

Connect-Ed going further

Message from the founder of Connect-ed

When did you send an email last time? Or joined a class or meeting via ZOOM? Or paid the bills, searched for information and talked to your close ones?

Digital is a key in the 21st century. It provides an opportunity for people to succeed in school, find jobs, access healthcare, and communicate and interact with family and friends. Connect-ed is working to ensure digital access to the people of Kazakhstan, and we are doing everything possible to achieve this goal. Today, Connect-Ed is a team that cares about its community, strives to make a difference, and strives to be sustainable.

Connect-ed is getting closer to their goal for 2022:

- 159 children got access to technology
- 49 children & 21 adults completed online digital literacy course
- 15 pensioners have learned basic digital literacy skills in Almaty and 22 in Astana

Connect-ed's work found support from both local and global communities and organisations such as Harvard School of Education and the Harvard Acceleration Program, EPAM, also it has been awarded with the Forbes Kazakhstan Edition, noted by Manshuk Media and have created partnerships with local organisations such as Air Astana.

Our main goal is to provide our community with technology and digital skills and to work with them for the common good. In the upcoming year we are planning to launch a program to work in rural areas, where we will conduct digital literacy camps and show how our mentors can help children and adults.

We would like to express our gratitude for your continued support of our journey to digital equity. A smile and hope in the eyes of a child for quality education - our common goal! Education - our common goal!



Gulnaz Kordanova
Founder

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gulnaz Kordanova', written in a cursive style.

Milestones of Development

April 2020 - **launch of Connect-Ed**

May 2020 - **Dispatch of the first computers**

July 2020 - **The first Digital Literacy Course**

August 2020 - **Connect-Ed became an international project with partners in Kosovo**

January 2021 - **Closed collection at GoFundMe, purchased 28 laptops**

February 2021 - **Crowdfunding launch at Start-time**

April 2021 - **Connect-Ed wins the Ozgeris Ustazy Award**

May 2021 - **Conference "Let to Digital Equality"**

August 2021 - **Digital Literacy Summer Camp (Supported by FLEX)**

February 2022 - **Courses for pensioners "I am online"**

May 2022 - **Courses for pensioners in Astana in partnership with Digital Literacy Club**

June 2022 - **participation in UNDP Boost accelerator**

July 2022 - **the Board of Advisors**

September 2022 - **Joining i-Lab Harvard**

October 2022 - **workshop on creating applications for children in Astana**

Contribution

Connect-Ed strives to **provide equal educational opportunities** for every child's development. We provide equipment for children from rural areas, large families and children with special educational needs to continue their training online.

Connect-Ed is committed to digital equality since May 2020

254

Units of equipment
were given to children

986+

Children now have
access to the
equipment

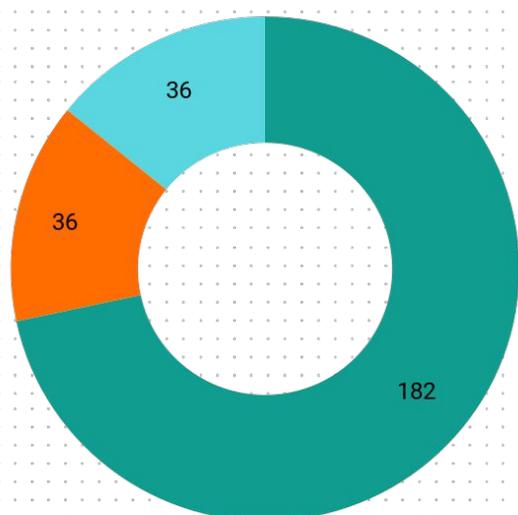
11

Average age

We **purchase** or **collect computer equipment from donors, update, repair devices** and install basic training programs.

We have transferred **254 units** since May 2020. As we often provide laptops to large families, more than **986 children** now have access to technology.

Number of equipment by category



More than 70% of all equipment was provided by legal entities, 14% was received from individuals and another 14% was purchased with crowdfunding.

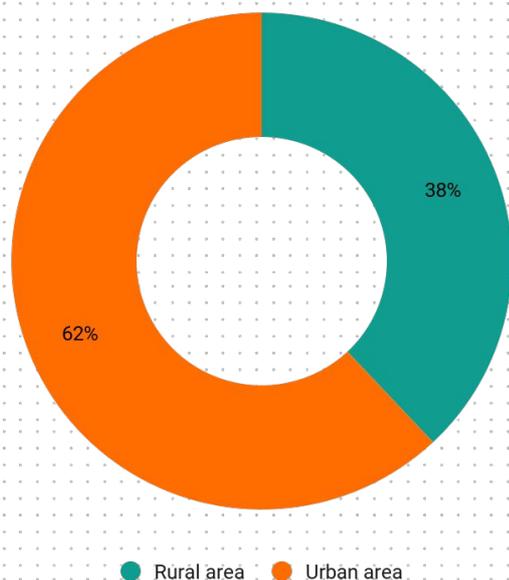
It's all about making technology accessible to every student.



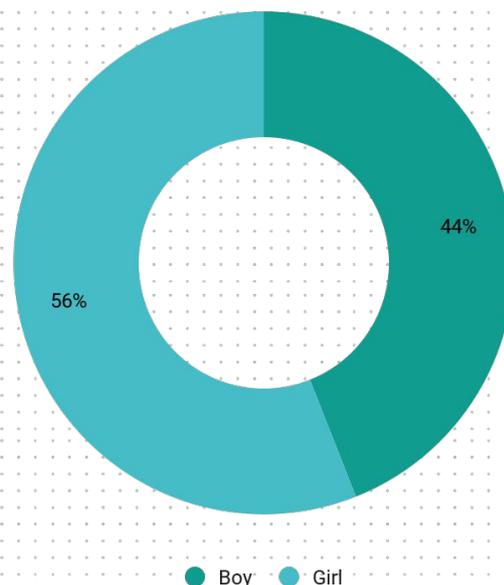
Who are we helping?

Connect-Ed works with **families in all regions of Kazakhstan** to support **children in rural areas, low-income families** and **children with special education needs**.

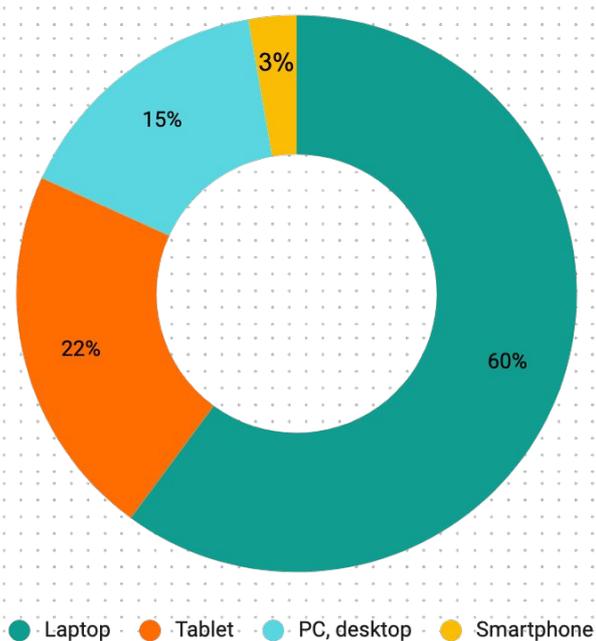
Location



Gender



Number of equipment by category



Digital literacy courses

Connect-Ed started as an initiative to collect and share technology with school children. During the implementation of the project, we found a range of problems that exist - **a lack of basic skills** in working with the programs and applications necessary for the successful learning of educational material.

In 2022, Connect-Ed taught digital skills to kids and their parents.

49

Children completed a digital literacy course from Connect-ed

12

Parents

Some school kids are good at navigation digital web and technology than their older peers. However, there those don't have an access to computer and information.

This applies to adults as well. Through our courses, we target those who need help in the early stages of learning to **use core digital programs and look for information online.**

Classes are free and offered in Russian or Kazakh. We have created courses that consider different levels of knowledge, from beginners to more advanced ones and teach them such skills as creating an email, using MS Suit for educational purposes and digital security.

The courses for parents include instructions on the usage of online services like egov.kz, kasp.kz, job search websites and classified advertisements like krisha. kz, olx. kz, satu. kz, etc.



“My dream is to contribute to the digitalization of the world so that everyone can use technology. And I also want to do charity work so that other people do not suffer from poverty and hunger ” - 7th grade student

Another step forward: digital literacy classes for retirees.

1

month lasted a course for pensioners in Almaty

by **40%**

on average the level of digital literacy among participants increased

12

training videos for pensioners have been uploaded

12,2k

YouTube views to date



Another step forward: digital literacy classes for retirees.

The older generation may be uncomfortable with not being easily integrated into the new digital world. To do this, we have developed a digital literacy course for seniors that teaches them how to use simple apps like Kaspi or Egov. The courses were held in the Chekhov library in Almaty. There were two groups (Russian and Kazakh languages of instruction).

In addition to offline courses in Almaty, we recorded training videos for pensioners. We also gave mentoring support to partners to launch similar courses in Astana. Thus, we increased the scope of the project.



The courses were implemented in collaboration with Book Kultura and supported by Impact Hub, Chevron Kazakhstan and the Central Library System of Almaty.

Life online: Feedback from pensioners

"Catching up with the youngsters is hard for us. Before the courses whenever I did not understand, I would ask my grandkids. For instance, I had no idea how to download an app. I would figure out how to use it somehow, but I never knew how to download and install it. We are old-fashioned, and if we need to buy a ticket we'd rather go to the ticket office. I believe it's safer.

Now I pay utilities online. Moreover, I google everything, and it is convenient. I can't live without Youtube =)"

Faiza Akhmetovna, pensioner, 65



I was afraid to pay online: I thought I would hit the button and I would lose money. It's still very different from what we are used to.

I am happy to have attended the course: I already knew certain things and I learned a lot. I really liked the format of teaching and the kind atmosphere that prevailed in the classroom.

It is important to be able to use new technologies, but not everyone can afford to pay for courses. I strongly recommend this course - it is informative, it has a warm atmosphere, and it is free!"

Galina Dmitrievna, pensioner, 75 years old

Level Up: How Connect-Ed upgraded itself this year



BOOST: Women Innovators programme

UNDP Boost

The program provides access to world-class training and mentoring to develop, modernize and scale innovations.

Connect-ed was one of 55 innovative organizations from Europe and Central Asia that participated in the BOOST program: Women Innovators Program. The program provides access to world-class learning and mentoring to develop, upgrade, and scale up innovations. We are proud that Connect-Ed represented Kazakhstan in the program, and that our team was able to be among the finalists of the project.



Harvard Innovation Lab



Connect-Ed participated in the Harvard Innovation Laboratories Program. I-Lab Harvard provides support, world-class mentoring, and expert resources and allows you to win a grant of up to \$75,000 for business development.

Connect-Ed Friends

Computers and gadgets play a big part in the lives of IT girls and boys in the city, and sometimes we forget that our reality is not the reality for everyone.

I think the Connect-Ed efforts are important. They are not only providing computers to children, they are raising awareness of the low level of digital literacy because of the lack of technology in the regions.

Connect-Ed reminds us that there are children who can explore the Internet and use computers only in computer science classes and they miss the opportunity to get to know about Elon Mask's SpaceX, study the latest technology of web 3, discover the world of web design and design or start small businesses online.

The nFactorial School team set itself an ambitious goal - to train 100,000 top developers. Despite our ambition and readiness to help Kazakhstan appear on the technological map of the world, today we cannot send the best teachers, and developers from the industry, to every region; we cannot open programming schools in every village. We can provide each child with a computer and the Internet and allow them to learn the basics of programming in the best on-line schools.

Thus, digital equality in the country, and the availability of the Internet, computers and other gadgets for all Kazakhs is a key to reach our goal.

We are very grateful for the work of the Connect-Ed team and are excited to be working together since 2022. This year we were unable to transfer computers directly, but we were happy to provide information and marketing support. Thanks to our cooperation, the nFactorial community - students, graduates, mentors and partners of our school - is increasingly aware of the project.

Thanks to the support of Connect-ed, we have also granted three grants to children in rural areas for a programming course for beginners to introduce them to the world of development.

In 2023, we have great plans for closer collaboration with the Connect-Ed team, and we look forward to achieving our joint results.



Dalida

Operational Director
nFactorial School

Connect-Ed Friends

"I got acquainted with Connect-Ed in 2020. I remember seeing a team's post on social media and thinking, "What an important and necessary initiative! The guys who came up with it did the great job. I wanted to somehow support the project, and I suggested my colleagues to make mention about it on Manshuq.

Later, Connect-Ed invited our publication to a reporting meeting. And when I got to know the team better and saw with my own eyes the work the guys did and how they are "passionate" about their project, I realized that more should be said about this initiative than just notes in the news.

I sincerely admire the guys from the Connect-Ed team, who have taken on a rather difficult task - the fight against the digital inequality in Kazakhstan. This is a really big problem that no one paid much attention to before them. In a good way, such tasks should be solved at the state level, but, as often happens, this is done by a small group of caring people.

There are really very few teams like Connect-Ed. Here everyone is in his place, everyone clearly knows his responsibility. At the same time, each team member has their own work, but they manage to devote their most valuable resource - time - to advancing Connect-Ed. This year, the team underwent a serious test of substantiality when the founder of the project, Gulnaz Kordanova, temporarily left Kazakhstan to study at Harvard. However, the team not only remained in the ranks, but also continued to develop actively, finding new areas of work. Largely due to the fact that Gulnaz was able to confer her powers to Bayan Nabiyeva who is very enthusiastic about the project. This situation showed how cohesive and flexible the Connect-Ed team is. And most importantly - that everyone in the team understands why he is here.

Has Connect-Ed accomplished a lot this year? Definitely yes. The team strengthened its position, stood firmly on its feet, understood which path to take. Connect-Ed today is not just a small initiative that collects and transfers technology to schoolchildren. This is a full-fledged organization that not only draws public attention to the problem of the digital inequality, but also takes real action to solve this problem. I wish the whole team strength, patience and as many reliable partners as possible. I hope everything they have planned will be implemented successfully in the new year!"



Yana Karimova

Managing editor of Manshuq Media
Member of Board of Advisors, Connect-Ed

Connect-Ed Friends

Corporate Social Responsibility projects are one of EPAM Kazakhstan's primary areas of interest. It involves initiatives to support education and social innovation.

One of those initiatives is our joint project with Connect-Ed to translate programming material (Scratch) into Kazakh and teach children from a rural areas.

We are pleased that the commitment to common values, namely the quest for equality in education in Kazakhstan, has united us and our efforts. This made it possible to start working on reducing the current shortage of Kazakh language teaching materials and to allow children to learn the basics of programming. We believe that education should be accessible to every child.

We hope that more and more people and companies will learn about the fund's initiatives and join the movement to create digital equality and develop education in Kazakhstan.



Dmitriy Pak

Local coordinator of CSR (ESG) in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, EPAM Systems

The result of collaboration

I would like to express my deep gratitude to all those who take part in such a project and contribute to the development of the social movement Connect-Ed. Every team member who dedicates personal time and resources is doing everything possible to achieve the goals of the project and I am incredibly proud of every one of us. Over several months of working with the guys, I have personally gained extensive experience in organizing teamwork, promoting social initiative and working with different stakeholders.

Also, working at Connect-Ed has shown how important it is to support NGO initiatives in any way and how important the role of NGOs is in building a developing and responsive society. Connect-Ed's initiatives affect not only children's education and access to digital opportunities but also the economic and social development of children and families. The accomplishments of Connect-Ed that we see today are the direct result of the collaboration and support of the business sector, businesses, international organizations and civil society.

Here again, I would like to express my gratitude to all those who supported and participated in our project. We are confident that we will continue to support collaboration and work culture in the non-profit sector and offer equal opportunities in digital education.



Bayan Nabiyeva
Operational manager Connect-Ed

We are supported by



Team

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Founder, leader

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E-learning designer

Kuralay Zharkynbayeva
Development Coordinator



We are thankful to each of you for continuing the path of digital equality with us! After all, smile and hope for a high-quality education - our common goal!

The Connect-Ed team expresses its gratitude and promises to continue the honest and transparent work on the achievement of digital equality in Kazakhstan.

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