

Connectivity in Education

Status and recent developments in 9 non-EU countries

Sarah Delporte, ITU Office for Europe

Sarah Fuller, UNICEF Regional Office for Europe & Central Asia

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01.

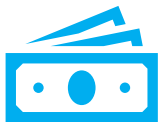
Focus of the report



1. Overview of education system and status of broadband



2. Government strategies, education quality, and the role of ICTs



3. Multistakeholder partnerships and financing mechanisms



4. Responses to COVID-19 and distance learning

Connectivity in education

Status and recent developments in nine non-European Union countries



In partnership with:





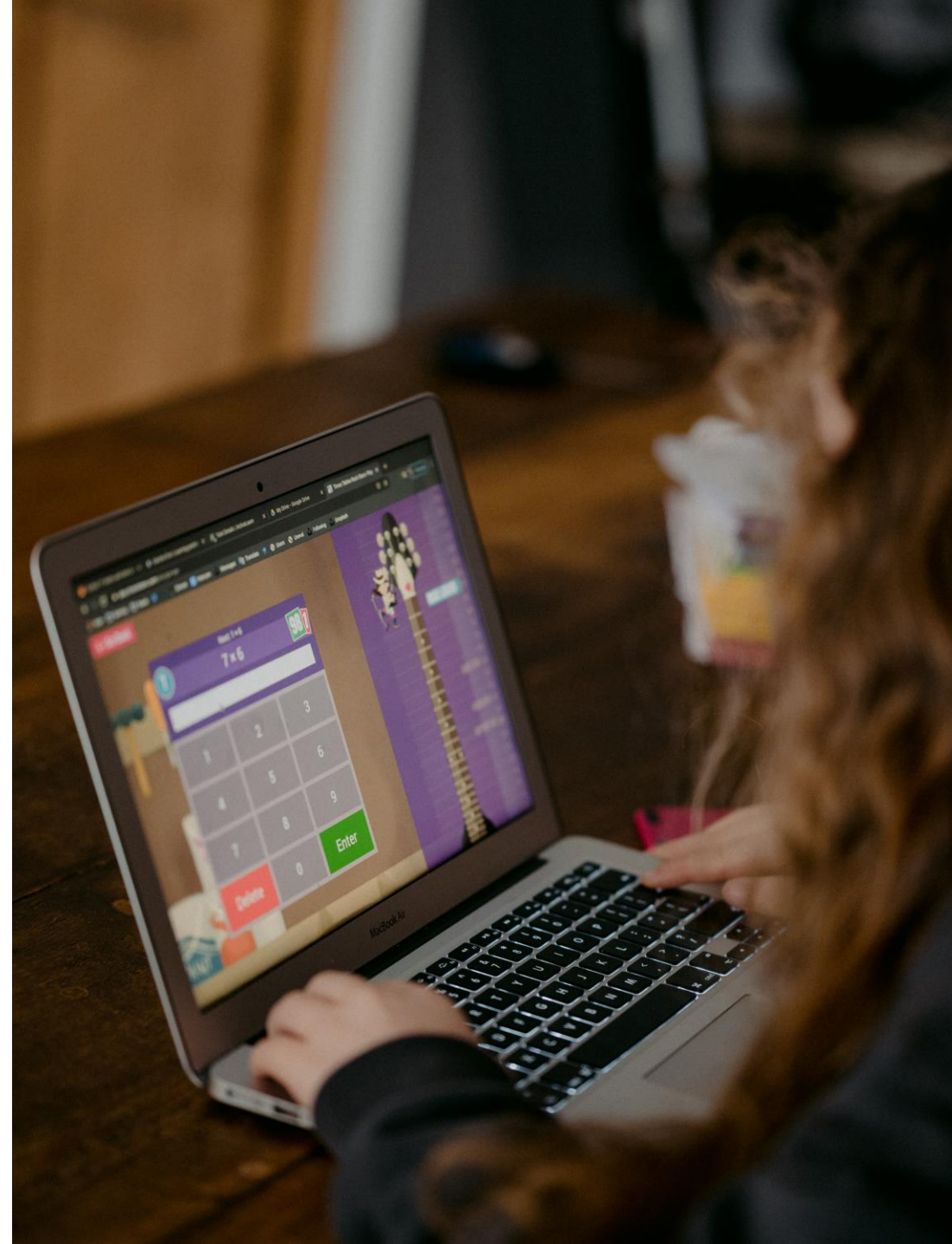
02. Scope

- Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Turkey & Serbia
- 23 million pupils, 130,000 schools

03.

Education system & Status of broadband

- More than 2 million children out-of-school
- Close to 9.8 million not achieving minimum proficiency
- More than 11 million households without Internet access; 18 million without a PC
- 34.6 million people brought online; almost universal coverage by 4G/LTE technology



04. Challenges

- Lack of PCs and household internet access during COVID-19
- Disputed efficacy of smartphones for quality education
- Teacher recruitment, training and retention
- Urban—rural and high-income—low-income divide in learning outcomes
- Poor alignment of skills and labour-force needs
- Conflicting policy objectives



05. The role of ICTs

- Digitalization of public administration for equity-driven decision making
- ICT infrastructure in schools:
 - Main pillar of digitally-supported management
 - Enabler of introduction of digital skills
- Education continuity and system resilience



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06. Remaining challenges

- High education personnel costs
- Low and unequal access to devices, digital tools and connectivity at school and home
- Digital skills for teacher and students
- Broadband strategies and mapping systems
- Harmonization in education data collection & inadequate oversight mechanisms
- Monitoring and evaluation with equity focus
- Link between digital reform and education reform



An estimated **11.5 million computers** are needed across these 9 countries to reach the **OECD average** of 0.83 PCs per student.



07. Partnerships & financing

- ICT investment sacrificed for other necessary infrastructure
- International organizations and IFIs:
 - Facilitate public-private partnerships
 - Technical assistance
 - Funding





08. International practices

- Broadband infrastructure mapping systems
 - Geographical information systems specifically dedicated to mapping school infrastructure
 - Referencing school connectivity in national strategic documents
 - Tapping into state budgets
 - Television broadcasting
 - Collecting data on digital skills
- ICTs, digital skills and connectivity in strategic documents for education
 - Collaboration among ministries
 - Transparent, gaps-based campaigns
 - Centralized, digital EMIS for efficiency and equity
 - Centralized, accessible portals
 - Inclusive, universal design
 - Digital competencies for teachers and learners

Thank you.