



EDUCATION STRATEGIES AND INNOVATIONS IN THE ERA OF DIGITALISATION

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 5-6, 2022

BISHKEK, KYRGYZSTAN

Donors:



Organizers:



Partners:





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ALMAZBEK BEISHENALIEV

Minister of Education and Science
of the Kyrgyz Republic

Dear conference participants,

The education system of Kyrgyzstan sets tasks aimed at solving urgent problems and integrating into the global educational space. One of the priorities of the Ministry of Education and Science is the digital transformation of education in the country, aimed at introducing digital technologies to improve the quality of the educational process and expand access to information. The forced closure of schools for quarantine during the COVID-19 pandemic has complicated the situation of education, but at the same time has also opened up the opportunities for the development of learning by using digital technologies.

Today, we are doing a lot of work on implementing digital transformation and establishing digital ecosystem in the education of the Republic. The approved State Educational Standard of General School Education of the Kyrgyz Republic has created conditions for updating the educational content using the possibilities of distance learning. The objective of the higher-educational institutions is to train qualified teachers that will meet the requirements of the time. The Republican Institute for Advanced Studies and Retraining of Pedagogical Workers under the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic, has developed and uploaded to its electronic system 68 programs and modules on distance learning in order to form a unified digital platform for distance education. We need to continue to work on improving the quality and effectiveness of these programs.

As a result of fruitful cooperation with donors and implementation of international projects of the World Bank, UNICEF, and others, 36,000 teaching staff are being trained in ICT literacy; 1200 schools of the Republic are equipped with computers; educational processes are being digitalized. Digital platforms such as `Learning Passport "Bilimduu Muun" and others have been launched. We have introduced electronic registration in schools and kindergartens, ensuring online registration of students to participate in the Nationwide Testing, online enrollment in professional lyceums, colleges, and universities of the country. Yes, there are difficulties, but we are moving forward in these issues.

To ensure the automation of the licensing and accreditation systems and its integration into the State e-Service portal, the information system is being developed for «Electronic Accreditation of Educational Organizations» and «Electronic Licensing of Educational Activities». The Ministry systematically updates the data in the Education Management Information System for all levels of education. The database of digital educational materials on major subjects for primary and secondary schools is being supplemented. We continue to upload digitized versions of textbooks to the "Digital Library" platform in the public domain. At the moment, 14 public educational services have been automated through the State e-Services Portal. The Ministry's official website and social networks accounts are relevant

and reflect important events in the field of education and science in Kyrgyzstan.

We understand that the world is changing rapidly, we need to keep our pace with it and adequately respond to modern challenges and make timely decisions. Only with you, colleagues - teachers, lecturers, parents, researchers, and experts - we will be able to bring positive changes and develop the education system and our country as a whole!

Let me thank the organizer of this important event - Taalim-Forum - for mainstreaming the issues of digitalization of education and AUCA for providing a platform for multilateral discussion and its hospitality. Once again confirming that the Ministry of Education is open for dialogue on all issues of education reform, I wish all participants of the conference fruitful discussions, interesting presentations and ideas for moving forward.



NURGUL UKUEVA

Vice-president for Academic Affairs of the American University in Central Asia (AUCA)

Dear Conference Participants,

Thank you very much for joining this conference, and welcome to AUCA!

First of all, I would like to thank Taalim-Forum Public Foundation and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic for organizing this important conference which brings together all of us to identify opportunities and develop strategies for using new technologies today to address challenges in education. COVID-19 pandemic resulted in unprecedented global disruptions in education and learning losses, re-emphasized and widened cross-country and within-country inequalities in access to quality education. At the same time, the pandemic forced us to accelerate the development and widespread introduction of educational technologies and online education. It made us think about new

and creative ways we can use technological advances to provide better quality, more affordable, and accessible education, combining and integrating traditional in-person methods with online and hybrid modes, using the best of the two worlds. From our experience at AUCA, when the pandemic hit the world two years ago, we, together with other educational institutions, were also forced to transfer within days to exclusively online teaching mode and faced stresses and all challenges of that transfer. Today, we are successfully combining in-person teaching with synchronous online and hybrid modes, and extending our global experience through joined online courses with our partner institutions across the globe.

Let me add a few words about AUCA and its contribution to education in Central Asia.

Founded in 1993, AUCA develops future leaders for the democratic transformation of Central Asia. AUCA is the first university in Central Asia to offer US accredited degrees in liberal arts programs through a partnership with Bard College in the United States. AUCA is also a member of the Open Society University Network (OSUN) and enjoys collaborating with its 40+ university partners.

Over the last thirty years, AUCA has expanded to fifteen undergraduate and ten graduate programs. The university aims to provide high-quality education to students from various backgrounds and ensures its accessibility by providing merit- and need-based scholarships to about eighty percent of undergraduate students. To stay competitive and provide the best education possible, the university continues to advance, grow, and offer more opportunities to its students, faculty, and staff.

AUCA contributes to a broader education, teacher education, and pedagogy in Central Asia and beyond through its Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) program as well as the Institute of Education (IOE). MAT Program is a pioneering effort in the field of teacher education in Central Asia and builds upon the innovative model of Bard College, New York, and provides American Accredited Master's degree to teachers in Central Asia. IOE is an interdisciplinary academic entity of AUCA dedicated to teaching, research, and advocacy of education at all levels and in trans-cultural contexts. IOE strives to support the policies of the Kyrgyz Ministry of Education and collaborates with scholars and practitioners globally to research innovative approaches to education.

Once again, welcome to AUCA, and wish you a successful and productive conference!



ALMAGUL OSMONOVA

Director of the Taalim-Forum Public Foundation

Dear conference participants!

On behalf of the Taalim-Forum public foundation, I am pleased to welcome researchers, experts, analysts, university professors, school teachers and education managers to the International Conference “Educational Strategies and Innovations in the Era of Digitalization”.

We greatly appreciate the support of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic, the American University of Central Asia, government partners including the Kyrgyz Academy of Education, the Republican Institute for Advanced Studies and Retraining of Pedagogical Workers, research

organizations, public and private foundations such as the online school for teachers MUGALIM, the intellectual fund KG-Analytics, Creative-Taalim school, the Kyrgyz Internet Community and others who focus their efforts on developing the system education, improving the quality and access to education in our country. We thank our participants from Mongolia, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and other countries for their interest in the conference and willingness to share their experience. The conference is held thanks to the support of the Canadian International Development Research Centre, which implements the Knowledge and Innovation Exchange Program jointly with the Global Partnership for Education.

The conference is aimed at expanding professional dialogue on a wide range of issues related to digitalization in education; sharing knowledge and experience of applying and integrating innovative approaches, distance learning technologies to address pressing issues in national education systems, identify new opportunities, strategies and tools for ensuring equal access and improving the quality of education.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the accumulated challenges in education and opened up new opportunities. It has become obvious to everyone that traditional approaches to learning need to be updated, whereas the use of digital technologies and

the ICT capabilities in education improve the efficiency and access to quality education. The rapid changes and development of technologies demand formation of digital competencies of teachers and revision of teaching methods, and stimulate development of students' independent learning skills. Today, it is necessary to comprehend the experience of distance learning during a pandemic in order to develop new educational strategies.

The mission of the Taalim-Forum is to support initiatives to improve the quality and access to education, as well as the communities' well-being and sustainable development. In its 15 years of work, the foundation has implemented projects for promoting and making use of interdisciplinary and innovative approaches and tools in teaching, conducted training workshops for teachers, developed manuals and educational resources to help teachers expand their understanding of sustainable development issues and conservation of natural and cultural values.

It is a great honor for us to organize this conference, the relevance of which is dictated by time and prioritized in the main documents on strategic development of the education sector in Kyrgyzstan.

Please, allow me to wish all participants of the conference a successful and fruitful work!

ACCESS TO QUALITY EDUCATION – FOR ALL AND FOR EVERYONE

The global community and the world's political leaders have committed to providing «inclusive and equitable quality education» and creating opportunities for «lifelong learning for all». The SDG 4¹ of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (UNESCO, 2015) has been recognized as universal and transformative to help address global and national education challenges². A large gap is still clearly seen between the current situation in education and the one predicted by 2030.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the global crisis that followed has worsened the situation and caused huge upheavals in the world's education systems. School closures and subsequent

transition to distance learning have created huge challenges, affecting “nearly 1.6 billion learners in more than 190 countries and all continents. The education crisis exacerbated by the pandemic has impacted 94% of the world's student population, up to 99% in low and lower-middle income countries.”³

In addition to highlighting student inequalities and vulnerabilities, the role of the teacher has also come into focus during the pandemic. The UN Concept Note for the upcoming Education Summit points out that «transforming education and achieving SDG 4 is largely dependent on teachers»⁴. Teachers have played an important role in ensuring the



¹ Sustainable Development Goals <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/ru/sustainable-development-goals/>

² Incheon Declaration: Education 2030: Towards Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Lifelong Learning for All https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000233137_rus

³ UNESCO. Concept note. Education during COVID-19 and beyond https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/policy_brief_-_education_during_covid-19_and_beyond_russian.pdf

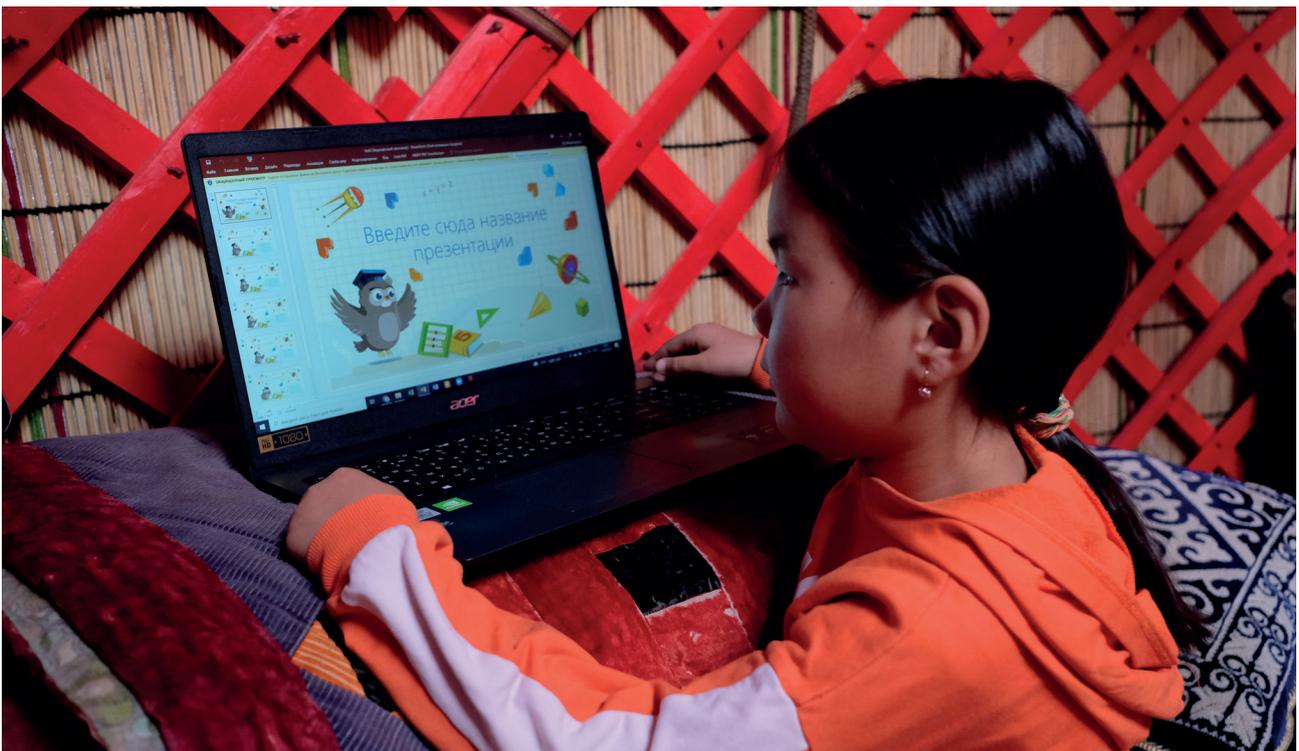
⁴ https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/tes_concept_note.pdf p. 12

continuity of learning during the pandemic, yet many of them have faced challenges related to inadequate training, lack of digital and pedagogical skills, and lack of support for their own well-being. There is a general shortage of teachers in many countries, and the teaching profession is losing its respect it used to have.

In Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, and Tajikistan, forced quarantines and vacations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have further exposed existing problems (material and technical equipment, the level of training and competence of teaching staff, uneven distribution of resources, etc.) and exacerbated inequalities in access to quality school education. Common problems include gender inequality in education, increased cases of domestic violence, exclusion of children from the educational process for socio-economic and/or health reasons. In addition, the problems of connecting schools to the Internet remain acute, especially in remote areas where problems with electricity supply exist. Long distances to school are a serious problem for Mongolian schoolchildren. The high level of poverty with its attendant consequences is limiting the access to quality education, as well

as access to e-learning resources and distance learning.

The governments of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Mongolia officially declared the priority and course for digitalization in education even before the pandemic. During the quarantine, the response measures were taken to educate and build the digital competencies of teachers. However, a preliminary analysis of measures taken shows their insufficiency and lack of integrated approach. Despite the fact that distance learning is seen as a necessary and effective way for the continuity of education, the first experience of arranging it and ensuring the quality education was very ambiguous. Underdeveloped infrastructure, lack of digital competencies among teachers, skills of students, access to digital devices and the Internet - these and other factors have led to the increased inequality in access to education. In order to develop new educational strategies that meet modern challenges such issues as analyzing the approaches and measures taken by the state during pandemic caused by COVID-19 and identifying factors that exacerbate unequal access to education are being updated and brought to the forefront.



DISTANCE EDUCATION TO IMPROVE QUALITY AND ACCESS TO SCHOOL EDUCATION IN KYRGYZSTAN, MONGOLIA, AND TAJIKISTAN



GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP IN EDUCATION (GPE)

The Global Partnership in Education (GPE) is the largest global fund for education and a unique multi-stakeholder partnership. For 20 years, GPE has been supporting partner governments to ensure quality education so that “every girl and boy can have hope, opportunity and agency”. Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Tajikistan are the member countries of the Global Partnership for Education.

More about GPE: <https://www.globalpartnership.org/>



KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATION & EXCHANGE (KIX)

The Global Partnership in Education (GPE) has launched a massive Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) program. The goal of the program is to strengthen national education systems and accelerate progress in the countries of the global South. KIX supports projects to create, collect and mobilize knowledge and innovation to improve educational policies and practices. In collaboration with developing country partners, it identifies evidence-based issues in education policy, capacity building, and creates peer learning environments for partner countries. Currently, the KIX program operates in 70 partner countries and implements 36 projects. National coordinating committees of KIX have been established in Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Tajikistan. The program is implemented jointly with the International Development Research Center (IDRC).

More about the program: <https://www.gpekix.org/>



International Development Research Center, IDRC

IDRC supports the research in developing countries to promote their development. Established by the Canadian Parliament’s 1970 Act to Establish the International Development Research Center, IDRC’s mission is IDRC is “to initiate, encourage, support, and conduct research into the problems of the developing regions of the world and into the means for applying and adapting scientific, technical, and other knowledge to the economic and social advancement of those regions.” Headquartered in Canada’s capital Ottawa, Ontario.

More about the Center: <https://www.idrc.ca/en>



The project is supported and implemented as part of the Knowledge and Innovation Exchange program (KIX) in three countries – Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, and Tajikistan. The main objective of the project is to promote innovative approaches in distance learning that provide equal access and improve the quality of education for children from vulnerable groups. The project is conducting an extensive research that focuses on the main strategies on organizing distance learning in response to temporary partial or complete school closures in three countries; main problems and obstacles in ensuring equal access to education in the context of place of residence, gender and ethnic minorities; as well as identifying innovative models of distance learning in the three countries and around the world that (a) effectively address issues of equity and inclusion; (b) support professional competencies of teachers; (c) have the potential to be included in the development of educational policies and practices in the three countries. Research questions are aimed at identifying the innovative practices of distance learning and the specifics of vulnerability

of different groups of schoolchildren. In this regard, two main groups of research questions were updated: 1) How different is the vulnerability of schoolchildren, boys and girls, living in remote settlements, including those from ethnic minorities? Are there any other forms of inequality and specific vulnerable groups emerging in the countries besides those identified in the project? 2) Who determines what innovation is? Who creates them, who reveals them? How can such practices be scaled up, including in what formats for different vulnerable groups? Accordingly, the research in three countries will identify effective regional and global models and strategies for distance learning that are relevant for the countries of Central Asia. As part of the project, the emphasis is given to the development of ICT competencies of teachers in using digital technologies and online resources, as well as the creation of platforms for the exchange of ideas, experience, knowledge, skills and methods. The results of the project will close the knowledge gap in organizing effective distance learning in schools; strengthen the

competencies and skills of teachers, improve and deepen their understanding and vision of future strategies; and also support long-term positive changes and success in developing innovative models in distance learning. The project will mobilize knowledge, identify

best practices and innovations, and develop recommendations for improving and scaling innovations in distance learning.

More about the project: <https://kix.taalimforum.kg/>

ORGANIZATIONS – CONSORTIUM MEMBERS

Three public organizations from Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Tajikistan have united in a consortium to implement the project on studying the issues of distance education, identifying innovations to improve access and quality of education. All organizations have solid experience of working in remote regions, developing and implementing educational initiatives and products, and have strong collaboration with state, local and international

organizations.

Taalim-Forum public foundation from Kyrgyzstan plays a leading role in the consortium. In its work, the foundation relies on its previous experience in producing digital educational resources and promoting distance learning. Such experience became the starting point for defining and scaling up innovative distance learning models in the three countries.

TAALIM-FORUM PUBLIC FOUNDATION, KYRGYZSTAN



Since 2007, Taalim-Forum has been implementing projects that promote innovative and interdisciplinary approaches in education. Taalim-Forum cooperates with USAID projects to improve primary education in the Kyrgyz Republic; develops and publishes

books for children and manuals for teachers. In order to improve the quality of education using ICT, the foundation has developed 30 multimedia lessons on the “Motherland Studies” subject in the Kyrgyz and Russian languages; launched an interactive educational

website for studying the Kyrgyz language through the program of grades 1-8 (<http://kyrgyztil.taalimforum.kg/>). In 2018, by order of the Ministry of Education and Science, the foundation developed the iBilim educational platform containing electronic multimedia resources on 7 primary school subjects (<https://ibilim.edu.gov.kg/>). iBilim resources were

actively used by teachers during distance learning throughout the country. Taalim-Forum's experience in creating electronic educational resources and improving ICT skills among teachers makes it possible to promote innovative solutions in education as part of the current project.

NOMADIC NATURE CONSERVATION, NNC, MONGOLIA



<https://nnc-mongolia.org/>

Nomadic Nature Conservation (NNC) is a Mongolian non-government organization established in 2010. Its work is focused on supporting rural schools and local communities in Mongolia, which makes NNC a valuable partner in the project aimed at reducing disparities in access to education for students from remote rural areas. NNC has developed and promotes the «mobile classroom» - a unique methodology with a set of visual educational materials for conducting classes on conservation of biodiversity in Mongolia. An educational program called

«Nomadic Nature Trunk» creates an inspiring learning environment, promotes community involvement, and is being implemented in the most remote aimags of Mongolia, constantly expanding its coverage and becoming a national curriculum. The experience gained by NNC in developing interactive learning approaches and innovative learning materials for students in remote rural areas has been highly appreciated by the Mongolian Ministry of Education. Director of Nomadic Nature Conservation Tungalagtuya Khuuhenduu is a member of the KIX National Committee in Mongolia.

PUBLIC ORGANIZATION ANAHITA, TAJIKISTAN



Anahita is a public organization founded in Tajikistan in 2004, with the aim of developing women's leadership and protecting the economic rights of rural women. From the very beginning, the organization has been working on raising awareness of local population in remote mountain communities about the values of unique natural diversity, preservation of endangered languages and cultural heritage of Tajikistan. Anahita took part in the assessment of the education system in the pilot regions of the country, including discussion of topical issues in development of the education sector. In 2013, Anahita took part in the development of the Law of the Republic of Tajikistan «On Education». Along with representatives of the ministries, departments and committees under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, international

organizations and partners, Anahita took part in the National Consultation Forum on the «Development of National Roadmap for Digital Transformation of Education System in the Republic of Tajikistan», organized by UNICEF jointly with the Ministry of Education and Sciences of the Republic of Tajikistan (MES RT) In 2022.

Anahita works closely with government agencies, including the Ministry of Education and Science, the Republican Center for Information and Communication Technologies under the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, as well as with international and local public organizations, and is a member of the International Network of Mountain Indigenous Peoples (INMIP).

PROJECT ACTIVITIES



The project began in May 2021 with a comprehensive analysis of the situation, systematization of experience gained, expert assessment of the organization of distance learning in Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia, strategies for the digitalization of education in Tajikistan. A number of discussions were held involving key stakeholders and experts in the field of education. Round tables on the topic **«Teacher - driver of innovation»** were held in three countries. The round table on the topic **“Digitalization in education: changing role of the teacher”** organized in Kyrgyzstan, was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Education, methodologists and teachers from the regions, managers, researchers, and experts.

Field research and data collection began in the three countries from March 2022 and will be completed before the end of the current year. Experienced specialists and researchers are involved in the research. Preliminary research outputs were presented at the First KIX EAP Conference on Education Policy and Innovation (October 2021) and at the Comparative & International Education Society (CIES) conference in Minneapolis, USA (April 2022). In October 2022, the project teams will begin a consolidated analysis of the data obtained.

More about project activities:
<https://kix.taalimforum.kg/news>



QR code
on YouTube



QR code
on the
website

GENERAL PROGRAM

PRE-CONFERENCE DAY. October 4

Time	Activity	Venue
11:00 - 12:30	Digital tools for teaching and research. Training by Liberal Arts and Sciences and General Education Courses Departments, AUCA	Room 410
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch	Floor 1
13:45 - 14:45	Digital future? Virtual Academic Mobility and Prospects for Changes in Higher Education in Central Asia. Open lecture by Emma Sabzalieva, PhD., UNESCO IESALC	Room 410
15:00 - 16:30	Digital pedagogy – application without fear. Interactive lecture by Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology, AUCA	Room 410
17:30 - 20:30	Cultural program for the conference guests Visiting the interactive ethnographic museum Dinner	Kok-Jar village, Supara Ethno-complex

DAY 1. October 5

Time	Activity	Venue
08:00 – 09:30	Registration of participants	
09:00 - 17:00	Thematic activities Gallery of Digital Education Initiatives Digital Pedagogy Laboratory	Hall, 4th Floor Computer class
10:00 – 10:30	Opening of the conference Participant greeting	Conference hall (CH), 4th Floor
10:30 – 12:00	Session 1. COVID-19 Response: Lessons Learned for Improving Education Strategies in the Central Asia Region	Conference hall (CH), 4th Floor
12:00 - 13:30	Lunch	Floor 1
13:30 – 15:00	Session 2. Expanding digital educational opportunities: international projects and initiatives	Conference hall (CH), 4th Floor
15:00 – 15:30	Break	
15:30 – 16:30	Lessons learned from educational initiatives during the COVID-19 pandemic in Kyrgyzstan: what next? Open lecture by Duishon Shamatov, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Nazarbayev University (Kazakhstan)	Conference hall (CH), 4th Floor

DAY 2. October 6

Time	Activity	Venue
09: 00 – 17:00	Thematic activities Gallery of Digital Education Initiatives Digital Pedagogy Laboratory	Hall, 4th Floor Computer class
09:00 – 10:30	Session 3. Formation of digital competencies among teachers as a factor to ensure the quality of school education	Room 410
09:00 – 10:30	Session 4. Digitalization in education: best practices and innovations	Conference hall (CH), 4th Floor
10:30 - 11:00	Break	
11:00 – 12:30	Session 5. COVID-19 and teachers' professional development: initiatives and innovations	Room 410
11:00 – 12:30	Session 6. Cases from fieldwork in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Mongolia	Conference hall (CH), 4th Floor
12:30 – 13:50	Lunch	Floor 1
14:00 – 15:30	Session 7. Research data for decision making	Conference hall (CH), 4th Floor
14:00 – 15:30	Session 8. The changing role of the teacher in the context of digitalization. Round table	Room 410
15:30-16:00	Break	
16:00 – 16:30	Closing of the conference	Conference hall (CH), 4th Floor

THEMATIC ACTIVITIES

OCTOBER 5-6, 09:00 - 17:00

GALLERY OF DIGITAL EDUCATION INITIATIVES



The Gallery provides a platform for various local organizations to tell a wide audience about educational initiatives, projects and products for the formation and development of digital competences among different groups,

including teachers, students, parents and school managers. The developed educational products and programs are intended for training, deepening knowledge and skills using ICT.

Participants

ROZA OTUNBAYEVA INITIATIVE INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

Project Girls in Science. STEM education for girls.

A project is aimed at involving girls in STEM, helping them make informed career choices in the fields of information and communication technologies, STEM disciplines, engineering and mathematics.

<https://roza.kg/initiative/sustainable-development/37...>

Project Sanarip 50+

A joint project with KICB bank aimed at improving skills and knowledge in Internet navigation, work with useful applications in everyday life, basic level of financial literacy among the population 50+.

KYRGYZ INTERNET SOCIETY

Ilimbox – digital source of knowledge!

An open educational platform for teachers and 6-11 grades students with the Kyrgyz language of learning. Using the platform, one can take online lessons, organize interaction between students and teachers, and evaluate learning outcomes.

<https://ilimbox.kg/>

Sanarip Insan – from basic digital literacy to in-demand digital skills!

The project is implemented by the European Neighborhood Council (ENC) together with the Kyrgyz Internet Society with the assistance of the Delegation of the European Union to the Kyrgyz Republic. The project aims to improve the potential of digital skills among youth, migrants and women.

<https://isoc.kg/ru/projects/sanarip-insan-digital-citizen/>

CENTER USTATSHAKIRT PUBLIC ASSOCIATION

Raising listeners and viewers of new generation!

«USTATSHAKIRT» is a developer of scientific, methodical, musical, and multimedia resources. It unites more than 50 schools and more than 7,000 students and their teachers in Kyrgyzstan. The programs and projects such as “Umtul School Theater”, “Umtul Music” and “MuzChyrak” develop flexible skills and reveal the inner potential of schoolchildren through the use of innovative approaches and multimedia resources.

<https://www.facebook.com/CenterUstatshakirt>

TAALIM-FORUM PUBLIC FOUNDATION

iBilim – read, play, and learn!

An educational platform with multimedia learning resources on 7 primary school subjects in two languages, available online and offline.

<https://ibilim.edu.gov.kg>

TECHAIM PUBLIC FOUNDATION

Khan Academy – an investment in education!

Khan Academy Kyrgyz is a project to localize a global educational platform, free access to world-class quality education in Kyrgyz language.

<https://ky.khanacademy.org/>

“KREATIV-TAALIM” EDUCATIONAL COMPLEX

Advancement of innovative approaches in teaching schoolchildren.

«Online mektep» platform is developed on the basis of the educational complex - multimedia lessons on 5 subjects of secondary school in the Kyrgyz language.

<http://kreativ-taalim.com/online-mektep/>

“MUGALIM” ONLINE SCHOOL

Community of advanced teachers!

Practical training in the skills and competencies of a 21st century teacher. More than 1,500 rural and urban school teachers have been trained in 5 courses developed since 2020. Since 2022, 2 new courses on teaching methods by Gapyr Madaminov and Montessori Pedagogy have been launched.

<https://mugalim-edu.com/>

LLC KUNDOLUK

Kundo bilim! (Knowledge everyday!)

The information system «Kundoluk» solves a number of problems in the field of education and automates many processes of educational and administrative activities.

More than 1,300 schools in Kyrgyzstan are connected to the system.

<https://kundoluk.edu.kg/>

CODIFY LAB IT – COMPANY

A simple and easy system to manage learning processes!

The Codify CRM LMS platform is designed to help streamline and automate the work of the educational center and courses by creating a database of students, teachers and uploaded lessons, supported by analytics and student progress statistics.

<https://lms.codifylab.com/en#product-block>

SANARIP MUGALIM

“Sanarip Mugalim” is the need of the time!

Networking of school teachers from different parts of Kyrgyzstan who are able to introduce into practice innovative teaching methods and approaches, increase the level of information technology proficiency, enhance the creative potential of teachers and develop leadership qualities.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/510698196324657>

DIGITAL PEDAGOGY LAB

The digital pedagogy lab includes master classes, demo lessons, design sessions for groups of school teachers from the regions and Bishkek. The purpose of the Lab is to provide an understanding of the purposeful, effective use of technical knowledge and skills in pedagogical activity. The Digital Pedagogy Lab is aimed at developing the teacher's ICT skills as an important component of

teacher's professional competence in general. Participants of the Digital Pedagogy Lab will receive basic skills and additional knowledge on searching and accessing information, organizing and applying it in their pedagogical activities.



Organization, vision/mission

“MUGALIM” ONLINE SCHOOL

Community of advanced teachers!
Interactive and hands-on training on key skills of the 21st century teachers. Private social initiative to provide expert support in the field of education
<https://mugalim-edu.com/aboutUs.php>

Master class / demo-lesson / design-session

Teacher’s digital competences:
how to prepare an interactive online lesson?

Google for teachers

KYRGYZ INTERNET SOCIETY (ISOC)

Healthy Internet for future generations in Kyrgyzstan!
ISOC supports and promotes the development of Internet as a global technical infrastructure, a resource for enriching people’s lives, and a force for good in society. <https://isoc.kg/ru/>

Ilimbox, Tiktok and cyber-hygiene
– modern education and new reality

“KREATIV-TAALIM” EDUCATIONAL COMPLEX

Teacher-to-teacher! Short-term advanced training courses on teaching and development of ICT competence.
<http://kreativ-taalim.com/online-mektep/>

Digital tools for teaching online

Microsoft Power Point for school teacher

Organization, vision/mission**Master class / demo-lesson / design-session****«TAALIM-FORUM» PUBLIC FOUNDATION**

Creation and promotion of open electronic multimedia educational resources available for teachers and schoolchildren.

<https://www.taalimforum.kg/>

Development of digital competencies of school teachers with iBilim resources

«TECHAIM» PUBLIC FOUNDATION

Advancement of digital skills, mentoring and developing start-ups among women and youth.

<https://www.facebook.com/techaim.kg/>

Khan Academy Educational Resource for School Teacher

DETAILED PROGRAM**OCTOBER 4. PRE-CONFERENCE DAY**

11:00 - 12:30

Digital Tools for Teaching and Research. Training

Daniyar Karabaev, Head and Senior Lecturer, Liberal Arts and Sciences; and Aizhamal Sarybaeva, Senior Lecturer, General Education Programs, AUCA. The training is intended for teachers and undergraduates.

https://auca.kg/en/liberal_arts_sciences

13:45 - 14:45

OPEN LECTURE

EMMA SABZALIEVA, PhD, Head of Higher Education Research and Policy Analysis, UNESCO International Institute for Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNESCO IESALC). Dr. Sabzalieva chairs the leading projects on the right to higher education, prospects for development of higher education and new forms of student mobility; an international specialist in higher education with two decades of experience in research, teaching, policy analysis, consulting and university management on three continents.

Subject: Digital future? Virtual Academic Mobility and Prospects for Changes in Higher Education in Central Asia

The academic mobility, being a hallmark of internationalization, has been severely affected during the COVID-19 pandemic, with students and researchers squeezed by the closures of borders and medical restrictions. Despite enormous challenges, this period also saw significant innovation in the internationalization of higher education, with the development of virtual forms of mobility providing students with authentic

and profound intercultural and international experience. Based on new UNESCO study, looking at the experience of 73 universities in 38 countries during the pandemic, the lecture defines the issues of implementation of student virtual mobility in a global perspective. Also, attention is paid to student mobility in Central Asia and the prospects for the digitalization of academic mobility in the coming years are considered.

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

15:00 - 16:30

Digital pedagogy – application without fear. Interactive lecture

Angelina Popova, PhD, Director of the Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology, AUCA. The lecture will be interesting for teachers and post-graduate students.

https://www.auca.kg/ru/directory_contacts/199/

17:30 - 20:30

The cultural program. A visit to the interactive ethnographic museum «Supara», which reflects nomadic culture, the art of playing komuz music instrument, pasture animal husbandry, traditional games, traditional clothes and the life of the Kyrgyz people

<https://supara.kg/en/>

DAY 1, OCTOBER 5

08:00 - 09:30 Registration of conference participants

09:00 - 17:00 Thematical activities

10:00 - 10:30

Opening of the conference. Greeting participants.

- Almazbek Beishenaliev, Minister of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic
- Sangay Jamtsho, Senior Program Officer, KIX IDRC, Canada
- Nurgul Ukuyeva, Vice-president for Academic Affairs, American University of Central Asia (AUCA)

10:30 - 12:00

SESSION 1. COVID-19 RESPONSE: LESSONS LEARNED FOR IMPROVING EDUCATION STRATEGIES IN THE CENTRAL ASIA REGION

Moderator: Zhanyl Bokonbayeva, PhD, Coordinator of the National KIX Committee in Kyrgyzstan

The pandemic caused by COVID-19 interrupted the traditional format of education in all schools of the world, including Central Asia. Educational institutions in Kyrgyzstan were forced to quarantine for almost 300 days. Distance learning has been put into practice in schools for the first time. Efforts and measures on the part of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic, support from international organizations, teacher innovations and management of the learning process in schools adapted to new realities became the first experience of responding

to the situation. What worked? What didn't work and why? What is ICT competence? What innovations need to be developed to organize the educational process, improve access to education for vulnerable groups of schoolchildren? How to improve the efficiency of the system of advanced training and retraining of teachers in the context of digitalization? These and other issues will be addressed in the speeches of the leadership and managers of the school system and institutions in the region.

- 1) **Ulanbek Mambetakunov, Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences, Professor, Deputy Minister of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic**
Transformation of Education in the Digital Ecosystem of Kyrgyzstan: Challenges and Strategies
- 2) **Almazbek Toktomametov, Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences, Director of the Republican Institute for Advanced Studies and Retraining of Pedagogical Workers under the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic**
Formation of ICT competence of teachers in the system of professional development in Kyrgyzstan
- 3) **Tsermaa Todgerel, Director of the Center for Educational Information Technologies, Ministry of Education and Science of Mongolia**
Digital transformation of education in Mongolia
- 4) **Alima Ibrasheva, Deputy Chairman of the Board for Academic Affairs of the National Center for Advanced Studies «Orleu», Astana (Kazakhstan)**
Updating approaches and content in the professional development of teachers in Kazakhstan

12:00 - 13:30 **Lunch**

13:30 - 15:00

SESSION 2. EXPANDING DIGITAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES: INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES

Moderator: Chinara Omurkulova, Monitoring, Evaluation and Training Consultant, Taalim-Forum PF

International organizations have provided significant technical assistance to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic to mitigate the consequences of COVID-19 by increasing educational and methodological resources and materials for teachers and students, improving programs to enhance the skills of teachers in various subject areas, including the use of information and communication technologies (ICT) in teaching. In cooperation with local authorities, territorial departments of education and parental communities the support was provided to teachers, methodologists, and students, especially from vulnerable groups

and ethnic minorities. The Global Fact Sheet on Education during COVID-19 notes that children in Kyrgyzstan have the opportunity to access distance learning through online platforms, national TV channels and mobile network applications for free on <https://www.unicef.org/kyrgyzstan/>. During the session, representatives of projects from UNICEF, the World Bank, UNESCO, USAID and others will share successful experience in implementing education projects that allow teachers to improve their teaching skills in classical and digital formats, expanding opportunities and improving the quality of education in Kyrgyzstan.

15:00 - 15:30 **Break**

15:30 - 16:30

OPEN LECTURE



DUISHON SHAMATOV, PhD., Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Education, Nazarbayev University, teaches courses in leadership and research methods for graduate and postdoctoral students as part of the “Leadership in Education program”. He received his PhD from the Ontario Institute for the Study of Education, University of Toronto (Canada). Subject of doctoral dissertation: «Professional socialization of novice teachers in post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan: Challenges and coping strategies». Dr. Shamatov is the winner of many competitions in the nominations for leadership and innovation in teaching. He was awarded the «Excellence in Education» medal of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic and the «Altynsarin» medal of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Subject: Lessons learned from educational initiatives during the COVID-19 pandemic in Kyrgyzstan: What next?

The crisis in education caused by the COVID-19 pandemic continues and has long-term consequences in Kyrgyzstan, as well as around the world. During the quarantine, school teachers, parents and students have experienced great difficulties. The expert community in the country asked the questions: how can we help our teachers? what can we teach them ourselves? The lessons learned are based on personal experience of participating in organizing and conducting the "Online Mektep" (Online School), which has become

a real volunteer educational initiative and a kind of movement that brought together experts, practitioners, and parents, from March 2020 to April 2021. During this time, 15 online webinars were held, featuring 48 speakers and engaging more than 28,000 people from all over Kyrgyzstan. The need to comprehend and summarize the lessons learned is relevant in addressing modern challenges in education and developing new effective educational strategies for the coming years in Kyrgyzstan.

DAY 2, OCTOBER 6

09:00 - 17:00 Thematic activities

09:00 - 10:30

SESSION 3. DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL COMPETENCES OF TEACHERS AS A FACTOR OF ENSURING THE QUALITY OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

Moderator: Gulnara Botokanova, Doctor of Philosophy, Bishkek State University

The strategic course of the state towards development and use of modern information and communication technologies in the field of education actualizes new tasks for universities that prepare teaching staff. The COVID-19 pandemic has dictated new requirements for teachers' training. Are the curricula meeting the objectives? What skills and abilities

are necessary for a modern teacher in the context of digitalization? What are the ways of developing digital literacy of future teachers? How to expand the possibilities of the educational environment using information and communication technologies? These and other issues will be discussed during the session.

Zholdoshibek Mokeshov, Head of the Department of Information Technology, Dosaaly Imanberdiev, PhD, Kyrgyz State University named after I. Arabaev

Analysis of ICT competencies in educational programs for students of pedagogical areas, implemented at the KSU named after Arabaev

Aigul Abdukarimova, Candidate of economic sciences, Associate Professor; Zhyldyz Asekova, Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences, Associate Professor, International University of Central Asia (IUCA)

The role of advanced professional education in the development of digital skills of school teachers (on the example of Kyrgyzstan)

Kanyshai Nurdinova, Candidate of Philological Sciences, Associate Professor, Osh State University

Online learning: threats or new opportunities?

Altynai Bekmyrzaeva, Lecturer, Bishkek State University named after K. Karasaev

Psychological and pedagogical foundations for the formation of communicative competence of future primary school teachers

Tashtanbai Sartov, Candidate of Technical Sciences, Professor, Kyrgyz Technical University named after Razzakov

Analysis of educational programs of advanced training courses in the field of ICT competencies of teachers of the Kyrgyz Republic

09:00 - 10:30

SESSION 4. DIGITALIZATION IN EDUCATION: BEST PRACTICES AND INNOVATIONS**Moderator: Almagul Osmonova, Director of Taalim-Forum PF**

The COVID-19 pandemic and the global crisis that followed it not only has become a challenge to the education system, but also a catalyst for rapid change. The educational system has become an experimental platform. Teachers experience serious difficulties in the conditions when it was necessary to simultaneously learn and apply modern technologies, create their own content, while faced with the lack of students' skills of independent work, low motivation to learn, when usual forms of control

became inapplicable and "teacher-student" and "student-student" live communication impossible. A huge burden and responsibility fell on the shoulders of parents, the managers of educational institutions for taking response measures to the situation. Participants of the session will share their solutions and innovations in the field of creating digital educational materials, online courses, and schools for teachers.

Aziz Soltobaev, co-founder of NGO Internet Society Kyrgyz Chapter

Digital pedagogy and learning on the example of ililmbox

Sanjaabadam Sed, PhD, Mongolian National Educational Research Institute, Academic Secretary.

Tele-lessons and outcomes in school education in Mongolia during the pandemic

Zhyldyz Abdyrakunova, Associate Professor, Bishkek State University

Innovative activity of a teacher in the education system

Tatyana Lapshina, Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences, methodologist of educational programs of the "Ustatshakirt" Center

«Umtul Drama Lab» - a new format of interaction

Madina Samakbaeva, Chairperson of the Techaim Public Foundation, official representative of Khan Academy in Kyrgyzstan, lecturer, AUCA Innovation College

Education accessible to everyone: Khan Academy open educational resource for Kyrgyzstan

10:30 - 11:00 **Break**

11:00 - 12:30

SESSION 5. COVID - 19 AND TEACHERS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: INITIATIVES AND INNOVATIONS

Moderator: Aisuluu Zhamangulova, co-founder of the MUGALIM online school

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to the fore the issues of the system of professional development of teaching staff in general, and the preparedness of teachers for distance learning, the need to develop digital competencies, in particular. To what extent is the current system of professional development of teachers effective, competitive and up to date? What new initiatives and innovative approaches are emerging aimed at organizing theoretical and practical assistance

to teachers in mastering new digital skills? Are teachers' advanced training and professional development systems ready to change? Is the community of teachers and managers ready to support these changes and innovative approaches in this area? The presentations of the session participants will touch upon these and other topical issues in the system of professional development of teachers, training and advanced training of teachers in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and other countries.

Aisuluu Zhamangulova, co-founder of the online school "MUGALIM"

Formation of teacher's ICT competence on the experience of «Mugalim» courses

Asylbek Madaliev, founder of the educational center «Sanarip Mugalim»

«Sanarip Mugalim»: experience of using digital technologies in training teachers from remote regions of Kyrgyzstan

Elena Debelaya, Principal of Gymnasium School No. 6, Kara-Balta, post-graduate student at AUCA

Professional development of teachers in the context of digitalization of education.

Chynara Turatbek kyzy, University of Central Asia (UCA), educational designer, co-founder of MUGALIM

Methods for improving the effectiveness of learning in a digital environment

11:00 - 12:30

SESSION 6. CASE STORIES FROM FIELDWORK IN KYRGYZSTAN, TAJIKISTAN AND MONGOLIA

Moderator Jyldyz Doolbekova, Candidate of Historical Sciences, Project Manager, Taalim-Forum

Researchers from Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Tajikistan will share cases that reveal vulnerabilities, including COVID-19 pandemic, that have impacted access to quality education for girls and boys from remote rural

communities, including ethnic minorities. Field research was carried out as part of the project on "Promotion of innovative distance education approaches to reduce inequalities and improve access to quality education in

Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Mongolia”. The research is conducted to mobilize knowledge and analyze further development of policy recommendations for comprehensive measures to improve educational process, ensure the continuity of education, improving quality, using of “reserve” opportunities and

the benefits of using ICT in education. The project is implemented by a Consortium of three public organizations, the geography of the research covers remote local communities in Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, and Tajikistan, where technical support, Internet access, etc. are limited.

Shodibeg Kodirov, National Coordinator of the KIX Committee in the Republic of Tajikistan

Access to Education in Tajikistan: Successes and Hidden Factors

Chinara Omurkulova, Monitoring and Evaluation Consultant

Gender inequality and its implications for the education of girls and boys in Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and Tajikistan

Tungalagtuya Khuuhenduu, Director of NNC, member of National KIX Committee in Mongolia

Preliminary Findings of the Qualitative Research: Case Studies from Mongolia

Abduvohid Safarov, Director of “Anahita”, Jovidsho Juraev, sociologist-researcher

Examples of Vulnerabilities in Access to Education: Challenges and Opportunities in Tajikistan

12:30 - 13:50 **lunch break**

14:00 - 15:30

SESSION 7. RESEARCH DATA FOR DECISION MAKING

Moderator: Emma Sabzalieva, Ph.D, International Consultant

One of the important conditions for making effective decisions in the field of education is the maximum awareness of the ongoing processes. Educational strategies should be developed based on the analysis of facts and data obtained in the course of research conducted by various international and local organizations at the local, national and global levels. The session will present the results of

the analysis of the situation in the field of education, the findings and recommendations based on the research conducted in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Mongolia, and other countries of the region. The session may be interesting and useful for researchers and managers in the education system working on strategic directions for development of school education.

Gulnara Kalikova, Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the «KG Analytics» Public Foundation

Research on education in Kyrgyzstan: who does it and who needs it?

Nazik Imanbekova, Researcher, Program Coordinator, International Republican Institute; Cholpon Uzakbayeva co-founder, project manager of «School of Data» public foundation.

I want to go back to school!

Gulnara Ibrayeva, PhD, PIL Research, Mehriqul Ablezova, Master of Sociology, AUCA/PIL Research

Structural and regulatory barriers to the implementation of quality distance education in Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia and the Tajikistan: experience of the qualitative research

Iva Perković, Network of Education Policy Centers (NEPC).

Mapping systemic responses to educational challenges related to the pandemic

Battsetseg Semjaan, PhD, Mongolian National University of Education

Education research during COVID-19: situation in Mongolia

14:00 - 15:30

**SESSION 8.
THE CHANGING ROLE OF THE TEACHER IN THE CONTEXT OF
DIGITALIZATION.**

Round table

Moderator: Duishon Shamatov, Ph.D., Associate Professor of the Graduate School of Education at Nazarbayev University

Issues for discussion:

Digital teacher: what competencies should he/she have?

What is the role of a school teacher in the era of digitalization in education?

What skills and abilities of the student's personality need to be formed?



The process of transformation of the traditional school is proceeding rapidly and irreversibly. The opportunities for socialization and education of children in school no longer meet the challenges of the digital age. Throughout development of history, the unshakable authority of the teacher was determined by his/her baggage of knowledge and the ability to convey it to students. Today, the teacher has ceased to be the only source of knowledge, his/her life experience is becoming irrelevant in a rapidly changing world. The COVID-19

pandemic has shown that the organization of the educational process, using digital educational platforms, allows students, having received a task, to independently master the material on the topic. In modern conditions, educational activities are aimed at the joint solution of non-standard tasks, the initiation of research and the implementation of projects, where each student performs his role. In the era of digitalization, the role, nature, and value of pedagogical work are changing.

15:30 - 16:00 **Break**

16:00 - 16:30

CLOSING OF THE CONFERENCE



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#education
#digitalisation
#innovation