SHERPA
Rural Science-Society-Policy Interfaces

How to make online calls or videocalls?

In the specific context of the SHERPA MAPs, where stakeholders are spread out across many geographic locations, it brings some communication challenges. It is difficult to envisage talking to all without making long journeys, which entails environmental and economic costs and requires a strong organisational effort. This is where video conferencing can deliver a serious boost to SHERPA MAP Facilitators and Monitors for handling their contacts with MAP stakeholders.

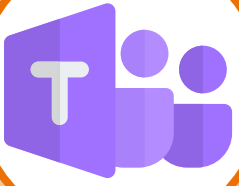## Tools for video conferencing

ZOOM

- Works on all devices.

- No account is required to participate in Zoom meetings

- Meeting and webinar links can be integrated into the calendar.

- Offers collaboration tools such as live chat (with everyone or privately), multi-screen sharing and split participants into breakout rooms.

- Availability of free and flexible paid versions.

- Recording option locally on your PC/Laptop or in the cloud.

- The host can accept/deny participants and remove them from the meeting room.

- Auto-control of camera and microphone unless the host uses its power of control over the guests.

- Allows for polling and Q&A, virtual hand raising and tracking of engagement through the attention meter.

- Live subtitles option.

GOOGLE MEET

- Connectivity with all Google applications.

- Allows to create meetings with 100 participants or with 250 participants, depending on the version of your Google Workspace.

- User management – you can mute and remove participants.

- Auto-control of camera and microphone.

- Offers collaborated tools: live chats, screen sharing for documents, PDFs, powerpoints, spreadsheets, images, videos but also gives you the ability to share a tab from your browser.

- Recording option stored in your Drive.

- Live transcription subtitles option.

TEAMS

- Connectivity with other Microsoft applications allowing content creation and collaboration.

- Availability of free and flexible paid versions.

- Offers collaboration tools such as live chats (with everyone or privately), screen sharing, and split participants into different rooms.

- Auto-control of camera and microphone.

- A true virtual collaboration platform with features and tools such as calendaring, file storage, team huddles or spaces, and internal social networking, as well as integration with information system applications.

A dedicated RAM of 4GB or more and a high performance processor are required

This tool is more favourable for Microsoft-centric environments

The multitude of features may be confusing

WHATSAPP

- Users share instant messages and multimedia files for free, and can talk for free without limits (not expensive calling charges).

- The app works on nearly all smartphone models, is available for computers (web app).

- With voice and video calls, one can talk (only) with other WhatsApp users.

- Allows for group calls of up to 8 users.

- Documents of up to 100MB can be shared, in any format.

- Much more suitable for a one-to-one international calls.

Accessible only to those who have the app and therefore a smartphone

FACEBOOK MESSENGER

- You can connect with both Facebook friends and contacts in your phone book.

- Users share instant messages and photo/video for free, and can talk for free with no time limit (not expensive calling charges).

- In all smartphone models and available for computers.

- With voice and video calls, one can talk (only) with other messenger/facebook users.

- Only 8 people in group calls.

- Documents of up to 25MB can be shared, in any format.

Accessible only to those who have Facebook

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