

Mobile World Capital Barcelona 2015

mSchools

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mSchools program a commitment to Technology in education

mSchools is a pioneering program that enhances the **Mobile transformation in education** with the introduction of *Mobile* devices and solutions in the classroom and the promotion of entrepreneurship spirit between the students.

mSchools is present in Catalan schools since the academic year 2013-2014. The program aims to improve the academic performance of students and reduce dropout rates.

mSchools is driven by Mobile World Capital Barcelona, in collaboration with the Generalitat de Catalunya (through the Department of Education and the Department of Enterprise and Employment), l'Ajuntament de Barcelona and the GSMA.

The program positions Catalonia as a leader in the introduction of a new model of education. Beyond the creation and use of Mobile solutions, mSchools is a motivational tool that aims to foster an entrepreneurial spirit and teamwork among the Young students.

Last year, The mSchools program received the special Prize at the Global Mobile Awards for the promotion of mobile technology among Catalan students. The President of the Generalitat, Artur Mas, received the award at the ceremony held at the Mobile World Congress

mSchools is divided in three focus areas:

- Encourage learning with Mobile
- Improve digital skills and entrepreneurial spirit
- Build an open environment for mEducation

Some of the mSchools initiatives are:

1. Mobilizing computers
2. Mobile History Map
3. Mobile Learning Awards

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1. Mobilizing computers

Mobilizing computers is an optional subject of computer learning in 4th ESO and also in Professional Training levels, that teaches the conceptualization, design and prototype development of Mobile Applications. The main purpose is that small groups of students develop and devise creative concepts in the form of apps, to find solutions to global problems and improve daily habits. Mobilizing computers also aims to encourage entrepreneurial spirit among students with the support of professional mentors.

To introduce this subject in schools, the Education Department of the Generalitat de Catalunya previously trains the teachers of Catalan schools, who since September 2013 have at their disposal a Moodle course that collects content and tools to develop proper teaching. Catalan teachers also have a permanent counselling and consultation service to resolve their concerns with the promoters of the project.

Besides the teachers, the students have the help of professionals from leading companies that are active in developing apps or games, incubators, Internet portals and associations of entrepreneurs that mentor and give the students a vision of the industry to help to assess the feasibility of real projects. To facilitate participation, professionals have an [mSchools platform](#) for online meetings with schools participating in the mSchools program. It is a tool that collects the assessment needs of teachers and the availability of professionals.

The platform ultimately conveys the first contact between schools and experts, and it is open to any professionals interested in mentoring student in apps developing.

mSchools finished the first course of Mobilizing Computers with participation rates of more de 6.000 students from 200 schools. This academic year 2014-2015 more than 11.150 students from nearly 300 schools are attending the course. This year Professional training centres have joined the program with 8 schools, 23 teachers and 500 students. Another novelty that has been incorporated into the course is the availability of all its contents in English.

App Contest. Apps designed and created by High School

To celebrate the first year of implantation of Mobilizing computers in Catalan schools, in june 2014, mSchools organized an App Contest to reward the most innovative projects. A total of 86 projects took part of the contest, of which 6 were recognized as best apps design, from a final selection of 25 projects. Students are working with companies to develop and launch the prototypes designed in the classroom to the market.

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Apps awarded at the App Contest 2014:

LifeBud – This App for Android OS is a 24-hour emergency service via a helpline centre. It works with a smartphone with mobile internet, bluetooth and GPS geolocation system for the device itself, which allows to provide more security and independence for the elderly (**App created by students from the INS Torre del Palau of Terrassa**).

Armari Virtual – Application to resolve the different combinations of clothes you have in the closet without trying them on, it also shows you what clothes to choose depending on the weather or it shows the stores near you, where you can buy the clothes you are looking for. (**App created by students from the INS Ernest Lluch of Barcelona**).

LongSchool App – App to find information about the courses and timetables of the Long School. (**App created by students from the Col·legi Sant Miquel of Barcelona**).

Turisme Garrigues – Application about the Catalan region of Les Garrigues, where you can find information on routes with stops at various points of interest, transport timetables and prices for accommodation and restaurants nearby. (**App created by students from the INS Josep Vallverdú of les Borges Blanques**).

DivertiApp – Educational app designed for children entertainment with educational purposes. (**App created by students from the IE Roseta Mauri of Reus**).

Estudis BCN – App with tools to help young people to find information about careers and universities in Barcelona. (**App created by students from the INS Sant Just of Sant Just Desvern**).

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2. Mobile History Map

For this academic year 2014-2015 mSchools has launched Mobile History Map (MHM), a pioneering international project in which students from all educational levels create geolocated content related to points of interest near their schools. MHM promotes teamwork with mobile solutions in non-technical fields and in the field of humanities.

Students collect data in text, images and video that are validated by their teachers and are available at MHM, that is a useful open consultation tool on Catalan heritage. An information that is available to all citizens through the [web page](#) and the mobile app (for Android and IOS).

The introduction of MHM in Catalan classrooms occurs after the pilot project developed in 2014 in 29 high schools of Catalonia, with the participation of 81 teachers. During the course of this test, geolocated content of the first points of the map were developed. Els Castellers (cultural heritage), Montserrat (Monumental heritage) or the Ebro Delta (natural heritage), among others, are a few points that are already available on the web app project.

During the 2014-2015 academic year, around 455 points of Catalan heritage proposed by the General Directorate of Archives, Libraries, Museums and Heritage of the Culture Department will be developed and geolocated.

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3. Mobile Learning Awards

The Mobile Learning Awards (MLA) are awards that this year celebrates its third edition and recognizes teachers and students for being more active and innovative in presenting different ways of integration and use of mobile technology in schools. The event which is part of ITWorldEdu, is consolidated in the educational community and noted for its high participation. This year, nearly 300 nominations were submitted by 156 Catalan schools that opt to the awards.

The Mobile Learning Awards 2015 also introduces **Mobile History Map** as a new feature in the competition modalities. A project where students create geolocated content related to points of interest. This category, which has received a total of 176 contributions, aims to promote georeferencing emblematic Catalan heritage assets through digital technologies.

The second category is **Educational experiences with mobile devices**, an initiative that recognizes the work of teachers with innovative mobile technology.

The third modality, **Audiovisual micronarrations: the use of innovating technologies in the classroom**, assesses the best videos made by students. To participate, the features must have a duration between 1 and 3 minutes and have been recorded with mobile technology.

The awards will be presented at a special ceremony to be held on the 26th of February and will be attended by the Minister of Education, Irene Rigau, CEO of GSMA John Hoffman, and the Executive Vice President of Mobile World Capital Barcelona Agustí Cordon.

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