

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

General Information

Country / Region of nominating institution	Croatia
Nominating institution dealing with the good practice	University of Zagreb University Computing Centre - SRCE
Consent for publication (YES / NO)	YES
Contact data for further possible cooperation (mail / phone)	ceu@srce.hr , abctovle@srce.hr
Webpage (optional)	https://www.srce.unizg.hr/en/elc

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

Description of the good practice

Title of the good practice

ABC workshop on course learning design

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)

The E-learning Centre at SRCE is providing numerous training courses and workshops for teachers. All training courses have both a f2f and online version, while workshops were held only f2f.

The latest workshop the E-learning Centre added to its portfolio is the ABC workshop on course learning design. The workshop was originally prepared for the f2f and attracted a lot of interest from teachers. The workshop is the result of the Erasmus+ project ABCtoVLE: Beyond Curriculum Design (<https://abc-ld.org/>), in which SRCE was a project partner. The workshop was developed by the University College London, UK and is based on the Diane Laurillard's 'Conversational Framework' theory using 6 types of learning and is suitable for all levels of education. Within the Erasmus+ project SRCE translated the workshop into Croatian and adapted it to the Croatian education system.

The classroom workshop is planned for 30-35 participants who, in an active way, work in groups on designing a new or improving an existing course. Starting from the learning outcomes of the course, teachers determine the types of learning they want to use throughout the course, or the associated activities that will lead students to achieve the set learning outcomes.

The goal is to introduce new teaching methods and assessment methods, place them in an online environment or raise the level of e-learning.

As a reply to the "new normal" and the impossibility to organise a f2f workshop, an interactive online workshop has been prepared.

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

In the period before the pandemic, a number of workshops were held in Croatia, as well as in the neighbouring countries (Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina) and they were well received. Although some more workshops were planned, given the situation, they had to be postponed. However, the teachers were still interested in the workshop, so SRCE decided to set up this workshop in an online environment. During the summer a workshop was prepared and adapted for the online environment and first workshops started in September.

The online workshop, due to the specifics of the online environment in which it is necessary to maintain a high level of interactivity and active participation of participants, is held for a smaller number of participants (12-15). The workshop is held via Adobe Connect along with the use of Breakout rooms and the Moodle e-learning platform. Until now five workshops have been held successfully with five more to come in October and in the first week of November. The teachers' feedback on the online workshop is very positive.

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

Adapting the ABC workshop to the online environment was a challenge mostly because of the choice of tools that were to replace the Storyboard and cards in a f2f workshop, while retaining all the benefits of using this method. The MS Excel was chosen, in which linked worksheets provided teachers with an easy overview of the possibilities and impact of individual choices on the overall course design. Numerous activities have been pre-defined, which can be upgraded during the workshop and thus, to the greatest extent, respond to the individual needs of teachers / courses. Some teachers also needed help using the webinar system, so the role of the workshop leader is more demanding than this is the case in the classroom.

As teachers work in groups during the workshop, it is more demanding to ensure their active participation in an online environment. The workshop participants are often teachers coming from different institutions and teaching different subjects, not knowing each other. Therefore, it is not easy to ensure their engagement and active participation in an online environment. An additional benefit of this workshop for teachers is that it enables them to see, from the participant's perspective, what it is like to learn in an online environment and to get new ideas on how to use digital technologies in their teaching.

The biggest challenge is posed to the workshop leaders who need to ensure the active participation of teachers during the whole workshop in an online environment.

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

All materials for the ABC workshop, both in the classroom and online, are available to all interested teachers and can be used independently or at the institutional level. All materials are available in English and Croatian and are under the CC license BY NC SA. Before using the available materials, we recommend participation in the workshop or studying the theoretical basis of this workshop in detail in order to apply the method correctly and with quality. All information about the ABC workshop is available at: <https://www.srce.unizg.hr/centar-za-e-ucenje/medunarodna-suradnja/abc-vle>.