Project Fiche

Singular educational facilities: "SOCIAL·LAB"

Social Sciences Laboratory VLC/CAMPUS

VLC/CAMPUS
VALENCIA, INTERNATIONAL CAMPUS OF EXCELLENCE

Summary of the project	
Project	Singular educational facilities: SOCIAL·LAB Social Sciences Laboratory
Field	Teaching Improvement
Programme	Adaptation programme to EEES
Target group	Students Researchers Society
Call	Excellence Subprogramme 2011
Responsible	VCL/CAMPUS
Start	2013
End	2014
State	In process
Budget	■ Investment of VLC/CAMPUS programme of 81.700,00 € in the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Valencia.
Links to sites of interest	■ http://www.uv.es/socials

Summary of the project

Description

The project is composed of three units addressed to assist the need for training and research in Social Sciences.

Unit 1: Qualitative techniques

It is the area of the laboratory prepared for the implementation of qualitative tools, which requires material resources related to the space where the gathering of data, technical recording instruments and software for information analysis is made. The unit will be distributed in this way:

1.1.   Conversational techniques room. It is the space where the discussion groups and collective interviews (*focus group*) will be made. Aiming to facilitate the development and recording these techniques it will be placed in the most illuminated area. The room will have a meeting table and 10 seats and will have the necessary audio-visual installation (2 recording cameras and 2 microphones).

1.2.   Observation room. It is the professional space that allows to view the discussion groups and group interviews development. There will be in it the image and sound edition equipment, and 3 double tables, 6 chairs and 1 spy mirror.

1.3.   Transcription and analysis room. This part of the unit will have 4 double tables in which there will be 8 workstations with built-in computers and the professional software ATLAS-TI and MAXQDA, two computer programmes designed to help in the qualitative analysis. There will also be 4 express-transcription pedals with voice recognition software.

Unit 2. Multi-purpose room

The room will be divided into two areas. In one of them there will be a table and 6 chairs and aims to be a space for research groups meetings, seminars or a working place for researchers in training. In the other area of the room there will be 1 sofa and 1 armchair around a centre table, and it is meant to be a spot for recording individual interviews. This laboratory unit has an interactive digital whiteboard, a resource for teleconference systems.

Se anexan al proyecto:

Unit 3. Quantitative techniques

It is the laboratory area prepared for the development of quantitative techniques, allowing the implementation of different phases of the survey, that is, the design of the questionnaire, the implementation by phone, the registration and data processing. The software catalogue of this unit includes the DYANE programme for the design and execution of surveys and social research, the CATI programme or platform for phone surveys, the R statistical analysis software and the SPSS professional software, statistical package for data processing in social sciences.

The unit will have 12 perimeter double tables with 24 chairs and 10 computers. In addition, in the centre of the room there will be 4 double tables with 8 chairs, which will allow to be used as a meeting area for the research groups. Likewise, a traditional blackboard and an interactive whiteboard will be included.

Annexed to the project:

Two spaces in the building of the Faculty of Social Sciences. Firstly, the Meeting Room II, in the mezzanine, specifically for seminars or workshops for master's degrees or doctorate students; is has an interactive digital whiteboard and 7 hinged double tables and modulators with 15 chairs, which makes possible the adaptation to specific needs. Secondly, the 3A1 Room, a computer room with 24 computers and 48 workstations.

It is important to highlight that from any space in the laboratory or from any room at the Faculty of Social Sciences (west lecture room building, north lecture room building or the rooms at the Faculty building) the research activities developed in the qualitative techniques room or the recording spot can be viewed live or recorded.

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Objectives	SOCIAL·LAB is designed as a resource of VLC/CAMPUS that aims to be a reference within the frame of social research and contribute to promote the research activity of some excellence groups at the Faculty of Social Sciences and CEI. The infrastructure of services and equipment that the laboratory offers will result in the teaching and research activity quality improvement and will promote the knowledge transfer from the university environment to society. Specifically, the foreseen benefits are what follow: ■ To provide an additional value to our students practice, ■ To increase the options for the development of training complementary activities which are performed within the undergraduate studies frame, ■ To provide higher quality to the undergraduate degree, master's degree final projects and doctoral thesis, ■ To design researchers' training projects, ■ To facilitate the execution of national and international research projects, ■ To promote the collaboration with other research groups from the University and other universities, institutions (micro-clusters), ■ To give support and services to social organisations and public or private institutions for the development of their research, ■ To give the opportunity to gather information that, at medium and long term, will be a very useful database for the research on the valencian society, ■ To undertake agreements with other universities ■ To attract public funding highlighting the support of the laboratory to the projects submitted to the different calls, ■ To improve the functioning of the laboratory itself through the regular assessment of its implementation.	

Summary of the project

Results	SOCIAL·LAB must be a singular space that allows the implementation of quantitative and qualitative techniques in the process of social research, both in the data or information gathering phase and the analysis phase. This equipment will have a triple use: **Teaching use:** It will allow to undergraduate, postgraduate and doctorate students in the area of social sciences the training in the techniques, tools and advanced instruments that are used in the professional field of research. In this sense, besides being used in the teaching programming of excellence, such as selective practices or workshops that give an additional value to the undergraduate degree, postgraduate education and doctorate teaching, the students will be able to face specific working and research experiences. The objective is to strengthen the training and promote a research breeding ground from the academic studies and the undergraduate degree, master's degree final projects and, especially, doctoral thesis. **Researcher use:** The researchers groups, interdisciplinary research structures (ERI) and university research institutes of our University will be able to access to the necessary and updated means to carry out their projects. In this way the competitiveness will be reinforced and the quality of empiric research will be improved without outsourcing the study. Along with this it should be noted that the laboratory will perform a task for stimulating the innovation while allowing the execution of the fieldwork projects that, for their content or their objectives, do not raise enough interest to obtain resources from external calls; consequently the capacity of our University to carry out basic research on social sciences will increase. Likewise, the versatility of the tools and instruments that SOCIAL·LAB will give apply to research conducted from the different bodies and services of the campus. **Service to society:** The project is not exclusively configured as a laboratory to be used by university attached students, as it can provide services and support to other centres, social organisations and public or private institutions, for the development of their own research.