

THE CATALAN NEWS AGENCY: AN INNOVATIVE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING MODEL IN JOURNALISM TEACHING



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OBJECTIVES

- ✓ to allow students to understand and follow the criteria and professional dynamics of an agency newsroom
- ✓ to cover local events from a specific and non-centralist
 perspective thus offering alternative news sources to
 subscribers and general users: foreign correspondents,
 policy makers and investors
- ✓ to work on a simultaneously **global and local multimedia model** with **an integrated platform** result of a direct **partnership** between the **university** teaching environment and **professional praxis**.
- ✓ to produce such quality news content in the English language, an additional challenge when taking into account this will not be the native tongue of neither the journalist nor reader.

METHOD

International newsroom: local+Erasmus students (15-20)



Students must produce stories from 6 categories: Politics, Business, Society, Lifestyle, Culture and Sports.



- 3 models of CNA news story:
- · adaptation of ACN newswires Catalan English
- reworking context + additional sources to stories already published on Catalan language website
- original feature articles

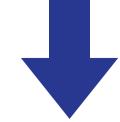


Weekly editorial meeting with UPF teaching staff and Editor of CNA:

-minutes are taken
-work is distributed
-teams formed
-calendar questions are discussed
-production problems are aired
-press accreditation for events are processed
-technical equipment reserved (cameras)
-future feature stories proposed and defended



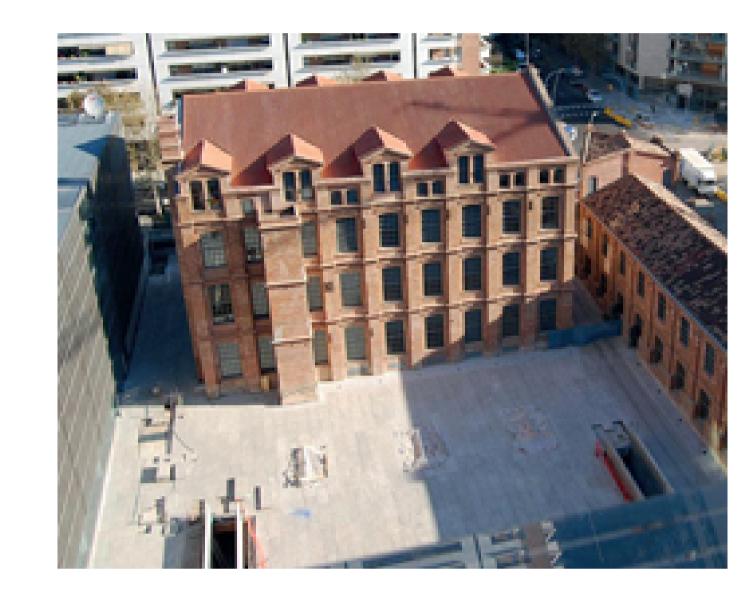
Guidelines regarding the compatibility of content for the agency website are given + Agency style guide



Published online news stories are shown to the students and the justifications by staff for not publishing stories are also offered

BACKGROUND

In 2010 the **UNIVERSITAT POMPEU FABRA** —a public university in the heart of Barcelona- embarked on a unique joint venture in the field of journalism training in conjunction with the **AGÈNCIA CATALANA DE NOTÍCIES**, the Catalan government news agency. The idea behind the project was to offer an **English-language wire service** aimed mainly at foreign correspondents, investors and policymakers which would take a look at current events **from a specifically Catalan standpoint**. This paper analyses the first four years of the Catalan News Agency experiment from an **educational**, **professional** and **journalism** perspective.





TEACHING CHALLENGES

Cultural proximity (Catalan angle)
Relevant & coherent events selection
Semantic and ideological minefields (e.g. political terms)
Deployment of specific corporate journalistic criteria
Focus and pitch of the news story + objectivity and framing
Production of quality English Language content when
lingua franca is not that of journalist, territory or user

