

Chapter 4.

Technologies and digital tools for teacher accompaniment in online and distance education programmes

Introduction

In this chapter, the concept and scope of technological educational competence are integrated into the teacher support model, with the set of technological skills that a teacher in online and distance education requires.

Some technologies and digital tools are recommended to support teacher accompaniment processes in online and distance programs. It is understood that education under these modalities should use and take advantage of digital technologies to improve the processes of accompaniment, tutoring, and teaching.

This chapter proposes technologies of open use for their integration into the educational processes, in such a way that the teaching community, in general, can integrate them without difficulty according to their needs. It is clarified that the technologies and tools are a recommendation and that the institutions must carry out the evaluation of technological solutions according to their educational projects and pedagogical models.

4.1. Technological Competence for Tutoring and Teaching Support

The tutorial accompaniment of teachers mediated by technologies and digital tools, as it has already been proposed in previous chapters, requires

a set of roles and functions of the teacher, which are consolidated in a set of pedagogical and communicative competences, which must be articulated and complemented with the technological teaching competence.

UNESCO, in partnership with several universities, has been building the conceptual framework related to technological teaching competence, defining it as the set of skills that allow the design, Implementation, and evaluation of technology for educational purposes, including software (desktop applications, mobile applications, and cloud solutions), communication networks and technologies, platforms, and technological devices: all to support processes in education (Valencia-Molina, et al., 2016). Concisely this competence includes capacity for:

- Design educational scenarios supported by the use and integration of technologies.
- Implement learning experiences supported using technologies.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of educational scenarios and learning experiences integrating technology.

Integrating this technological teaching competence to the quality management model for the accompaniment and tutoring of work. Llorente (2007) establishes that in online or distance education a tutor must have:

- Ability to design, implement and evaluate asynchronous communication spaces (forums or discussion spaces) using technology.
- Ability to design, implement and evaluate spaces of synchronous communication (video conferences, audio conferences, chats).
- Ability to understand and expose a procedure, through capturing, creating, editing, and using multimedia resources (images, sounds, or videos) and thus provide advice and tutoring to the student.
- Ability to design, implement and evaluate courses through digital Learning Management Systems (LMS).

In conclusion, an institution that develops online or distance education programs should seek that its teaching team has a set of pedagogical, communications, and technological skills that guarantee adequate accompaniment and tutoring.

Its training programs should be oriented to strengthen these competencies in a comprehensive way to guarantee that the tutorial accompaniment, the teaching, and the educational process itself fulfill their purpose.

4.2. Digital Technologies to Support Tutoring and Teaching Support

For the realization of tutoring and accompaniment using technology the teacher must be able to use at least one tool or technology within the following categories:

- **Video conference system:** Platform needed to program and carry out video conferences or video calls, with the possibility of sharing documents or work desks and allowing two-way communication. We recommend Google Meet (<https://meet.google.com/>) or Zoom (<https://www.zoom.us/>) or Jitsi Meet (<https://meet.jit.si/>).
- **System for recording classes or recorded masterclasses:** Tool needed to create explanatory videos of some topic. We recommend OBS Studio, easy to install and use (<https://obsproject.com/es/>). To create the recording and presentation we recommend Adobe Spark (<https://spark.adobe.com/es-ES/>).
- **Tool for drawing or creating computer graphics.** It is necessary to make infographics, drawings, and annotations. Online you can use for images Adobe Spark (<https://spark.adobe.com/es-ES/>) or Canva (https://www.canva.com/es_419/); for infographics Genially (<https://app.genial.ly/>) or Canva; and for drawings AutoDraw (<https://www.autodraw.com/>).
- **Image editor:** Necessary for screen capture and modification or addition of information to the image. Recommended: Lightshot or the classic Windows Paint.
- **File conversion tool:** Necessary to convert formats when you do not have the program that runs them. Recommended: Zamzar (<http://www.zamzar.com/>) or 123apps (<https://123apps.com/es/>).
- **Computer screen capture system:** Useful for recording screen movements or creating video tutorials. Recommended: aTube Catcher (<https://www.atube.me/es/>) or Screencast-O-Matic (<https://screencast-o-matic.com/>) or Screencastify (<https://www.screencastify.com/>).

- **System to create video tutorials:** Useful to record the user interface of any application and make an explanation to teach the use of the software through video. Recommended: aTube Catcher (<https://www.atube.me/es/>); Camtasia (<https://www.techsmith.com/video-editor.html>).
- **Video editing systems:** Necessary for editing videos, trimming, or integrating them. OpenShot (<https://www.openshot.org/es/>) is recommended.
- **System to generate audio (podcast):** Necessary to generate explanations in audio format. Vocaroo (<http://vocaroo.com/>) or SoundCloud (<https://soundcloud.com/stream>) or 123Apps Recorder (<https://online-voice-recorder.com/es/>) are recommended.
- **Online translation system:** Necessary for possible translations, among the most used is Google Translate (<https://translate.google.com/?hl=es>).

Conclusions

To achieve the improvement in the quality of distance and online education, it is necessary to articulate the experience of the teacher with the tutorial accompaniment to make him/her feel supported while developing his/her work and to understand that he/she is part of a process that does not focus on the possible failures but seeks to improve the competences and skills of the teaching team. To this end, the tutorial accompaniment process must be followed up, and it is key in these processes to create checklists that encourage the teacher's habits in the accompaniment and tutoring of their students regularly.

The measurement of data is a fundamental need for any process; the fact that the systematization of the results produced by the instrument has been incorporated shows that it is possible to improve thanks to a well-structured accompaniment and training process, which makes this exercise even more serious. The diagnosis of the current state of accompaniment was made, now it remains to validate the model and systematize it to implement it and apply it to the Faculty, a task that will be a new project.

The communication strategy of the model is fundamental to consolidate the relationship between the teacher and his or her companion, not only from the working point of view, since the closeness and permanent contact also generates bonds of appreciation and even friendship, strengthening the human sense that is so important in the case of FESAD.

Besides, the media and formats proposed to seek, in the first instance, to make the message effective for teachers and to generate interaction, thus obtaining the necessary feedback to identify specific needs and to develop work plans related to training and the improvement of the activities of tutorial support. To the extent that this information is systematized, follow-up reports can be generated that can be instruments of quality improvement management for

each program of the Faculty, so that the main beneficiary is the teacher and in turn their students.

The quality of the tutorial accompaniment not only requires this management model, but it must be articulated to timely, effective, and efficient administrative academic processes, such as timely registration processes, adequately planned teacher recruitment and training, and induction processes for teachers to understand their role and apply the elements proposed here effectively. And of course, a follow-up of the entire educational process that takes place in the Faculty.

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