The song of the starlings

Project:
SpeakApps
Leader:
Christine Appel
Sector:
Edtech
SpinUOC participant: 2013
Image created using AI by:
Blanca Carballeira (Ubik Media)

Starlings fly in synchronized formations and migrate with the seasons. In this image, they can also be seen flying in pairs. The image of birds taking off and singing in pairs is a good metaphor for how SpeakApps works. It is an online language learning tool that enables users to learn to speak other languages by working in teams of two, without the confusion often experienced in traditional language classes. This chaos is represented by chickens clucking around in circles, unable to stray out of familiar territory.

Girls programming on an electronic board

Project:
Tresdosi
Leader:
Sandra Huerto
Sector:
EdTech
SpinUOC participant: 2014
Image created using AI by:
Blanca Carballeira (Ubik Media)

Seventeenth-century women with a flair for IT? This may be an impossible image - electricity hadn't even been discovered back then - but the story behind it is a true and powerful one: women have always been good at programming, and have proved it many times over. However, statistics tell us that, well into the 21st century, girls are not engaging with the world of technology. Sandra Huerto, mathematician, and leader of Tresdosi, a cross-disciplinary training initiative with a social purpose, is interested in finding ways to rebuild this natural connection between women and technology.
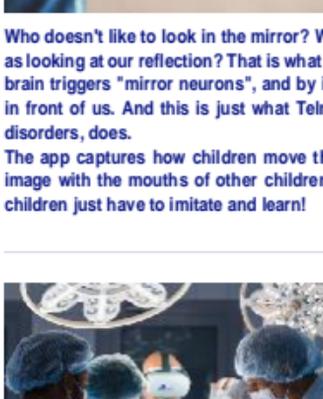
Mirror, mirror...

Project:
TelmeApp
Leader:
Llorenç Andreu
Sector:
eHealth
SpinUOC participant: 2015
Photograph by:
Ana Tejedor (Ubik Media)

Who doesn't like to look in the mirror? Wouldn't it be great if we could learn at the same time as looking at our reflection? That is what happens when we watch someone do something. Our brain triggers "mirror neurons", and by imitating others we assimilate the behaviours we see in front of us. And this is just what TelmeApp, a mobile app to help children with language disorders, does.

The app captures how children move their mouths when they speak and then replaces the image with the mouths of other children who are correctly articulating the words. Then the children just have to imitate and learn!

3, 2, 1... Immersion in the operating theatre

Project:
Immersium Studio
Leader:
Luis Villarejo
Sector:
edTech
SpinUOC participant: 2016
Photograph by:
Ana Tejedor, Blanca Carballeira (Ubik Media)

There are places that are almost impossible to explore, for instance the depths of the ocean or the earth's magnetic poles, but also the ICUs and operating theatres in our hospitals. Medical students have to get to know these places like the back of their hands. So, how can they do it? There is a way to experience total immersion in these fragile environments without disturbing them. This is what Luis Villarejo is working on with Immersium Studio, a UOC start-up specialising in the use of virtual and immersive reality to train medical students.
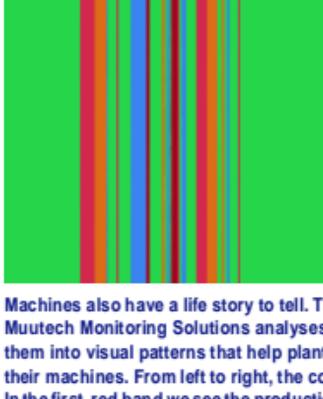
Cooperate or fall

Project:
BeChallenge
Responsable:
Xavier Pascual
Sector:
edTech
SpinUOC participant: 2017
Photograph edited by:
Andrea Fernández (Ubik Media)

When we use problem-solving platforms, we only see the top of the pyramid. But below it there is an entire structure that allows people to cooperate and pool their talents to work towards a shared goal. Without this cooperation, the structure will collapse. Just like with casstellers (human towers), BeChallenge provides a base that allows people from all around the world to cooperate efficiently towards the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, represented by the 17 colours worn by the people in the image. Like a human tower, the platform is a pillar of strength, balance, courage and good sense. Above all, it reminds us that, if we don't work together, we run the risk of falling.

The life story of a breakdown

Project:
Muutech Monitoring Solutions
Leader:
Víctor Calvo
Sector:
Industry 4.0
SpinUOC participant: 2018
Illustration by:
Blanca Carballeira (Ubik Media)

Machines also have a life story to tell. They break down, they have accidents. The company Muutech Monitoring Solutions analyses thousands of data points per second and converts them into visual patterns that help plant operators understand what has been happening to their machines. From left to right, the coloured strip tells the story of a machine breakdown. In the first, red band we see the production stoppage and the start of the problem. The repairs and adjustments are shown in orange. Sometimes the machine waits for the operator to perform an action, seen here in blue. When the problem has been solved, the machine starts up again, in green. Like this, it moves on.
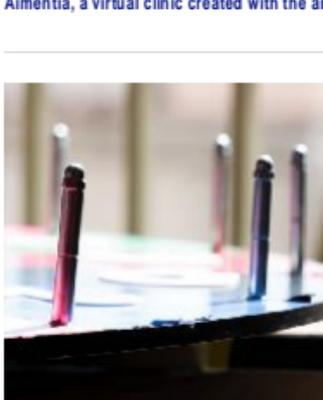
Thursday afternoon with Maria and Carolina

Project:
SeniorDomo
Leader:
Ángel Puertas
Sector:
eHealth
SpinUOC participant: 2019
Photograph by:
Ana Tejedor (Ubik Media)

Maria is happy. On this Thursday afternoon she breaths in the fresh air and kisses her cockatiel, Carolina. Maria is happy because she feels calm. She feels calm because she is wearing that modern watch that keeps an eye on her, letting her family know immediately if anything is wrong. It is permanently connected to the network of professionals employed by Senior Domo, a company set up to enable increasing numbers of elderly people to continue living happily and safely, well cared for but independent, in their own homes.
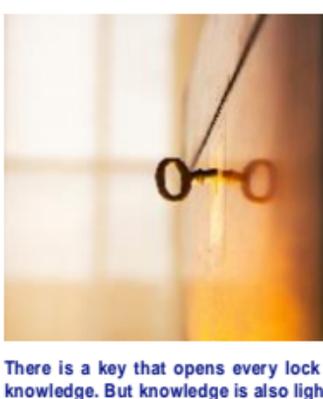
The match of century

Project:
Aimentia
Leader:
Edgar Jorba
Sector:
eHealth
SpinUOC participant: 2020
Photograph by:
Ana Tejedor (Ubik Media)

The 21st century is said to be the century of the brain, when we will finally understand how the most complex structure known to mankind works. Edgar plays a game of chess with the human mind. Or, to be precise, with the least understood, and maybe the darkest, mechanisms of the mind, those that cause mental illness. But he has a masterstroke to play: the use of artificial intelligence to analyse patients' data and identify patterns to help find ways to treat them. This is the concept behind Aimentia, a virtual clinic created with the aim of ushering in a new era in mental health.

Alea iacta est

Project:
Opground
Leader:
Eduard Teixidó
Sector:
Recruitment
SpinUOC participant: 2021
Photograph by:
Ana Tejedor (Ubik Media)

Alea iacta est is a Latin phrase that means "the die is cast". Take a roulette wheel for example, a game where we have always been at the mercy of Lady Luck. But notice that this roulette table is falling apart. It is a thing of the past. Our destiny is no longer dictated by luck. Especially in the search for work. Opground has developed a system based on artificial intelligence that allows companies to connect with the most suitable candidates for any job offer in the tech sector in under five minutes. Chance, luck and coincidence do not come into it. This time, we are in control of destiny

Light is the key

Project:
Yeira
Leader:
Adriana Caballero
Sector:
edTech
SpinUOC participant: 2022
Photograph by:
Ana Tejedor (Ubik Media)

There is a key that opens every lock and safeguards everything we value. This key is knowledge. But knowledge is also light, leading us out of the darkness. Yeira means just that, "to illuminate with knowledge". It is the name of a woman, and the name of an online training platform designed to democratize access to the latest virtual technology for learning in the virtual world. Because every person or organization, rich or poor, should have the right to knowledge and understanding, to open locks and conserve and pass on valuable knowledge.