

BUILDING LEARNING LABS AND INNOVATIVE LEARNING SPACES

Practical guidelines for school leaders and teachers

Case study SPAIN

Aula del Futuro at *CEIP Ciudad de Ceuta* School



This case study complements the European Schoolnet's publication "**Building learning labs and innovative learning spaces - Practical guidelines for school leaders and teachers**" (2019). Find the full report and other case studies here: fcl.eun.org/guidelines

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Background and Inspiration

CEIP Ciudad de Ceuta is a new primary school, inaugurated in September 2016 and located in Ceuta, a Spanish autonomous city on the north coast of Africa, separated from Cadiz province on the Spanish mainland by the Straits of Gibraltar. The school is progressively increasing the number of year groups it serves and still has to include. Thus, at the end of the school year 2018-2019, the school has 446 students and 32 teachers.

In October 2017 Francisco Jesús Gómez Aliaga, the Director of the school, visited the Brussels Future Classroom Lab to take the course "Programming for the 21st century classroom", which he attended as the local FCL Ambassador in Ceuta, along with a colleague FCL Ambassador in Asturias, a region in the north of Spain. What Fran saw and heard there was the main inspiration to set up a classroom for the future, the *Aula del Futuro*, at CEIP Ciudad de Ceuta.

Fran, as most people call Francisco, tells us *"I have to admit that at first I was a bit disappointed"*, because the FCL was not quite as futuristic as he had expected but then he came to understand the concept of the FCL and the goal that it pursues. The versatile furniture and the creation of different workspaces within the lab were the main things Fran found inspiring.

Planning

In 2017, as a brand-new school, they had very few resources, so Fran decided to create a classroom in which the learning zones of their *Aula del Futuro* were made visible by using traditional furniture and the few technological resources available. He took advantage of an opportunity to give a lecture on the Future Classroom to his teaching staff to introduce the idea of the setting up their own Future Classroom. Teachers then became involved in the planning process.

The school was supported by a colleague FCL local Ambassador, Mr. Sergio González Moreau, who proved to be a great help, as Sergio had already participated in the iTec project as the National Coordinator and had also been for some time the FCL Lead Ambassador in Spain. Moreover, Sergio counted with an expertise as teacher trainer in the Teacher Training Institution in Ceuta.

The first step was to create a project team that started by following the steps of the EUN FCL ToolKit, with the School Commission for Pedagogical Coordination streamlining and overseeing the process. The teachers designed, and are continuing to design, innovative pedagogical activities.

In December 2017 the school's Future Classroom was opened.

Aims

Fran's main aim was to demonstrate how different teaching and learning styles can be generated by reorganising the learning spaces and incorporating technology.

Support from education authorities and industry

In 2019 the school received financial support from the Public Administration of Education and Culture in Ceuta, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MEFP), which has enabled them to incorporate more technology and new furniture.

The school *CEIP Ciudad de Ceuta* has not obtained sponsorship from any commercial companies.

Initial implementation and first year

The process of setting up the Future Classroom was led by Fran as he is the local FCL Ambassador and Director of the school.

Convincing school staff

Fran convinced other teaching staff in the school that the *Aula del Futuro* was a great idea, by explaining the pedagogical foundation of the project.

He reports that no teachers have objected to the implementation of the project. However, some have found difficulties in modifying or adapting their methodologies to better respond to the principles of the Future Classroom.

Regarding ICT staff, fortunately, Fran counted with a great ICT coordinator from the beginning, who demonstrated his willingness to collaborate with the implementation of their *Aula del Futuro*.

Training and support for teachers

The school has an on-going training project for teachers focused on the implementation and use of their *Aula del Futuro*. The training project is coordinated by one of the teachers, the ICT coordinator and also by Fran, the school Director.



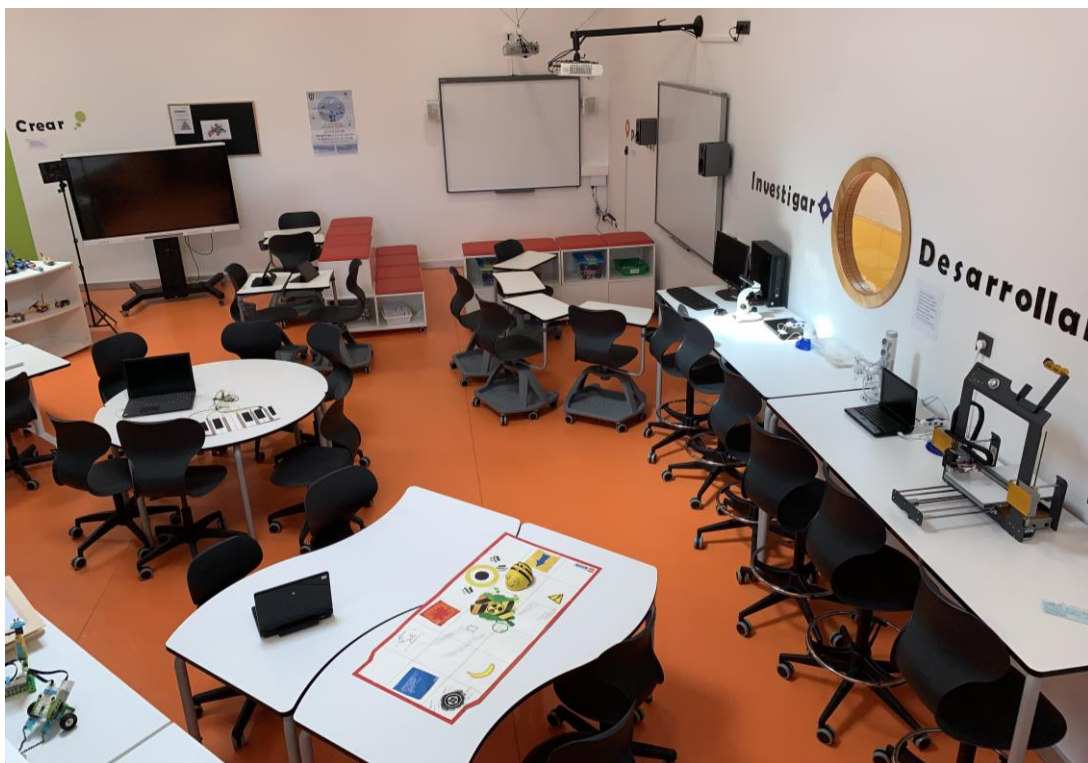
Impact on the use of technology throughout the school

Since the launch of *Aula del Futuro* at *CEIP Ciudad de Ceuta*, there has been a progressive increase in the integration of ICT into teaching and learning within the school.

Challenges are overcome by the teachers working as a team. So those with a wider knowledge in ICT and longer teaching expertise with technology are supporting less experienced colleagues.

Learning zones

In the beginning the school implemented all the zones as found in the Brussels Future Classroom Lab. However, the school has recently merged the Develop and Investigate zones, following the example of *Aula del Futuro* at the *Instituto Nacional de Tecnologías Educativas y de Formación del Profesorado* (INTEF). INTEF is the unit of the Spanish Ministry of Education and Vocational Training devoted to the promotion and support of technologies in education and also Teacher Professional Development.



A summary of the set-up steps

- Initial awareness of and information about the Future Classroom Lab, thanks to Fran's appointment as local FCL Ambassador.
- Inspiration gained when Fran visited the Future Classroom Lab in Brussels, where he also made sure that this implementation was possible at his school.
- Set-up of the *Aula del Futuro*.
- Training in the *Aula del Futuro*.

There was not a pilot stage with just a few teachers involved. Fran says that “from the very first moment we made all teachers aware that the Future Classroom was a resource at their service”

Start-up phase: lessons learnt

- It has been important to create an Aula del Futuro (FCL) in order to motivate and generate expectation in the educational community.
- It is very important that teachers are aware and support the need for the Aula del Futuro at the school, so that they believe in the project, are willing to improve their teaching practices and face challenges with enthusiasm.
- It is hard to convince teachers that it is possible to do things differently, e.g. introduce project or inquiry-based learning, and still have students ready for the exams in time

Using the learning lab

Management and use

The Future Classroom is used on a scheduled basis. All the groups of students attend the Future Classroom at least once a week. At every class hour in the *Aula del Futuro*, half the students go to the adjoining classroom - the Interact Zone - to carry out activities with their teachers, while the other half stays in the main space of the *Aula del Futuro* to carry out other types of activities e.g. research, robotics, etc.

The technology

The technology available in *Aula del Futuro* includes microscopes, laptops, 3D printer, digital imaging technologies, interactive screens and digital tablets. The teachers that are in charge of the Future Classroom design the different activities that the students carry out with these technological resources.

Technical support

The ICT coordinator is responsible for the training and configuration of the devices and an external company provides technical support.

Impact

The benefits of future classrooms

Fran has observed that future classrooms “generate expertise in the educational community and provide evidence of how education can be changed by incorporating ICT. They provide a real space to develop the students’ competences and improve their motivation”.

Up to now, he perceives that “small changes are evident but change is a gradual process” and “there exists some difficulty in creating new learning spaces from ordinary classrooms. However, a valuable interest in incorporating ICT into the teaching and learning processes has been generated”.

Improved teacher collaboration

Improved collaboration between teachers has resulted from the implementation of the Aula del Futuro. This is especially due to the need to design the scenarios and pedagogical activities to be used in the Future Classroom.

Research

No research looking for evidence of impact has started yet but the school intends to plan this, using the final module the FCL Toolkit.



The future

Plan for further development

The school intends that all classrooms will eventually resemble the Aula del Futuro.

Funding, similar to that provided for their Aula del Futuro, has already been requested in order to create new classrooms that will come into operation in the next academic year.

Moreover, the school is now involved in the creation and design of their school library, which is not yet finished, and will reflect the different zones of the existing Future Classroom. Along with this, a new *Aula del Futuro* will also be created in a new building that is being built for the school.

Desired additional support

In addition to teacher training, Fran would like other schools implementing future classrooms to collaborate by collecting and sharing good practices and evidences of impact.

Three key tips for other schools

- Set up an Aula del Futuro with the resources you have available. We did it with traditional furniture and even with resources bought by the teachers themselves.
- Once you have generated expectations in the educational community and explained the project, a team of truly interested people needs to be formed to make it happen.
- A training project should take place in the Future Classroom. The local FCL Ambassador will guide you in the use of the EUN FCL Toolkit.

Information about the publication

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