



# atingi

Free courses for all with the BMZ digital learning platform

## BACKGROUND

The importance of access to education has been magnified by the COVID-19 pandemic: across the world, around 1.5 billion students in over 190 countries were affected by the intermittent closure of educational institutions. Yet irrespective of the pandemic, the United Nations Education, Scientific and Culture Organization (UNESCO) estimates that almost 260 million children and young people worldwide have limited or no access to schooling, either because the closest school is too far from home or because the necessary training is too expensive. Particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, education usually ends at primary school level – far fewer girls and young women go to secondary school than their male counterparts.

atingi, the digital learning platform launched by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), harnesses the potential of digital technology and offers free courses worldwide that comply with the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Users are able to access quality online courses at any time, which helps them improve their employment opportunities. atingi was developed by a team of digital experts and works closely with Smart Africa, the digital initiative launched by the African Union, and with several other partners from the private sector, politics, academia and civil society.

## THE PLATFORM

atingi is an e-learning platform that can be accessed on all commonly used devices (there is also an app for android) and offers a range of different learning formats:

- **courses for self-regulated learning that allow you to proceed at your own pace; you can regulate the volume of learning material and the duration of the course yourself**
- **courses supervised by tutors who can intervene to help, if necessary**
- **blended learning, which combines the advantages offered by face-to-face activities with the benefits of e-learning**
- **serious games that support the process of knowledge acquisition in an entertaining manner**

The user interface is available in eight languages and learning content is adapted to the economic and cultural context of the partner countries. Digital certificates are awarded upon successful completion of a course; platform usage is GDPR-compliant and is free of charge. All this makes atingi a unique learning and networking platform in international cooperation.

## OBJECTIVES AND IMPLEMENTATION

atingi is one of the building blocks of the Federal Government's digital strategy and pursues three primary objectives:

- **to provide young people in partner countries access to digital courses that are relevant to the labour market**
- **to join partners from business, politics, academia and civil society in developing a platform for digital learning**
- **to ensure that the learning content is developed by and with the target groups**

In addition, atingi is set to become the standard tool for the digital learning courses offered by German development cooperation.

## CURRENT STATUS

Since the start of the project in November 2019, atingi has reached over two million people in the partner countries that work with German development cooperation. The platform has 430,000 registered users who have completed over 200,000 learning units (December 2021).

By 2025, the project is expected to reach 20 million people, the courses will be expanded further and atingi will be repeatedly adapted to the needs and requirements of its users.

Website: [www.atingi.org](http://www.atingi.org)

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