OVERVIEW

The program M.E.T.A. - Maximizing Effective Teaching AI - Professional Development and Capacity Building for Teacher Trainers is a one-year professional training to bolster the effectiveness of teacher trainers as professional learning leaders around the topic of AI in teaching and learning to support classroom teachers in effective use and discussions about AI with their students. By critically considering ethical, responsible, and effective use of AI in teaching and with students, this hands-on learning experience aims to guide teacher trainers in building the content knowledge and skills to support teachers to effectively teach with and about AI while also strengthening skills as teacher trainers and coaches.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE PROGRAM WILL BE ABLE TO

- Develop AI literacy for teaching with and about AI
- Become effective users and adapters of the most up to date AI resources and tools
- Learn best practices in facilitating professional learning that deepens teachers content knowledge of AI tools with an emphasis on influencing the use in teaching practice
- Develop a culture of feedback and learning and become part of a community of leaders who support and engage with each other around AI literacy and transformational teaching practices.
- Develop and facilitate high-quality professional development tailored to teachers' specific contexts in order to cultivate transformative learning experiences for students
- Develop a leadership stance to influence the professional system around teacher training in Germany and promote real change that will ultimately benefit teaching and learning in schools in the digital learning world.

RESEARCH

As education researchers who seek to develop, understand, and disseminate best practices, we frequently conduct research on our programs. All requests for research participation are optional, undergo formal consent processes, and take clear steps to protect privacy and confidentiality. Some research activities may include

- Video recording of facilitated sessions
- Interviews about learning experiences or completion of specific professional tasks
- Surveys of background knowledge, knowledge change, and perceptions

DELIVERABLES

Participants in the Institute will be responsible for the following deliverables. Instructions will be provided throughout the program and participants will receive support from facilitators and coaches to complete the deliverables.

- Maintain and share a reflection journal throughout the Institute documenting learning and growth
- Conduct teacher interviews to understand needs and interests around AI
- Plan an innovative professional development experience for teachers related to AI, facilitate the professional development, and reflect on teacher learnings for continuous improvement.
- Participate in research activities listed above

THE PROGRAM: The year-long professional development and coaching program has 4 components.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SESSIONS (IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL)
Engage in a research-informed professional learning program and immerse as learners and designers through collaborative and creative hands-on experiences in order to prepare, design, and implement an innovative professional development experience for teachers related to AI.

Topics discussed during the professional learning series will include:
- Latest insights into AI and education (digital literacy)
- Evaluating AI tools to find tools that align with the learning objectives
- Embedding it in a classroom setting Generating pedagogical added value through the use of AI in the classroom
- Ethical issues related to AI, including the issue of intellectual property and data protection according to the European Standard Adult education
- Co-design processes and practices emerging in current educational design research
- Coaching techniques and practices to promote co-constructive and cooperative learning
- The research on transformative professional learning and best practices of planning and facilitating professional learning
- Coaching and training teachers research and best practices
- Adult development theory
- How to connect with those you are working with and facilitate their growth Group relations & people dynamics

PEER GROUP COACHING
Using a research-informed cycle for instructional improvement, teacher trainers will participate in a coaching cycle in which they plan for, enact, and reflect upon an AI professional development with teachers. During peer group coaching, teacher trainers will meet in teams of peers facilitated by an instructional coach.

OPTIONAL ONE-ON-ONE COACHING SESSIONS
Meet virtually with a coach for individualized support throughout the program.

INSTITUTE CELEBRATION AND CONFERENCE
Participants from the Institute will convene and share their takeaways and learning in a conference session with stakeholders and participants in the cohort. Participants from the 2025-2026 cohort will also attend to learn more about the program.

SESSION SCHEDULE

DATES	SESSION	LOCATION
September 30 to October 01, 2024	Professional Learning Session (6 hours each day) Institute Launch (Module 1)	In person
	Participants on own time will: conduct interviews with teachers & complete reflection journals	
November 2024	Professional Learning Session (2 hours) (Module 2)	Virtual
	Participants on own time will: plan a professional development to enact with educators	
	Optional 1:1 coaching	
December 2024	Peer Group Coaching Session 1 (1 hour) Participants will share drafts and get feedback	Virtual
February 2025	Professional Learning Session (2 hours) (Module 3)	Virtual
	Participants on own time will: refine plans for professional development based on feedback	
	Optional 1:1 coaching	
March 2025	Peer Group Coaching Session 2 (1 hour) Participants will rehearse portions of professional development and get feedback	Virtual
March 2025	Professional Learning Session (2 hours) (Module 4)	Virtual
	Participants on own time will: enact professional development with teachers and collect artifacts	
	Optional 1:1 coaching	

April 2025	Peer Group Coaching Session 3 (1 hour) Participants will share artifacts and reflect	Virtual
May 2025	Professional Learning Session (2 hours) (Module 4)	Virtual
June 2025	Peer Group Coaching Session 4 (1 hour) Participants will share artifacts and reflect.	Virtual
	Participants on own time will: prepare poster for conference	
	Optional 1:1 coaching	
September 29 to September 30, 2025	Professional Learning Program Celebration and Conference (Module 6)	In person

The exact dates for the modules (except start and end) will be determined together with the participants after the start of the program.