

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

Background

In March 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic forced schools in Kazakhstan to close, with learning switching online rapidly. The Ministry of Education and Science switched to remote teaching by delivering video lessons through national broadcasting companies and online providers and recorded 3,360 video lessons for students of 1-11 grades. Since the first video lessons were recorded rapidly, the Minister Askhat Aimagambetov, has urged providers to strengthen the quality of next video lessons for schoolchildren and add multimedia resources: <https://bilimdinews.kz/?p=100733>

In order to support the teachers and the initiative of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the British Council is launching a project for the creation of best English video lessons. This will take the form on an online competition for teachers to create the best English video lessons linking to British Council online resources and supporting teachers and students in the next school year.

The project is funded by **Tengizchevroil LLP**, which is their contribution to the professional development of the English teachers in Kazakhstan.

Description

The online competition will be held for English teachers of primary and secondary schools of Kazakhstan with specific focus on Mangystau and Atyrau regions. Ten finalists with best video entries in three geographic categories will be identified:

- Category 1: Atyrau region
- Category 2: Mangystau region
- Category 3: all other regions of Kazakhstan.

These 30 finalists will participate in an online training programme delivered by the selected UK consultant to help them improve their video lessons. After completing the training, finalists will record new videos on themes that will be assigned by the project team, using the same format and criteria developed by the consultant.

The three best videos in each category will be determined by a panel of judges made of representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science/local Departments of Education, Tengizchevroil company, and the British Council. As a result, participants will produce 30 high-quality videos which will be distributed among teachers in Kazakhstan and provided to the Ministry of Education and Science for use in their online teaching platforms.

Aims

The teachers' online competition aims:

- To create a series of 30 short video lessons linked to various British Council online resources and mapped to the school curriculum for all grades.
- To support teachers in remote teaching by developing their teaching, digital, and presentation skills.

Stages

The competition will run through the following stages:

1. Call for participation
2. Training for all participants
3. Recording of video lessons by teachers
4. Selection of 30 finalists in 3 categories
5. Training for finalists
6. Recording of 30 standardised video lessons
7. Selection of winners

Call for Participation

The British Council will announce the Call for Participation in the project among English teachers of primary and secondary schools of Kazakhstan. All applied teachers will participate in the webinar.

Webinar

The project envisages training for English teachers in a webinar to demonstrate how to create a high-quality video lesson of English. The consultant will conduct an informational webinar for the teachers on how to create a good video lesson focusing on content and production and create requirements (with support from the project team) so that all videos have a common style and format. Webinars will be recorded for use and future reference by any teacher.

Recording of video lessons by teachers

All participants will have a chance to apply the knowledge and skills they gained from the training to the creation of their own video lessons. They will choose a vocabulary or grammar topic from the school curriculum and find the relevant activity from one of the British Council's websites:

- LearnEnglish Kids: <http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/>
- LearnEnglish Teens: <http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/>
- LearnEnglish: <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/>

The teachers will record their 10-15 min video lessons of the selected activity and tasks according to the requirements provided by the consultant and send the links to their videos.

Selection of finalists

The panel of judges comprised of the project team will select 30 finalists with the best videos who will be invited to training for finalists.

Training for finalists

30 finalists - English teachers will participate in the second training, where the consultant will focus more on individual and practical work with the finalists and provide specific advice on how to improve their videos. The consultant will train the teachers in production of professional videos and create requirements (with support from the project team) so that all videos have the same quality, style and format. Webinars will be recorded for use and future reference by any teacher.

Recording of video lessons by 30 finalists

Finalists will record their second videos on a topic, suggested by the project team. They will be assigned 30 different vocabulary or grammar topics from the school curriculum and find the relevant activity from one of the British Council's websites:

- LearnEnglish Kids: <http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/>
- LearnEnglish Teens: <http://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/>
- LearnEnglish: <http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/>

The teachers will record their 10-15 min video lessons of the selected activity and tasks according to the requirements provided by the consultant and send the links to their videos.

Selection of best video lessons

The panel of judges comprised of the Ministry of Education and Science/local Departments of Education, Tengizchevroil company, and the British Council will select the winners of the best videos who will be awarded memorable prizes, which they can use in remote teaching.

Project duration

The project will run from August to September 2020.

Outcomes and sustainability

By the end of the competition:

1. The bank of 100 video lessons will have been created to support teachers in remote teaching or to be used as a supplementary material to their main textbook or for self-study by students.
2. 30 high-quality video lessons will be distributed among teachers in Kazakhstan and provided to the Ministry of Education and Science.
3. The teachers will have acquired skills and may wish to work collaboratively in producing new videos.
4. At least 100 teachers will have participated in the competition and developed their digital and presentation skills.
5. The competition will have been promoted on social media channels to relevant audiences across Kazakhstan.