The WHO Academy
Revolutionizing lifelong learning in health.
Introducing the WHO Academy

A solution to existing gaps in lifelong learning in health.

A platform to deploy the latest science of how adults learn to vastly improve the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of lifelong learning in the health sector.

And soon to be a reality.

A place...

The WHO Academy will offer a high-tech learning environment at a main hub in Lyon, France, with regional learning “spokes” delivering multilingual, hybrid and personalized digital learning.

A mission...

The WHO Academy will provide lifelong learning opportunities for health workers, policy makers and managers, enabling and implementing evidence-based, high-quality and safe health care.

An innovator...

The WHO Academy will apply cutting-edge tools and know-how to maximize learning experiences and outcomes. It will use the latest technologies to validate learning outcomes and issue verifiable micro-credentials.

...with a focus on impact and results.

The WHO Academy will support the learning and development needs of WHO staff — and all stakeholders in health — enabling them to accelerate health for all and move the world ever-closer to achieving WHO’s “triple billion” goal: ensuring that by 2023, an additional 1 billion people benefit from universal health coverage, 1 billion more are afforded better protection in health emergencies, and 1 billion more enjoy improved health and wellbeing.

The WHO Academy hub in Lyon, France will feature a world-class health emergencies simulation centre and collaboration spaces for learning co-design, research and innovation.
Challenge...

The quickening pace of scientific discovery and advancement of technology is making it more difficult — not less — for health workers, policy makers and managers to keep up with evidence-based practice and policy.

As a result, it often takes more than a decade to put important life-saving guidelines into practice.

Meanwhile, less than 5% of countries are currently on track to achieve all 11 health targets in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs).

Response...

By igniting a revolution in lifelong learning, we can create opportunities...

- To leverage the enormous potential of the latest adult learning science and technologies toward achievement of the health-related SDGs.
- To empower the world’s growing health workforce to accelerate advancements in medical care and practices to patients and communities.
- To equip policy makers and organizations with more effective learning tools they can use to drive better health outcomes in all countries.
- To provide patients, their caregivers and the public with the means to improve their own health and wellness.

...and to address the disconnect between “can” and “do” in health care that negatively impacts billions of lives.
Invigorating the power of technologies, social networks and big data to improve learning and competency development in health — with the goal of vastly improving health outcomes everywhere.

The WHO Academy will be...

- The world’s largest and most innovative lifelong learning platform in global health.
- A recognized leader in using technologies to advance workplace learning and digital certification.
- The world’s leading centre on realistic health emergency simulations for critical response, health emergency preparedness and disease outbreak control.
- An incubator for new ideas, research and innovations in improving global health outcomes.

The WHO Academy will transform lifelong learning in health — reaching millions of health workers and others with innovative learning via a state-of-the-art digital platform. It plans to launch online courses in 2021 and to add a blend of digital and onsite learning via a campus in Lyon, France and regional spokes in 2023. These will accelerate the implementation of WHO’s norms, standards and evidence to deliver immediate, high-impact, accredited and tailored multilingual learning to meet diverse needs.
The WHO Academy will offer...

- **A single platform** for learning, globally accessible and offline capable – perfect for remote areas.
- Targeted and **tailored multilingual learning** for individuals and teams, **customizable** to user needs.
- **Measurable impact** based on outcomes and learning **analytics**, adapting courses to improve over time.
- Accredited courses ensuring quality with **verifiable credentials**.
- Co-created courses **built in tandem** with users based on specific needs.
- Learning built to scale and **enhanced by WHO’s reach into health community networks**, which will ensure global access for millions of users.

New and more effective ways of learning and certifying competencies...

...connecting learners and enabling them to interactively bridge the gap between learning and doing.
Technology and innovation in learning are creating exciting new opportunities to accelerate progress towards health for all in every country. The WHO Academy will be a school for the future, supporting millions of learners to maximize health impact with the best evidence, adult learning approaches and the state-of-the-art technologies.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General, World Health Organization

I wish to salute WHO’s commitment to training for global health challenges. We will support this ambition through the future WHO Academy in Lyon.

Emmanuel Macron, President of the French Republic

Want to learn more? Contact: academy@who.int