

In-Service Training Programme

Self-Directed Learning



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Self-Directed Online Learning

In the PODSQUAD project, providing additional resources serves several purposes.

By offering additional resources, learners (essentially youth workers) have access to a wider range of materials beyond the core content. These resources include articles, videos, podcasts, and other relevant materials that can enhance their understanding and provide different perspectives on the topic.

Different learners have different preferences and learning styles. By providing additional resources, the project caters to a variety of learning preferences. Some learners may find certain resources more engaging or easier to comprehend, while others may benefit from different formats or mediums.

Additional resources encourage youth workers and educators to explore beyond the prescribed content and delve deeper into the subject matter. This fosters a sense of curiosity and self-directed learning, allowing individuals to pursue specific areas of interest or seek out supplementary information to expand their knowledge.

The additional resources include materials from various authors, experts, and sources, presenting different perspectives and insights. For example, authors choose resources that advocate the use of podcasts, as well as resources which flag out potential limitations. This promotes critical thinking and encourages learners to consider multiple viewpoints, fostering a well-rounded understanding of the topic.

The project recognizes that learners may have different needs, interests, and levels of prior knowledge. By providing additional resources, the authors aim to accommodate these variations, ensuring that learners can access materials that align with their specific needs, goals, and background knowledge.

Overall, the provision of additional resources in the PODSQUAD In-Service Training Programme aims to enhance the learning experience, cater to diverse learning preferences, foster independent exploration, promote critical thinking, and address the varied needs and interests of the learners.

The resources were placed in an order which follows a progression from the basics of starting a podcast and creating engaging content, to promotion and design considerations. It explores the impact of podcasting on learning, student engagement, and the classroom environment. Then it addresses the topics related to digital youth work and remote interactions, while the list concludes with case study resources.

Lessons breakdown

Theme	Resource title	Duration
I The basics of podcasting	How to start a Podcast step-by-step	120 minutes
	How to create engaging content for your Podcast	30 minutes
II Podcasts in education	Exploring the use of video podcasts in education: A comprehensive review of the literature	60 minutes
	Eduaining audio: an exploration of education podcast design possibilities	90 minutes
	The value of using short-format podcasts to enhance learning and teaching	120 minutes
	Use Podcasts in the classroom	30 minutes
III Building relationships	Working with young people remotely	60 minutes
	How to connect with hard-to-reach students	60 minutes
	How can podcasts support engaging students in learning activities?	60 minutes
	13 Ways to create a positive learning environment in your classroom	120 minutes
IV Digital youth work	7 Advantages of Digital Youth Work	30 minutes
	Technology and the new power dynamics: limitations of digital youth work	120 minutes
V Teaching approaches. Case studies	The influence of podcasting on student learning: A case study across two courses	120 minutes
	Increasing student engagement using podcasts. Case Study.	60 minutes
	MindShift podcasts	120 minutes
VI Podcast promotion	Podcast promotion: How do I get my podcast in front of more people?	60 minutes

How to start a Podcast step-by-step

Theme	I The basics of podcasting	
Resource title	How to start a Podcast step-by-step	120 minutes
Introduction to the resource:	This comprehensive online course is a resource for educators and influencers seeking to venture into the world of podcasting. With podcasts gaining significant popularity as an educational tool, this course equips educators with the necessary knowledge and skills to create and launch their own successful podcasts. Whether you're a novice or have some experience, this course offers a step-by-step guide to help navigate the podcasting landscape effectively.	
What will you get from using this resource?	<p>By engaging with this course, educators will gain a wealth of practical insights and guidance on starting a podcast. The course begins by assisting readers in choosing a podcast topic that aligns with their expertise and commitment level. It then delves into essential aspects such as selecting a captivating podcast name, crafting a compelling description, and deciding on the podcast format that best suits their educational goals. Additionally, the course covers crucial technical aspects, including creating artwork and music, acquiring suitable equipment, and testing podcasting software.</p> <p>Furthermore, educators will learn about selecting the right podcast hosting service to ensure seamless distribution of their episodes. The course provides guidance on recording high-quality podcast episodes and offers valuable tips on promoting and launching their podcast to a wider audience.</p>	
Link to resource:	How to start a Podcast step-by-step 2023 Complete tutorial - updated. (2023). Smart Passive Income. Available here.	

How to create engaging content for your Podcast

Theme	I The basics of podcasting	
Resource title	How to create engaging content for your Podcast	30 minutes
Introduction to the resource:	<p>This video resource is a captivating and informative exploration of the art of storytelling in podcasts. With engaging visuals and concise narration, the video delves into the various elements and techniques that contribute to crafting compelling narratives. It highlights the importance of a strong opening, effective structure, character development, conflict, theme, and engaging content to captivate listeners. The resource also emphasises the significance of keeping episodes concise and shares valuable tips for maintaining listener attention throughout the podcast.</p>	
What will you get from using this resource?	<p>Viewers of this video resource will gain valuable insights into the key elements of storytelling in podcasts. They will learn about the crucial role of a strong opening to grab the audience's attention and set the tone. The resource provides guidance on structuring podcast episodes, building tension, and maintaining momentum to keep listeners engaged. It also offers advice on creating personas, developing conflict, exploring themes, and delivering impactful content. Additionally, the video emphasises the benefits of shorter episodes and shares practical tips for holding listeners' attention until the end. Overall, readers will gain a deeper understanding of storytelling techniques in podcasts, enabling them to enhance their own podcasting endeavours and captivate their audience with well-crafted narratives.</p>	
Link to resource:	How to create engaging content for your Podcast. (2019). YouTube. Available here .	

Exploring the use of video podcasts in education: A comprehensive review of the literature

Theme	II Podcasts in education	
Resource title	Exploring the use of video podcasts in education: A comprehensive review of the literature	60 minutes
Introduction to the resource:	This article provides a comprehensive review of research on video podcasts from 2002 to 2011 in order to guide future studies and educational practice. Although the article addresses video podcasts, it is relevant to audio podcasts as well.	
What will you get from using this resource?	<p>Key topics included the history and growth of video podcasts, types of podcasts, previous literature reviews, benefits and challenges of using video podcasts, methodological concerns, and suggestions for future research.</p> <p>The article concludes that video podcasts have key benefits such as positive affective and cognitive attitudes toward video podcasts, control over learning, improved study habits, and increased learning performance. However, key challenges include a variety of technical problems, the preference of some students for lectures, and reduced class attendance.</p>	
Link to resource:	Kay, R. H. (2012). Exploring the use of video podcasts in education: A comprehensive review of the literature. <i>Computers in Human Behaviour</i> , 28(3), 820-831. Available here .	

Edutaining audio: an exploration of education podcast design possibilities

Theme	II Podcasts in education	
Resource title	Edutaining audio: an exploration of education podcast design possibilities	90 minutes
Introduction to the resource:	Podcasting has emerged as a versatile and easily producible medium with potential applications in flexible educational contexts. Scholars have increasingly recognised the value of education podcasting, both within institutional settings and beyond. This paper investigates the design themes in non-institutional education podcasts using Fernandez, Sallan, and Simo's framework of variables in education podcast design. By analysing successful podcasts outside of academia, the study uncovers how these podcasts reinforce or challenge existing norms in academic discourse regarding podcast length, pedagogical approaches, and the role of podcasts in the learning experience.	
What will you get from using this resource?	This article offers educators several benefits. It delves into the potential of podcasting in education, providing insights into its value and possibilities. It discusses design considerations for education podcasts, such as content type, length, authorship, and structure, giving educators a practical guide to creating effective and engaging podcasts aligned with their instructional goals. By examining successful non-institutional education podcasts, the article presents educators with examples and themes that can be applied to their own podcasting efforts. It challenges existing norms in education podcast design, encouraging educators to think beyond traditional approaches and consider context-specific practices. The article aims to shift the discourse from universal ideas of "good practice" to a more nuanced discussion, empowering educators to explore podcasting as a tool that suits their unique teaching and learning environments. Overall, readers gain valuable insights, considerations, and inspiration to leverage podcasting in education and create engaging learning experiences for their students.	
Link to resource:	Drew, C. (2017). Edutaining audio: An exploration of education podcast design possibilities. Educational Media International, 54(1), 48-62. Available here.	

The value of using short-format podcasts to enhance learning and teaching

Theme	II Podcasts in education	
Resource title	The value of using short-format podcasts to enhance learning and teaching	120 minutes
Introduction to the resource:	This paper presents the findings of a podcasting trial held in 2007–2008 within the Faculty of Economics and Business at the University of Sydney, Australia. The trial investigates the value of using short-format podcasts to support assessment for postgraduate and undergraduate students. A multi-method approach is taken in investigating perceptions of the benefits of podcasting, incorporating surveys, focus groups and interviews.	
What will you get from using this resource?	The results show that a majority of students believe they gained learning benefits from the podcasts and appreciated the flexibility of the medium to support their learning, and the lecturers felt the innovation helped diversify their pedagogical approach and support a diverse student population. Three primary conclusions are presented: (1) most students reject the mobile potential of podcasting in favour of their traditional study space at home; (2) what students and lecturers value about this podcasting design overlap; (3) the assessment-focussed, short-format podcast design may be considered a successful podcasting model. The paper finishes by identifying areas for future research on the effective use of podcasting in learning and teaching.	
Link to resource:	Sutton-Brady, C., Scott, K. M., Taylor, L., Carabetta, G., & Clark, S. (2009). The value of using short-format podcasts to enhance learning and teaching. <i>ALT-J</i> , 17(3), 219-232. Available here.	

Use podcasts in the classroom

Theme	II Podcasts in education	
Resource title	Use Podcasts in the classroom	30 minutes
Introduction to the resource:	This video explores the exciting world of podcasts and how they can enhance your teaching experience. It provides insights and guidance to incorporate podcasts effectively into teaching. It guides through the basics of podcasts, including their origins, formats, and how to access them. Viewers also discover various podcast genres and receive tips on finding suitable podcasts for classrooms.	
What will you get from using this resource?	By utilising this resource, viewers gain a comprehensive understanding of podcasts and their benefits in an educational setting. They learn how podcasts can engage and entertain students while fostering crucial skills like imagination, listening, and critical thinking. By the end of this video, viewers gain the knowledge and tools necessary to integrate podcasts seamlessly into their teaching, making learning more dynamic, diverse, and enjoyable for students.	
Link to resource:	Use Podcasts In The Classroom, (2019), YouTube. Available here.	

Working with young people remotely

Theme	III Building relationships	
Resource title	Working with young people remotely	60 minutes
Introduction to the resource:	<p>This article provides guidance and advice on how to effectively work with young people in a remote setting. The article covers a wide range of topics, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to build relationships with young people remotely • How to create a positive and engaging learning environment • How to manage behaviour challenges • How to provide support and guidance to young people <p>The article also includes a number of best practice examples, resources and tools that can be used to support remote work with young people.</p>	
What will you get from using this resource?	<p>Readers will gain a comprehensive understanding of how to effectively work with young people in remote settings, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to use technology to connect with young people, how to create a safe and supportive environment, and how to build trust. • How to use technology to deliver instruction, how to create interactive activities, and how to keep young people engaged. • How to identify and address behaviour challenges, how to prevent behaviour problems, and how to work with parents and guardians to support young people. • How to identify the needs of young people, how to provide resources and support, and how to connect young people with services and programs. <p>Readers will also be able to access a number of resources and tools that can be used to support their work.</p>	
Link to resource:	London Youth (2020). Working with young people remotely. Available here.	

How to connect with hard-to-reach students

Theme	III Building relationships	
Resource title	How to connect with hard-to-reach students	60 minutes
Introduction to the resource:	<p>This article provides guidance and advice on how to effectively connect with students who are struggling to engage in school. The article covers a wide range of topics, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building relationships with hard-to-reach students • Creating a positive and supportive learning environment • Providing individualised support 	
What will you get from using this resource?	<p>While reading this article, you will learn how to effectively connect with these students and help them succeed in education. Here are some key takeaways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning the importance of considering students' unique approaches to the world and aligning tasks and subjects with their interests and objectives. • Understanding the significance of involving students in the planning process. • Exploring the role of metaphors, fantasy, and play in learning, readers will discover how to leverage students' natural inclinations. • Grasping the importance of breaking down tasks into manageable steps and providing explicit instructions • Learning strategies for recognising and showcasing the practical skills and knowledge that hard-to-reach students possess. • Providing ample praise and acknowledgements to hard-to-reach students. <p>By utilising the insights and strategies shared in this resource, educators can establish stronger connections with hard-to-reach students, inspire their engagement, and promote their overall success in the educational journey.</p>	
Link to resource:	<i>How to connect with hard-to-reach students - Teachwire. (2020). Teachwire. Available here.</i>	

How can podcasts support engaging students in learning activities?

Theme	III Building relationships	
Resource title	How can podcasts support engaging students in learning activities?	60 minutes
Introduction to the resource:	<p>This insightful article delves into the intersection of podcasting and education, providing a comprehensive exploration of their potential impact on student engagement. The study builds upon previous research and incorporates theoretical frameworks to analyse the effectiveness of podcasts as an educational tool. By examining the concept through Laurillard’s Conversational framework, the article offers a fresh perspective on how podcasts can extend and enhance teaching and learning practices. The authors also address the need for a pedagogical rationale and justification for implementing podcasts, going beyond the technical affordances of the medium. With a focus on student-centred learning, creativity, and informal learning, this resource serves as a valuable reference for educators looking to leverage podcasts in their teaching approaches.</p>	
What will you get from using this resource?	<p>By engaging with this resource, educators gain a deeper understanding of the potential benefits of integrating podcasts into their teaching practices. The article provides theoretical evidence and practical illustrations of how podcasts can support teaching and learning across various contexts. Readers explore the ways in which podcasts can facilitate the negotiation of meaning, enhance task performance, and provide opportunities for reflection and feedback. Moreover, the resource highlights the value of student-generated podcasts in fostering creativity, informal learning, and assessment. Educators discover how podcasts, when used strategically, can serve as a flexible and engaging educational tool, empowering both teachers and learners. This resource equips educators with insights and ideas to enhance their instructional approaches, promote active student engagement, and foster a more dynamic and effective learning environment.</p>	
Link to resource:	<p>Popova, A., & Edirisingha, P. (2010). How can podcasts support engaging students in learning activities? <i>Procedia-Social and Behavioral Sciences</i>, 2(2), 5034-5038. Available here.</p>	

13 Ways to create a positive learning environment in your classroom

Theme	III Building relationships	
Resource title	13 Ways to create a positive learning environment in your classroom	120 minutes
Introduction to the resource:	In the world of education, creating a positive learning environment is essential for student success and well-being. To help educators in their quest to cultivate such an environment, this blog article provides valuable insights and practical strategies. This resource offers a comprehensive guide for teachers, trainers and youth workers to enhance their classroom climate, build positive relationships, and promote student engagement.	
What will you get from using this resource?	By exploring the 13 strategies outlined in this blog article, readers will gain a wealth of ideas and actionable steps to establish a positive learning environment in their classrooms. They will discover the importance of building strong relationships with students and parents, fostering student connections, and outlining classroom rules for positive behaviour. The article emphasises the significance of using positive reinforcement, ensuring culturally relevant content, and maintaining a positive mindset as an educator. Readers will also learn about the value of a comfortable physical environment, staying informed on educational research, and prioritising social-emotional learning. Additionally, the resource provides insights into planning lessons with motivation in mind, providing personalised feedback, sharing classroom highlights with parents, and incorporating fun activities. Overall, readers will acquire practical strategies that can be easily implemented to create a positive and thriving learning environment for their students.	
Link to resource:	13 Ways to create a positive learning environment in your classroom (2022). Prodigy Education. Available here .	

7 Advantages of digital youth work

Theme	IV Digital youth work	
Resource title	7 Advantages of digital youth work	30 minutes
Introduction to the resource:	<p>In this article, the author explores the merits of engaging with young people through digital platforms. Amidst the ongoing debate about the efficacy of digital youth work compared to face-to-face interactions, the article highlights seven advantages that arise from embracing the digital space. From acquiring new skills as a youth worker to joining young people in their digital environments, the author delves into the transformative potential of digital youth work. The article challenges traditional notions of proximity, intimacy, and community-building while emphasising the importance of young people's voices in shaping the work.</p>	
What will you get from using this resource?	<p>Readers engaging with this resource will gain insights into the advantages of digital youth work. The article provides a fresh perspective on how the digital realm can empower youth workers and create meaningful connections with young people. The resource highlights the flexibility and accessibility offered by online platforms, the potential for increased engagement with parents, and the transformative power of young people leading the way. By delving into these advantages, readers will gain a deeper understanding of the possibilities and potential of digital youth work in fostering meaningful engagement and empowerment.</p>	
Link to resource:	<p><i>Osborn, J. (2020). 7 Advantages to Digital Youth Work - Jenni Osborn.</i> Jenni Osborn. Available here.</p>	

Technology and the new power dynamics: limitations of digital youth work

Theme	IV Digital youth work	
Resource title	Technology and the new power dynamics: limitations of digital youth work	120 minutes
Introduction to the resource:	This resource was published by the Council of Europe in 2019. It is a report that aims to provide an overview of the current state of digital youth work in Europe and to identify the challenges and opportunities that arise from it. The report discusses the benefits and risks of digital youth work and provides recommendations for policymakers, youth workers, and other stakeholders.	
What will you get from using this resource?	<p>Some key takeaways from the report include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital youth work can help reach young people who are not reached by traditional youth work. • Digital youth work can provide new opportunities for young people to develop skills and competencies. • Digital youth work can help young people develop social connections and a sense of belonging. • Digital youth work can also pose risks to young people, such as cyberbullying and exposure to harmful content. • Policymakers, youth workers, and other stakeholders need to address these risks while leveraging the opportunities that digital youth work provides. 	
Link to resource:	Council of Europe. (2019). <i>Limits of digital youth work</i> . Available here .	

The influence of podcasting on student learning: A case study across two courses

Theme	V Teaching approaches. Case studies	
Resource title	The influence of podcasting on student learning: A case study across two courses	120 minutes
Introduction to the resource:	<p>This study investigated how students used lecture podcasts when produced in two courses at a South African university. The findings confirm much of the growing consensus in the literature. Firstly, a majority of students in the courses elected to use the podcasts. Secondly, the study notes that lecture attendance, in contexts where lectures are seen as beneficial, is not adversely affected. Thirdly, few students use podcasts in mobile mode but most rather use them as an additional resource in their private study spaces. There is intense use in the build-up to tests and examinations, and there is a particular benefit for students who are not first-language speakers of the medium of instruction. This study also points to the existence of both deep and surface approaches to engaging with podcasts, with substantial evidence of many students using podcasts as a means towards better understanding.</p>	
What will you get from using this resource?	<p>For educators looking to integrate podcasts into their teaching, this study offers several benefits. As such, it confirms that a majority of students willingly choose to engage with podcasts, indicating high levels of student interest and participation. Moreover, readers grasp the advantages of podcasts for non-native speakers, as they can enhance comprehension and understanding. Additionally, educators are provided with a real-life example of how podcasts can encourage deeper engagement with course content, as students utilise them to deepen their understanding. By considering these benefits, educators can effectively utilise podcasts as a valuable tool to engage students, provide supplementary support, cater to diverse language needs, and foster meaningful learning experiences.</p>	
Link to resource:	<p>Collier-Reed, B. I., Case, J. M., & Stott, A. (2013). The influence of podcasting on student learning: a case study across two courses. <i>European Journal of Engineering Education</i>, 38(3), 329-339. Available here.</p>	

Increasing student engagement using podcasts. Case Study.

Theme	V Teaching approaches. Case studies	
Resource title	Increasing student engagement using podcasts. Case Study.	60 minutes
Introduction to the resource:	<p>This case study examines the use of simple audio podcasts in a fully online distance education class, as part of the DUCKLING research project conducted by the Beyond Distance Research Alliance at the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom. It discusses the benefits of using podcasts as part of an integrated online learning strategy in a distance learning context and gives an overview of how podcasts were used to introduce concepts, provide support for assignments, and give students direct feedback on their work.</p>	
What will you get from using this resource?	<p>By reading this case study on increasing student engagement using podcasts, educators can gain valuable insights and knowledge about the benefits and considerations of incorporating podcasts into their teaching. The case study provides a clear understanding of what a podcast is and how it can be utilised in a fully online distance education class. Readers learn about the positive outcomes and key benefits of using podcasts, such as introducing concepts, supporting assignments, and providing direct feedback to students. They also gain insights into the motivations behind adopting podcasts as an instructional tool and understand the planning involved in integrating podcasts effectively.</p>	
Link to resource:	<p>McIntyre, S. (2011). Increasing student engagement using podcasts - Case study. COFA Online. Available here.</p>	

MindShift - best practice podcasts

Theme	V Teaching approaches. Case studies	
Resource title	The influence of podcasting on student learning: A case study across two courses	120 minutes
Introduction to the resource:	MindShift is an educational initiative and online platform that focuses on exploring the future of learning and the evolving landscape of education. It aims to inspire educators, parents, and students to think differently about education and embrace innovative approaches to teaching and learning. MindShift offers a wide range of resources, including articles, podcasts, videos, and interviews, that delve into topics such as educational technology, social-emotional learning, project-based learning, neuroscience, and educational psychology.	
What will you get from using this resource?	By listening to these podcasts, educators can learn about innovative teaching approaches such as project-based learning and blended learning, as well as effective strategies for integrating technology into their classrooms. They can also explore the importance of social-emotional learning and gain practical tools for fostering positive relationships and supporting students' well-being. MindShift podcasts address equity and inclusion in education, providing educators with strategies for creating inclusive classrooms and supporting students from diverse backgrounds. Moreover, these podcasts offer opportunities for professional growth and reflection, allowing educators to gain inspiration, reflect on their teaching practices, and identify areas for improvement. Overall, MindShift podcasts empower educators with knowledge, ideas, and practical strategies to enhance their teaching and positively impact their students' learning experiences.	
Link to resource:	<i>MindShift Podcasts KQED. (2022).</i> MindShift Podcasts KQED. Available here.	

Podcast promotion: How do I get my podcast in front of more people?

Theme	VI Podcast promotion	
Resource title	Podcast promotion: How do I get my podcast in front of more people?	60 minutes
Introduction to the resource:	<p>Podcast marketing and promotion often take as much time as creating the podcast episodes themselves. The key to making any marketing strategy work is to find new listeners who would be interested in your podcast and tell them about it. This video provides 3 strategies for promoting your podcast:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using social media platforms like Facebook, LinkedIn, Reddit, Twitter, and Instagram are great places to find potential podcast listeners. • Going on someone else's podcast is a way to demonstrate expertise and convince the audience to follow your podcast • Listing the podcast in Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, TuneIn, and Stitcher. 	
What will you get from using this resource?	<p>The video provides a number of practical tips for promoting a podcast. By following these tips, viewers can increase their chances of reaching a wider audience and growing their listenership.</p> <p>In addition to the three strategies mentioned above, the video also provides some additional tips, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating high-quality content. • Using social media effectively. • Being patient and consistent 	
Link to resource:	Podcast promotion: How do I get my podcast in front of more people? (2020). YouTube. Available here.	



PODSQUAD

Building skills and self-confidence
of NEETs through podcasts



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