

## Virtual Classroom

### What is a virtual classroom

A virtual classroom is a digital learning environment that allows trainers and trainees to connect online in real time.

In many ways, a virtual classroom simply mirrors the face-to-face classroom. However, in a virtual environment, trainers and trainees can see and hear each other via video and audio streaming. In some cases a group of trainees is present in a physical classroom while other participants join the training virtually. In this case we speak of hybrid classes.

Tools such as digital whiteboards, break out rooms, polls or chat applications for example, are used to share learning materials and to enable interaction.

The trainer has an important role in guiding the learning process and moderating the group activities and discussions.

Organizing a virtual classroom is not suitable for groups larger than 25 trainees which need a lot of interaction or when trainees need to practice motor skills.

### Why using virtual classroom as learning technology

- It reaches regionally dispersed audiences
- The learning contents are easy to adapt and update
- Allows for the transfer of knowledge and practising cognitive skills and attitudes
- Allows instant participation of trainers and trainees
- It allows for far-reaching interaction, both between the trainer and the course participants and among the course participants themselves.

#### Advantages

- The digital tools enable interaction and engagement with small groups of learners
- Requires a short development time
- Involves low development costs
- Is flexible and can be attended from any place

#### Disadvantages

- Stable internet connection is needed
- Not suited for practicing motor skills
- Preparing technical aspects (break out rooms, polls etc) requires additional effort on the part of the trainer

Want to learn more about the benefits of virtual classes? Fill in the decision tool and find out which tools will serve your goals.