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Inter-American Teacher Education Network
Quality teachers, quality education

Call for Joint Implementation and Certification of the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) *Critical Thinking in Action: Sustainable Energy in the Science Classroom*

Inter-American Teacher Education Network (ITEN)

The Inter-American Teacher Education Network (ITEN) of the Department of Human Development, Education and Employment of the Organization of American States (OAS) provides free online tools to support teacher professional development, including a virtual community of practice for teachers, webinars, an online knowledge bank on teacher policies and practices relating to the teaching profession, and a toolkit to support teachers in the promotion of critical thinking in the classroom.

ITEN wished to support critical thinking inclusion in the curriculum and offers a **Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)** that aims to support teacher professional development in OAS member states. The MOOC is **free** and **offers teachers** an opportunity to learn **methodologies and tools** that **promote and develop critical thinking in students (12-18 years of age)**.

The content of this course was developed within the framework of the [Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas \(ECPA\)](#) of the Department of Sustainable Development of the OAS. ECPA supports initiatives that tackle the challenges of energy security and climate change in the region and thus, sustainable energy is a cross-cutting theme in the topics covered in this MOOC.

ITEN cordially invites the **ministries of education** of member states of the OAS to collaborate in the **dissemination, teacher selection process, implementation and co-certification** of the participating teachers in the MOOC: *Critical Thinking in Action: Sustainable Energy in the Science Classroom*.

The role of the ministries will include:

- Support ITEN in the dissemination of the course announcement,
- Support ITEN with the monitoring and evaluation strategy for this activity,
- Recommend teachers (target population: middle school, high school or secondary level, etc.) and invite those teachers to register,
- Follow-up with teachers during the implementation of the lesson plans created during their participation in the MOOC, and
- Award joint certification with OAS/ITEN to those teachers who complete ITEN MOOC.



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Participation in this professional development opportunity is entirely free and the **content will be fully available to ministries of education** to assess before committing to implement the ITEN MOOC in their countries.

1. Purpose of the Online Course and Audience

This course is designed especially for teachers who work with students between 12 and 18 years old, to learn about critical thinking and how to promote it in the classroom. Some sessions in this course are dedicated to **developing specific knowledge** on critical thinking and other **abilities and strategies** to design teaching-learning processes. In this course, examples in the areas of literacy, mathematics, sciences and citizenship education are presented; and **sustainable energy is the cross-cutting theme in these areas.**

A key feature of this online course is its **social and collaborative learning**. Throughout the course, participants will have the opportunity to interact with colleagues while reflecting about challenges in their practice. As participants progress through the course, they will receive **“badges”** to reward their commitment to the course and towards their peers. Another valuable element of the massive course is the **peer-to-peer review activity**, which allows participants to assess and be assessed by other participants on the creation of a task according to predetermined criteria.

2. ITEN MOOC Description

The course has a duration of six weeks. The weekly time required from participants is 3 hours minimum.

During these six weeks, teachers will be able to:

- Recognize critical thinking as a key skill to be integrated in their teaching effectively and proactively.
- Design student-centered lesson plans, incorporating diverse and existing tools in an effective sequence.
- Critically analyze their practice and intervene to improve it.

Language: English

Module	Topics
Module 0 Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction: Why sustainable energy? • Methodology • Netiquette • Survey
Module 1 What is critical thinking?	Definitions of critical thinking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What critical thinking is not • Characteristics of critical thinking and critical





	<p>thinkers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical thinking skills 	
<p>Module 2 Collaboration and critical thinking methodologies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative learning and critical thinking methodologies • Methodologies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Socratic seminar ○ Academic conversation skills ○ Project based learning ○ Service learning 	
<p>Module 3 Teaching to promote critical thinking skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesson planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Before planning ○ Planning ○ After planning • Lesson delivery • Lesson assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Diagnostic assessment ○ Formative assessment ○ Summative assessment • P2P Activity / Renewable Energies 	
<p>Module 4 Lesson plan samples to develop critical thinking skills</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sample of a science lesson plan applying the Socratic seminar methodology / Renewable Energies • Sample of a science lesson plan applying the academic conversations strategy / Renewable Energies • Sample of a science lesson plan applying the project based learning approach / Renewable Energies • Sample of a science lesson plan applying the service learning methodology / Renewable Energies • Post survey 	<p>Learn and Save examples</p>

3. Methodology

Each week begins with the exploration of what participants already know and continue with the revision of resources--videos and/or readings)--on the main themes. Subsequently, the participant will complete practical and self-managed exercises on the theme and complete a self-assessment on the topic.

Throughout the six weeks, participants are encouraged to reflect about their own practice and create a lesson plan to promote critical thinking based on the subjects they teach. During this process, participants assess their own learning process using different strategies and instruments (assessment and self-assessment products using rubrics, peer-to-peer evaluation).





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4. Contact Information

ITEN hopes to collaborate with ministries of education interested in supporting the professional development of their teachers. If your ministry is interested in participating in this **free opportunity and co-certifying this MOOC**, please complete the attached expression of interest form and send it to: Ms. Valentina Pernet, at dpernett@oas.org, with copy to Ms. María José de León at mdeleon@oas.org, no later than **November 20th, 2017**.

For any questions on partnership development with OAS-ITEN please contact María José de León at mdeleon@oas.org

For more information visit: www.oas.org/en/iten/moocs.asp



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Expression of Interest for Ministries and Secretariats of Education of OAS Member States

Opportunity of Joint Implementation and Certification of the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) *Critical Thinking in Action: Sustainable Energy in the Science Classroom*

Develop critical thinking in the classroom!

The Inter-American Teacher Education Network (ITEN) of the Organization of American States (OAS) offers a **Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)** that aims to support teacher professional development in OAS member states. The MOOC is **free** and **offers teachers** an opportunity to learn **methodologies and tools** that **promote and develop critical thinking in students (12-18 years of age)**.

ITEN cordially invites **Ministries of Education from OAS member states** (to see a complete list of OAS member states, please visit http://www.oas.org/en/member_states/default.asp) to:

- Support ITEN in the **dissemination of the course** announcement;
- Support ITEN with the **monitoring and evaluation strategy** for this activity;
- **Recommend teachers** (target population: middle school, high school or secondary level, etc.) and invite those teachers to register in the MOOC;
- **Encourage teachers to implement** in their classrooms the lesson plans created during the MOOC and monitor the implementation;
- **Award a joint certification with OAS/ITEN** to teachers that have completed the ITEN MOOC and/or validate the certificate awarded by OAS/ITEN.

To become part of this initiative please complete the attached form:

Expression of Interest for the Joint Implementation and Certification of the ITEN MOOC *Critical Thinking in Action: Sustainable Energy in the Science Classroom*

Inter-American Teacher Education Network

We kindly ask interested ministries to answer the following questions. The questions should be answered with the support of a professional who is directly linked with teacher professional development in your respective country.

1. What is the number of teachers working with students between 12 and 18 years of age in your country?
2. What is the level of education of these teachers?
3. How many of these teachers would your ministry be able to register for the ITEN MOOC?
4. How many of these teachers would your ministry be able to follow-up (through classroom observations and surveys) to monitor the implementation of knowledge acquired from the participation in the MOOC?
5. Would your ministry be willing to co-certify or validate this course with ITEN/OAS?
6. Would the Ministry of Education or Education Secretariat accept the certificate awarded by ITEN/OAS and grant continuing education credits or a recognition to participating teachers?
7. How many hours minimum does the Ministry of Education or Education Secretariat require to validate a certification for an online course?
8. Do you have any experience with teachers' professional development through MOOCs?
9. Do you have any experience with teacher professional development in critical thinking?
10. If teacher professional development for critical thinking has been implemented, what have been the achievements and difficulties?
11. Is critical thinking an area of emphasis for teacher professional development in your country?
12. To what extent is critical thinking emphasized in the national curriculum? Please share with us any standards, goals or characteristics of the national curriculum related to critical thinking.

13. How important is it for your country that teachers receive professional development in the area of critical thinking in the following subjects?

Subject	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
Mathematics			
Literacy			
Sciences			
Citizenship Education			

14. Besides the four mentioned subjects in question 12, what other subjects do you expect to emphasize in future teacher professional development courses?

15. Please provide the name, position or title, and the contact information of the person who will manage this project.

This Expression of Interest must be sent in Word or PDF format to Ms. Valentina Pernet, at dpernett@oas.org, with copy to Ms. María José de León at mdeleon@oas.org, no later than **November 20th, 2017**.

For any questions on partnership development with OAS-ITEN please contact María José de León at mdeleon@oas.org