



Case study

The virtual learning environment of the Government of Catalonia's Ministry of Education

Background

In 2010, Moodle Partner IThinkUPC assisted the Government of Catalonia's Ministry of Education to introduce ICT into the classrooms of public schools in Catalonia through the development and implementation of ÀGORA, the Ministry's Moodle-based learning platform, which has hundreds of thousands of users.

In 2019, IThinkUPC was successfully awarded a seven year contract with the Ministry after going through a competitive process.

Challenge

In 2006, the Ministry's Learning and Knowledge Technologies Department decided to gradually introduce ICT in classrooms.

The aim was to provide teachers in public schools with educational tools and resources that would enable them to improve the quality of teaching.

Project

To achieve this objective of the Learning and Knowledge Technologies Area, ÀGORA – a Moodle-based learning platform for Catalonia's network of schools – was created in 2007.

To successfully develop a platform of this kind, the existing technology needed to evolve, innovations were due in respect to content, in addition to applying the latest developments in e-education.

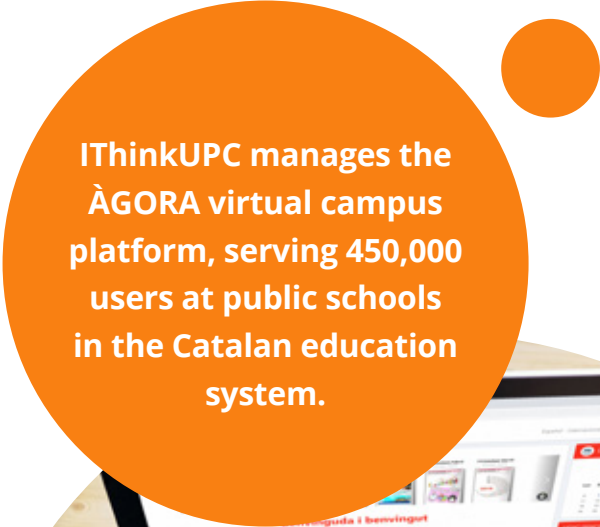
To meet this challenge, the Catalan Ministry of Education brought IThinkUPC as collaborators to utilise their experience with e-learning platforms.

The project included:

- Creating a Moodle-based learning platform capable of serving up to a million users, hosted in Catalan government facilities
- Offering a support service to schools and teachers, with the focus on adding value in the use of the platform within the framework of learning processes
- Participating in activities aimed at improving support for teachers through ongoing advice, training, technical assistance and platform improvements that deliver significant benefits in the teaching and learning process
- An IThinkUPC team devoted to maintaining and developing the environment.

Results

- IThinkUPC manages the ÀGORA virtual campus platform, serving 450,000 users at public schools in the Catalan education system, and is responsible for maintaining service levels and evolving the platform.
- The level of use of the ÀGORA platform increases significantly each year, in terms of both the number of students and new functionalities used by teachers.
- The campus' digital library, the ALEXANDRIA platform, had over 11,500 downloads of material in May 2010 and a total of 8,467 visits.
- In the case of ODISSEA, a Moodle-based virtual training environment for Ministry staff, nearly 5,500 participants enrolled in various Moodle courses over the 2009-2010 academic year.



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