

# GLOBAL LABOUR UNIVERSITY ONLINE ACADEMY

## -Connecting activists and workers worldwide-

Founded in 2014, the GLU Online Academy is a pioneer in blended worker education, which combines free online courses developed by labour academics with online events and localised workshops. It is a model of education for change - anchored on participatory methods of education - supporting the activists to move from knowledge to action.

The decentralised, globally-connected learning spaces of this model connect thousands of activists in vibrant debates about social and environmental justice, workers' rights, political freedom and democracy.

## AN INNOVATIVE LEARNING MODEL

- Free high-quality educational materials and certified trainers in more than 30 countries.
- Complementary and new opportunities for worker education, thus strengthening synergies with existing education programmes.
- Democratising worker education and popularising labour issues in the public debate by removing any approval procedures to study.
- Meeting the needs of people with different learning needs, time availabilities and interests.
- New learning communities and alliances through localised workshops.
- Enhanced digital literacy of trade unionists and activists.

## DIFFERENT LEARNING MODELS: DIFFERENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

### 1. Self-Paced Online Learning:

Individually studying in the online course anywhere, at any time.

### 2. Interactive Distance Learning:

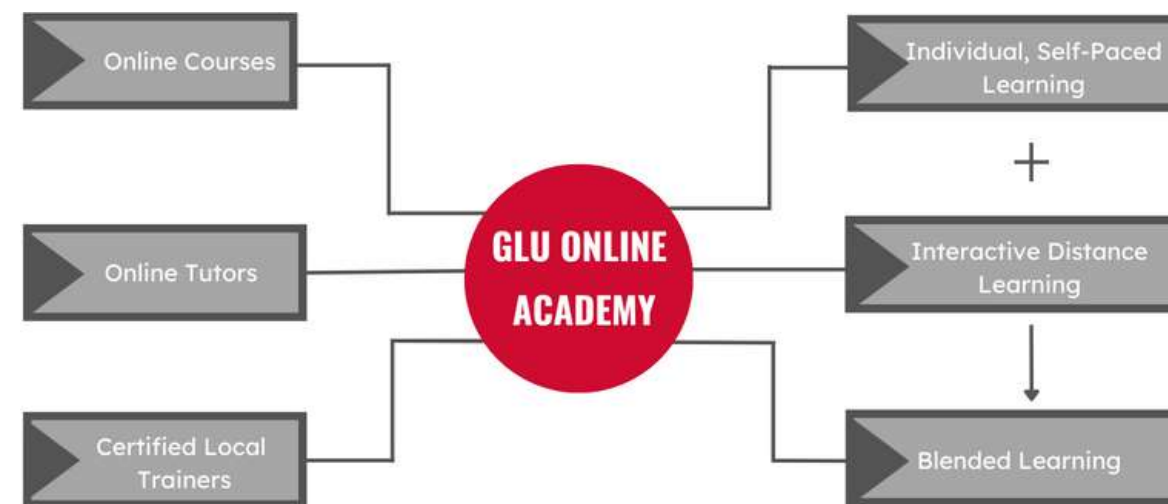
Going beyond the self-paced learning, this option provides the opportunity to engage in real-time with other participants and experts (only during the tutored phase) through:

- online Zoom workshops and webinars with the course experts; and
- online study circles organised and supported by the online tutor during the tutored phase of the course.

### 3. Blended Learning:

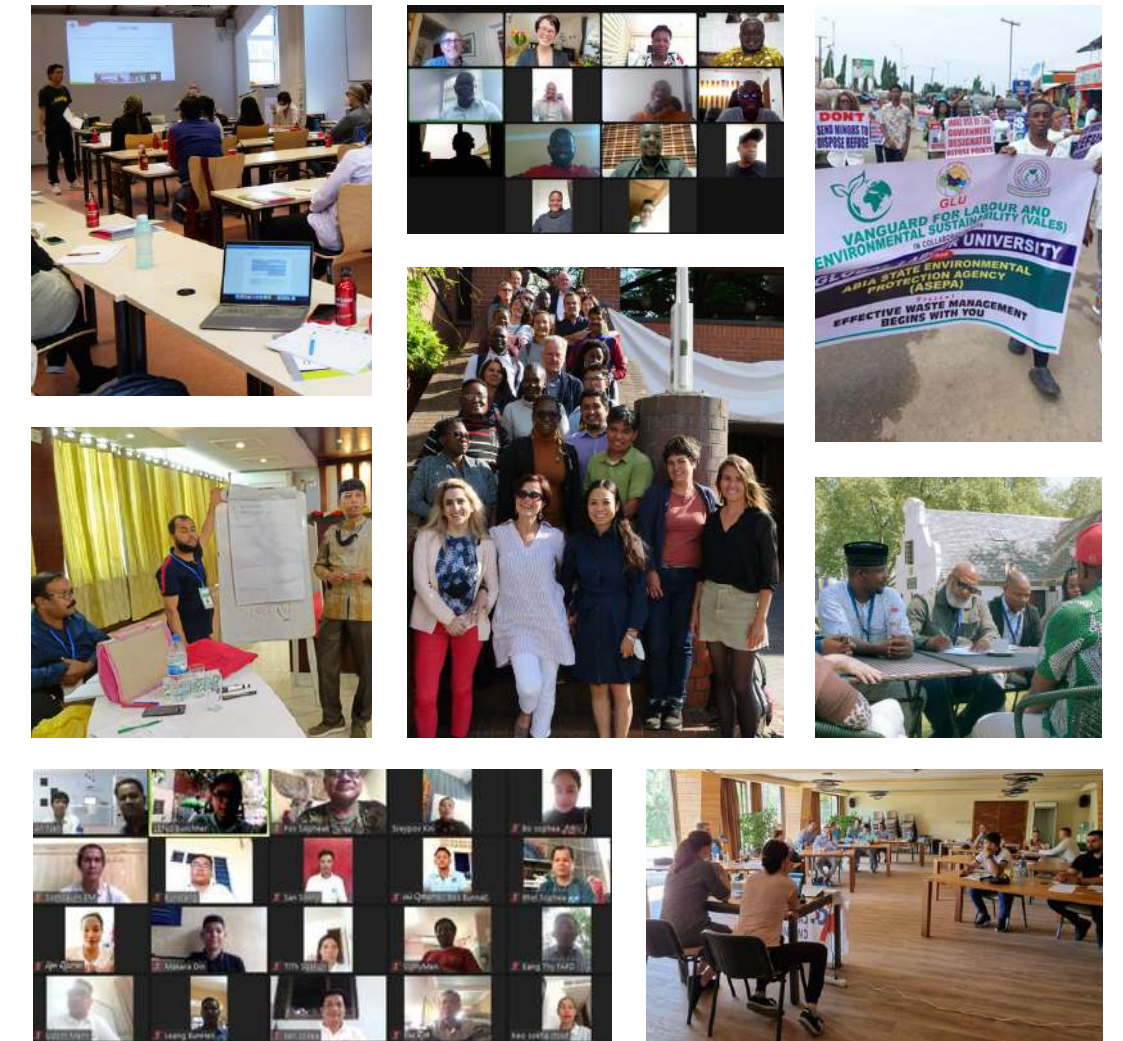
It builds on the interactive distance learning option by adding a set of localised workshops, which are conceptualised and implemented by the certified trainers of the Online Academy.

## ONLINE ACADEMY EDUCATIONAL MODEL



**FUNDING INSTITUTIONS: BMZ, DGB-BW, FES, GIZ, OSF, ICDD, ILO, LO NORWAY**

## LEARNING AND ACTING TOGETHER



Certified tutors and trainers in action, 2022-2023.

## Study for Free: Get a Certificate

Enrolling and studying in our online courses is free. Completion of an online course is recognised through certificates, which can be purchased for a fee, upon meeting a set of requirements. Trade unionists and activists can apply for scholarships.

Visit us: <https://global-labour-university.org/>  
Follow us: Facebook, Twitter, Youtube, and LinkedIn  
Contact us: [online@global-labour-university.org](mailto:online@global-labour-university.org)

## KEY RESOURCES OF THE GLU-OA

### ONLINE COURSES

Since its establishment, the GLU-OA has launched over [20 Massive Open Online Courses \(MOOCs\)](#) developed through collaboration with top labour experts from academia and labour in the Global Labour University network. In addition to English, some courses are available in Bangla, Bosnian-Croatian-Montenegrin-Serbian, French, Hindi, Khmer, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Turkish.

The online courses are comprised of:

1. Video lectures of around 6-8 min; also downloadable to be used while offline and accessible through the transcripts and subtitles.
2. A set of quiz and exercise questions for each video lecture.
3. A key reading expanding on the topic and additional readings.
4. Discussion spaces to learn from and with each other.

### ONLINE TUTORS AND LOCAL TRAINERS

In 2021, the GLU-OA started the certification of local trainers and online tutors, trained on a participatory learning model for worker education. They are key to conceptualising and delivering local blended learning interventions on the topics of the online courses.

Each intervention entails the formation of a study circle with trade unionists, labour and other activists. The trainer mentors the study circle members during their online learning and then uses the content of the online courses to develop contextualised modules for people-centred learning.

The local interventions are anchored on the spiral learning model, which seeks to support local action and alliances on the most pressing issues for working people and their communities.

Nearly 30,000 users (combined) in more than 20 online courses

- majority from the labour sector
- spread equally across the Global South & North

Nearly 90 certified local trainers and online tutors in over 30 countries.

## EDUCATION FOR CHANGE: THE IMPACT OF BLENDED INTERVENTIONS



Over 200 people have attended the blended interventions in **South Africa**. Many of them have joined the Climate Justice Coalition. Some of them have used this format to run similar workshops and mobilise campaigns for environmental justice. The Sekhukhune platinum mining belt community has submitted to the mining company demands for installing solar panels and is organising several marches to keep up the pressure. The community has also initiated a Socially-Owned Renewable Energy Project supported by the Lawyers for Human Rights, Centre for Applied Studies and 350.Org.



After taking part in the blended intervention, a member of food trade union in **Zimbabwe** joined the Community Social Service Accountability Initiative in Mbare, Harare, which brings together residents' associations, community leaders and the local council. The initiative was a response to the complete failure of the Local Council to collect garbage, which led to garbage burning. Since labour joined this initiative, the residents have taken advantage of the stakeholders' engagement dialogue to demand accountability regarding service delivery, as well as pushed for practices that reduce GHG emissions and for a review of Local Council by-laws to reflect issues of climate justice regarding urban agriculture, building designs, use of alternative energy sources. The residents are also separating the garbage.



## EDUCATION FOR CHANGE: IMPACTS OF BLENDED INTERVENTIONS

In **Nigeria**, the study group included all trade unions. This led to the integration of climate change and just transition in trade union conferences, creation of a climate change and just transition desk, as well as engagement in media advocacy. By bringing together trade unionists, climate change activists, lawyers, academics, students, and policymakers, the study group provided the opportunity for the Nigerian labour movement to work alongside other progressive groups. The group is currently seeking to register as an NGO.



The blended intervention in **Bangladesh** has empowered the tourism sector union to engage in policy discussions with local stakeholders on issues of environment and worker rights while mobilising public pressure. As part of the action plan developed during the intervention, the union has convened stakeholder meetings, developed memorandums of demands to employers and public authorities followed by protest action and a signature campaign on worker rights and environmental issues.

In **Trinidad and Tobago**, the localised workshop was transformed into a political event, halting a "Just Transition" government Bill which was not consulted with labour and opening up a broad conversation with over 150 unionists on a "progressive just transition" platform from a people's perspective. The unions are currently working to develop a people-centered Just Transition policy.

