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(CSTD)**

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**Dominican Republic**

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Ministerio de Educación Superior,  
Ciencia y Tecnología



# Dominican Republic digital initiatives in times of COVID-19

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# Description

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- **Digital Republic** is the national digital transformation program of the Dominican Republic, coordinated by the Ministry of the Presidency, that has been created as the set of policies and actions to promote the inclusion of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the productive, educational and governmental services processes for citizens.
- **Main goals:**
  - Design and promote inclusive strategies that incorporate ICT into teaching and learning processes in all educational subsystems.
  - Promote actions to reduce the digital divide, in order to promote universal access to ICT.
  - Promote the use of ICT in the production processes of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).
  - Promote reforms and redesigns of processes that make the internal procedures of public sector entities more agile and efficient, emphasizing the use of technologies.
  - Promote the use of ICT in public policy in general.
- This program, created in 2016, is aligned with the Dominican Republic's National Development Strategy (END 2030) and with the United National's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

# Program structure



# Education axis

- Ministry of Education (MINERD)
- Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology (MESCYT)
- Community Technological Centers (CTC)
- National Institute for the Public Administration (INAP)



# Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology (MESCYT)



**Project Digital Competences for Quality Learning:** 5,744 education career students are taking trainings 100% online.

**Project BECASOFT:** Universities prepared more than 70 online courses in software development, artificial intelligence, big data, cybersecurity and other ITC programs.

**Project Web Portal of Scientific, Technological and Humanistic Information:** MESCYT and the Dominican Association of University Chancellors (ADRU) signed agreement for project to be launch in June 2020.

**Online Learning Platform:** MESCYT has made the virtual education platform Blackboard available for Higher Education Institutions (HEI).

**Webinars:** MESCYT and HEI have organized several webinars on various topics and with the participation of national and international experts.

**Free online courses:** MESCYT has promoted via its social networks several lists of free courses that are being offered by national and international HEI.

**Creative Technological Solutions Program:** MESCYT has received 36 proposals regarding design and manufacture of protective and care equipment for medical personnel and patients; agrotechnology chains analysis, related to domestic consumption and export items. Some of these proposals are already been supported by MESCYT.

# Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology (MESCYT)

- Universities are following a protocol prepared by MESCYT, the Ministry of Public Health and the High-Level Commission as a way of preventing the possibility of new cases of coronavirus and at the same time stopping the spread of the pandemic.
- Massive Online Courses are being developed: 37,000 virtual sections created by universities
- With a higher education system of more than 600,000 students, online courses have been identified as a need, and now are in development
- More than 200,000 higher education students are taking classes online
- More than 17,000 teachers are teaching online
- New platforms for mental health conditions, using virtual and augmented reality





Ministerio de Educación Superior,  
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# Science Dissemination TV Program (focus on CoV-2)



## PANDEMIA COVID-19:

### USO DE PLATAFORMAS VIRTUALES PARA APRENDIZAJE



Viceministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología  
Programa de Divulgación de la Ciencia

#### Dra. Leandra Tapia

Investigadora proyecto enseñanza  
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Asesora del MESCYT



#### Dr. Andrés Aníbal Contreras

CEO y Co-fundador OKUS,  
plataforma digital de aprendizaje



## PANDEMIA COVID-19:

### CADENAS AGROALIMENTARIAS Y PRODUCCIÓN



Viceministerio de Ciencia y Tecnología  
Programa de Divulgación de la Ciencia

#### Dr. Roberto Arias Milla

Ex-experto de la FAO  
Asesor en Ciencia y Tecnología, MESCYT



#### Dr. Carlos Suero Cid

Asesor experto en tecnologías de Agricultura  
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#### Dr. Rafael Amable Vásquez Martínez

Decano de la Facultad de Ciencias Agroalimentarias  
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## PANDEMIA COVID-19: ESTRÉS Y EMOCIONES



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#### Zoilo Emilio Garcia Batista

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Viceministra del MESCYT  
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## PANDEMIA COVID-19: ASPECTOS SALUD, INFECTOLOGIA Y MEDICINA MOLECULAR



#### Dr. Modesto Cruz, M.D.; Ph.D.

Médico Internista y Molecular  
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## PANDEMIA COVID-19: ASPECTOS MEDIOAMBIENTALES E INVESTIGACIÓN



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# Ministry of Education (MINERD)

- Given the mandatory temporary suspension of the activities, MINERD launched the Educational Support Plan for Dominican students to continue their learning processes from home.
- This plan comprises a set of strategies, activities and educational resources aimed at students, according to their educational level in order to reinforce their learning through the non-contact modality.
- For these purposes, MINERD enabled the online education platform “[enlinea.minerd.gob.do](https://enlinea.minerd.gob.do)”, a virtual space created to group tools and content that will support the national educational community of 2.7 million students and 98,000 teachers.



# Ministry of Education (MINERD)

The portal includes resources and pedagogical guides for the three pre-university educational levels: Initial, Primary and Secondary, and gives access to tools such as:

- **EDUPLAN:** Digital platform that allows teachers to schedule activities, plan classes and assessment instruments and quality digital teaching resources for teachers in the Dominican Education System, aligned to the new Dominican Curriculum.
- **EDUCANDO:** This portal serves as a source of resources and curricular content for the educational community to support the teaching and learning process.
- **INTELIGENCIA QUISQUEYA:** It is a virtual proposal of free and easy access, which uses an innovative methodology and creates an exclusive space for preparing for the National Tests.
- **INFORMÁTICA PREPARA:** Digital space that brings together a series of educational videos on basic principles of computing.



# Community Technological Centers (CTC)



On April 23, a virtual event was held for the International Day of Girls in ICT, with the support of Microsoft, Coding Space and Girls in Tech, in which 3,617 people participated.

The CTCs have developed a wide range of online courses, which have been promoted by the Digital Republic networks.

- Leadership and Entrepreneurship
- Introduction to Internet of Things
- Essential Cybersecurity
- JavaScript
- Microsoft Office
- WordPress
- Python programming.
- Microsoft Project
- office 365
- Photoshop
- Web design



# National Institute for the Public Administration (INAP)

INAP is coordinating a series of virtual conferences once a week.

So far, the following have been taught:

- **April 7, 2020:** "TEAMS as a collaboration tool" by Hernán Martoral (Puerto Rico).
- **April 14, 2020:** "Social Economy" by Daniel Garzón (Colombia).
- **April 21, 2020:** "The HR challenges in times of Coronavirus" by Javier Burdman (Argentina).
- **April 28, 2020:** "Remote leadership challenge" by Isabel Maria Sanchez (Dominican Republic)
- **May 5, 2020:** "What to do after the quarantine time" by Ricardo Tirado (Dominican Republic)
- **May 12, 2020:** "Teams working virtually: challenges and effectiveness" by Sonia Colombo (DR)
- **May 19, 2020:** "Emotional self-care in time of crisis" by Margie Aquino (Dominican Republic)

# The present crisis has shown the importance of the Digital Republic program

The crisis has been taken as an opportunity to develop special programs of using digital technologies as a tool to promote improvement in education, health, security and other important areas.

- **Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Cybersecurity and Intelligence center of the Ministry of Defense (C5i)** allows to know in real time, the number of beds available and in use, location, fans and other information that contribute to making better decisions in the war against the coronavirus.
- **Aurora** it's a communication channel for the population to have direct contact with doctors through text messages, voice and video calls to obtain information about coronavirus, it's treatments and guidelines to follow.
- **\*462** a call center to expand communication options for the citizens and continue offering an effective and timely response to coronavirus cases.



# Social aid programs for the vulnerable population



VICEPRESIDENCIA  
DE LA REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA



- **Quedate en Casa program** specially designed to protect the income of households and informal workers, implemented in 1.5M homes.
- **FASE program** to temporarily support workers with an unconditional cash transfer.
- **Pa 'Ti program** for workers who day by day earn their livelihood from independent businesses and who have been unable to work due to the social distancing measures imposed by the pandemic.