



# Fundación Paco Puerto Helps Workers in Spain Earn Microsoft Office Specialist Certification

## Challenge

Fundación Paco Puerto is the training center for the largest trade union in Spain - the Workers' Commissions (CCOO) of Catalonia. Paco Puerto has more than 30 years of experience in management and organizational training in professions ranging from teaching to computing to electronics. They promote professional qualifications, provide advice, and offer guidance to workers.

Paco Puerto has offered technical courses in computer science including office automation for many years. They realized the office automation course was not as valuable to students as it could be with industry-recognized certification to validate the skills they gained.

Juan José Cantador, Training Coordinator for Fundación Paco Puerto, explained, "Our challenge was that our students needed to achieve the highest qualification in order to develop their professional skills and enhance their employability. No matter how well we teach Excel, it would be more valuable if the course was accredited by Microsoft itself."

## Solution

At the end of 2012, the Fundación Paco Puerto found a solution in its bid to qualify its students by partnering with PUE, a leader in comprehensive consulting and IT training services.

PUE, as the exclusive distributor of Certiport in Spain, is accredited as the only representative of Microsoft, Adobe, Autodesk, EC-Council, Apple and Unity certifications throughout the Spanish territory. PUE is the entity that manages, advises and offers support to the entire network of Certiport Authorized Certification Centers and Resellers.

As a result of the partnership with PUE, Paco Puerto began offering students formal training and certification through the Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) program.

MOS certification is the only program endorsed by Microsoft to validate skills in Microsoft Office programs including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and others. Under the partnership, Paco Puerto students would be trained and officially MOS certified. In order to offer MOS certification, Paco Puerto became a Certiport Authorized Testing Center.

"The value that PUE gives us goes beyond becoming an official testing center for MOS, they also provide logistical and human support, and they are always willing to help," said Cantador.

Àngel García, PUE Academy Director, said, "The work carried out by the Fundación Paco Puerto with its students is key. We believe in the added value of official certification training as a safe bet

for all professionals, and it also provides an increase in employment rates."

Cantador said that initially, when they started in 2012, it was difficult to convince students, teachers, and testing centers of the added value offered by certification. However, Paco Puerto pushed on and eventually found great success with the MOS program.

Since Fundación Paco Puerto implemented the MOS training and certification program, they have trained more than 6,500 students, and more than 5,000 have officially become certified. They have excellent pass rates, with most students earning MOS Word or MOS Excel certification.

"There are two main benefits of offering MOS certification," said Cantador. "First, Students gain a professionally-recognized qualification that is valued by employers. Second, Paco Puerto is authorized to deliver Microsoft exams, which helps to motivate the trainers and also makes us a center of reference."

Watch a video about Microsoft Office Specialist at Paco Puerto here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j3HcNbMTIt4>



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