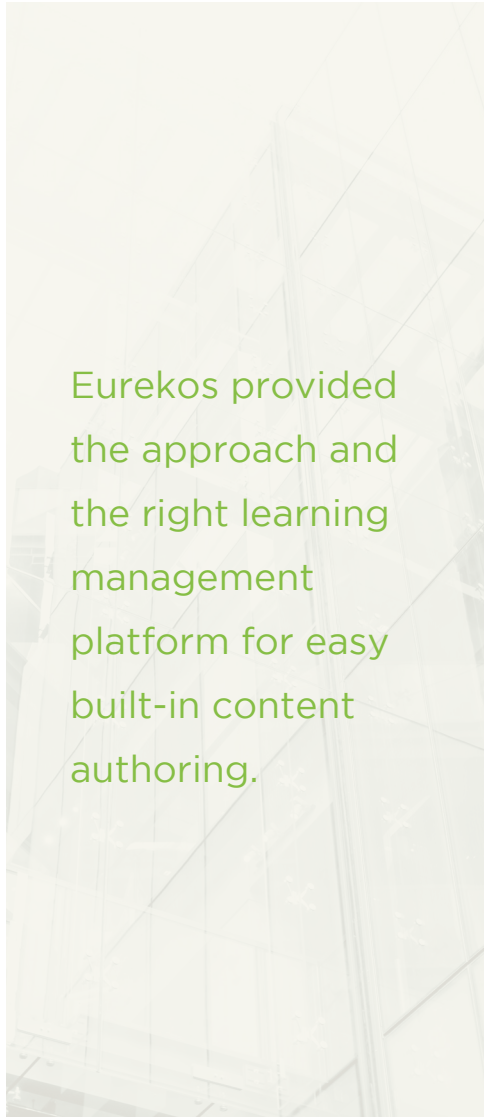
eurekos

Hogeschool Utecht's Rapid Course Development

400 digital courses produced in a few months and 1,700 courses in just three years.

www.eurekos.com



Eurekos provided the approach and the right learning management platform for easy built-in content authoring.

Hogeschool Utrecht University had the right processes, technology and ambition to produce an incredible amount of eLearning in a short amount of time. Eurekos provided the approach and the right learning management platform for easy built-in content authoring.

Hogeschool Utrecht University (HU) had a big challenge. They needed to build online courses to train a massive number of students and teachers very quickly. Adding to the challenge was the location of the students, on three Caribbean islands 7,800 kilometers away from their university in the Netherlands.

Utrecht's School of Education had already tested the use of online learning to reach remote students and make it possible for specialized courses that didn't have enough students to fill a traditional classroom.

But this was different because the scale and timeframe was imposing. They needed to create hundreds of courses quickly to cover many different disciplines and various types of students and teachers.

Also, the faculty was somewhat skeptical about eLearning. Hans van Bergen, a faculty expert in education was one of the first involved, "I was invited to participate in the creation of the digital courses, which used video content. I had never delivered instruction in a format meant for online use or even been in front of a camera."

Nick Eriksen, the chief technology officer of Eurekos who implemented the Eurekos LMS and worked with van Bergen in that first phase of the project said, "Hans told me, you can't do my material digitally. But working with us, he created fifteen weeks of classes in a matter of days. He was brilliant."

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Those early "test pilot" faculty members who developed digital content for the eLearning courses served as ambassadors among the other instructors at the School of Education. Suddenly, faculty "were very willing to make courses," said van Bergen. "We told many teachers, 'You can do this next year.' And they were in line in front of my office saying, 'I want to do it now.'"

"The management of our university supported this with time and money," said van Bergen. "The teachers wanted those courses. The students wanted them. And the technology was supporting it."

Within a few months, the original 20 or 30 courses grew to become 400. Within three years, that count had more than quadrupled. Each course consisted of instructor videos lasting between 5 and 10 minutes. These videos were produced externally and made available to students, as well as animations, gamification, quizzes and textual content, among other components. Now the students who took those courses from the university are using the Eurekos LMS and the same processes to create lessons to use in their classrooms too, as they work as interns. Their students can watch videos on their own and come to class ready to join in on discussions, projects and other learning activities.

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The technology that made all this happen was the Eurekos LMS, which included features that were critical to the success of the project:

- The ability to clone courses and modify them with localized information.
- Collaborative content creation.
- The capacity to keep courses fresh.
- A user-friendly interface.
- Support for "social learning."
- Mobile-readiness.

The advantage of Eurekos, according to van Bergen, is that "if you have an idea, you can realize it quickly. People are enthusiastic about creating their own online courses because technology is helping them and not hindering them."

PRO TIP

The secret to quick content creation is using the right platform for content creation and distribution.

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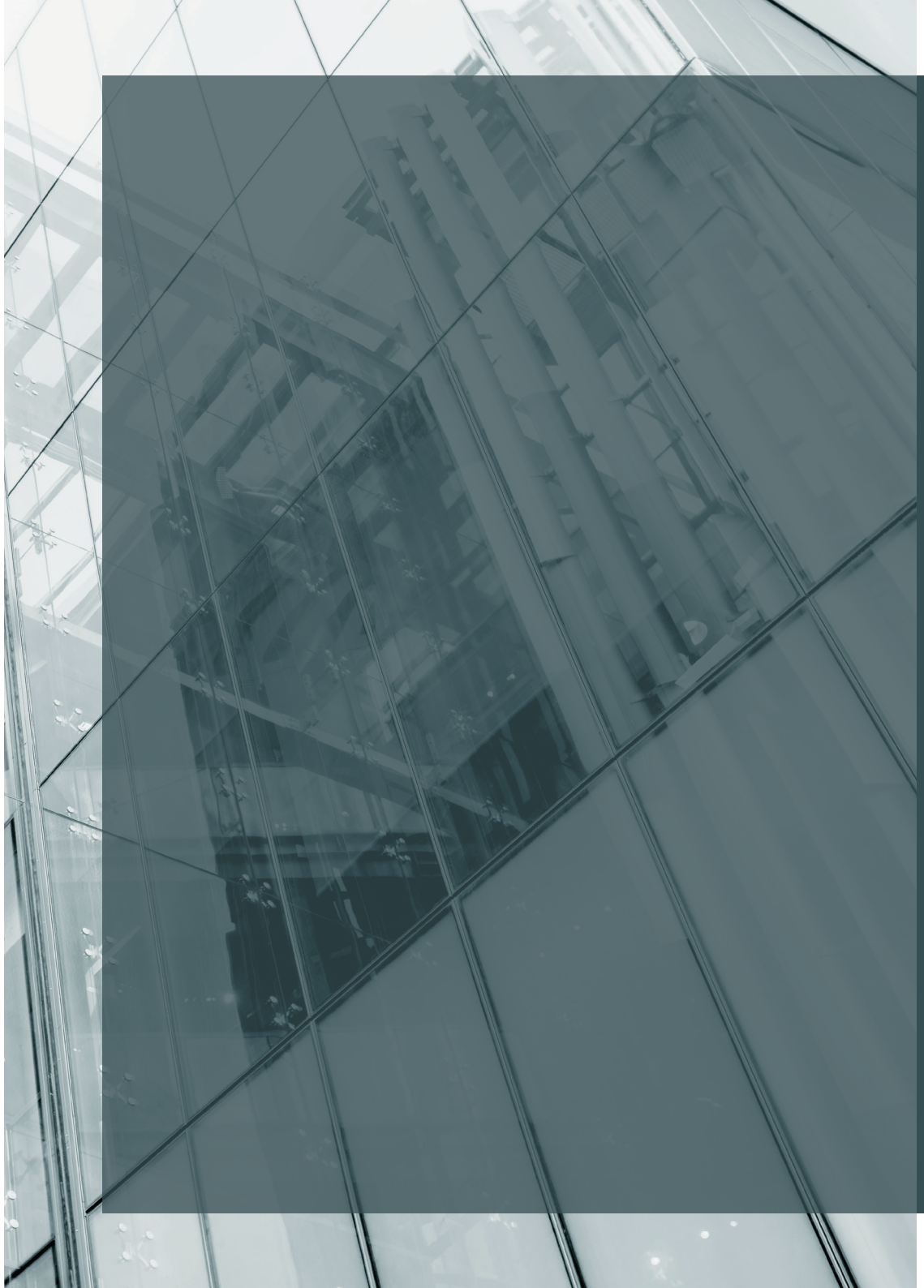

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