

MENTOR IT

INTRODUCTION

If before the pandemic the utilization of technology in the educational environment was a nice to have, today we could not imagine the educational process without the technology. This transition is creating numerous challenges as well as opportunities especially for teachers. In this document we will present the results of a needs analysis conducted in September 2020 with a group of 32 teachers from Romania as well as our proposed solution to address the many challenges faced by them when it comes to the usage of technology in the educational process.

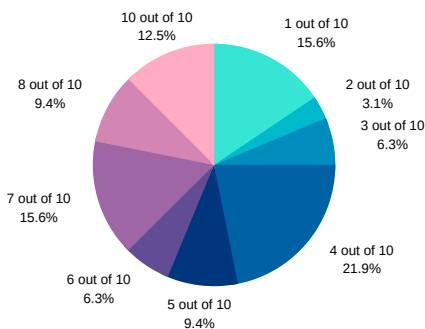
NEEDS ANALYSIS

This teacher summarized very well how teachers currently feel when it comes to adapting and adopting new information technology in their teaching:

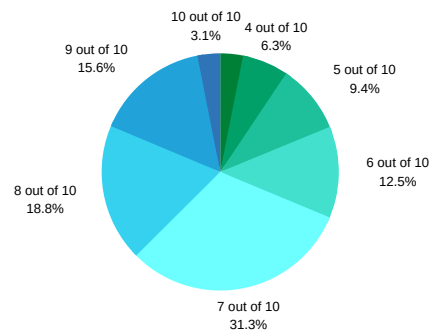
"I would need specific help from someone to support me in integrating tools which are attractive and interactive for students. I believe I will have questions when I start using different apps. There is a large volume of information about platforms and applications. Everyone is proposing something new to us (teachers)."

Key topics covered by webinars dedicated to prepare teachers for integrating technologies in their teaching: Educational platforms such as Zoom, Google classroom, Kinderpedia, Digitaliada, Digital Nation, Building educational content, Learning apps and platforms, How to create online presentations using Prezi, Power point, Google slides, quiz, 3D manuals. The activities were organized by civil society in collaboration with the private sector as well as government programs such as Casa Corpului Didactic and CRED. Further teachers mentioned that they got used to joining a webinar everyday at 19:00 because there was always something new on Facebook.

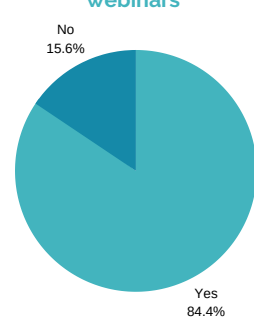
Low English Language competencies



General competencies to integrate technologies in teaching



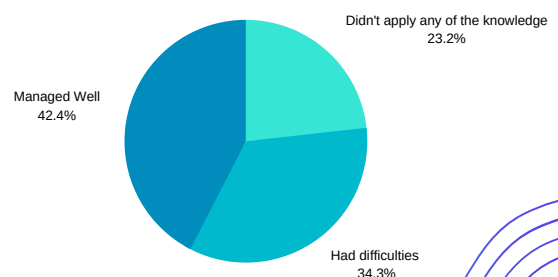
High participation to webinars



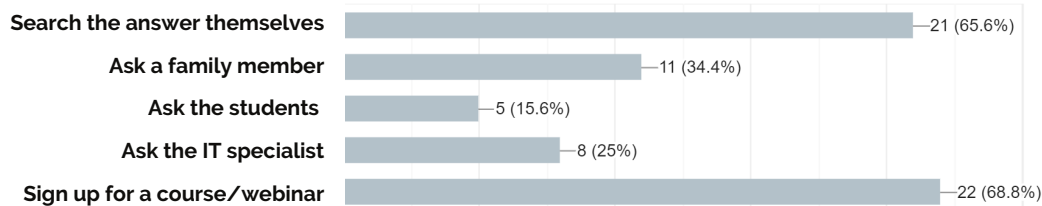
Identified challenges when applying the knowledge from webinars:

- The applicability of the tools and content to preschoolers is difficult
- Lack of equipment on students' side
- Teachers feel overwhelmed with information, **I feel that I cannot keep up with all the knowledge shared**
- Some resources are free initially but to unlock features you need to pay
- Limited time available to apply all the knowledge shared.
- I tried to apply but I am limited by my IT knowledge.

Application of knowledge gained through webinars



What teachers do when they have questions regarding IT:



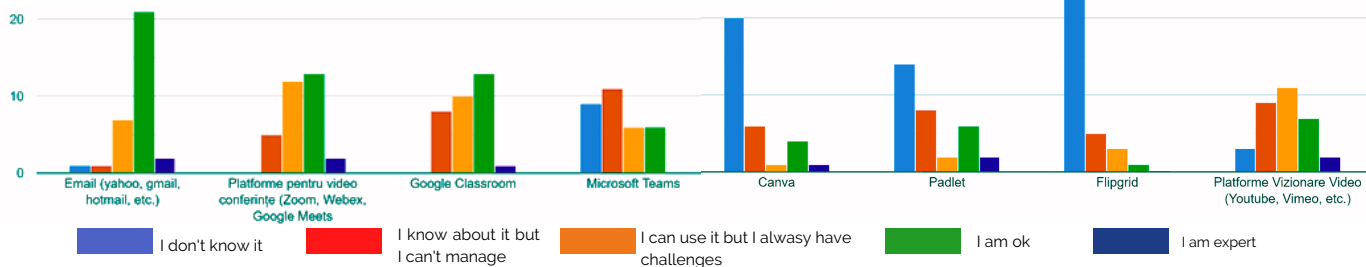
Teachers' general needs:

- To assess students' performance
- To create educational video content
- To navigate educational platforms (Google Classroom)
- To use platforms without requiring parents support for younger students
- To create attractive lessons

Specific needs examples:

- Guide me towards the most appropriate technology
- Help me when I have a specific question
- Help me use interactive and attractive tools for students
- Provide guidelines regarding successful online meetings
- Help me prepare materials faster
- Help me check if I can use a picture from the internet and protect intellectual property
- Help me combine text and animations

Platforms and applications experiences



PROPOSED SOLUTION

Create an easy to navigate and free platform where we connect professionals who would like to volunteer their time to answer simple questions and solve simple tasks from teachers.

The tasks could be rated as simple, medium and complex and based on availability and experience a volunteer will pick it up. Our team will ensure that any questions will be answered in a timely manner to ensure efficiency and credibility of the platform.

HOW IT WORKS?

- 1 Teacher submits a question after creating an account on our platform using their email address
- 2 An expert or another teacher who knows the answer claims the question and tries to answer it,
- 3 Teacher receives response and is notified by email. If satisfied with the answer the task is marked as resolved.
- 4 If not satisfied the task stays open and another mentor tries to answer it. For complex topics a phone or zoom conversation might be needed until it is resolved.
- 5 If successful the platform can be used for feedback and more complex educational questions.

All Grow is a non-profit organization aiming to create change through collaboration between individuals, organizations and institutions by fostering social innovation and knowledge sharing. Our mission is to contribute to building an inclusive society, in which ALL members have the tools, resources, and opportunities to GROW.