



## CIS region: lessons learnt from COVID-19



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ICT



Subject content

Internet access

Equipment

Digital skills





## **Lockdown and the transition to distance learning**

According to UNESCO more than 1.5 billion students and youth across the planet are or have been affected by school and university closures due to the pandemic and more than 463 million students were unable to switch to distance learning)



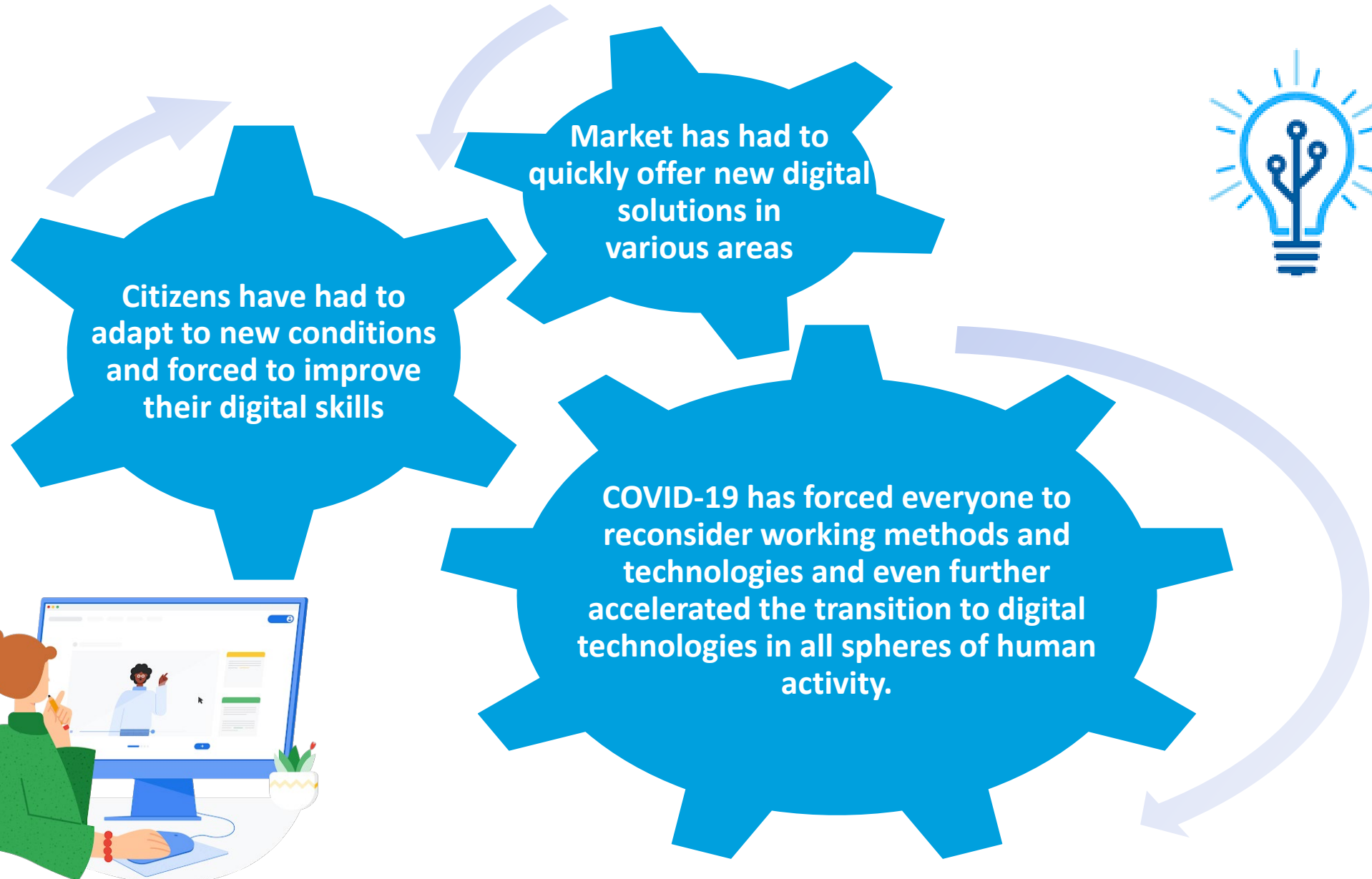
## **Unstable internet**

This is one of the main factors that prevents the widespread introduction of distance learning technologies. According to the rating of Internet speed WebsiteToolTester, among 207 countries Russia is on the 54th place, Uzbekistan - 181st, Kazakhstan - 113th, Kyrgyzstan - 155th.



## **Lack of necessary equipment in schools, universities and households.**

Many families do not have suitable equipment - more than 55 thousand schoolchildren in Kazakhstan live in villages without the Internet, and 30% of students do not have computers



## Digital transformation of RCC participants: challenges and operational solutions during the COVID-19 pandemic. National learning platforms and tools

### Azerbaijan

- [ARB TV Gunesh](#) - 'Learning time' program broadcasted on two TV channels 'Madaniyyat' and 'ARB Gunesh'.
- [E-resurs](#) - A repository of free e-textbooks, e-tests, video lessons, and e-learning, created by the government.
- [Elektron Dərslik Portalı](#) - Electronic Textbook Portal – An e-books portal linked on the Azerbaijani Ministry of Education website.
- [Video.edu.az](#) - A collection of video lessons on all school subjects and grades. The video lessons are prepared in accordance with the general education curriculum and are recommended by the Ministry of Education to be used by learners during temporal school closure.

### Armenia

- [Dasaran](#) - Provides free access to online encyclopedia on school subjects, e-books, contests and games to primary and secondary school students. The system was created by the joint efforts of the Ministries of Education, Science and Culture of the Republic of Armenia.
- [E-school Armenia](#) - Classes broadcasted by the public television for grades 1 to 9. The videos are also available on the ArmEduChannel on Youtube.
- [Heravar](#) - a comprehensive distance education resources website containing a number of online resources and tools that are constantly updated.

## Kazakhstan

- [Balapan](#) - Lessons broadcasted on the TV channel 'Balapan'.
- [Kazakhstan national open education platform](#) - An educational platform established by leading universities of Kazakhstan. Offers online courses in the basic undergraduate disciplines studied in Kazakh and Russian.
- [Kundelik](#) - A digital learning platform with tools and materials for representatives of educational institutions, as well as teachers, students, parents and administrators of educational institutions.
- [Uztaz](#) - A portal for educators, provides access to free lesson plans and online courses.

## Uzbekistan

- [Eduportal.uz](#) - The official portal of the Ministry of Public Education of Uzbekistan which provides free access to teachers and learners to electronic textbooks, video lessons, tests, virtual laboratories, audio lessons, educational games, lesson plans, exit examination tests and other teaching and learning materials for all grades of primary and secondary school in Uzbek and Russian.
- TV channels - Three national TV channels broadcast educational programs for primary school students, initiated by the Ministry of Public Education. The programs are being aired during all days of the week in three languages – Uzbek, Russian and English along with sign language translation.
- [UZEDU](#) – A collection of resources by the Ministry of Public Education to facilitate learning during school closures.

## Kyrgyzstan

- [Balastan TV channel](#) - TV lessons for schoolchildren broadcasted on TV channels KTRK Balastan and EITR Ilim Bilim.
- [Bilim Bulagy](#) - An open educational portal endorsed by the Ministry of Education of Kyrgyzstan with free access to online lessons with videos for secondary school students (grades 5-9) in mathematics, biology, history, physics, chemistry, geography, English language, Kyrgyz and world literature in Kyrgyz and Russian.
- ["Digital lessons" education portal](#) - Online platform created by the Ministry of Education with educational resources for students.
- [Ibilim](#) - An open educational portal endorsed by the Ministry of Education of Kyrgyzstan with free access to online video and audio lessons for primary school students on mathematics, Kyrgyz, Russian, English languages, music and arts.
- [Kitep](#) - Open e-library of the Ministry of Education of Kyrgyzstan.
- [Lib](#) - Open library of materials (including textbooks and guides for teachers) distributed under open license.



# COVID-19 pandemic challenges



REGIONAL COMMONWEALTH  
IN THE FIELD OF COMMUNICATIONS

Almost 180  
thousand  
PwD live in  
the Kyrgyz  
Republic.

Mostly this situation has exacerbated the challenges faced by persons with disabilities (PwD) and older people, significantly reducing the total number of jobs available and making digital skills a key requirement for recruitment.

about 16,6%  
of them are  
children

85,4% do not  
receive an  
education or have  
limited access to  
education



Consequently, it is more important than ever before to develop and raise the level of digital literacy among citizens paying particular attention to PwD.



## Objective of the new RI

Provide assistance to ITU Member States of the region in formulating recommendations for the development of citizens' digital skills, paying particular attention to PwD.



*policy*



*study*



*trainings*

**RI: Digital skills and ICT accessibility  
for the population, in particular for PwD"**

## New RI covers 2 priority areas:

**Development of citizens' digital skills in art and culture and the reduction of barriers in public access to museum collections  
(initiated by Russian Federation)**



**Development and raising of digital literacy for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs  
(initiated by Kyrgyz Republic)**



## Expected results



A detailed study of the needs of PwD in terms of digital-skill training methodology;



Recommendations on the development and improvement of digital literacy for PwD;



Creation of a network of training centres for PwD, including in remote areas of countries;



Methodological guidance and training for teachers of training centres for PwD;

## Expected results (cont.)



Recommendations on the development of citizens' digital skills in art and culture and the reduction of barriers in public access to museum collections;



Cooperation with museums for the development of special programmes for public access to museum exhibits;



Professional development courses, forums, training and seminars on matters related to the development of the public's digital skills in art and culture.

## Digital transformation is a new way of life

“The coronavirus pandemic, announced in the world a year ago, became a challenge for the Russian education system, but did not seriously affect the academic performance of schoolchildren, and allowed students to be more mobile and receive education without being tied to a place”.

*Ministry of Education of Russian Federation*

In order to implement breakthrough development, increase the population of the country, improve the standard of living of citizens, create comfortable conditions for their living, as well as reveal the talent of each person the President of Russia signed the Decree "On the National Development Goals of the Russian Federation for the Period up to 2030" <http://kremlin.ru/acts/news/63728>

*The following national development goals have been identified:*

- preservation of the population, health and well-being of people;
- opportunities for self-realization and development of talents;
- comfortable and safe living environment;
- decent, efficient work and successful entrepreneurship;
- **digital transformation.**



## Digital Transformation. Operational decisions of the RCC during a pandemic

### National learning platforms and tools

- [Edu portal](#) - The Ministry of Education's official portal providing information on distance learning for different levels, including a compilation of different resources.
- [Russian e-school](#) - An open educational platform supported by the Ministry of Education of Russia aimed at teachers, learners and parents providing free access to high-quality interactive lessons, practice and tests on all subjects from grade 1 to 11.
- TV channels - Educational programs broadcasted on various national and regional channels in different subject areas, including preparation for secondary school graduation exams.
- [Worldskills](#) - A platform for digital skills development recommended by the Ministry of Education.

### New opportunities

E-Learning allow you to be mobile, provide an opportunity to receive education without reference to a place. Also, students have more opportunities when choosing training courses and programs of both Russian and foreign universities. So it possible to build an individual learning regime: review the video materials of lectures and classes at a convenient time.



## Exams and coronavirus

The pandemic had an impact on the format of exams at school - they were taken only by those who intend to enter universities.

In 2020, an electronic educational environment was formed at all universities. It is a virtual infrastructure based, among other things, on the educational institutions' own resources: *digital platforms*, project-based learning, virtual laboratories, platforms for teaching a foreign language, access to electronic library resources and services.

## Employment and Holidays

In the context of the pandemic, in April 2020, a program was implemented to promote the employment of university students.

Many of the offered vacancies involved a remote work format.

Within the framework of the program, more than 15 thousand students from 149 subordinate universities were employed as digital assistants, psychologist consultants working with socially unprotected groups of the population, specialists in the implementation of educational programs for the population.

For the summer period, additional jobs were allocated for students in admissions offices at universities.

## The main trends in blended (full-time and distance) education in CIS:

**Availability.** Broadband high-speed Internet for accessing digital platforms (Rostelecom) to remote village, online training can solve this problem.

**Big data and AI.** With the help of analytics and special algorithms, you can optimize the educational process and organize it so that it is convenient for everyone to work even with large amounts of information. AI will help personalize learning by tracking which student needs help in time.

**Creativity.** New technologies give more freedom for creativity, non-standard formats and approaches to teaching - right up to AR and VR lessons. At the same time, routine tasks can be automated using the same algorithms, chat bots, and online reporting.

**Microlearning (microllerning).** A method in which large amounts of information are broken up into small blocks to make them easier to digest. This is especially true now, when children are absorbed in gadgets and cannot concentrate on anything for more than a couple of minutes.

**Online platforms and aggregators.** These are online resources like Coursera, iSpring, Skyeng, or Yandex.Textbook, where you can conduct online courses, school lessons, group or individual lessons. Unfortunately, there is still no single platform for public schools and universities in Russia now: most classes are held in Zoom or other video chats, and assignments are sent by mail or messengers.

# *Thank you!*

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