

Keynote — Trends, challenges and strategies in integrating transversal competencies into education

“Facing the rapidly changing and increasingly interconnected world, education and training systems are expected to equip learners with knowledge and skills which not only enable them to cope with the foreseeable social and economic changes, but also adapt to and manage unpredictable realities. This requires a transformation of education and training to nurture skills towards holistic human development, including foundation skills, specialized skills and transversal competencies.¹” - UNESCO

This keynote will explain what are transversal competencies. Their relations to 21st Century skills. Why are they important? How can educators help students to develop such competencies and be able to assess them?

UNESCO Bangkok framework on transversal competencies²

Domains	Examples of key skills , competencies, values and attitudes
Critical and innovative thinking	Creativity, entrepreneurship, resourcefulness, application skills, reflective thinking, reasoned decision-making
Interpersonal skills	Communication skills, organizational skills, teamwork, collaboration, sociability, collegiality, empathy, compassion
Intrapersonal skills	Self-discipline, ability to learn independently, flexibility and adaptability, self-awareness, perseverance, self-motivation, compassion, integrity, self-respect
Global citizenship	Awareness, tolerance, openness, responsibility, respect for diversity, ethical understanding, intercultural understanding, ability to resolve conflicts, democratic participation, conflict resolution, respect for the environment, national identity, sense of belonging
Media and information literacy	Ability to obtain and analyse information through ICT, ability to critically evaluate information and media content, ethical use of ICT
(Optional) Physical health, Religious values	Appreciation of health lifestyle, respect for religious values

¹ UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education. 2014. UNESCO Asia-Pacific Education Policy Brief Volume 2: Skills for Holistic Human Development.

² UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education. 2013. Education Research Institutes Network (ERI-Net) Regional Study on Transversal Competencies in Education Policy and Practice (Phase 1).