

STMICROELECTRONICS FOUNDATION'S 2024 ACTIVITY REPORT

The ST Foundation's major pillars for 2024 projects were 1) updating course content and more in detail, revising the coding course, improving structure, methodology, and accessibility, and renewing the core Introduction to Computer Basics (ICB) course set for the official presentation in January 2025; 2) shaping the collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), with Sierra Leone joining the Digital Transformation Centers (DTC) initiative and Senegal becoming fully operational after the November 2023 agreement; 3) expanding digital literacy programs for older people, adding Singapore to the initiative; 4) Brining the Introduction to Computer Basics course for Visually impaired people (ICB4VI) to new countries; and 5) strengthening communication, supported by STMicroelectronics, to enhance outreach and engagement.

As of December 2024, the Digital Unify Program's standard and in-presence activities have reached 1,235,457 beneficiaries since its inception, demonstrating the Foundation's continued commitment to bridging the digital divide worldwide.

Key Achievements and Highlights of 2024

1. Evolution of Standard Digital Unify Programs
2. Expanding the Reach of the T4S Course
3. Bridging the Digital Divide in Morocco with the Summer Camps
4. ST Foundation India's 2024 Highlights
5. Expanding Our Reach: ST Foundation's Launch in Singapore
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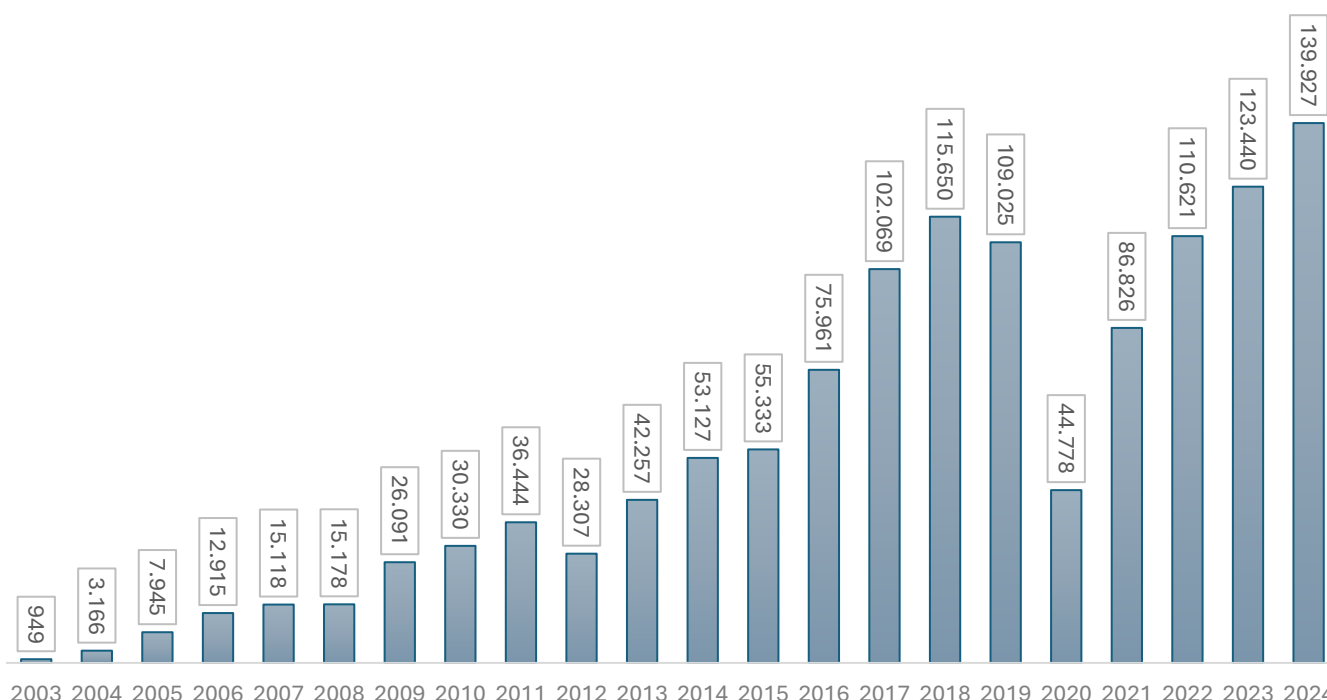
Evolution of Standard Digital Unify (DU) Program

The ST Foundation remained committed to improving our existing courses, listening to the needs of our beneficiaries, and proposing new content to be more in line with the evolving requests of communities worldwide. This year, our efforts have been driven by three core priorities:

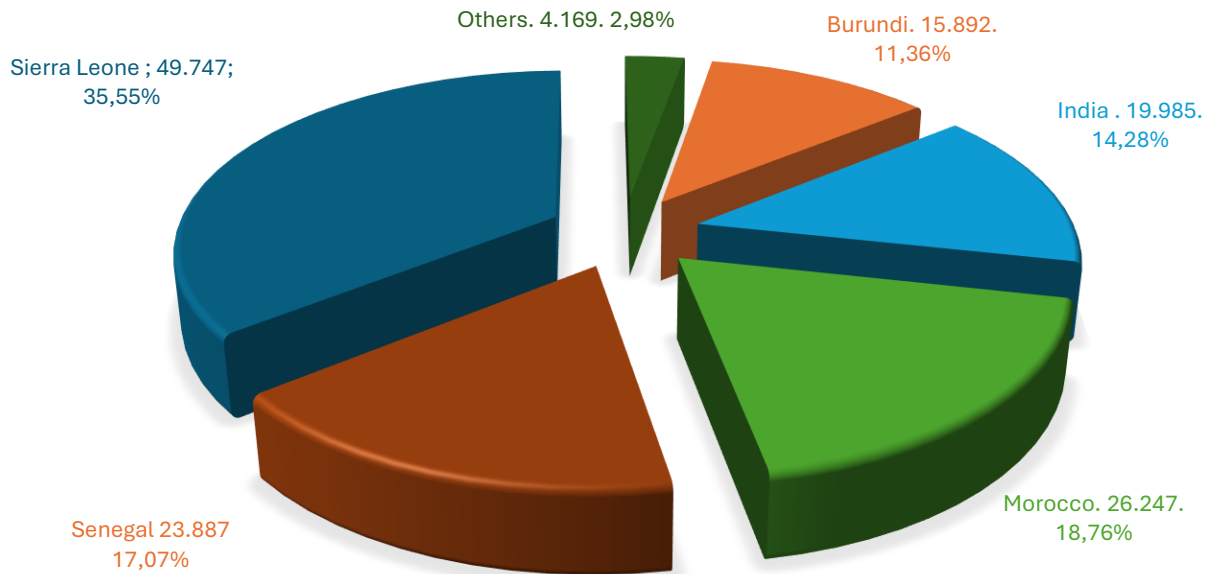
1. Expanding Digital Unify (DU) courses. We extended our courses to new countries and communities, reinforcing our commitment to making digital skills more accessible.
2. Increasing support for vulnerable groups, giving growing attention to seniors and disadvantaged individuals, especially visually impaired people, to be more integrated into the digital world.
3. Strengthening strategic partnerships. After establishing our collaboration with ITU in 2023, this year marked a significant step forward in implementation. We successfully launched initiatives in Senegal and Sierra Leone, both now part of the Digital Transformation Centers (DTCs) network. We expanded our reach to Pakistan, where we introduced the ICB for Visually Impaired (ICB4VI) course.

In 2024, our presence continued to expand, and we now operate in 15 countries: Senegal, Morocco, France, India, China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Burundi, Italy, Ghana, Brazil, Pakistan, and Singapore. Through our ICB courses, ICB4VI, Advanced Courses, Tablet for Kids, Tablet for Seniors (T4S), and the brand-new Coding Courses, the DU Program has played a pivotal role in empowering communities worldwide. By the end of the year, the program had trained **1,235,457** people since its inception, with **67,457** courses completed. In 2024 alone, **139,927** students participated, with **8,748** organized courses.

Evolution of the DU Program since its inception



2024 trainee breakdown by country



Expanding the Reach of the T4S Course

The T4S course program is expanding to help older people navigate the digital world. Focused on addressing seniors' unique challenges, the initiative offers structured learning in digital skills. Recently scaled in Italy, India, and Singapore, the program combines online training with in-presence support, enabling seniors to connect, access online services, and use technology independently. In 2024, **177 seniors** participated in 10 courses, benefiting from tailored hands-on training.

Bridging the Digital Divide in Morocco with the Summer Camps

In 2024, the ST Foundation Morocco reaffirmed its commitment to digital education, expanding the impact nationwide. One of the standout initiatives was the summer camps program, a cornerstone of our efforts to provide free digital education to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. This year, in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, we reached a record milestone: over **12,754 beneficiaries** benefited from ICB courses across 17 cities. This initiative has become a flagship, empowering thousands of students with digital skills that open doors to more educational and professional opportunities. Through these intensive one-week training sessions, students gained hands-on experience with computers, learning to navigate Microsoft Office tools such as Word, Excel, and PowerPoint while also developing a broader understanding of local and global networks. With the support of 45 trainers, participants reinforced their technical confidence. They discovered new possibilities in the digital world in the 31 temporary DU labs we set up to welcome them, ensuring access to the necessary equipment and resources. We believe that technology should help young learners, not hinder them. Access to digital education is important for social inclusion. As digital literacy becomes increasingly essential, initiatives like these continue to prove their value in bridging the gap for students who might otherwise lack access to such opportunities.

ST Foundation India's 2024 Highlights

The ST Foundation India kept increasing its activities, strengthening its goal to advance digital literacy across various populations. Being operational in 57 DU Labs and with a network of 17 NGO partners, the initiative reached over 19,000 beneficiaries. The key implemented projects were:

1. The *T4K on Wheels* project has been successfully implemented, benefiting an average of over 250 students from underprivileged areas each quarter. This mobile learning initiative has played a vital role in promoting digital inclusion. The organization operates with two mobile units, with one unit entirely directly managed to support residents in the Greater Noida area.
2. Development of the *Coding course*: In April, Vittascience starter kits were officially introduced, and a train of trainer (ToT) course was organized in July with 53 participants from India, Malaysia, the Philippines, and partner NGOs across Asia. The training led to pilot sessions for 35 students, offering them practical exposure to coding concepts and computational thinking.
3. *ICB for Visually Impaired* course's launch: it was introduced in December. Fifteen trainers attended a session; a pilot batch, including 17 visually impaired young women, followed. The initiative aimed to provide visually impaired people with computer literacy skills, enabling them to live independently in an increasingly digital world.
4. *Volunteering Engagement & Curriculum Development*: throughout the year, the Foundation motivated and boosted the engagement of its 24 volunteers who supported the organization in ad hoc initiatives. Their dedication was mainly devoted to reviewing and updating course contents with new subjects to address changing education needs, translating T4S video material into Hindi, enabling digital learning for older people, and organizing coding classes for poor local kids.

Expanding Our Reach: ST Foundation's Launch in Singapore

September 2024 marked a significant milestone for the ST Foundation as we expanded our reach to Singapore, bringing the total number of countries where we operate to 15. This launch aligns with STMicroelectronics' 55th anniversary in the country, reinforcing a deep-rooted commitment to the local community. Our T4S course is at the heart of this initiative, addressing the digital divide among seniors. The pilot phase started in September 2024 at the Care Corner Active Aging Centres in Toa Payoh, which aims to empower socially isolated seniors by equipping them with essential digital skills. Feedback collected post-launch will help refine and scale the program further. Looking ahead, the ST Foundation envisions broadening its impact by introducing coding courses for younger generations. Beyond technical proficiency, coding fosters problem-solving, creativity, and career readiness, essential for Singapore's innovation-driven economy. As we integrate into the local landscape, we will focus on creating courses adapted to the local needs.

Updating and Enhancing Course Materials

In 2024, we made significant efforts to update and refine our core educational materials in response to evolving technological needs. A key development was revising the coding course, led by Parul Mehndiratta and a team of volunteers. The course was revamped to enhance its content and methodology based on the VittaScience Starter Kit, an essential tool for hands-on learning with microcontrollers and sensors. The new structure balances coding concepts with real-world applications, making digital education more engaging.

At the same time, a team of Italian volunteers worked on updating the ICB course to ensure alignment with Windows 11 and Office 2019. The revision also introduced references to Artificial Intelligence (AI), acknowledging its growing importance in digital literacy. These updates aim to equip learners with relevant, future-proof skills, fostering basic computer proficiency and an awareness of emerging technologies reshaping the digital landscape. These updates reflect the Foundation's ongoing commitment to adapting its training programs to the latest technological advancements, ensuring learners and trainers are well-prepared for the digital world.

Society Digitalization Activities – 2024

They represent a key pillar of the DU Program, our umbrella term encompassing all our courses and initiatives developed to fight the digital divide. Initially launched during the COVID-19 pandemic to address emerging digital inclusion needs in Europe, these activities were designed to provide access to technology and digital literacy, particularly for students and underserved communities. Over time, some of these initiatives have expanded beyond Europe, including introducing the online version of the Tablet for Seniors program in Asia. This expansion leverages STMicroelectronics' corporate volunteers' skills, knowledge, and passion to empower students and educators. This initiative was key in addressing educational digital poverty, school dropout risks, the gender gap in STEM careers, and promoting digital inclusion for seniors. Engaging ST employees, impacting our beneficiaries' lives, and supporting them in navigating a digital world.

France

In 2024, our comprehensive vision to bridge the digital divide in France was encapsulated in the "Society Digitalization Activities" chapter. By consolidating various initiatives, from equipment donations to establishing DU Labs, we highlighted the strength of a coordinated approach to promoting digital literacy and inclusion. This holistic strategy allows us to present a cohesive narrative, demonstrating how each effort contributes to our overarching goal of digital empowerment for all.

Digital Equipment Donation: Expanding Access to Technology

A core pillar of our work in France has been the donation of digital equipment to organizations focused on education, training, and social inclusion. In 2024, we distributed nearly 1,000 digital devices, including PCs, screens, and smartphones, to institutions and non-profits nationwide. These donations played a critical role in supporting students, adult learners, and individuals in underprivileged areas where access to technology remains challenging.

Our commitment to digital literacy is evident in how the donated equipment has been allocated. The largest share, **43%**, was provided to high schools and universities, giving students access to digital resources for learning and research. Associations working on social inclusion and community development received **22%**, supporting broader community engagement. Another **21%** was dedicated to adult education programs and ICB courses, enhancing professional training and upskilling. Primary and middle schools accounted for **12%**, equipping younger students with essential digital tools. Lastly, **2%** of the equipment was distributed to children's clubs, introducing them to digital technology at an early age. By ensuring broad access to digital tools, we continue to promote equal opportunities and empower individuals of all ages to participate in today's digital world.

Expanding Digital Literacy: New DU Labs and Partnerships

Building on our commitment to digital education, 2024 marked the expansion of our standard course through new partnerships and the establishment of additional DU Labs. Over the year, we signed six new agreements with associations and training organizations, enabling us to introduce ICB courses in Tours, Paris, and Grenoble. As a result, three new DU Labs were launched, with three expected to open by the end of the year.

A particularly impactful collaboration was established with AFPP (Association pour la Formation Professionnelle des Adultes) in Tours, where the ICB course was tailored to students with disabilities. This initiative underscores the Foundation's dedication to inclusive digital education, ensuring that individuals facing additional challenges are not excluded from the digital transformation.

Strengthening Community Engagement and Digital Inclusion

Beyond structured training programs, we extended our impact through collaborative, community-driven efforts. One notable initiative was a smartphone collection drive organized in partnership with ST4Good, an internal STMicroelectronics initiative. Hosted at the Crolles site, this campaign benefited Emmaüs Connect, supporting digital inclusion by providing refurbished smartphones to individuals lacking access to communication tools. This effort aligns with our mission to bridge digital inequalities and empower individuals through connectivity. Integrating these diverse efforts into a comprehensive digital inclusion strategy reinforces our commitment to leveraging technology for social good. The "Society Digitalization Activities" approach presents a clear, cohesive vision of how our initiatives work together to foster a more inclusive digital society in France.

Italy

In 2024, we strengthened our partnership with the ACRA Foundation to enhance education access for more students in Sicily and Lombardy. The key activities throughout the year were: 1) equipping volunteers with training and tools to enhance their engagement with students; 2) STEM and coding workshops linked to Agenda 2030 themes, delivered to both students and teachers; 3) career orientation sessions to introduce high school students to digital professions and break gender stereotypes. This approach aimed to reinforce problem-solving skills, foster digital citizenship, and encourage inclusive learning.

Value of Corporate Volunteering & Volunteer Training

Corporate volunteering is at the heart of all these activities, emphasizing the idea that employees can be agents of change by sharing their expertise with students. Beyond improving digital literacy, volunteering fosters engagement, motivation, and a sense of purpose while making a direct social impact.

To ensure that volunteers are well-prepared, we provide structured training, equipping them with the necessary knowledge and tools to interact effectively with students. It covers: 1) civic education and global citizenship to help volunteers understand the broader educational and social context; 2) coding as a pedagogical tool, enabling them to lead interactive classroom sessions; 3) best practices for student engagement, focusing on effective communication, inclusion, and motivation techniques.

In 2024, we organized online and in-person training sessions, allowing volunteers to exchange best practices and discuss real-world scenarios before entering the classroom.

Key results:

- 3 dedicated training sessions were conducted to equip 38 volunteers with skills in coding education, classroom management, and student engagement.
- Focus on inclusion and diversity, ensuring volunteers were equipped to support students from different backgrounds.
- Emphasis on Child Protection Policy (CPP) and ethical conduct, reinforcing safe and respectful interactions in educational settings.

STEM & Coding Education: Building Digital Skills

One of the core pillars of the program is STEM and coding education, which helps students develop computational thinking, creativity, and problem-solving skills, all fundamental abilities for the digital era. In 2024, we continued working with ACRA to enhance coding workshops and improve teaching methodologies in schools. A strong emphasis was placed on integrating coding education with the principles of Agenda 2030, ensuring that students not only acquire technical skills but also understand the societal impact of technology. More in detail, this year, we focused on two major areas to enhance digital education:

i. Hello World: Strengthening Digital Education Resources

A key milestone in 2024 was revising and enhancing the "Hello World" educational kit, developed with active input from volunteers. It was designed to support both primary and secondary school students. It was updated to offer more structured learning pathways and adaptable content, ensuring it could be used across different classroom settings. The new version provides teachers with a comprehensive framework for integrating coding into their curriculum, making it a sustainable learning tool rather than an isolated activity.

ii. Cascading: Expanding Coding Education in Schools

With the new content, coding education was brought directly into classrooms across Lombardy and Sicily. Trained volunteers engaged with students and teachers, delivering coding workshops that combined interactive activities, problem-solving exercises, and real-world applications of technology. Students were encouraged to experiment with coding concepts engagingly, while teachers gained practical tools to integrate digital skills into their lessons. A key collaboration with Save the Children enhanced the initiative by offering masterclasses in Sicily, introducing students to coding using Minecraft-based learning, and creating a funny experience, particularly for younger children. By integrating coding into a playful yet educational environment, the course encouraged students to explore digital concepts while enhancing logical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Key Results of Coding & Learning in 2024

- Finalization of the revised "Hello World" educational kit, with contributions from 17 volunteers.
- For students, 4 coding workshops, 4 coding days and 4 coding courses were organized in Lombardy. Ad hoc training was cascaded for teachers in Sicily and Tuscany. **340 students and 99 teachers were reached**
- Partnership with Save The Children led to interactive Masterclasses in Sicily, using Minecraft and other educational tools to engage children aged 8 to 13.
- 88 volunteers contributed to the success of the initiative.

Career Orientation: Inspiring the Future Digital Workforce

Beyond equipping students with technical skills, this initiative aimed to bridge the gap between education and career opportunities by presenting potential digital professions. Many students, especially in secondary schools, have limited awareness of the diverse career paths available in the technology sector. This lack of exposure can limit their aspirations and prevent them from considering roles in STEM fields. To address this, our dedicated sessions provided students with direct insights into the world of work, featuring firsthand testimonials from ST volunteers who shared their professional journeys. An emphasis was placed on breaking gender stereotypes and promoting equal opportunities in tech-related fields. Hearing from professionals with different backgrounds and career paths encouraged students to see themselves as future innovators, regardless of gender or starting point. Volunteers also highlighted the importance of resilience, adaptability, and continuous learning, equipping students with the mindset needed for the evolving job market.

Key results:

- 10 in-person career workshops conducted in Milan and Monza, introducing students to digital professions.
- 149 students engaged, gaining insights into career opportunities in the tech sector.
- 10 ST volunteers actively participated, sharing their professional experiences and guidance.
- Focus on gender equality, encouraging girls to consider STEM careers, breaking stereotypes.

Strengthening Digital Inclusion: Our Collaboration with ITU

In 2024, the collaboration with the ITU reached new milestones, furthering our shared mission of providing equal access to digital skills training. As a UN-specialized agency, ITU is crucial in advancing global digital inclusion. Through this partnership, we have expanded our reach and impact in multiple countries by raising awareness about digital inclusion and expanding access to IT skills for marginalized groups. Whether through Training of Trainers courses, targeted awareness campaigns, or the deployment of digital education resources, we have worked with local partners to ensure impactful learning experiences. Below, we highlight the key achievements of our collaborative initiatives in Senegal, Pakistan, and Sierra Leone.

1. Pakistan: Empowering Educators for the Visually Impaired

In Pakistan, the ST Foundation, ITU, and the Virtual University of Pakistan joined forces to deliver a 3-week Training of Trainers course to equip trainers with the skills needed to teach the ICB4VI. At the end of the initiative, 20 trainers completed the program, gaining expertise in screen reader technology, accessible digital tools, and adaptive teaching methods, and **20 visually impaired trainees** participated in parallel, receiving direct training on digital skills, ensuring immediate impact. With this first cohort of trained educators, Pakistan is now positioned to expand digital literacy opportunities for visually impaired students.

2. Sierra Leone: Building Digital Foundations in Kambia District

In Sierra Leone, the collaboration with ITU focused on training new trainers while raising awareness about digital skills in Kambia District, one of the regions with limited access to digital education. Throughout the year, 26 trainers were trained on the ICB course, 606 trainees were reached and widespread awareness campaign reached **over 2,000** people, including local community leaders, educators, and students. This initiative has contributed to reinforcing the local digital education ecosystem by equipping a new group of educators with practical IT knowledge and teaching methodologies.

3. Senegal: Expanding IT Training and Inclusion

In Senegal, our collaboration with ITU focused on expanding digital literacy for visually impaired individuals and empowering young women through leadership and IT skills. Through an ICB4VI training program, **200 visually impaired learners** completed their course across **4 DU centers**: Ziguinchor, Kolda, Biscuiterie, and Guédiawaye. The training covered keyboard navigation, word processing, Excel, internet browsing, and email communication, equipping participants with critical digital skills to enhance their independence. Additionally, **80 young women** from disadvantaged backgrounds participated in an Advanced Introduction to Computer Basics and Leadership program. This course combined technical IT training with leadership development, helping participants build confidence, problem-solving abilities, and digital literacy skills. To ensure long-term sustainability, **8 trainers** were certified to continue delivering these courses.

External Communications and Fundraising

In 2024, we expanded our communication and fundraising activities to boost awareness and engage new stakeholders. Our digital inclusion projects gained visibility through global events, sports initiatives, and community actions and more in details:

1. Taking Part in International Conversations on Digital Inclusion

We demonstrated our commitment to digital inclusion on important platforms this year by participating in notable international events. One particularly memorable event was the ITU and Cisco-hosted **Global Digital Transformation Center (DTC) Workshop** in Bali, where our COO, Giovanna Bottani, delivered a powerful talk on evaluating social impact and working effectively with local communities. The event also highlighted a milestone of the ongoing collaboration, as Senegal and Sierra Leone joined the ITU DTC network, significantly enhancing our support for underserved regions.

The Digital Skills Forum followed this event **in Bahrain**; here, Giovanna emphasized a human-centered approach to closing the digital divide for various demographics, including youth, seniors, and the visually impaired. Later in the year, in November, at the Forum des Associations & Foundations in Paris, a major event for the non-profit sector, we showcased the many activities of the Foundation, expanding our network significantly. Additionally, at the **Philanthropy Experience** in Salerno, we discussed the role of social trust in philanthropy and highlighted the importance of digital inclusion in strengthening community initiatives.

2. Building Our Community Through Sports and Solidarity

Beyond conferences, fundraising through sports and community engagement has remained a key component of our communication strategy. On September 14, the **Energy Run** returned to Agrate Brianza. With 25 obstacles spread across a 4 or 8-kilometer muddy course, competitors embraced the spirit of endurance and enjoyment. In its 9th year, the event was again organized by Energy Team, a non-profit sports association of ST volunteers who worked to ensure its success, reaching a participation of over 900 runners. Another important event was the **ST Italy Padel Cup**, which was launched in Catania on June 1 and had its grand conclusion at the Gate23 Padel Center, raising €2,400 for our projects. Players from Catania, Agrate, and Castelletto came together for a tournament that forged bonds outside of the workplace. In appreciation of our contribution, the city of Catania presented the Foundation with the 5° **Corri Catania Prize** on May 10, a distinguished honor that recognizes the commitment of our volunteers. On behalf of the Foundation, Francesco Litrico accepted the prize.

3. Increasing Storytelling and Outreach

In 2024, our collaboration with ST Corporate External Communication grew stronger, helping us connect more authentically with our community and reach new audiences. This partnership was particularly valuable in developing the 2023 Annual Report, allowing us to vividly share the year's highlights and the real-life impact of our work. Celebrating our 20th anniversary, we launched the unique *Stories campaign*, giving a voice to the heartfelt experiences of volunteers and beneficiaries, along with personal reflections from our founder, Pasquale Pistorio, and president, Pietro Palella. Additionally, supported by ST, we introduced the “Our Stories” page as part of a wider initiative to enhance our website. This new space empowers volunteers, teachers, and partners to share their own personal journeys that genuinely illustrate why our mission matters.

Internal communication activities

We also enhanced internal communication to involve more volunteers, build teamwork, and increase awareness within ST staff about projects. Through a variety of platforms and events, we shared important updates, promoted community involvement, and honored the inspirational achievements of our volunteers.

1. Internal Communication Channels

- **Viva Engage:** 18 posts were published on the ST Italia channel and two on the InST for YOU corporate channel, sharing updates on the Foundation's projects and highlighting volunteer efforts.
- **Monthly Espresso Updates:** a dedicated page featuring the ST Foundation every three months, summarizing key milestones and initiatives in **English, Chinese, Italian, and French**.
- **Quarterly Newsletters:** 4 newsletters were sent to all volunteers and internal stakeholders, providing a structured overview of ongoing initiatives and opportunities for engagement.

2. Volunteer Recognition and Engagement

- **Internal Meetings:** 2 meetings were organized with volunteers and board members, where a representative from each site shared their experience, strengthening the sense of community.
- **Recognition through ST Events:** our activity was featured in key internal ST initiatives, reinforcing our mission among employees and highlighting the impact of corporate volunteering.

3. Visibility in Internal ST Platforms

- Visibility and understanding of our activities grew through key internal initiatives. On May 8, Giornagile published an engaging article highlighting our mission and illustrating how our volunteers play a key role for us. Later, on November 28, at the Culturagile event, Claudia Angelini shared her insights and stories about the Foundation's journey, sparking deeper discussions among ST employees about corporate social responsibility and the importance of giving back to the community.

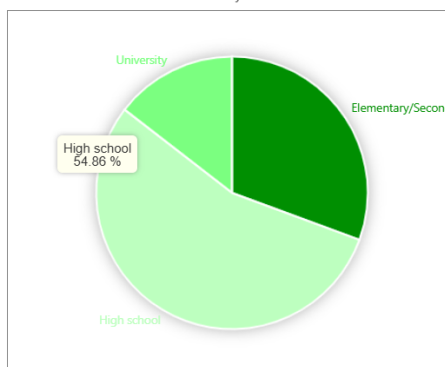
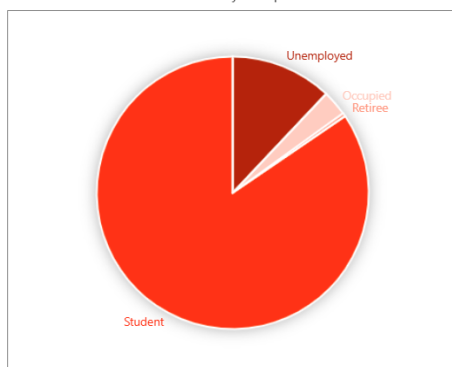
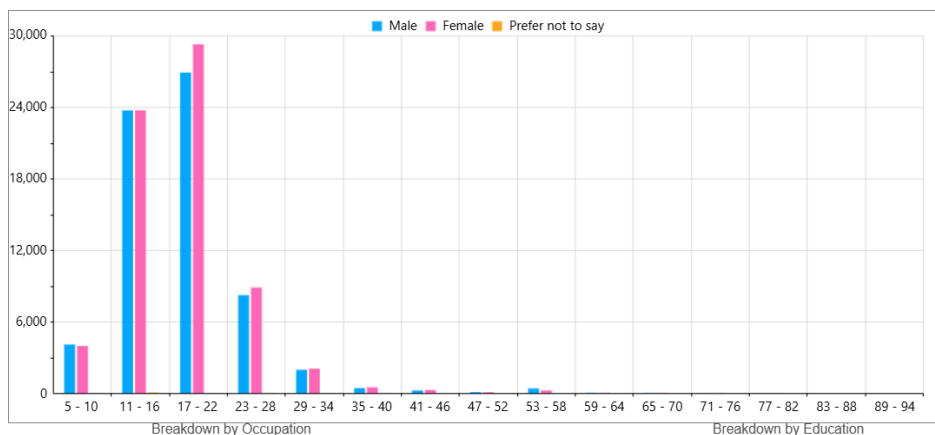
- The online reporting system

Since 2016, the ST Foundation has relied on its online reporting system to track activities in real time, ensuring adequate supervision of educational initiatives across all countries. This tool provides valuable insights into participants' profiles, helping better understand their needs and emerging requests. By continuously refining data collection, we can strengthen our ability to adapt programs and enhance impact.

Courses Delivered and Participants Trained in 2024

#	Region	Country	Courses
1	Africa	 Burundi	888
2	Africa	 Dem. Republic of Congo	2
3	Africa	 Senegal	1513
4	Africa	 Sierra Leone	2596
5	Africa	 Ghana	33
6	Far East Asia	 China	116
7	Far East Asia	 India	1304
8	Far East Asia	 Philippines	55
9	Far East Asia	 Malaysia	25
10	Far East Asia	 Pakistan	3
11	Europe	 France	12
12	Europe	 Italy	80
13	Americas	 Brazil	1
14	North Africa	 Morocco	2120

#	Region	Country	Students
1	Africa	 Burundi	15892
2	Africa	 Dem. Republic of Congo	26
3	Africa	 Senegal	23887
4	Africa	 Sierra Leone	49747
5	Africa	 Ghana	557
6	Far East Asia	 China	1233
7	Far East Asia	 India	19985
8	Far East Asia	 Philippines	1089
9	Far East Asia	 Malaysia	351
10	Far East Asia	 Pakistan	41
11	Europe	 France	86
12	Europe	 Italy	778
13	Americas	 Brazil	8
14	North Africa	 Morocco	26247



The online system also plays a key role in assessing the impact of the ICB course on participants. Originally designed in collaboration with the Catholic University of Milan in 2016, it is now a vital tool for tracking quantitative and qualitative data on behavioral changes after training. Since ICB participants make up 80% of the DU Program's total beneficiaries, the insights gathered provide a thorough evaluation of the program's effectiveness and reach.

The 2024 responses continue to highlight the positive impact of the ICB course, reinforcing its value for participants. Key findings include:

- **94%** of students share their learning with family and friends.
- **93%** would recommend the course to others.
- **64%** feel confident using a computer after completing the training.

For many beneficiaries, the ICB course marks their first experience with digital tools, opening up new opportunities. Those previously unfamiliar with technology now use their skills to browse the internet (**85%**), stay connected via social media (**84%**), perform calculations, and create documents (**79%**). Notably, **70%** of them apply their knowledge to job searching. These results underscore the ICB course's role as a catalyst for employment empowerment, with increasing participation-driven impact.

Table 1 Replies to the question "Currently do you use the computer for?" showing the worldwide overview of the impact of the ICB Course.

	Not at all	Little	Moderate	Very Much	
Downloading articles	13%	17%	46%	23%	100%
Looking for a job	15%	15%	44%	26%	100%
Reading e-journals	11%	17%	43%	29%	100%
Write a resume	11%	16%	37%	37%	100%
Write a document	7%	14%	30%	48%	100%
Reading emails	8%	14%	31%	47%	100%
Communicate/chat with friends/social media	5%	11%	39%	45%	100%
Easy Calculations	8%	14%	39%	39%	100%
Internet	4%	11%	41%	44%	100%

	Not at all	Little	Moderate	Very Much	
I hesitate to use computers for fear of making mistakes that I cannot correct	21%	16%	25%	39%	100%
I feel comfortable using computers	4%	10%	32%	53%	100%

Focus on the Open-Ended Responses

In addition to the quantitative data collected through our online impact tracking system, we also analyze qualitative feedback to gain insights into students' motivations and the practical use of their newly acquired skills. Open-ended responses give us a context to the data, helping us understand student participation and their intended use of skills. The analysis of responses confirms trends from previous years, with participants emphasizing the course's transformative impact on their personal and professional lives.

More in detail, we focused on two key questions: 1) What motivated you to take the course?; and 2) How will you apply your new skills?

When exploring **motivations** for enrollment, several clear trends emerged. First many students emphasized the importance of **improving digital skills**, expressing the desire to enhance their competencies for academic and professional growth. Second, certain students specifically mentioned **job requirements**, emphasizing that digital proficiency is now essential in their workplaces, especially in areas such as accounting and administration. Additionally, many trainees cited **curiosity and personal development** as key motivators, driven by a personal interest in becoming more comfortable and familiar with digital tools. Another influential factor was the **recommendation of peers and colleagues**, as numerous participants indicated that positive experiences shared by friends, family members, or coworkers significantly influenced their decision to enroll. Lastly, some students acknowledged their past difficulties with technology, viewing the course as a valuable opportunity to **overcome challenges** and gain greater confidence and independence.

When asked how they plan to apply their new **digital skills**, students described relevant areas of impact. Many emphasized **practical daily-life applications**, such as writing emails, confidently using social media, and independently creating e-documents, making everyday tasks easier. Participants also frequently mentioned **academic and professional applications**, noting how stronger digital competencies would help them prepare better CVs, deliver good presentations, and successfully complete academic projects. For some, the training represented a key step toward better **employment opportunities** and career advancement. Additionally, several students expressed enthusiasm about using their new skills for **entrepreneurial initiatives**, such as launching small online businesses or launching freelance projects, viewing our courses as pathways to financial independence and creativity.

This qualitative feedback underscores the broad relevance and meaningful impact of our digital training initiatives, addressing both professional aspirations and personal development across diverse contexts.

Images from the field



TOT of the ICB4VI in Pakistan



New community of volunteers in Singapore



ST Foundation Donates 70 Laptops to Grenoble INP



Coding TOT in Siena, in collaboration with Monte dei Paschi Foundation



Our COO at the Digital Skills Forum in Bahrain



9th Edition of the Energy Run