

Digital literacy: a tool promoted by the IDB will be available in Argentina in 2024.

The news was announced by the Inter-American Development Bank, the Brazilian agency that designed the tool, and Vrio Corp., the company that promotes the Escuela Plus program in almost 9,800 educational institutions in seven countries.

São Paulo, November 1, 2023 - The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) announced that the EduTec Guide for teacher self-evaluation designed by the Brazilian Innovation Center for Education (CIEB, for its acronym in Portuguese) will be expanded to Argentina, Colombia, Chile, Uruguay, Ecuador and Peru, as part of the Escuela Plus educational program.

The EduTec Guide is a free tool for self-assessment of teachers' digital competencies, including online training proposals. It has been available so far in Brazil and next year will reach more than 159,000 teachers in 9,763 educational institutions in six countries.

This will be possible thanks to Escuela Plus, the educational program promoted by Vrio Corp. in agreement with the Ministries of Education of these countries. The initiative helps to reduce the technological gap, mainly in rural schools. It provides audiovisual resources, didactic materials and training proposals for educators aimed at the development of students' skills.

The news was confirmed at the V Escuela Plus Congress held in the city of São Paulo, Brazil, under the title "Conectando Saberes: Alfabetización Digital en el Siglo XXI" (Connecting Knowledge: Digital Literacy in the 21st Century). The announcement was made by Marcelo Pérez Alfaro, IDB Senior Education Specialist; Thalles Gomes, lawyer, researcher and manager of CIEB; and Daniela Passarella, pedagogical manager of Escuela Plus.

"We need to move towards a change in school culture. We have to increasingly incorporate digital technologies to support, accelerate and improve student engagement. The student has to be the center of the process, so the new tools have to be well articulated and with a clear direction. And it is essential that teachers have the possibility of boosting student learning with innovative pedagogical practices," said Pérez Alfaro.

In turn, Gomes said that for CIEB it is an honor to have its tool expanded to the region with the support of the IDB and the implementation of Escuela Plus. "In order to create the tool, we researched how it was done in other countries. The computer and the Internet are only part of it, because if teachers do not have the digital competencies and specific skills, there will be no impact or success in learning. Therefore, since 2016 we are working to build the tools to support educators to implement technology."

So far, 127,479 teachers have responded to the self-assessment of digital skills in Brazil and 123,523 schools have made a diagnosis of the degree of technology adoption. Starting in 2024, Argentine, Colombian, Uruguayan, Peruvian, Ecuadorian and Chilean teachers who are part of Escuela Plus, the educational program of Propósito Vrio, Vrio Corp.'s comprehensive sustainability plan, will be added.

"The EduTec Guide is a very important tool for the evaluation of competencies and digital literacy. Teachers can identify, based on the level of appropriation of digital technologies in the pedagogical field, strategies and suggestions to incorporate in the pedagogical practice. And

based on the data, we can work on training instances. The main objective is to provide students with better ways of learning and training," said Passarella.

The expert also pointed out that another of the objectives of implementing the tool in Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Ecuador, Colombia and Peru through Escuela Plus is to encourage students not only to be consumers of technology, but also its creators.

The results obtained in Brazil show that 26.7% of the institutions in that country that used the EduTec Guide are at an emerging level of use of digital educational resources; 38.8% are at a basic level; 31% are at an intermediate level; and only 3.5% reached an advanced level.

Regarding the competencies achieved by the institutions in the adoption of educational technology, 15.5% have an emerging level; 48.8% reached a basic level; 32.9% are at an intermediate level; and only 2.8% demonstrate an advanced level.

In October, São Paulo became the epicenter of two important international meetings for education, as the World Youth Meeting organized by the Pontifical Scholas Occurrentes Foundation, World ORT and the Leo Werthein Foundation and the V Escuela Plus Congress, which brought together teachers, students, experts and authorities from the region, were held at the Club Hebraica.

About Propósito Vrio

Propósito Vrio is the integral sustainability program of Vrio Corp, a company of which DIRECTV Latin America, DGO and SKY Brasil are part. The company invests in technology, produces and distributes exclusive content to bring to the region the best entertainment and connectivity experience, taking into account the particularities of each territory. Vrio Corp. contributes to the sustainable development of communities with innovative services and programs with a strong social commitment. Through the Escuela Plus educational project, volunteer actions and social participation events, it promotes specific objectives such as strengthening education, inclusion, values and diversity, preserving culture and boosting the region's economy.

About Escuela Plus

Escuela Plus is an educational program that helps reduce the technological gap, mainly in rural institutions in Latin America. It provides audiovisual resources, didactic materials and training proposals for educators aimed at the development of students' skills. The project is promoted by the Sustainability area of Vrio, a company of which DIRECTV Latin America, DIRECTV GO and SKY are part. The program has been developed for 15 years with the validation and support of the Ministries of Education and is present in more than 9,700 public schools in Latin America. More information at www.escuelaplus.com