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40,000 pupils to gain free IT skills

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More than 40,000 pupils in Luxembourg are due to become part of the country's largest IT training project, which has already seen the training of 10,000 teachers in basic IT skills.

The MySchool! training initiative, which has cost the Ministry of Education 1m euros to set up, will run on an external education portal from Plumtree Software.

The portal, which will cost 600,000 euros a year to maintain, will offer a range of free IT courses, such as the Microsoft Office Specialist (formerly MOUS) qualification; reference



Weiler: six-month pilot

materials, such as dictionaries and encyclopedias; and e-learning to everyone working in the Luxembourg education sector.

"We did a six-month pilot of the platform and a prototype went live in

October last year," says Daniel Weiler, MySchool! project manager at the ministry.

"We have just finished rolling it out to 10,000 teachers," he adds, "and are now aiming to get 40,000 students to sign up by December this year."

The content of the portal will be kept up to date by a 30-strong content management team from the ministry, which is responsible for different areas of the website.

Other facilities will include email, individual web space for each user, discussion forums, and document sharing.