



## The Initiative

To unlock the power of digital learning, countries need to provide effective access to connectivity, capacities, and content. These three interdependent ‘keys’ help systems, schools, teachers, learners, and families leverage digital technology for education.

The Gateways initiative focuses on the often-overlooked key of *digital learning content*. During the COVID-19 pandemic and to this day, many people who have good connectivity and strong digital skills cannot find free, well-organized and high-quality digital learning content aligned with the curriculum. This content helps strengthen the other keys to digital learning: easily accessible digital learning content bolsters demand for connectivity and helps people develop and improve digital capacities.

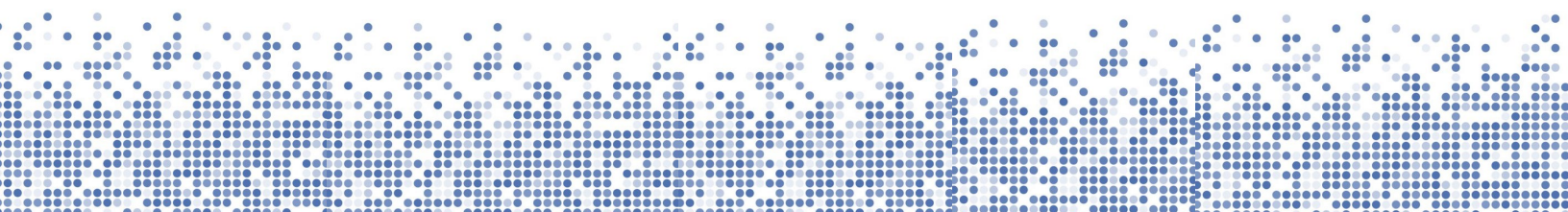
The UNESCO and UNICEF Gateways to Public Digital Learning Initiative (‘Gateways’) works with countries to establish and enrich public platforms for education on the internet. The initiative aims to ensure that all learners, teachers, and families can access a wide range of learning resources from digital platforms that are public, open, and well-maintained.

The Gateways initiative builds on the commitments made by countries as part of the 2022 Transforming Education Summit [Call to Action on Quality Public Digital Learning for All](#). It has three main components:

**Component 1:** Mapping, describing, and analyzing priority platforms (widely used and well recognized) within countries to strengthen accountability and to help countries identify specific areas for improvement in public digital learning platforms.

**Component 2:** Adoption of best practices in public digital learning platforms through cooperation and exchange in global events, regional workshops, and learning missions, supported by a knowledge hub of evidence in public digital learning.

**Component 3:** Establish international norms and standards of quality to guide the development of platforms in ways that advance national and international goals for education.



## Gateways Countries

Becoming one of the 'Gateways Countries' helps Member States take forward commitments to build and strengthen quality public digital learning platforms by participating in an international community of practice and by supporting the three components of the initiative. Gateways Countries commit to:

**Component 1:** Sharing information about priority public digital platforms holding curriculum-aligned digital teaching and learning content that is free and open. This information will be featured on a global map showing public digital learning platforms in use in different countries. Gateways Countries will set specific targets to improve their public digital learning platform before the end of 2026 and share annual updates on progress towards these targets.

**Component 2:** Joining a cooperation network to exchange experiences, challenges, and expertise on digital learning. Country representatives are encouraged to participate in global events, regional workshops, and learning missions. Countries will also volunteer to host knowledge sharing events and support the production of case studies, tools, and resources that will be featured in a knowledge hub about public digital learning. This hub will enable evidence to be more widely known and support the adoption and scaling of best practices.

**Component 3:** Participating in UNESCO's annual Digital Learning Week event to help UNESCO and UNICEF iteratively refine a framework of international norms and standards for public digital learning platforms. The framework will provide guidance on quality-control processes, target audiences, core functionalities, data protection, integration of new technology (including AI applications), support for learners with disabilities, and organization of content, among other factors. It will provide an important reference for benchmarking and help countries strengthen and improve national offerings. Gateways Countries are encouraged to endorse the framework and use it to guide work to improve their respective public digital learning platforms.

## Expression of interest

To express interest in becoming a 'Gateways Country', please contact: Mark West ([m.west@unesco.org](mailto:m.west@unesco.org)) and Frank Van Cappelle ([fvancappelle@unicef.org](mailto:fvancappelle@unicef.org)).

