



Microsoft

Partners in Learning »

31,000 Laptop PCs Drive ICT Use for Teachers and Students in Portugal

Portugal

Customer Profile

The Portuguese Ministry of Education (MoE) is dedicated to providing quality education for more than 1.6 million students in more than 10,000 schools throughout Portugal. The MoE developed a Technological Plan for Education to support innovation in schools through information and communications technology (ICT) by the end of 2010. www.min-edu.pt/

Situation

Portugal's lower and upper secondary schools had only a few PCs in each school, which resulted in minimal ICT exposure for teachers and students.

Solution

Microsoft Portugal and the Portuguese Ministry of Education deployed the "Schools, Teachers, and Laptops" program to deliver laptop PCs to 1,200 schools. The Ministry also deployed an online training program for teachers on how to use ICT-based curriculum.

Benefits

- 31,000 laptop PCs distributed to 1,200 schools in 18 school districts
- Provides mobile technology to 290,000 students and 11,000 teachers
- More than 5,000 teachers trained to use ICT-based curriculum using Microsoft Office Live Meeting

"To support the professional use of ICT for individual tasks and contextualized learning activities, we chose equipment and software that teachers can use in their daily activities."

—José Victor Pedroso, Department Director of Computers, Networks, and Internet in Schools (CRIE), Ministry of Education

Together with Microsoft Portugal, the Ministry of Education Portugal deployed 31,000 laptop PCs to 1,200 schools across the country.



Situation

In Portugal's lower and upper secondary schools, access to technology was limited. With just a few computers in each school, the ratio of students and teachers per computer was very high. As a result, there was minimal exposure to information and communications technology (ICT) in teaching and learning.

Solution

In February 2006, the Ministry of Education Portugal worked with Microsoft Portugal to address these challenges. The government wanted to reduce the student-to-PC ratio and promote the use of ICT in the classroom. To improve flexibility and accessibility, the government's investment focused on laptop PCs.

"To support the professional use of ICT for individual tasks and contextualized learning activities, we chose equipment and software that teachers can use in their daily activities," says José Victor Pedroso, Department Director of Computers, Networks, and Internet in Schools (CRIE), Ministry of Education. "We wanted teachers and students to appropriate these technologies socially so that it would be a natural progression to promote them in teaching and learning."

In September 2006, the Ministry of Education launched the "Schools, Teachers,

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—José Victor Pedroso, Department Director of Computers, Networks, and Internet in Schools (CRIE), Ministry of Education

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and Laptops” program. The initial launch allocated 85 percent of the laptop PCs, with the remaining 15 percent issued in January 2007. In just four months, the program distributed 31,000 laptop PCs to 1,200 lower and upper secondary schools in 18 districts across the country.

Benefits

“The program supports the curricular integration of ICT and innovation; improves the use of ICT in the classroom; promotes teamwork between teachers and educational groups; helps teachers manage and prepare daily activities; and supports our educational projects for the future,” says Pedroso.

Using laptop PCs, teachers can complete common tasks more conveniently—and in less time. Equipped with productivity tools such as the Windows® XP Professional operating system, Microsoft® Office 2003 Professional Edition, Microsoft Office FrontPage® 2003 Web site creation and management tool, and Windows Live™ Messenger, teachers can collaborate more effectively with colleagues and students.

ICT-Based Curriculum and Online Training

Each laptop PC is equipped with an innovative ICT-based curriculum called pr@TIC Innovation. The curriculum links 15 different Microsoft products to common teaching tasks such as planning, evaluating, and collaborating. For each task, teachers can locate relevant resources, templates, or instructions on creating custom learning tools.

Between January and March 2007, the Portuguese Ministry of Education deployed online training for teachers. By using Microsoft Office Live Meeting, the Ministry worked with Microsoft to train more than 5,000 teachers on how to use pr@TIC Innovation, and how to use learning resources with a Virtual Classroom Tour, which offers downloadable, interdisciplinary lessons and assessments. The 1–2 hour training sessions were then recorded and made available to other teachers.

The Future of the Schools, Teachers, and Laptops Program

Although the Schools, Teachers, and Laptops program is still in its initial phases, it has already helped the country advance the use of technology in education. In July 2007, Ministry launched the Technological Plan of Education as a special investment dedicated to ICT use in education. The plan aims to mobilize enterprises, institutions, and families to surpass the country’s modernization challenges.

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