

Proposal iLearn Forum Paris 2007

Integration of all public schools of a Region in a single educational platform

We would like to talk about the implementation of the e-learning platform **e-educativa Open** in the biggest project of introduction of the information technologies and communication in classrooms in Spain.

The Consejería de Educación de la Junta de Andalucía (Cabinet Meeting of Andalusia) (Spain) has developed the **Educational Plan AND@RED** creating networks among the educational centers and implementing ICT to the educative community.

The **e-educativa Open** platform integrates in a single system 800 schools of Andalusia (Spain). The system not only provides one LMS specially adapted to standard / presential education, but also it gives an administration system for a website for each school, plus an administration system for blogs and tools as news syndication and unified access to the whole system.

All this constitutes a single integrated system for the creation and administration of a real virtual educational community.

The project involves nearly 290.000 users: students and teachers, and it has meant a very important investment in equipment.

However, it can be personalized and adapted to different needs and configurations: centralized or distributed servers; to individual computers; to a computer each two or more students in all classrooms; or even for schools with only one computer classroom; this way the system gives solutions to varied realities of different countries and regions.

In the period 2003-2004 this complex and ambitious project has begun with 50 ICT Centers, distributed in the whole Autonomous Community (Andalusia); in the next year a 100 new ICT Centers have joined.

In the current year 2006-2007 there will be more than 800 schools integrated into the experience, this involves about 277.000 pupils and 15.200 teachers, with almost 80.000 PCs and a complex system of centralized and distributed servers and an investment that overcomes the 150.000.000 Euros.

It is expected to reach 4.000 schools in the next 3 years.

The implantation of this system has meant an admirable effort. In almost all of the cases, each classroom is equipped with a PC every two pupils, which has required not only the installation of the electric wired and the network, but also the supplies of the resources and necessary furniture, besides the creation of the whole infrastructure of services and centralized support that assures the good performance of the whole system.

All the schools are integrated into the Corporate Network of the Junta de Andalucía (Cabinet Meeting of Andalusia), and they have access to Internet in order to permit to all of the students to access the contents that are stored in servers out of the school, and also all the teachers can access the educational platform from their homes, to facilitate the preparation of their classes or materials.

The decision to implement an **"open source"** platform comes from the DECREE 72/2003, from March 18, of "Measures of Impulse the Society of Knowledge in Andalusia", which, in its article dedicated to free Software, establishes that *"in the acquisitions of computer*

equipment destined for public teaching institutions and to be used in educational activities,... The computers must have pre-instaled the whole necessary free software for the specific use which they are destined to".

To carry out with these requirements, the Consejería de Educación (Council of Education) called for a Public International Contest to provide the project with a platform that carry out all the requirements being consistent with the philosophy of the free software.

From its adjudication, **e-ducactiva** has developed the platform **HELVIA**, a distribution of the **e-ducactiva Open** platform, specially designed for projects like the one of the Junta de Andalucía (Cabinet Meeting of Andalusia), to improve the incorporation of the ICT in the classroom for traditional classes in primary and secondary education.

In this presentation will be explained details of the project and the characteristics of the educational platform to satisfy the requirements of such an ambitious project.

Presenter (E)

Juan José Gaitán Pinto

Short Biographical Description (F)

- Architecture Degree – Universidad Nacional del Litoral (National University of the Littoral) (Argentina)
- Master in Business Administration - Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (Technical University of Madrid). (Spain)
- Specialist in Educational Investigation.
- Permanent ex-teacher of Computer Technology - Universidad de Entre Rios y del Litoral - University of Entre Rios and Littoral.
- Teacher of the module of e-learning in the Master in Electronic Administration of Companies - University of Zaragoza (Spain)
- Teacher of the module of Systems of Business Information in the Master in International Accounting - University of Zaragoza (Spain)
- Director of Projects of Investigation of the Validity of the Automatic Systems for the Generation, Evaluation and Optimization of Objective Tests – Universidad Nacional del Litoral – University of the Littoral. (Argentina).
- Mr. Gaitán has obtained four international scholarships to realize works in Spanish universities, related to the e-commerce and e-learning.
- Author the following books: "The electronic commerce within reach of your company ", "The hard part of the computer science" and " Excel applied to the Economic Sciences".
- Author of numerous articles on e-learning and new technologies applied to the education, published in the media in Spain and Argentina.
- Lecturer in numerous congresses of education and computer science in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil and Spain.
- Consultant of e-learning in universities and companies.
- General Manager of **IP Learning e-ducactiva S.L**, subsidiary in Spain and Europe for **e-ducactiva** (www.e-ducactiva.com)

Company Short info

E-ducactiva is an Argentinean technological company created in 1997.

At the moment **e-educativa** has offices in several countries in Latin America and in Spain. Our main product is the e-learning platform (LMS) **e-educativa** , that has been chosen by important clients around the world.

Based on our well known platform, we have developed and implanted a complex Open Source system whose target market is formed by authorities of provincial, regional or national educational systems of any country.

Besides this main product, we offer complete e-learning services such as Consultancy, Training and complementary Systems.

We have developed commercial synergies with world wide partners giving integrated services of the highest quality.