20 – 14:30                         | <p><b>Summary and closing remarks</b></p> <p>Ms Rakhat Zholdoshalieva, Team Leader, Quality Learning Ecosystems, UIL</p>  |

## Background information

- [e-PASS flyer \(English\)](#)
- [e-PASS flyer \(French\)](#)
- [e-PASS App flyer \(English\)](#)
- [e-PASS App flyer \(French\)](#)
- [Policy brief on numeracy](#)
- [Policy brief on literacy](#)
- [UNESCO strategy for youth and adult literacy \(2020-2025\)](#)
- [Global Alliance for Literacy within the Framework of Lifelong Learning \(GAL\): strategy 2020–2025](#)
- [Global Alliance to Monitor Learning \(GAML\)](#)

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### UNESCO – a global leader in education

Education is UNESCO's top priority because it is a basic human right and the foundation for peace and sustainable development. UNESCO is the United Nations' specialized agency for education, providing global and regional leadership to drive progress, strengthening the resilience and capacity of national systems to serve all learners and responding to contemporary global challenges through transformative learning, with special focus on gender equality and Africa across all actions.



### The Global Education 2030 Agenda

UNESCO, as the United Nations' specialized agency for education, is entrusted to lead and coordinate the Education 2030 Agenda, which is part of a global movement to eradicate poverty through 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Education, essential to achieve all of these goals, has its own dedicated Goal 4, which aims to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.” The Education 2030 Framework for Action provides guidance for the implementation of this ambitious goal and commitments.



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## Stay in touch



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