



# TOOLS4 TEACHING September 2022

WWW.TOOLS4TEACHING.EU

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## What is TOOLS4TEACHING? Why?

Tools4Teaching is a space for teachers with focus on those working in VET, who want to learn more about innovative tools and methods for online teaching. One of the biggest challenges for online teaching has been to keep the students engaged and attentive to the content being taught. Teaching an online course requires different methods from the traditional classroom, so it's important that

teachers adapt and develop their skills to the online learning environment, to make their materials effective and engaging for learners. We aim to provide tools which every teacher can embrace and make their teaching way more interesting. The partners behind tools4teaching have deep knowledge of the challenges and problems related to online education as well as the opportunities it offers. As partners, we want to contribute to the professional development of teachers in the field of digital skills so that they may offer the highest quality VET giving students strong foundations in their career.

COVID-19 changed the teaching scenario. There have been times where all classes, being theoretical or practical, could not take place at school and had to be provided online. It takes quite some effort to provide high

quality lessons online, and online education is not the same as in-class: All these challenges made it less fun for teachers, but also for students.

Digital technology can be used to improve the accessibility and provision of education offering new innovative instruments and solutions. Improving on teachers' digital competence and digital readiness can develop high-quality teacher education and roles in relation to these opportunities

TOOLS4TEACHING wants to:

- Create more awareness on the opportunities of online education
- Create a more open mindset towards online education among teachers/trainers
- Provide practical tools to face the challenges of online



education compared to classroom education.



## From Alpha to Beta

TOOLS4TEACHING is based on how the implementation of technology creates pathways for differentiated instruction to meet unique needs of students as individual learners within a broader classroom climate.

If you want your training to engage learners, introduce new skills and decisively improve performance, you need reliable principles and a focused, results-driven approach. This is one of the needs, defined by many teachers in the advent of COVID and hence the need for a reference toolkit came about.

For the TOOLS4TEACHING Toolkit, we have selected several innovative digital tools which can be used by educators and students. We have implemented these in the TOOLS4TEACHING Toolkit has already been run through earlier in 2022. We have now moved onto our BETA test. Following the encouraging Alpha results the Tools4Teaching

partners received partners have now elaborated the toolkit based on feedback received.

Here is what our testers had to say

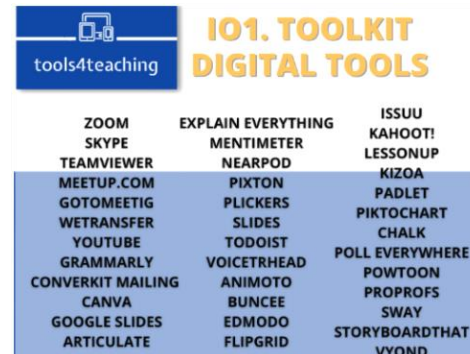
**"I think every teacher needs to have the possibility to use this list for their online lessons."**

**"Several of the tools I tested were interesting and something I can imagine using in the future"**

After receiving feedback from numerous European teachers, the IO1 TOOLKIT is already being finalized by the partners. This document will contain basic information about the digital tools that one can use to prepare your lessons, organize tasks or involve students in the learning process. These tools have been classified according to the needs to be solved, such as digital communication solutions or facilitating group interaction. When the Toolkit is available on the project website we will let you know here, so stay tuned and follow our [Facebook](#) page.

If you have tried any of these tools and want to share your experience with us to inspire

other colleagues, get in touch. Contact our [partners](#)



## Tips for Teachers Shifting to Teaching Online

*(Article Compiled by TOOLS4TEACHING)*

In a physical classroom, teachers can rely on nonverbal methods of communication, such as facial expressions and tone of voice, which help guide facilitation of student learning, establishing a strong teaching presence for blended and online learning environments differs markedly from face-to-face classroom. Before you arrive in the classroom, practice moving through a lesson until you feel more familiar with the logistics of toggling between windows or changing the settings of your tools as circumstances require. You won't be perfect, but you'll be more confident. In online environments, students perceive teaching presence more broadly hence students view teaching



presence through the lens of all interaction they have with their teacher—from emails to announcements and assignments to much subtler, background signals, like the way the course itself was organised. Hence digital tools that you use become extensions of your teaching, in other words, blurring the lines between your physical and virtual personae.

“While the students generally placed high value on communication and the instructor’s responsiveness, they did not place as much importance on synchronous or face to face communication” explain Kathleen Sheridan and Melissa Kelly, researchers at National Louis University in Chicago adding that “being able to see or hear the instructor received surprisingly low ratings relative to some of the other indicators in the study.”

It’s not your real-time presence that matters as much in the world of online learning, so, when teaching online, establish clear channels and rules of online communication with your students. Communication is more likely to break down in distance learning, particularly as classrooms become increasingly asynchronous

and are mediated through a learning management system, online documents, email, and other digital forms of communication.

Consider a “hotline”—a quick way to reach you if there’s a crucial question. Ensure that you get back to students reasonably quickly when they have questions.

In a 2019 study, prior to the COVID era, researchers found that successful online instructors frequently collected student feedback “to identify what was working or not. “If you want to improve your online teaching presence, you should communicate to students that their opinions matter. After surveying the literature, here are six questions recommended that you ask your students:

-On a scale from 1 to 5, how comfortable do you feel using technology in our virtual classroom?

-Have you encountered any technical issues?

-Are my lessons well-organized and my assignments clear?

-Can you easily find what you need?

-Do you feel like your voice is heard?

-What can I do to improve our online classroom?

## FIND OUT MORE

Are you interested in participating in our further testing and have a sneak peek want our TOOLS4TEACHING Toolkit? Contact our [partners](#) Check out our [Facebook](#) page.

## TOOLS4TEACHING PARTNERS



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