



Una manera de kacer Europa



Connected Schools program. La Rioja RED.es

Programa Operativo Plurirregional de España

Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional

Año 2017

CONNECTED SCHOOLS PROGRAM

An example of good practice is the La Rioja project within the **Connected Schools program**.

Digital technologies play a fundamental role in promoting a modern and qualified education, however in Spain, only one in 10 schools has access to high speed Internet and this is essential to incorporate the technologies of the Information and communication to the education system.

In order to address this challenge, the Government of Spain has designed a plan that will extend broadband to all the primary and secondary schools supported by public funds. The project combines the objectives of the Digital Agenda for Spain, the Commission for the Reform of Public Administrations and the Digital Culture Plan in the school and will be executed through the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism.

To make it happen, an investment of 240 million euros has been allocated, co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

The scope of the project "Connected schools" includes the provision of an ultrafast broadband connectivity service between each teaching site and the CPD of the Rioja Government, as well as the supply, installation, configuration, start-up and guarantee of a Wi-Fi solution for the schools of the autonomous community.

The program has allowed to equip all the Rioja schools with Internet access through fiber optics, so more than 48.000 students have access to ultra networks. In this context, the Government of La Rioja has already improved the connectivity of 23 municipalities whose schools were included in the Connected Schools program.

That said, it is considered a Good Practice because it meets the criteria designed for the purpose:

1. The action has been conveniently disseminated among the beneficiaries, potential beneficiaries and the general public.

The communication of the European Union's participation in the project is carried out through the following routes:

• Video presentation of the program: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8l8Ms3-RN9



Website Red.es:

http://www.red.es/redes/es/magazin-red/noticias/el-gobierno-destina-330-millones-de-euros-parallevar-internet-de-alta-veloci



http://www.red.es/redes/es/sala-prensa/notas-prensa/el-ministerio-de-industria-energia-y-turismo-gestionara-la-extension-d



• Printed press:

https://www.20minutos.es/noticia/2581021/0/rioja-sera-primera-comunidad-extender-banda-anchaultrarrapida-todos-sus-centros-escolares/



http://www.larioja.com/la-rioja/201510/17/banda-ancha-para-centros-20151017005843-v.html



http://www.europapress.es/la-rioja/noticia-rioja-extendera-banda-ancha-ultrarrapida-todos-centrosescolares-20151016123340.html



Press releases:

"Connected schools under discussion in SIMO"

http://www.red.es/redes/sala-de-prensa/noticia/las-escuelas-conectadas-debate-en-simo



"Connected Schools Program receives the ASLAN2016 eEducación Award"

https://www.red.es/redes/es/magazin-red/noticias/el-programa-%E2%80%98escuelasconectadas%E2%80%99-recibe-el-premio-aslan2016-de-%E2%80%98eeducacion%E2%80%99



"Official College of Graduates and Telecommunications Technical Engineers of Andalucía" rewards Red.es for the Connected Schools Program" http://www.red.es/redes/es/magazin-red/noticias/el-colegio-de-graduados-e-ingenieros-tecnicos-detelecomunicacion-de-andalu-1



Signs placed in the schools of La Rioja and detail of official printing which appear in all the new equipment installed on each center.



2. - The action incorporates innovative elements.

The culmination of ultra high-speed broadband implementation allows to implement innovative educational models, with intensive use of digital tools to personalize teaching and provide students with the necessary skills for their learning becomes more active, independent and also collaborative.

Also highlight **technological innovation** because thanks to the powerful communications infrastructure deployed through the Connected Schools program, it will be possible to provide several services to the educational centers such as Internet access, specific web

portals, voice over IP, content filtering, VDI (Virtual Desktop Infrastructure) and also, the development of new programs in order to promote the use of ICT in the teaching field such as "Teacher 3.0 visualize your website" ¹, "Portfolio of the Digital Teaching Competence "²

3. Adjustment results respect to objectives

La Rioja joined the Connected Schools program and has become the first autonomous region to extend ultra high-speed broadband in its educational system. The academic year 2017/2018 has culminated with the introduction of the ultra high-speed broadband in the Riojan centers of compulsory education supported by public funds, including the rural schools.

This project, which has reached more than 48.000 students, has enabled the Rioja schools to provide Internet access speeds between 720Mbps and 950 Mbps, together with wireless internal networks for efficient management of such connectivity, allowing an efficient and more extensive use of ICT, becoming schools into intelligent educational institutions.

Actually, according to the latest Dossier of Economy and Digital Society Indicators (DESI) elaborated by the "National Observatory of the Telecommunications and Information Society" corresponding to March 2017, Spain holds intermediates positions in the ranking respect to various indicators (nº 18 in the Connectivity ranking, for example).

This project impacts directly on these indicators and expects to improve them regardind "connectivity", "use of Internet" and "Digital Public Services", among others.

4. Contribution to resolve a problem or weakness in the sphere of the execution.

One of the problems addressed in the project were rural areas with low population density and lack of communication services. La Rioja was aware of the relevance of technological factor has in the social and economic development, as well as in the territorial cohesion of the region.

A clear example is the school of Villoslada de Cameros, belonging to the Rural Grouped School "Camero Nuevo". This establishment shows special attention the project provides to centers located in remote and rural áreas, with several difficulties in accessing the new connectivity services. The program has been esential for rural students to be able to access Internet on an equal basis.



5. High degree of coverage on the focused population

To access if the project has had a high coverage within the agreement, indicators were established to evaluate as much centers and students have been reached from the starting.

The result has been a more powerful connectivity than expected (speeds between 720Mbps and 950 Mbps against 100mbps requested as minimum) for serving more than 70 municipalities, all the educational network (149 schools) and more than 48.000 students, that is all compulsory education establishments held with public funds.

The development of wireless internal networks has provided 100 per cent coverage in any area of all establisments used as teaching spaces.

6. Criteria of equal opportunities and non-discrimination, social responsability and environmental sustainability

The introduction of broadband in the schools of the Rioja region will serve as a support for equality and social justice, helping to improve the level of citizens in the educational field, to open the doors to jobs of higher qualification, representing all this a stake in economic growth, the improvement of the competitiveness and a better future.



7. Synergies with other public policies and tools

The Plan has become an excellent opportunity to enhance synergies between educational sphere and business environment, helping to detect and developp the ICT talent of our students.

In addition, it has also established relationships with other plans that the Ministry of Education has in place in the autonomous región, with the aim of promoting the use of ICT in the teaching field ("Teacher 3.0 give visibility of your website", "Portfolio of Digital Competences Teacher " or " Application Launcher ").

Additionally, it provides services to educational venues such as Internet access, specific web portals, voice over IP, content filtering, VDI (Virtual Desktop Infrastructure).

For the future, the only option to provide these services and continue to develop these programs is based on the powerful communications infrastructure deployed through the Connected Schools program.