

Good practices: Remote schooling / Digital education in the context of the COVID-19 crisis

General Information

Country / Region of nominating institution	Czech Republic
Nominating institution dealing with the good practice	Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
Consent for publication (YES / NO)	YES
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Webpage (optional)	

Area of concern

After the outbreak of the COVID-19 crisis, new and creative approaches in education systems had to be found to deal with the situation. Despite the negative consequences, this led to a variety of innovative educational measures useful also for the future.

In this context, we are looking for best practices in the following areas:

- Equal access to education / disadvantaged groups
- Ensuring learning outcomes
- Teacher education and training
- Digital pedagogical resources and online learning platforms
- Funding processes / innovative solutions

Please tick the level of education and implementation that the good practice deals with in the chart below:

Level/type of education		Level of implementation	
Early childhood education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Institutional	<input type="checkbox"/>
School education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local	<input type="checkbox"/>
Higher education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Regional	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vocational education and training	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Adult education	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Description of the good practice

Title of the good practice

1. Let's Include Everybody (Zapojmevsechny.cz)
2. We Teach Online (Učíme online)
3. The SYPO project (Support for Professional Development of Teachers and School-leaders)

Short **introduction of the situation** (who are the recipients/attendees, what means to educate were used, what financial resources were used, etc.) and **the remote schooling / digital education issue** that was dealt with (ca. 100 words)

1. The recipients of the project are primary school pupils who are falling behind in their education. This project is a part of a bigger project called "Support of Common Education in Pedagogical Practice" that started in 2017 and will end in 2020. This bigger project is covered by approx. 5 481 110 EUR.
2. The recipients of the projects are school leaders, teachers, pupils and students or parents. The project is free of charge.
3. The recipients of the project are mainly school leaders, teachers and parents. The project started in 2018 and will end in 2022. The project is co-financed by the EU with 10 369 799 EUR.

Measures taken / resolution found / output of the practice (ca. 150 words)

1. The Ministry participated on this project together with nine pedagogical faculties, National Pedagogical Institute and NGOs. The project offers tutoring by education faculties students for children to help them catch up also by online means. That way the project helps all children to cope with difficulties that distance education can bring.
2. By the end of the previous school year the Ministry started to cooperate with the Czech NGO Czech.Digital (Česko.Digital) which helped schools and students during the first wave of COVID-19. The project We Teach Online has involved over 400 expert volunteers who have been actively helping schools to put online education into practice. This initiative has helped around a thousand of schools with distance teaching, methods, courses for teachers or hardware choosing. It has also provided pupils and students with practical use of different on-line tools.
3. The SYPO project was launched by the National Pedagogical Institute of the Czech Republic. It provides series of 30-minute webinars with tips for online learning techniques and IT tools which can be used by teachers and parents during the quarantine period or schools' closure. Various experts and guests have been invited to share their knowledge and examples of good practices. The webinars are streamed in real time on the SYPO YouTube channel and the records are available at www.projektsypo.cz. Thanks to this project schools can also arrange online consultations with regional ICT experts for the purpose of solving practical issues related to implementation of the on-line education. Moreover, SYPO runs a blog with actualities and a Facebook group with up-to-date tips. 130 000 webinar participants have benefited from this unique project.

Challenges encountered during the implementation of the remote schooling / digital education action (ca. 50 words)

1. It is difficult to bring into this project children coming from socioeconomically disadvantaged background who do not have access to ICT equipment.
2. It is necessary to promote functioning of the project because their work is based on responding to specific requests of schools.
3. The teachers should have ICT equipment to benefit from the webinars. This challenge has also been dealt by the Ministry. Before the beginning of the new school year, the government approved the release of almost 1.3 billion crowns (around 48 million EUR) for the acquisition of technical equipment for primary schools.

Transferability: How can the good practice be applied to similar situations in different regions/institutions? (ca. 50 words)

1. We believe that pedagogical faculty students in other countries would also like to help children to catch up the learning loss and at the same time to get valuable experience for their future career. We believe this project can inspire countries where no similar concept exists.
2. We believe that such broad services are established in many countries but we see ours as very beneficial because it can bring together volunteers to similar idea also elsewhere.
3. This project can be inspirational especially in neighboring countries with similar languages because their teachers could benefit from the webinars as well.