

Project Ceibal (Uruguay)

Good practice: Building Access and Empowerment through One-to-one Programmes

Relevant DFI commitment: Support digital literacy, skills acquisition, and development so that individuals can overcome the digital divide, participate in the Internet safely, and realise the economic and social potential of the digital economy.

Type of the initiative: Project

Stakeholder Group: Government

Launch/adoption: 2007 - Now

Goals

Project Ceibal, launched in Uruguay in 2007, aims to promote digital inclusion and reduce the digital divide within and between Uruguay and the rest of the world. Its primary goals include improving the quality of education through technology integration, fostering innovation in teaching and learning processes, and providing equal opportunities for all children and youth in Uruguay. The initiative seeks to equip students with the necessary tools to acquire knowledge within and beyond the traditional school environment while enhancing teachers' digital skills and promoting social equity.

Description

Project Ceibal was among the first large-scale efforts globally to implement one-to-one computing in schools, providing each student and teacher with a laptop or tablet connected to the Internet and the necessary skills to use them effectively. The project aimed to democratise access to technology, promote digital literacy, and improve educational outcomes across the country. The implementation of Ceibal involved a collaborative effort among various stakeholders, including the Uruguayan government, private sector partners, academic institutions, and international organisations. While the government primarily funded the initiative, it also received support from entities like the Inter-American Development Bank and the One Laptop per Child initiative.

A central element of Ceibal was the creation of dynamic educational content and software specifically tailored to the Uruguayan curriculum and cultural context. This included various resources, from interactive educational games and simulations to multimedia materials and online courses. The project also strongly emphasised teacher training programs to ensure educators could effectively integrate technology into their classrooms. Ceibal's impact has significantly reduced the digital divide by providing equal access to technology for students, regardless of their socioeconomic status. This has improved student engagement, digital literacy, and academic performance. Beyond educational outcomes, Ceibal has also stimulated innovation and entrepreneurship within Uruguay's technology sector. The project has catalysed the development of educational software, applications, and digital content, creating new opportunities for local tech companies and startups, especially as the digital economy becomes an increasingly important component of global output. Ceibal is a case study of inclusive connectivity policy and digital skills development that reduces digital divides. By developing their one-to-one programs, DFI signatories can tailor their interventions based on their specific needs and cultural context and work towards implementing the principle of inclusive and affordable access and connectivity.

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