



SYMET-14: Education and Training in a Period of Rapid Change
WMO Symposium on Education and Training
Work Plan Template #5

Theme #5: Technological barriers to online learning, and using partnerships between online education providers to overcome them (Chairs: Sarah Keeley (ECMWF))

Background to the theme:

- *During the COVID-19 pandemic many innovative approaches to online and blended learning have been tried. Many solutions worked well, and this experience can be used to improve the adoption and use of online learning.*
- *By working together, Institutions have been able to share good practices and tools for online learning, enhancing the capabilities of the entire education and training community.*

Example Goals/Desired Outcomes (to be enhanced or adjusted by the Working Group):

- *Knowledge gained in teaching experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic is examined to determine what worked well and can be used to improve the adoption and use of online approaches that expand and enhance traditional learning opportunities.*
- *Increased opportunities and mechanisms for Institutional collaboration are implemented to facilitate sharing good practices and tools.*
- *Free or low-cost tools are sought and promoted to benefit all WMO Members.*

Questions to consider in discussing workplans (challenges to address, barriers to action, tasks to complete, resources required, etc.) Groups are encouraged to explore further:

- *What has been the balance between free and commercial technologies used in online teaching during COVID-19? Why have particular institutions adopted commercial solutions?*
- *Does the use of commercial solutions prohibit greater sharing of resources?*
- *Which technologies are prohibitively expensive for those with fewest resources?*
- *Which technologies are impractical for use in some countries?*



- *What free or low-cost alternative tools and approaches exist for distance learning?*
- *Are there hardware limitations as well as software ones? Do we need good cameras and microphones to make online learning work well?*
- *What technologies work well for online group and peer-to-peer learning?*
- *What technologies work well for online assessment?*

Group Discussion Prompts

Challenges (What barriers exist to achieving goals?):

Opportunities (From what examples can we learn? What existing initiatives can be drawn from?):

Collaboration (How can collaborative action contribute?):

What steps might be required?:

Who is willing to take responsibility to contribute? What contributions they can offer):

Recommended Actions (Which recommendations does the group propose that could meet the chosen goals and contribute to the SYMET Statement?):