

CASE STUDY



“The Secondary Medical School and the College of Higher Medical Education in Pilsen was the first institution in the Czech Republic to enable students to benefit from online learning through blended learning, giving them greater flexibility and the opportunity to communicate with teachers online. When selecting a system, we chose Kontis for their quality solution and swift support during the implementation of the iTutor system. The success is evidenced by the growing number of students, expansion of courses, and repeated license purchases.”

Ing. Kateřina Sosnová

Customer Profile

The Secondary Medical School and the College of Higher Medical Education in Pilsen is a specialized school focused on health care. Post-secondary studies are divided into several fields, designed to train Certified Specialists.

The implementation team at the Secondary Medical School and the College of Higher Medical Education in Pilsen planned to introduce e-learning for their target group of students continuing studies at the higher medical college.

Project Goals

- Introduce e-learning into instruction to teach students to actively work with modern learning resources.
- Prepare methodological and working materials for working with online courses.
- Ensure that teachers themselves adopt working with modern learning resources and begin using them in teaching.
- Use e-learning as one of the forms of learning.
- Enable students' individual preparation.
- Integrate modern learning methods into the educational process, taking into account the school's specialization.

Current Situation

The Secondary Medical School and the College of Higher Medical Education in Pilsen owns a computer network running on the Windows NT operating system. Workstations with Windows 2000 are installed in various offices and classrooms. There is a graphic workstation with a scanner. The school operates its own intranet and is connected to the Internet via a wireless connection through an external provider, which hosts the school's website. There are two computer classrooms on site.

As a supplier of the learning management system and tools for creating online courses, the company Kontis was selected. Kontis delivered the iTutor LMS and the ToolBook Instructor authoring tools directly tailored to the school's conditions.

Initially, the school used a limited license (for 100 users – 94 students, 5 administrators, 4 teachers) with the understanding that if the distance learning format proved successful, the school would switch to an unlimited license.

Since students at the College of Higher Medical Education study subjects requiring practical skills that no purely distance learning format can fully replace despite best

efforts, the school applied a blended learning approach. A single subject (course) was chosen for the start of online education, divided into individual lessons linked across all first-year fields of study. This course is Anatomy.

Anatomy is a subject whose module is basically the same across all study fields. The Anatomy course contains 21 lessons, each followed by a test where students can see whether they answered questions correctly or incorrectly. The entire course is followed by a summary test evaluated by percentage success.

Due to positive feedback on this form of study not only from students but also from instructors, the school proceeded with developing the Microbiology and Epidemiology course, which has the same lesson and test structure as Anatomy.

Since the school's own employees are trained in First Aid courses, the Secondary Medical School and the College of Higher Medical Education in Pilsen decided to purchase an additional 100 licenses from Kontis for employees and began developing the online First Aid course.

Future Plans

The vision for the near future is to create online courses in Latin, Management, and Psychology. The experience so far with implementing the e-learning study form at the school has been very positive; students have learned to use this form of learning to enhance their studies.

Summary

Currently, there are very few opportunities for teaching via Internet connection in the Czech Republic. Although several options exist—mainly at universities—this method of study is almost nonexistent at secondary schools, especially specialized ones.

The Secondary Medical School and the College of Higher Medical Education in Pilsen has provided instruction in Anatomy and Microbiology and Epidemiology to 94 students through blended study using e-learning. Due to this online education method, students have been successfully engaged in the learning process; the complicated and often unavailable manual searching was eliminated, and students learned to organize their time according to their needs. The Secondary Medical School and the College of Higher Medical Education in Pilsen is currently the only school of its kind applying e-learning in student instruction.