

# Monitoring for awareness and reflection in ubiquitous learning environments

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**Abstract:** Despite the educational affordances that ubiquitous learning has shown, it is still hampered by several orchestration difficulties. One of these difficulties is that teachers lose awareness of what the students perform across the multiple technologies and spaces involved. Monitoring can help in such awareness, and it has been highly explored in face-to-face and blended learning. Nevertheless, in ubiquitous learning environments monitoring has been usually limited to activities taking place in a specific type of space (e.g., outdoors). In this paper we propose a monitoring system for ubiquitous learning, which was evaluated in three authentic studies, supporting the participants in the affordable monitoring of learning situations involving web, augmented-physical, and 3D virtual world spaces. The work carried out also helped identify a set of guidelines, which are expected to be useful for researchers and technology developers aiming to provide participants' support in ubiquitous learning environments.

**Keywords:** Learning analytics, monitoring, ubiquitous learning, virtual learning environment, augmented reality, virtual world.

## 1. Introduction

With the advance of technology during the last decades, a multiplicity of technology-enabled learning spaces is emerging. Physical spaces such as classrooms, parks, museums, or the natural environment, are enriched with a variety of electronic devices: interactive whiteboards, computers, mobile phones, tablets, tabletops, etc. These devices are actually doors to other virtual learning spaces, like the Web or even 3D virtual worlds (3DVWs), in which learning is mediated by software tools such as web Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs, e.g., Moodle<sup>1</sup>), 3DVWs platforms (e.g., Second Life<sup>2</sup>) or Virtual Globes (VGs, e.g., Google Earth<sup>3</sup>). These multiple learning spaces have shown different affordances for learning. For example, they can help contextualize learning, increase student motivation and engagement, enhance spatial skills, and enable the use of several pedagogical approaches such as active, situated or experiential learning (Dalgarno & Lee, 2010; Dyson, Litchfield, Lawrence, Raban, & Leijdekkers, 2009; Keller, 2005; Rakshit & Ogneva-Himmelberger, 2008). There has been substantial research focused on the continuity of the learning experience across spaces (Milrad et al., 2013) enabling students to benefit from the affordances of different spaces, while learning anytime anywhere. Technologies like mobile devices, sensors, and Augmented Reality (AR, i.e., the combination of virtual and physical objects in a physical environment) are helping connect the different spaces, enabling ubiquitous learning situations (Li, Zheng, Ogata, & Yano, 2004; Wu, Lee, Chang, & Liang, 2013). For instance, a Google Docs<sup>4</sup> document generated by a group of students in a classroom can be afterwards used in-context in a park using AR. In fact, in ubiquitous learning, there is a special emphasis on the physical context where the learning activity takes place, which is a core factor in the typical educational approaches involving different spaces (Milrad et al., 2013).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://moodle.org>. Last access April, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> <http://secondlife.com>. Last access April, 2017.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.google.com/earth/>. Last access April, 2017.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.google.com/docs/about/>. Last access April, 2017.

However, despite the benefits that the ubiquitous learning situations may provide, teachers still face several difficulties to create and conduct this kind of situations (Delgado Kloos, Hernández-Leo, & Asensio-Pérez, 2012). These difficulties to create and enact learning situations in technologically-complex educational settings (not only ubiquitous) have been encompassed by the research community under the “orchestration” metaphor (Prieto, Dlab, Gutiérrez, Abdulwahed, & Balid, 2011; Roschelle, Dimitriadis, & Hoppe, 2013). Ubiquitous learning situations, where the activities frequently involve a number of separate groups of students interacting simultaneously from distant locations using different technologies, pose special obstacles to orchestration. One of these obstacles is that teachers lose awareness of what students do, and need special help to keep track of the development of the activities and the progress (or lack thereof) of the different groups. One of the key functions that can help teachers in these orchestration obstacles is *monitoring* (Dillenbourg, 2013). Monitoring is an ongoing function that uses the systematic collection of data related to specified indicators to provide the different participants of a learning activity with indications regarding the progress and results of such activity (Marriott & Goyder, 2009). Monitoring can aid in different aspects of learning orchestration. For instance, by informing teachers in order to support decision-making during design, management or assessment of learning situations (Chatti, Dyckhoff, Schroeder, & Thüs, 2012); or by informing students in order to promote self-regulated (Tabuenca, Kalz, & Specht, 2014) or collaborative learning (Wecker & Fischer, 2007).

The use of monitoring in blended learning has been intense especially in settings making use of centralized educational systems such as VLEs (Chatti et al., 2012). Also, the research community has explored monitoring in web educational systems, in which data coming from distributed sources needs to be triangulated and integrated (Rodríguez-Triana, Martínez-Monés, & Asensio-Pérez, 2011; Rodríguez-Triana et al., in press; J. L. Santos et al., 2015). Monitoring complexity increases even more when the learning situations may involve multiple physical and virtual spaces (Chatti et al., 2012). In ubiquitous learning situations, where, as mentioned, typically the physical context is relevant, context-aware data usually needs to be collected using a variety of devices, such as sensors, and be integrated with the already heterogeneous data of traditional distributed educational systems (e.g., VLEs, Web 2.0 tools, social applications, etc.). However, despite the need for solutions dealing with monitoring in ubiquitous learning situations in order to help teachers in orchestration (Long & Siemens, 2011), research in this field is still in its infancy. Most of the orchestration approaches considering physical spaces beyond the classroom propose solutions for monitoring the activities only in those physical spaces, typically using mobile devices, without integrating such data with other data coming from other learning activities carried out in different spaces using other devices (e.g., from a VLE such as Moodle). These monitoring proposals are usually classified into ubiquitous or pervasive learning analytics (ULA or PLA) and mobile learning analytics (MLA) (Aljohani & Davis, 2012; Shoukry, Göbel, & Steinmetz, 2014) depending on whether the monitoring collects context-aware data (Facer et al., 2004; Fulantelli, Taibi, & Arrigo, 2013; Robles, Gonzales-Barahona, & Fernandez-Gonzales, 2011; P. Santos, Hernández-Leo, & Blat, 2014; Vogel, Spikol, Kurti, & Milrad, 2010) or not (Seol, Sharp, & Kim, 2011). An alternative approach is weSPOT (Miteva, Nikolova, & Stefanova, 2015), which integrates the monitoring of activities carried out in different spaces, although in this case the information provided simply reports about the completion of the activities, skipping any other significant context-aware information (e.g., the location) about the activities conducted in physical spaces. Another approach is represented by the systems proposed by Tabuenca et al. (2014) or de la Guía et al. (2016), which by means of NFC tags placed in physical objects, enable the tracking of actions performed, respectively, in informal or formal learning activities but, again, without integrating such data with other coming from other formal or blended learning activities and spaces. Similarly, some researchers have specifically focused on the orchestration of smart classrooms, proposing monitoring systems for such environments (Martinez-Maldonado, Kay, Yacef, Edbauer, & Dimitriadis, 2013; Martinez-Maldonado et al., 2016; Medina, Kawsar, Meseguer, & Ochoa, 2014; Slotta, Tissenbaum, & Lui, 2013). In addition, there are several proposals for different types of dashboards in tablets and mobile devices, capturing and visualizing traces of classroom or blended learning activities (Verbert et al., 2014), but without providing support to monitor learning situations involving multiple physical and virtual spaces.

Therefore, there is a scarcity of proposals enabling the monitoring of activities that take place in different physical and virtual spaces in ubiquitous learning situations (Rodríguez-Triana et al., in press). In this paper we describe our research to address this challenge. In order to explore it, we propose a monitoring system that

builds on an existing system for the orchestration of ubiquitous learning situations including activities in physical, web and 3DVW spaces, and making use of a variety of existing technologies (Muñoz-Cristóbal, 2015). The new monitoring system, which is the focus of this paper, provides features for the monitoring of the different activities carried out in the different spaces. We have created a prototype of the system, and evaluated its monitoring support in three studies in authentic settings. Throughout the whole research process, we also extracted a number of design guidelines, which can be useful for researchers and technology developers proposing solutions to monitor ubiquitous learning environments.

The structure of the document is the following. In the next section, we describe the research methodology followed, the developed system and the main evaluation happenings. Section 3 summarizes the results of the evaluation carried out, and Section 4 presents the main conclusions obtained and the design guidelines that we extracted from the research process.

## 2. Method

The general research question we posed was: *how can technology support the monitoring of ubiquitous learning situations with teacher orchestration purposes?* Due to the fact that it is a research question centered on technology, and we aimed to propose technological solutions for the educational domain, we considered appropriate to follow the Systems Development Research Methodology (Nunamaker, Chen, & Purdin, 1990) with an underlying interpretive perspective (Orlikowski & Baroudi, 1991) for the overall research process (see Fig. 1).

To address this research question, we first gathered feedback from a group of researchers/teachers, experts in the ubiquitous learning and learning analytics fields, in order to gain insights of the monitoring needs generated by the teacher orchestration of ubiquitous learning situations (Section 2.1). Combining this feedback with a literature review, and the parallel research works that we were conducting regarding orchestration, ubiquitous learning and learning analytics (Muñoz-Cristóbal, 2015; Rodríguez-Triana, 2014), we defined the architecture and developed the prototype of a system (whose final version is described in Section 2.2). In order to explore the research question defined, such prototype was used and enhanced iteratively in three evaluation studies involving authentic educational settings (Section 2.3). We followed three cycles of the Systems Development Research Methodology (see Fig. 1), and the knowledge gained in each study led to improve the system for the subsequent study. Throughout the whole research process, which spanned a year (2013), we also extracted a certain number of design guidelines for creating monitoring solutions in ubiquitous learning environments (see Section 4).

### 2.1. Experts-feedback

During a workshop on orchestration of ubiquitous learning situations framed within a Spanish research project<sup>5</sup> in May, 2013, we used an exploratory questionnaire (including open and closed questions) to collect feedback from the participants. For creating the questionnaire, we formed a team of six educational technology researchers (including researchers experts in technology or pedagogy), who defined the questionnaire in an iterative review process. Then, other six teachers/researchers with technological background and experts in technology-enhanced learning answered the questionnaire. The main topics covered were: whether monitoring is difficult in ubiquitous learning and why; how the participants used to monitor the students in across spaces learning situations; how they would improve these monitoring processes. The profile of the teaches/researchers as well as the main questions of the questionnaire and a summary of the corresponding answers are included in the Appendix (Tables A.1 and A.2, and Fig. A.1 and A.2).

Regarding the first topic, the experts agreed that ubiquitous learning situations are more difficult to monitor than traditional learning situations where a single physical or virtual space is involved. They also acknowledged that the monitoring difficulties are mainly caused by the number of spaces (either physical or web) as well as by the

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<sup>5</sup> EEE project, see <http://eee.gast.it.uc3m.es>. Last access April, 2017.

combination of physical and virtual spaces. When asked about the data sources they employed, the most common ones mentioned were the logs obtained from the technological context, the observations made by the teachers, and the learning outcomes produced by the students. These results are aligned with the systematic review done by Rodríguez-Triana et al. (in press). Also the students' feedback, self-assessment, and geolocation were reported to be used by some experts. Opposite to the current trend in blended learning, where many research works focus monitoring on a single data source, five out of six experts stated that they combined at least three different sources to support the monitoring process across spaces, collecting evidence from each space. For awareness purposes, the experts reported to rely especially on their own observations, enriched whenever possible by the review of the artifacts generated by the students, the log analyses and the student feedback. Then, for reflection, the usage of learning artifacts by the experts increased due to the time available once the learning activity is over.

It is noteworthy that, in the experiences reported by the experts, apart from activity tracking and geolocation, the data gathering and analyses of the different sources was not automated, requiring teachers to review the resources generated by the students in the digital spaces, collecting observations during face-to-face activities, or directly asking the students about the learning process.

Regarding the data analyses, the experts stated that different indicators and visualizations may be obtained to monitor the learning process inter and intra-spaces. While the experts highlighted 13 and 15 aspects to be taken into consideration in single physical or virtual spaces respectively, the list increased up to 26 in ubiquitous learning contexts. The topics addressed by such aspects focused mainly on the actions done by the students while learning (e.g., quantity and quality of the interactions between students), who and how are the learners (e.g., engaged or stuck students), and the context where learning takes place (e.g., artifacts used by space, state of the design activities). The experts agreed in the importance of monitoring different participants' types of interaction (participant-participant, participant-artifact and participant-space), the completion of the proposed tasks and the difficulties that the students found, the individual contributions (or the lack of them), the collaboration, and the students' motivation.

## 2.2. A system for monitoring ubiquitous learning environments

The complexity of technology-enhanced learning orchestration can be observed by the numerous works in the literature aiming to support teachers in this endeavor. Moreover, when this orchestration happens in ubiquitous learning environments is even more challenging due to the conceptual complexity of the designs and the infrastructure required in order to support the different orchestration tasks across spaces and tools. Over the last few years, we have been exploring in parallel the orchestration of ubiquitous learning situations (Muñoz-Cristóbal, 2015), and the design-aware monitoring of blended learning situations (Rodríguez-Triana, 2014). For the former issue, a relevant system has been proposed, GLUEPS-AR (Muñoz-Cristóbal et al., 2015), to support teachers in multiple aspects of orchestration of ubiquitous learning situations. GLUEPS-AR allows teachers to deploy learning designs, which may have been created in different authoring tools, into ubiquitous learning environments composed by VLEs (web space), AR apps (physical space) and VGs (3DVW space). GLUEPS-AR also enables teachers to adapt the learning design during the enactment of the learning situations. Previous evaluations of GLUEPS-AR have shown that the main limitation in its orchestration support was related to monitoring (Muñoz-Cristóbal et al., 2014). Although GLUEPS-AR provided the teachers with a user interface to consult the artifacts created by the students, the teachers reported that a dashboard with summarized information of key indicators would help them to understand what happened during the enactment of the learning situation. Additionally, in the other research line regarding the monitoring of blended learning, two relevant systems were proposed, GLUE!-CAS (Rodríguez-Triana et al., 2011) and GLIMPSE (Rodríguez-Triana, Martínez-Monés, Asensio-Pérez, & Dimitriadis, 2013), aimed at, respectively, data gathering and integration as well as analysis and monitoring of technology-enhanced learning situations. GLUE!-CAS and GLIMPSE are able to collect data from heterogeneous sources (web-based blended learning environments and participants' feedback), and to provide teachers with monitoring reports structured according to the learning designs initially defined (i.e., the structure of learning activities, groups of students, and learning tools and resources). However, this approach is focused on blended learning, without taking into consideration learning situations happening in other non-web spaces, like the physical space or 3DVWs.

Interestingly, the two approaches complement very well, since each one could cover the main monitoring limitations of the other. Furthermore, both approaches share a same technological architectural philosophy, since they both are based on the well-known adapter pattern of software engineering (Gamma, Helm, Johnson, & Vlissides, 1995; Monday, 2003) in order to ease the integration of multiple technologies and facilitate the adoption of the approaches. Therefore, we can easily abstract both approaches and combine them in a single system that incorporates all the previous yet complementary monitoring features. For designing the new monitoring system, we have followed the conceptual model proposed by Martinez-Maldonado et al. (2013) for orchestration systems on ubiquitous and pervasive learning environments. This model proposes the implementation of interconnection, regulation, and awareness mechanisms by means of a central orchestration server. We also took design decisions based, as mentioned before, on a literature review (see Section 1), on the feedback received by experts teachers/researchers (see Section 2.1), on our previous and parallel experiences in ubiquitous learning (Muñoz-Cristóbal, 2015) and learning analytics (Rodríguez-Triana, 2014) fields, as well as on the results of the evaluation studies and corresponding guidelines (see Sections 3 and 4) that helped us develop the final version described here. The main design decisions taken are the following:

- (Dd 1) The system supports the monitoring of activities that involve the use of multiple existing VLEs (in web spaces), AR clients (in physical spaces) and/or VGs (in 3DVW spaces), by means of their integration through adapters with a central manager. This design decision defines the scope of the learning situations supported by the proposed system: those involving existing VLEs, web tools, AR apps and/or VGs.
- (Dd 2) The system provides teachers with design-structured monitoring information. This design decision is based on the need for providing participants with easily interpretable, actionable and pedagogically grounded data.
- (Dd 3) The system provides monitoring information to teachers by means of a web dashboard, as well as to teachers and students by means of students' avatars in AR clients and VGs. This decision provides the stakeholders with different visualization options, according to the types of the spaces in which the learning situations take place.
- (Dd 4) The system monitors different participants' interactions: participant-artifact, participant-space and participant-participant interactions. This decision enables in-depth awareness of the different actions of the participants.
- (Dd 5) The system monitors the completion of tasks, which allows the teachers to be aware of the state of the learning situation.
- (Dd 6) The system monitors the students' contributions and lack thereof. This decision is intended to make the teacher aware of the work of the students and able to detect problems.
- (Dd 7) The system monitors the location of the participants, which is especially relevant in ubiquitous learning situations in which the participants can be scattered across spaces.

Fig. 2 shows the proposed architecture of the final system. As the predecessor system, GLUEPS-AR, the system provides support to multiple aspects of orchestration, enabling teachers to deploy their learning designs, which can have been created with a variety of authoring tools, into enactment settings that can be composed by multiple web VLEs, AR apps and VGs (see Fig. 3). Teachers can also manage and adapt the ubiquitous learning situations at run-time through a user interface. Different virtual artifacts (e.g., Web 2.0 tool instances such as Google Docs) can be accessed from any of the spaces, due to the capability of the proposed system to integrate multiple artifact-providers or Tool Mediators (systems able to integrate a set of artifact-providers, e.g., GLUE! or IMS-LTI<sup>6</sup> (Alario-Hoyos & Wilson, 2010)).

The integration of multiple types of tools is achieved by means of the well known adapter pattern (Gamma et al., 1995; Monday, 2003), including an intermediate software layer (an adapter) that integrates each tool with a central manager. The adapters standardize the operations of the manager over the different types of tools integrated, so that the manager always uses the same set of operations defined in a *contract*. The adapters adapt these operations to the native operations and APIs of the integrated tools.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.imsglobal.org/activity/learning-tools-interoperability>. Last access April, 2017.

The main change with respect to GLUEPS-AR is the inclusion of architectural elements (marked in red dashed lines in Fig. 2) for supporting the new monitoring features. Therefore, the upgraded system is able to collect (by means of the monitoring modules of the adapters) and integrate (by means of the monitoring manager) interaction data from the multiple technologies used in the different spaces (Dd 1). The monitoring manager contract defines REST resources and operations to communicate with the adapters of the different enactment tools (VLEs, AR apps, VGs and virtual artifacts). The information is gathered by the adapters from the tools depending on the features of the corresponding tool (e.g., following a push or pull approach). This way, the system collects interaction information about the students' accesses to the different tools and resources and the location of the students (Dd 4, Dd 7). Such data is sent to the monitoring manager, where it is integrated and can be subsequently visualized, at run-time and/or after the enactment, in a dashboard and/or using the enactment technologies (e.g., representing the location of the students in VLEs, AR apps and/or VGs by means of an avatar) (Dd 3). In order to visualize the information in the enactment technologies, the adapters can also retrieve data from the monitoring manager. For example, for visualizing in a VG the run-time location of the students in a physical space, firstly, the monitoring manager collects (by means of the mobile AR adapter) the run-time location of the students, and secondly, the VG adapter retrieves such information from the monitoring manager. In the case of the dashboard, the system structures the information according to the learning design (Dd 2), indicating activities and groups of students, and provides summarized information of the students' accesses (and lack of them) to learning artifacts (Dd 6). Also, the dashboard can provide indirect information regarding potential problems in the completion of tasks, or in collaboration, due to the absence of the expected interactions of students with artifacts (Dd 4, Dd 5). Fig. 4 illustrates the different monitoring possibilities offered by the system.

We have developed a prototype of the proposed system in order to explore its monitoring support. The prototype supports the monitoring of activities carried out with two VLEs (Moodle and Mediawiki), four augmented reality apps (Grubert, Langlotz, & Grasset, 2011) (Junaio<sup>7</sup>, Layar<sup>8</sup>, Mixare<sup>9</sup> and any common QR code reader) and two VGs (Google Earth and Google Street View<sup>10</sup>). Also, the prototype supports the monitoring of the GLUE! Tool Mediator (Alario-Hoyos et al., 2013), thus collecting information of operations over the multiple types of web artifacts provided by GLUE!. Finally, the prototype provides run-time visualization of the students' location by means of avatars shown in the AR apps and the VGs supported, and post-hoc visualization by means of a web-based dashboard which generates reports structured according to the learning design. We used Java for developing manager and adapters, Javascript for the user interface, and MySQL and text files for the internal repository.

### 2.3 Evaluation

We have followed the Evaluand-oriented Responsive Evaluation Model (EREM) (Jorrín-Abellán & Stake, 2009) as a framework for the evaluation. The EREM relies on a responsive evaluation approach (Stake, 2004), and it is conceived as an evaluation model for a wide range of ubiquitous collaborative learning scenarios. This evaluation method is framed within the interpretive research perspective (Orlikowski & Baroudi, 1991), that does not pursue statistically significant results or generalizations, rather aiming at a deeper understanding of the particularity and the richness of the phenomena under study (Guba, 1981), in this case provided by the use of the proposed system in three authentic cases. During the evaluation, we used a profuse set of data gathering techniques, which are described in detail in Table 1.

To analyze and interpret the data collected, we conducted a data reduction process (Miles & Huberman, 1994). We defined an issue as the main conceptual organizer of the evaluation process (see Fig. 5): *How does the proposed system support the participants in the affordable monitoring of ubiquitous learning situations?* We divided such issue into three more concrete topics to help us understand the different dimensions within the

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<sup>7</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Junaio>. Last access April, 2017.

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.layar.com>. Last access April, 2017.

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.mixare.org>. Last access April, 2017.

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.google.com/maps/streetview>. Last access April, 2017.

issue: *the support provided for monitoring the ubiquitous learning situations* (topic 1), *the affordability for monitoring using the proposed system* (topic 2) (i.e., if the system can be used for monitoring with a reasonable effort) and *the alignment of the monitoring provided by the proposed system with the teachers practice* (topic 3). Each topic was explored with a number of informative questions.

According to the usual criteria to assure the quality and rigor in interpretive research (Guba, 1981), we have followed several strategies to increase the credibility, transferability, dependability and confirmability of our research: prolonged engagement during months of work with the different teachers and persistent observation in the field; member checking, by receiving feedback from the teachers about results and interpretations; integration of the thorough collaborative observation reports in a single portfolio, thus enabling a thick description of the phenomenon under scrutiny, reported in detail to the whole evaluation team; peer review within the evaluation team to avoid bias; and triangulation of data sources and researchers to crosscheck data and interpretations.

Fig. 6 illustrates the evaluation process, divided into happenings (evaluation events). The figure also represents the different data gathering techniques applied in each happening, along with the labels used to refer to them throughout the text. The evaluation consisted basically of three authentic studies, and feedback gathered from the teachers after the studies. Three teachers were involved in the evaluation: a pre-service teacher in the first study (H1 in Fig. 6), and two university teachers who participated in the second and the third studies (H3 and H5 respectively in Fig. 6). At the end of the first study, feedback was gathered from the pre-service teacher by means of a questionnaire, an interview, and with an email in which he reflected about the monitoring capabilities of the system used (H2). In the case of the university teachers, as they both were involved in the second and third studies, we gathered a preliminary feedback after the second study by recording an evaluation meeting that occurred just after the enactment (H4), in which the teachers reflected about the learning situation carried out. In addition, we collected final feedback from them after the third study by means of a questionnaire and interviews (H6). In the feedback gathered from the teachers, we also included many of the questions used in the questionnaire of the experts-feedback (see Section 2.1). Thus, we complemented the initial information obtained from the experts with information gathered in an iterative process involving authentic learning situations. In the following sections we describe in detail the three evaluation studies.

### 2.3.1. Study 1: Orientate!

*Orientate!* was a ubiquitous learning situation carried out by a pre-service teacher in his practicum. It was conducted with a class with eighteen students of around twelve years old, in a course on Physical Education belonging to the official curriculum of a primary school. The situation was composed of five sessions taking place in different physical and web spaces: the classroom (see Fig. 7, left), the school's playground, a nearby park, and a wiki-based VLE. Many technologies were used by the participants, such as an interactive whiteboard, netbooks, tablets, Web 2.0 tools and the Junaio mobile AR app. The objective of the learning situation was to help develop orienteering skills in the children. During the activities, the pre-service teacher and the students created different virtual artifacts, which were afterwards accessed from a different space from where they were created. For instance, they created geolocated quizzes using Google Docs in the VLE at the classroom, which were accessed later on at specific locations in the park using the Junaio AR app.

In this study, the proposed system supported the pre-service teacher in different orchestration aspects, such as in deploying the learning situation into the enactment setting, in managing the learning activities, or in adapting them when facing emerging events. Regarding monitoring, the system collected data from the different technologies used in the different spaces (Junaio, Web 2.0 tools, wiki-based VLE) by means of the adapters. These monitoring data were processed by the system's manager and stored in the internal repository. Both the proposed system's user interface and the wiki-based VLE served as a control panel for the pre-service teacher, since he could view and access, during and after the learning activities, the artifacts generated by the students. In addition, after the end of the activities, the pre-service teacher reviewed the actions conducted by the students by means of a report produced by the web dashboard (see Fig. 7, right). The report provided information about how the learning design unfolded, such as the number of accesses of the different groups of students to the different learning artifacts in each activity. The report did not provide context-aware information, since the prototype did not triangulate the information generated by the different sources. Thus, the pre-service teacher needed to access

the system's user interface, or the wiki, and consult the artifacts created by the students if he wanted, for instance, to be aware of the location where an artifact had been generated. Other context-aware interaction data was stored in the internal repository, but not provided to the pre-service teacher.

### 2.3.2. Study 2: Game of Blazons

*Game of blazons* was a ubiquitous learning situation involving physical and web spaces, which was carried out by two university teachers (the main teacher of the course and an assistant) and forty seven undergraduate students of a course on Physical Education in the Natural Environment for pre-service teachers. The learning situation took place in a medieval village, together with other related learning situations conducted during a weekend in the village and its surroundings. The situation was aimed at helping students acquire and/or consolidate different skills and knowledge of the subject (orienteeing, hiking, history, culture and environment, etc.), as well as to be able to prepare and carry out physical education activities with children in a natural environment. The students were organized into groups and they had to find, using orienteeing skills and a paper map, several stone blazons (i.e., coats of arms) chiseled in houses of the village. As Fig. 8 (left) shows, close to each blazon, they had to use an AR app (Junaio or a QR code reader) in a mobile device to access Web 2.0 tools (geolocated or linked to QR codes/AR markers) containing learning resources and instructions of different activities to be performed (quizzes, challenges, geocaching<sup>11</sup> activities, etc.). Before and after the session in the village, other blended activities were conducted in the classroom and online, with the help of the Moodle VLE.

As in the Study 1, the proposed system supported teachers in different aspects of orchestration, and with regard to monitoring, data was collected by the different adapters, processed by the manager, and stored in the internal repository. In addition to participant-artifact interaction data, in this case the system also collected periodically information about the students, including their location in physical spaces (participant-space interaction). Moreover, we extended the prototype, and the participant-space interaction information was aggregated and sent back from the manager to the AR adapters, in order to use the mobile AR apps to visualize continuously the location of the participants, providing run-time user-awareness using AR. During Game of Blazons, the students used Junaio to access AR learning resources, while the teachers could see the location of the different groups of students by means of avatars in Junaio (see Fig. 8, right).

### 2.3.3. Study 3: 3D Mirrored Campus

This study relied on a ubiquitous learning activity involving web, physical and 3DVW spaces, in the frame of a session devoted to review the topics addressed in the same course of the Study 2. The same two teachers participated, together with forty eight students of the class. The students performed the activity taking turns, in groups of six students (while a group was conducting the activity, the rest of the students were carrying out other different activities). The activity was complemented with pre- and post-tasks using Moodle. The objective of the activity was to help students assess and reinforce their orienteeing skills and the rest of competencies on ubiquitous learning that they had acquired during the course, while showing them other technological possibilities. The six students in each group had to split into two subgroups. One of the sub-groups had to walk outdoors around the campus following whatever route they wanted, carrying a tablet with the Junaio AR app active (see Fig. 9, left). The other sub-group, in a classroom, could follow the path of their learning partners, represented as an avatar, in the 3D view of the Google Earth VG (see Fig. 9, right). The students in the classroom had to draw on an orienteeing paper map the path that the other group was following. When the group with the tablet returned to the classroom, they also had to draw their followed route on a paper map, and compare it with the map drawn by their colleagues. Afterwards, they changed roles and repeated the activity.

The main differences of this case with the other two described above are the inclusion of a new kind of space (a 3DVW) thanks to the extension of the prototype to support the integration of VGs, and the fact that the awareness of the participants' actions was provided to the students, in order to promote self-regulated and collaborative learning, as well as to improve the students' orienteeing skills and their motivation. As in the

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<sup>11</sup> <https://www.geocaching.com>. Last access April, 2017.

previous study, participant-artifact and participant-space interaction data was sent from the different spaces by the adapters to the manager, processed by the manager and stored in the internal repository. Also, participant-space information was sent back periodically from the manager to the adapters, in order to represent continuously the location of the students by means of avatars in the VG. This way, the outdoor location in the physical space of a group of students using Junaio (Fig. 9, left) was represented indoors at run-time by means of an avatar in the Google Earth 3D view of the campus (Fig. 9, right).

### 3. Results

This section describes the main results obtained during the evaluation process, organized according to the data reduction schema shown in Fig. 5. Table 2 summarizes the main evaluation results as well as illustrates the triangulation process carried out. Throughout the text, the data sources that support the different assertions are indicated with labels (see Fig. 6). A selection of excerpts of the data sources is included in the Appendix.

#### 3.1. Topic 1: Ubiquitous monitoring

Topic 1 deals with the support provided by the proposed system to the monitoring of ubiquitous learning situations. The results of the evaluation suggest that **the proposed system enabled the students the run-time monitoring - by means of a 3DVW - of activities conducted in physical spaces, and enabled the teachers - by means of web tools, augmented reality and a 3DVW - the run-time and post-hoc monitoring of learning activities conducted in web, physical and 3DVW spaces. However, the results showed also that the system could be improved to provide additional information related to the students' collaboration.**

Regarding the support provided by the proposed system to the *collection and visualization* of the students' actions, evidence gathered in the different studies shows that the proposed system enabled the data collection from the different spaces supported: web (by using VLEs and web tools), physical (by using the Junaio AR browser), and 3DVWs (by using the Google Earth VG) (see e.g., [Db3] in Table A.3 of Appendix). Moreover, the proposed system enabled the visualization of students' actions by means of user interfaces in the three spaces: web in Study 1 (by using the web dashboard), physical in Study 2 (with avatars in the Junaio mobile AR browser) and 3DVW in Study 3 (with avatars in the 3D view of Google Earth). Fig. 7 (right), Fig. 8 (right) and Fig. 9 (right) show these monitoring interfaces [Obs1, Obs2, Obs4].

With respect to the *time frame* supported by the proposed system (i.e., the system's support to *run-time and post-hoc* monitoring), the evaluation showed that even though the proposed system enabled the run-time monitoring of activities conducted in web spaces by means of the system's user interface (see [Art1] in Table A.3), the teachers did not use it at run-time. Only in Study 1, the pre-service teacher acknowledged that the wiki-based VLE allowed him to be aware of the students' actions while working in the classroom (see [Int1] in Table A.3). The system also enabled the run-time monitoring of the students' location during activities conducted in outdoor physical spaces. This was a necessity detected in Study 1 and implemented through the AR and VG user-awareness features of the system for Studies 2 and 3, respectively (see, e.g., Fig. 8 and Fig. 9 [Obs2, Obs4]). The proposed system also enabled teachers the post-hoc monitoring, after the end of the activities conducted in web and physical spaces, by means of the web user interface, the web-based VLE (both of them compiled the learning artifacts generated/used by the students) and the web dashboard (with summarized information) (see Fig. 7 [Obs1] and [Quest1-3] in Table A.3). The system also collected and stored information regarding the time and the location of the students' actions, although it was not provided to the teacher post-hoc.

In the presented studies, the types of interactions to be monitored as well as the need for specific indicators related to collaboration were conditioned by the pedagogical approach and the space where the learning activities happened. Regarding the *types of interaction* monitored by the proposed system (participant-artifact, participant-participant, and participant-space interactions, see Section 2.2 and Fig. 5), the web user interface of the proposed system enabled the monitoring of the artifacts generated/used by the students (see [Art1] in Table A.3), and the web dashboard enabled the monitoring of the total number of accesses of the group of students to the learning artifacts (participant-artifact interaction) (see Fig. 7 [Obs1]). Also the AR and VG user-awareness

features enabled the monitoring of the students' location by means of avatars (participant-space interaction) (see Fig. 8 and Fig. 9 [Obs2, Obs4]). Other information regarding the students' interactions (e.g., time and location of interactions with artifacts) was also collected and stored in log files, but not provided to the users in any of the monitoring interfaces. A main limitation detected related to the types of interaction was the lack of monitoring of participant-participant interactions, which needed to be deduced indirectly (by the interactions with artifacts, or location changes). Similarly, there was a lack of monitoring information about the students' collaboration processes. In this case, although the web dashboard is able to provide indirect collaboration information, by indicating the accesses of the members of a group to a shared artifact (e.g., a text document), in the cases studied, the students accessed the different tools using a group user name (a teachers' decision to speed up the authentication process). Therefore, the dashboard monitoring collaboration feature was not used and the proposed system enabled teachers to monitor only the outcomes of collaborative learning (e.g., times a group accessed a learning artifact, learning products generated, etc.) (see, e.g., [Art2] and [Int1] in Table A.3).

Finally, with respect to the *actors* able to carry out monitoring tasks with the proposed system, the three studies showed that the system was able to provide monitoring features to both teachers and students, since the teachers used the system to monitor the students' actions in the three studies, and the students monitored the location of their teammates during Study 3. In this case, the monitoring information provided to the students was the location of other students in physical spaces (see [Obs4] in Table A.3). Table A.3 shows some selected excerpts of evidence gathered during the evaluation, which can illustrate the mentioned findings.

### 3.2. Topic 2: Affordability

This topic deals with the affordability for using the proposed system to monitor ubiquitous learning situations. During the evaluation, **the proposed system showed to be easy to use for teachers and students for monitoring** (see [Art2] and [Obs4]<sub>A</sub> in Table A.4 of Appendix). Only some terms appeared difficult to be understood at the beginning by the teachers, such as the term “warning” in the web dashboard. Therefore, the user interfaces of the proposed system could improve their clarity. Also, evidence gathered in the evaluation suggests that **the use of the proposed system for post-hoc monitoring was affordable for the teachers, and its use for run-time monitoring was affordable for the students** (see [Art2], [Obs4]<sub>A</sub>, [Int1] in Table A.4). **However, its use for run-time monitoring was not affordable for the teachers** due to the little available time, and to the multiple tasks and events a teacher needs to be aware during the enactment, specially in activities conducted in physical spaces (see [Int2] in Table A.4). The design of the AR/VG run-time user-awareness feature was focused on simplicity, providing only information about the run-time location of the students. It was quite clear from what we detected in Study 1 that, even though such awareness feature was necessary, it would be difficult for the teachers to use it because they are usually overwhelmed with the actual teaching tasks. Therefore, and despite our focus on simplicity, the teachers did not monitor the position of the students continuously with the user-awareness feature during Studies 2 and 3. This can be regarded mainly to the time-demanding learning situations, and to the fact that the AR and VG monitoring features had been developed shortly before. All in all, the teachers used such features in some few specific moments during the enactment of Studies 2 and 3. In Study 3 a technological problem arose in the VG user-awareness feature. It was the first usage of this feature in a real setting, and the prototype did not support more than one user represented simultaneously in the VG (see [Obs4]<sub>B</sub> in Table A.4). The teachers had conceived three members of the six-students group carrying individual tablets outdoor, and the rest of the team monitoring them indoor with the 3D view of Google Earth. Finally, the activity was conducted with the outdoor subgroup carrying a single tablet, and the rest of the team monitoring their learning partners indoor using desktop computers. Although this was not part of the evaluation itself, it is interesting to underline that later on we solved these concurrency problems and we tested the prototype with eleven simultaneous real users and simulating more than a hundred concurrent users. Table A.4 shows a selection of excerpts of evidence that illustrate these findings.

### 3.3. Topic 3: Alignment

Topic 3 deals with the alignment of the monitoring provided by the proposed system with the teachers' practice and their beliefs. The evidence gathered during the evaluation suggests that **the monitoring features of the proposed system were useful for the teachers and aligned with their practice. The system helped the**

**teachers achieve their learning goals and evaluate the students** (see [Quest1-3] in Table A.5 of Appendix), **and the information provided by the system was assessed as pedagogically meaningful by the teachers** (see [Int3]<sub>A</sub> in Table A.5). The main teacher of the Studies 2 and 3 identified the AR user-awareness feature as one of the most interesting findings of the learning situations. He considered that it could be very relevant, for safety reasons, in many learning activities performed with children. He also described other possible usages in different learning situations, such as promoting collaboration in physical spaces (e.g., a more experienced student could help a learning partner) (see e.g., [Obs3] in Table A.5).

The evaluation also helped identify **features that the system should include to improve its alignment with the teachers practice**. Some of them are the monitoring of the evolution of learning artifacts (e.g., by capturing the different versions throughout time of artifacts created and/or modified by students), and the inclusion of the field-observations of participants (e.g., teachers and researchers). In addition, the pre-service teacher of Study 1 stated that he would have liked to be able to access the dashboard information at run-time during the enactment so that he could be aware of what students were actually doing. He also highlighted as a limitation the absence of location information in the dashboard. Moreover, the assistant teacher of Studies 2 and 3 asserted that the system could improve the aid provided to teachers for evaluating by allowing them to define an initial categorization of evaluation criteria, and a subsequent association of the students' actions and artifacts created with the evaluation criteria. Finally, the main limitation of the proposed system detected during the evaluation was the lack of a tracking feature in which they could observe in a map, both at run-time and after the enactment, not just the students' run-time location, but also the whole paths followed by them, including information such as the time and location of the different actions performed (e.g., the interaction with artifacts) (see e.g., [Int2] and [Int3]<sub>B</sub> in Table A.5). As mentioned in Section 3.1, most of this information is already collected and stored in the internal registry although it is not currently provided to the users. As an alternative, the teachers used during Study 2, in parallel with the use of the proposed system, another mobile app (RunKeeper<sup>12</sup>), which the students had activated during the activities, to track the followed path (see e.g., [Int3]<sub>B</sub> in Table A.5). Therefore, the proposed system could be enhanced by allowing the integration of other types of context-aware applications beyond those currently considered. Table A.5 shows a selection of excerpts of evidence that illustrates the aforementioned findings.

## 4. Conclusions

The evidence gathered in the research process suggests that the monitoring system created supported the participants in the affordable monitoring of ubiquitous learning situations that involved web, AR-enabled physical, and 3DVW spaces. The three authentic settings where the system was evaluated enabled us to assess some interesting and innovative characteristics of the proposal. In addition to providing monitoring support in ubiquitous learning situations involving web, physical and 3DVWs spaces, the proposed system also provided *ubiquitous monitoring* support, enabling monitoring in web, physical and 3DVW spaces, by means of, respectively, a web dashboard, an AR app and a 3D VG. This not only increases the monitoring possibilities of the proposal, but it can also enrich its educational usage, enabling teachers to adapt the monitoring approach to their pedagogical ideas, or even to use monitoring as a didactic resource in their learning situations, as in Study 3. The use by the students of the system's monitoring features was another finding of the evaluation, since it showcased how the proposal provided monitoring support to both teachers (in Studies 1 and 2) and learners (in Study 3). It is also relevant to underline its three different monitoring options: the user interface, where a teacher can access (at run-time and after the enactment) all the artifacts generated by the students; the dashboard, where relevant information is summarized and organized according to the learning design; and the very same enactment technologies supporting the learning situation, which provide run-time user-awareness by means of avatars. The different monitoring options of the proposal provided a flexible adaptation to the needs of very different learning situations. This design-structured and context-aware monitoring support in ubiquitous learning environments, providing awareness to teachers and students about the students' performance in different physical and virtual spaces, surpasses the capabilities offered by other approaches in the literature. Such approaches usually focus on a single space, do not integrate the monitoring of the students' actions in different

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<sup>12</sup> <https://runkeeper.com>. Last access April, 2017.

spaces, nor relate the information provided to the users with the learning design structure or the context of the learning activities.

The evaluation results also suggest that the system was easy to use for teachers and students, and its monitoring features pedagogically meaningful, aligned with the teachers' practice, and helping the teachers to achieve their learning goals and to evaluate the students. The monitoring features gave the teachers a unified quick view of the students work and some potential problems in the dashboard, as well as a global picture of the students' location by means of avatars in AR apps and VGs. This information helped the teachers to have a glimpse of potential problems regarding the location of the students or the lack of access to relevant learning resources. Also, visualizing the location of their learning partners helped the students to develop orientation skills.

Besides the positive findings, the reported studies have been useful to identify challenges that need further exploration. These challenges address both run-time and post-hoc support. Regarding synchronous support, an important line of research is related to the design of tools that provide teachers with monitoring capabilities they are able to handle at run-time, since in the three cases studied the teachers were overwhelmed during the enactment due to the limited time available, and the monitoring tools could distract instead of helping them. Regarding this matter, it is interesting that the teachers demanded run-time monitoring features, but at the same time they acknowledged as complex the use of any monitoring facilities during the enactment, especially in physical spaces. This poses a relevant challenge to explore. Another demand identified in the cases was the need for a tracking facility able to integrate the location information with other meaningful elements of the learning situation, such as events' timestamp, participant-artifact interactions, or artifacts generated/accessed, that could help teachers and students review and reflect on it. Also, additional information to the one provided by the proposed monitoring system was identified as relevant, such as data related to participant-participant interactions and the motivation and problems of the students during the activities.

It is noteworthy that the usage of well-known software engineering design principles and standards (e.g., adapter pattern, REST) allowed us to implement adapters able to collect data from different data sources and spaces. We could also follow the same approach for the analysis tools that need to consume the collected data. While in our studies we implemented ad-hoc analyses and visualizations, using activity tracking standards such as CALIPER<sup>13</sup> or xAPI<sup>14</sup> we could get advantage of existing solutions that rely on them.

All these benefits and challenges, together with the rest of results and knowledge gained throughout the research process give some insights to the general research question that we posed, *how can technology support the monitoring of ubiquitous learning situations with teacher orchestration purposes?* Thus, we integrated monitoring features into a system focused on the orchestration of ubiquitous learning environments, improving the monitoring support provided by alternative approaches to ubiquitous learning situations. Also, during the whole research, we have extracted a number of design guidelines, which can be useful for researchers and technology developers focused on the development of monitoring solutions for ubiquitous learning. Table 3 compiles the design guidelines, which we have organized according to the dimensions identified by Chatti et al. (2012) in their reference model for learning analytics, so that a set of guidelines can help designers in each dimension of the reference model.

The first dimension (*data and environments*) points out the need for taking into account multimodal and contextualized data, from all the spaces incorporated to the learning situation. Monitoring should respond to the fact that emerging users or artifacts can appear throughout the learning situation, and also to the fact that not all the necessary data will be available. In the latter case, alternative data sources must be looked for, or the monitoring system should make the user aware of the potential lack of reliability of the results. With regard to the recipients of the analysis (*stakeholders*), the guidelines stress the fact that different participants may be involved in the monitoring process, and that this process should be adapted to the needs and capabilities of each one of them. These capabilities may be dependent not only on the user, but on the particular situation, which

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<sup>13</sup> <http://www.imslobal.org/activity/caliperram>. Last access April, 2017.

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.adlnet.gov/adl-research/performance-tracking-analysis/experience-api>. Last access April, 2017.

may pose a high workload. This workload must be taken into account to ensure the affordability of the monitoring support. The study shows that there may be different purposes (*objectives*) for the monitoring, which leads to the need for adapting the support provided to these different goals. Also, several guidelines emerged regarding how monitoring support should be provided to the users (*methods*): it is necessary to integrate the data coming from different sources or spaces, in automatic ways to provide unified visions of the learning environment; there is also a need for supporting run-time functions in the cases where monitoring is to be provided while the learning situation is running; it is recommendable to use standards to ensure better interoperability; it is important to consider scalability, as the number of users and artifacts grow faster when considering several spaces; finally, being aware of the pedagogical intentions of the teachers may have positive impact on the effectiveness and efficiency of the monitoring process.

The studies had some limitations that define our immediate future work. We plan to further explore the combination of the different monitoring features of the system, since each monitoring option was used in a different learning situation. In addition, some of the interaction-data gathered from the enactment technologies is not currently included in the visualizations. We need additional research in order to improve the monitoring features with this information, such as creating the tracking maps demanded by the involved teachers. In fact, the current version of the monitoring system leaves to the teacher all the responsibility for the interpretation of the data. We plan to enrich the existing system with more advanced analytical features and test whether more intelligent ways of support are effective to help teachers orchestrate ubiquitous learning situations. Moreover, we plan to investigate how to include other sources of information to be able to monitor additional indicators besides those currently implemented in the monitoring system explored, such as participant-participant interactions, and students' motivation. Also, we aim to complement, in future iterations of the research, the results presented in this paper, with other types of data gathering techniques, such as think-aloud protocols, brainstorming or workshops, for further exploring the necessities of teachers for monitoring ubiquitous learning environments. Finally, further research would be necessary to explore the scalability of the approach so that it could eventually be used in massive educational environments, as well as the possible integration in the monitoring system of other context-aware external applications and devices, or other types of monitoring interfaces to visualize the information, such as ambient displays (Hernández-Leo et al., 2012; Medina et al., 2014).

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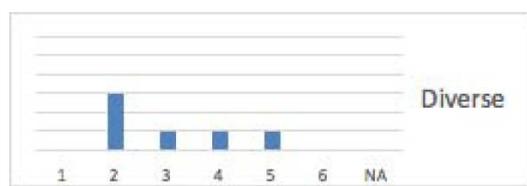
## Appendix

This appendix describes the profile of the experts researchers/lecturers who answered the exploratory questionnaire used together with a literature review to obtain initial insights of the technological needs to monitor ubiquitous learning situations (see Section 2.1). The appendix also includes the main questions of the questionnaire and a summary of the answers. In addition, this appendix includes different excerpts of evidence obtained during the evaluation.

**Table A.1** Profile of the experts lecturers/researchers who answered the initial exploratory questionnaire

1	PhD ICT. ICT expert. 3 years lecturing in university, using VLEs as a teacher. Mainly lecturing in classroom and blended learning. 5 years researching Technology-Enhanced Learning (TEL) in VLEs and blended learning.
2	MSc ICT. ICT expert. 3 years lecturing in university, using VLEs as a teacher. Mainly lecturing in classroom and blended learning. 3 years researching in learning analytics.
3	PhD ICT. ICT expert. 14 years teaching expertise in university, mainly in classroom and blended learning. 12 years researching TEL, 2 years researching ubiquitous learning.
4	PhD ICT. ICT expert. 7 years lecturing in university, using VLEs as a teacher. Mainly lecturing in classroom and blended learning. 5 years researching TEL. Occasional experience teaching and researching learning activities involving multiple physical and virtual spaces in Secondary Education and university.
5	MSc ICT. ICT expert. 3 years lecturing in university, using VLEs as a teacher. Mainly lecturing in classroom and blended learning. 5 years researching in TEL 3 years researching in learning analytics.
6	PhD ICT. ICT expert. 1 year teaching in Secondary Education and 11 years teaching in the university. 10 years teaching in learning situations involving physical and virtual spaces. 8 years researching in TEL. Occasional work as a researcher in learning situations involving multiple physical and virtual spaces.

**Table A.2** Main open-ended items of the exploratory questionnaire used to gather insights of the monitoring needs in ubiquitous learning situations

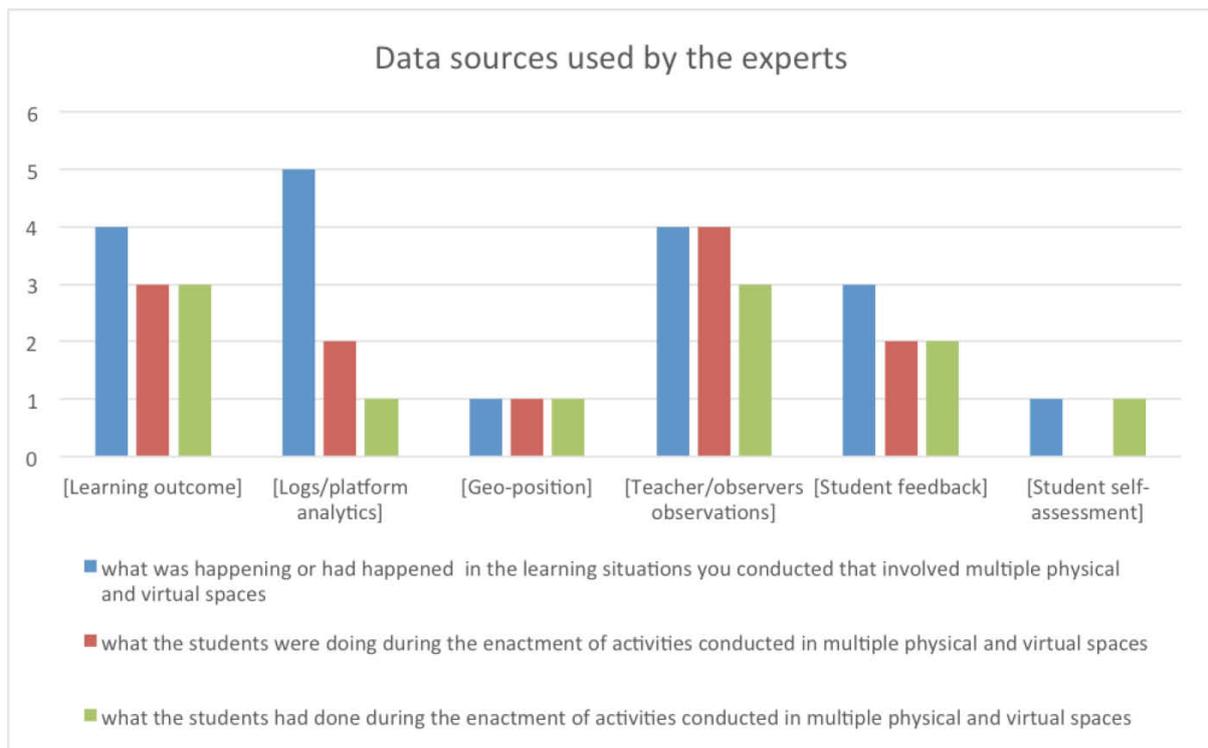
Items <sup>a</sup>	Answers summary <sup>b</sup>
1. In the learning situations I conduct that are enacted in a single physical space (such as a classroom or the school playground), I am able to know everything that happens	 <p>The bar chart displays the frequency of responses for item 1 across seven categories: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and NA. Category 2 shows the highest frequency, with approximately 10 responses. Categories 3, 4, and 5 show lower frequencies of approximately 3, 3, and 3 responses respectively. Categories 1 and NA have no responses. The word 'Diverse' is written in the upper right corner of the chart area.</p>

<p>2. In the learning situations I conduct that are enacted in a single virtual space (such as a wiki, Moodle or a web tool), I am able to know everything that happens</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Data for Item 2</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>NA</td><td>0</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Count	1	0	2	0	3	3	4	2	5	0	6	1	NA	0
Response	Count																
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3	3																
4	2																
5	0																
6	1																
NA	0																
<p>3. In the learning situations I conduct that are enacted in multiple physical spaces (such as a classroom or the school playground), I am able to know everything that happens</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Data for Item 3</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>NA</td><td>2</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Count	1	1	2	1	3	0	4	2	5	0	6	0	NA	2
Response	Count																
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2	1																
3	0																
4	2																
5	0																
6	0																
NA	2																
<p>4. In the learning situations I conduct that are enacted in multiple virtual spaces (such as a wiki, Moodle or a web tool), I am able to know everything that happens</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Data for Item 4</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>NA</td><td>1</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Count	1	0	2	1	3	2	4	2	5	0	6	0	NA	1
Response	Count																
1	0																
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3	2																
4	2																
5	0																
6	0																
NA	1																
<p>5. In the learning situations I conduct that are enacted in multiple physical and virtual spaces (such as a classroom or the school playground, a wiki, Moodle or a web tool), I am able to know everything that happens</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Data for Item 5</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>NA</td><td>1</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Count	1	2	2	1	3	1	4	1	5	0	6	0	NA	1
Response	Count																
1	2																
2	1																
3	1																
4	1																
5	0																
6	0																
NA	1																
<p>6. In the learning situations I conduct that involve multiple physical and virtual spaces (such as a classroom or the school playground, a wiki, Moodle or a web tool), is more difficult to know what is happening than in traditional learning situations in a single space (e.g., conducted in a classroom or in Moodle)</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Data for Item 6</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>NA</td><td>0</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Count	1	0	2	0	3	0	4	1	5	2	6	3	NA	0
Response	Count																
1	0																
2	0																
3	0																
4	1																
5	2																
6	3																
NA	0																
<p>In case of agreement with the last assertion:</p>																	
<p>7. Such difficulty is due mainly to the physical spaces</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Data for Item 7</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>NA</td><td>0</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Count	1	0	2	0	3	1	4	3	5	1	6	0	NA	0
Response	Count																
1	0																
2	0																
3	1																
4	3																
5	1																
6	0																
NA	0																
<p>8. Such difficulty is due mainly to the virtual spaces</p>	<table border="1"> <caption>Data for Item 8</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Response</th> <th>Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>NA</td><td>0</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Response	Count	1	0	2	2	3	2	4	1	5	1	6	0	NA	0
Response	Count																
1	0																
2	2																
3	2																
4	1																
5	1																
6	0																
NA	0																

<p>9. Such difficulty is due mainly to the combination of physical and virtual spaces</p>	
<p>10. Such difficulty is due mainly to the number of spaces</p>	
<p>11. In activities conducted out of the classroom (e.g., in the natural environment or in a museum), it is important to know the physical locations and times where the students were (e.g., the path they followed)</p>	
<p>12. In activities conducted out of the classroom (e.g., in the natural environment or in a museum) in which augmented reality is used, it is important to know to what virtual artifact the students accessed, and when they did</p>	
<p>13. In activities conducted out of the classroom (e.g., in the natural environment or in a museum) in which augmented reality is used, it is important to know when and where the students accessed to the augmented reality app</p>	

<sup>a</sup>Items 1-13: closed items (6-point scale [1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = somewhat disagree, 4 = somewhat agree, 5 = agree, 6 = strongly agree] + NA = Don't know/No answer).

<sup>b</sup>We summarize the answers as “diverse” when there are multiple different agreeing and disagreeing answers from the experts for a same item, without a common trend.



**Fig. A.1** Summary of the main open-ended items of the exploratory questionnaire used to gather insights of the data sources used by the experts when monitoring ubiquitous learning situations. We summarize the experts' answers by means of tags between brackets

Aspect	Topic							Indicate what you need to know in an activity conducted in ...							TOTAL
	Context: in which context does their learning take place?	Learner: who/how are the learners?	Action: what do they do while learning?	Social: how do they interact with others during learning?	Content: how is the learning content?	Result: what is the result of their learning?		a physical space where you are present	a virtual space where you are not present	a virtual space where you are present	multiple physical & virtual spaces				
[Learning outcomes evolution across-spaces]	x					x		0	0	0	0	1	1		
[Across-space interaction]	x		x	x				0	0	0	0	1	1		
[Used artefacts]	x		x	x				1	1	2	3	2	9		
[Used artefacts per location]	x		x	x				0	0	0	0	2	2		
[Used artefacts per space]	x		x	x				0	0	0	0	1	1		
[Artefact efficacy per space]	x		x		x			0	0	0	0	1	1		
[Artefact state]	x		x		x			0	0	1	1	0	2		
[Activity state]	x		x		x			2	3	1	2	3	11		
[Objective accomplishment level]	x							0	0	0	0	1	1		
[Student identity]	x	x						0	0	1	1	1	3		
[Student participation quantity]	x	x						0	1	0	0	0	1		
[Student participation progress]	x	x				x		1	1	0	1	1	4		
[Student-student interaction quantity/duration]	x	x	x	x				5	5	5	5	5	25		
[Student-student interaction quality]	x	x	x	x				3	3	2	2	3	13		
[Student-student interaction content]	x	x	x	x				0	0	0	0	0	0		
[Student-student interaction outcome]	x	x	x	x		x		1	1	0	0	0	1		
[Student-student interaction per location/space]	x	x	x	x				1	1	0	0	1	3		
[Student-artefact interaction quantity]	x		x					2	3	1	2	2	10		
[Student-artefact interaction quality]	x		x					2	2	1	1	2	8		
[Student on focus time]	x		x					0	0	2	2	2	6		
[Student on focus time per location/space]	x		x					0	0	0	0	2	2		
[Student location]	x	x						1	1	0	0	0	2		
[Student path]	x	x						0	1	0	0	0	1		
[Student progress]	x	x						0	0	1	1	1	3		
[Group progress]	x	x						0	0	1	1	1	3		
[Student contribution]	x	x						1	1	1	1	1	5		
[Student contribution per location]	x	x						0	0	0	0	2	2		
[Student satisfaction/ emotions]	x	x						1	1	0	0	2	4		
[Student engagement]	x	x						1	1	0	0	1	3		
[Lack of interaction]	x	x						1	0	0	0	0	1		
[Lack of participation per activity]	x	x						0	0	0	0	0	0		
[Stuck students]	x	x						2	2	2	2	2	10		
<b>Number of aspects</b>	15	14	20	7	6	7	15	15	13	14	14	26			

**Fig. A.2** Summary of the main open-ended items of the exploratory questionnaire used to gather insights of the aspects identified by the experts to be monitored in ubiquitous learning situations. The first column contains the

list of *aspects* to be monitored identified by the experts. Then, each aspect is classified per *topic* according to the indicator categories suggested in Rodríguez-Triana et al (in press), namely: context, learner, action, social, content and result related. To provide an overview of the interest of each aspect per space, the table summarizes the number of experts that identified the aspects as relevant in the different spaces. Finally, the last column provides the *total* number times that the experts mentioned each aspect regardless of the specific purpose

**Table A.3** Selected excerpts of evidence related to the Topic 1 (ubiquitous monitoring)

Data source	Excerpts
[Db3]	Log generated by the Google Earth adapter (periodic trace log): #date; app type; event type; courseId; Course name; username; deviceId (anonymized hash); Ip address (anonymized hash); location Fri Dec 20 12:21:10 UTC 2013;earth;trace;602066390-425238058;Sesión repaso en campus (20/12/2013);usuario16;1185211859;156635050;41.662797449778466,-4.706636060615092
[Art1]	The screen-recording videos after each session show how the prototype’s user interface enables the access to artifacts created by the different groups of students, and to the wiki course.
[Int1]	“Regarding when there were ongoing activities in web sites, yes [the system allowed me to be aware of the students’ actions], because I directly, from the teacher view, can manage all the groups. (...) They start to work in the questions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, and if they are making the question 2, I can access from the teacher view to all the groups, and see the question 1, realize that it is wrong, and then, go back to the group [in the classroom] and correct them.”
[Quest 1-3]	To the assertion “I consider that the used systems allowed me, <i>after</i> the end of the activities, to know what the students <i>had done</i> in <i>virtual spaces</i> (such as web tools, wikis Moodle, etc.)”, two of the three teachers answered 5, “Agree”, and the other one answered 6, “Strongly agree”. To the assertion “I consider that the used systems allowed me, <i>after</i> the end of the activities, to know what the students <i>had done</i> in <i>physical spaces</i> (such as classroom, school playground, natural environment, etc.)”, the three teachers answered 5, “Agree”.
[Art2]	[Email from teacher 1 talking about the dashboard:] “I can see that all the groups accessed the resources we had created for them.”
[Obs4]	“I arrive to the classroom and there is a group [of students working]. I see that a map in Google Earth is being projected, in which the avatar of one of their teammates, who is located in front of the Faculty of Education, is moving.”

**Table A.4** Selected excerpts of evidence related to the Topic 2 (affordability)

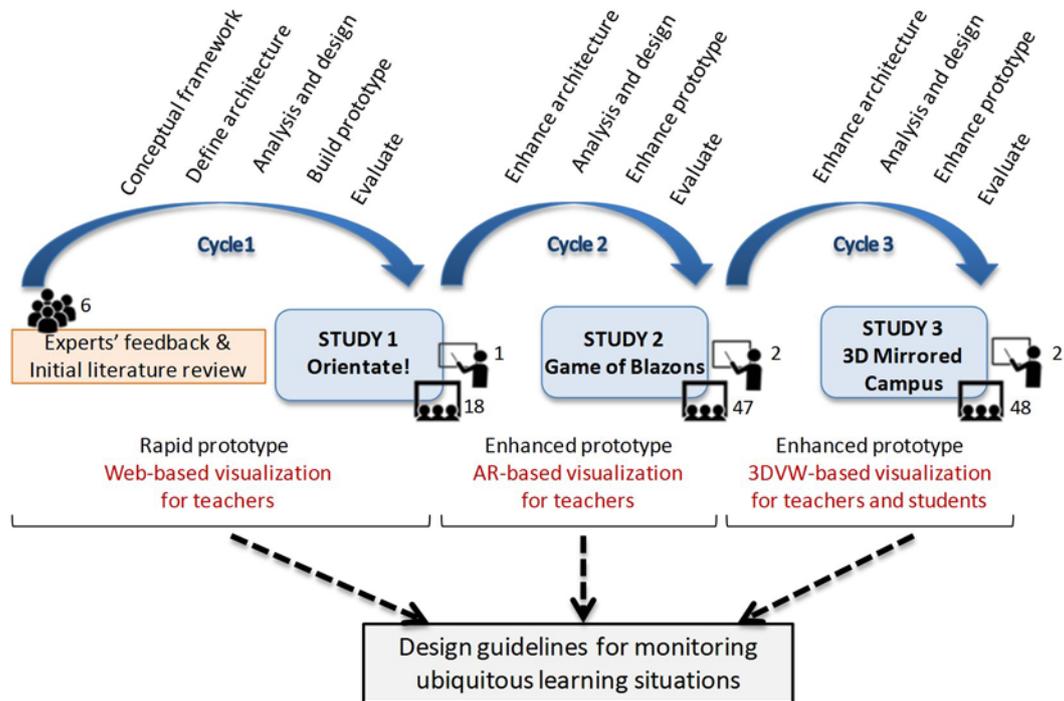
Data source	Excerpts
[Art2]	[Email from teacher 1 talking about the dashboard:] “I think that, with the legend included at the top, and the distribution of the tables in sessions, groups and activities, the tables are very clear.”
[Obs4] <sub>A</sub>	“Also group 4 is doing it well with the 3D view. (...) They are managing Google Earth without a hitch. They only ask how to switch from 3D view to bird’s eye view.” “Group 5 starts doing the activity. A student goes out of the building with the tablet, and the rest stay in the classroom with Google Earth. They use the 3D view, and they manage it very easily.”

[Int1]	“The main problem was to control them while they were doing the activity. (...) I mean, while they were doing the activity in the web space and after they have done it in physical spaces is easier to control them.”
[Int2]	“During the activities, the problem of this kind of content, or subject, is that during the activities a teacher has a lot of things in which to think about, to do and to dedicate. (...) I think that it is complicated due to the subject itself, which forces you to be paying attention to many other things.”
[Obs4] <sub>B</sub>	“The technology has failed in the activity. The [Google Earth’s] map didn’t update and Junaio crashed in the three ipads.”

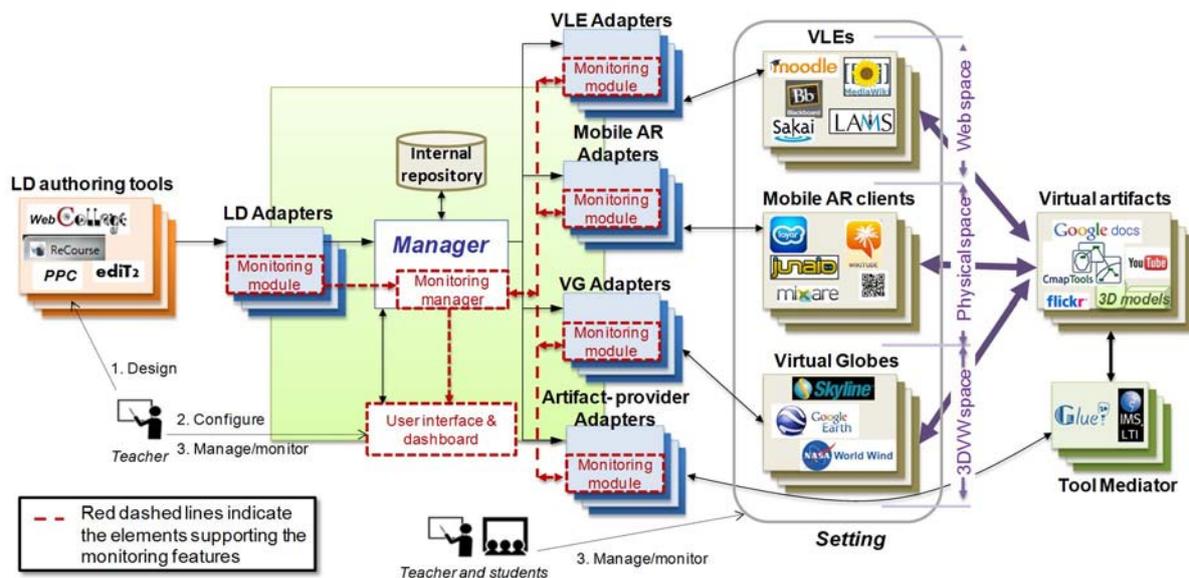
**Table A.5** Selected excerpts of evidence related to the Topic 3 (alignment)

Data source	Excerpts
[Quest1-3]	To the assertion “I think that the used systems helped me evaluate the students in these activities”, two teachers answered 5, “Agree”, and the other one answered 4, “Somewhat agree”, and he specified “I think that I took little advantage of the evaluation [possibilities] that the system provides.”
[Int3] <sub>A</sub>	“(…) During the activities, it is the same that we did with Google Earth. Because if you see where they are moving, you can analyze with a group what they are doing. With a student looking at Google Earth. And see their mistakes, and make them to argue such mistakes.”
[Obs3]	[Teacher 2 talking about the AR user-awareness feature] “Impressive, I think it’s impressive. And impressive for other very interesting usages that I have in mind (...) In addition, the orienteering is an activity that has ... when you design an activity for children, some basic safety issues have to be considered. (...)”
[Int2]	“And, for instance, in the orienteering subject, to be able to associate with a track, to see the track itself, to comment it live.”
[Int3] <sub>B</sub>	“That the system would make a report with the times (...) between a place and another (...). I mean: did you get there? Yes. You have scanned that at 15:32. And you get there at 15:40. So, that the system provides you with the time between one place and another. (...) And it would be nice if it would make even the map. I mean, to integrate the runkeeper inside.”

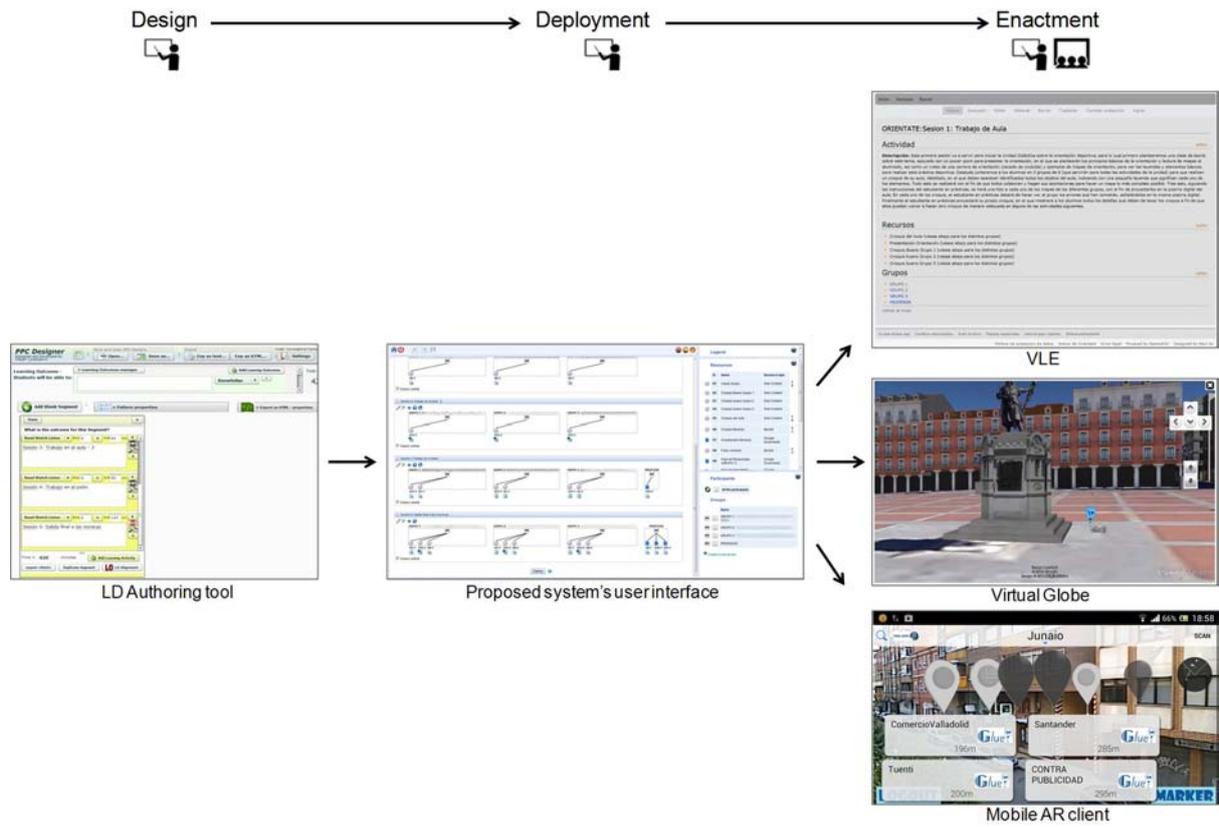
## Figures



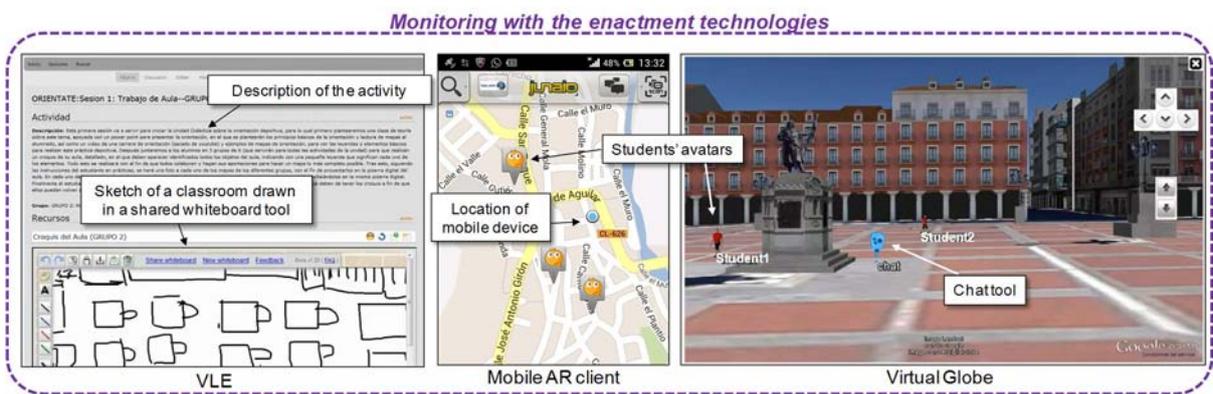
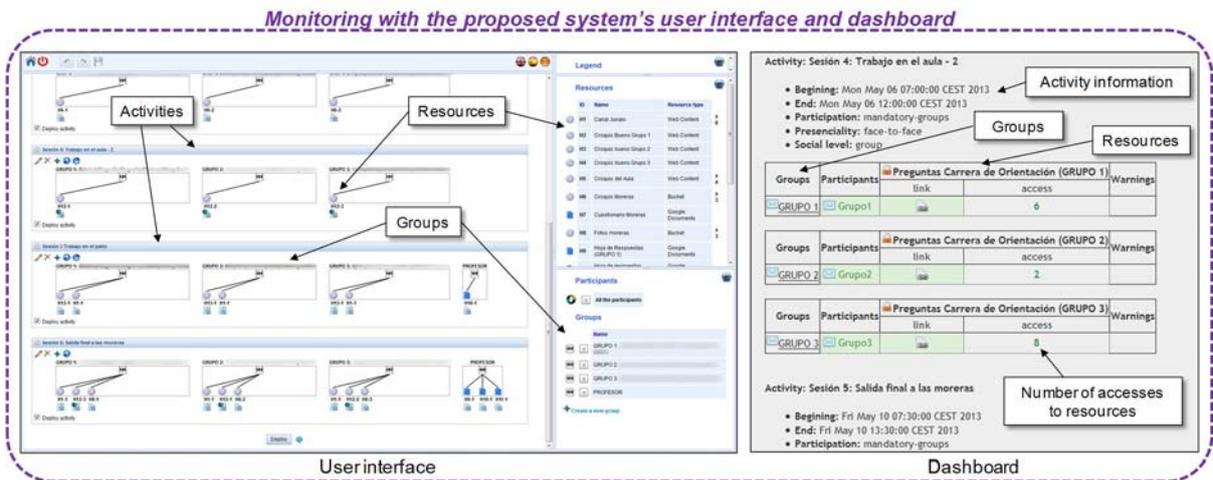
**Fig. 1** Research process followed, encompassing three cycles of the Systems Development Research Methodology proposed by Nunamaker et al. (1990)



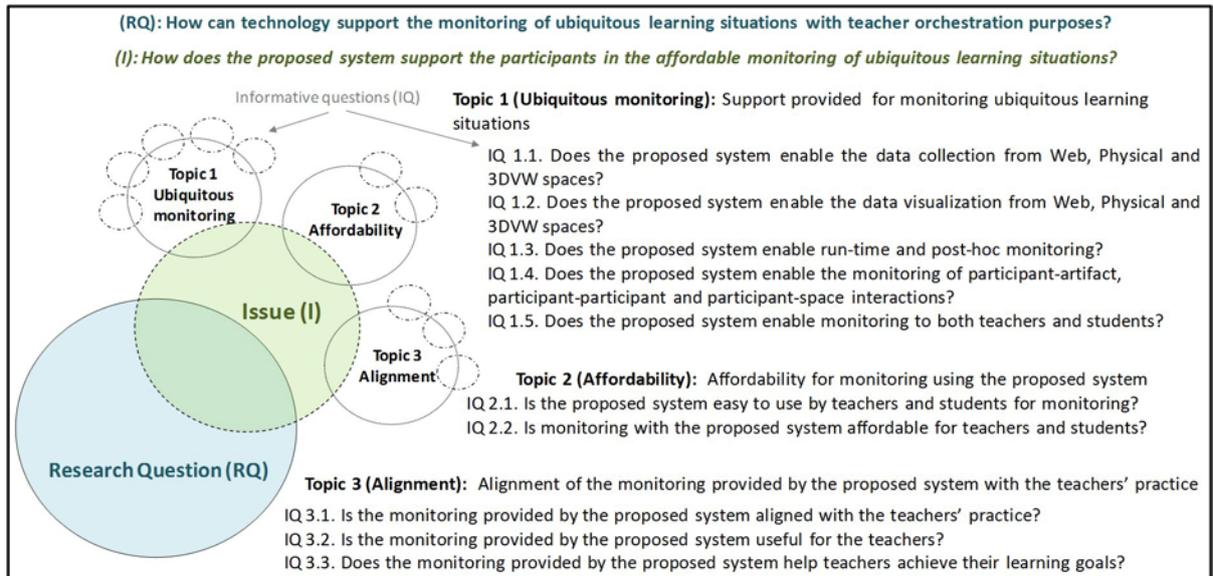
**Fig. 2** Architecture of the proposed system



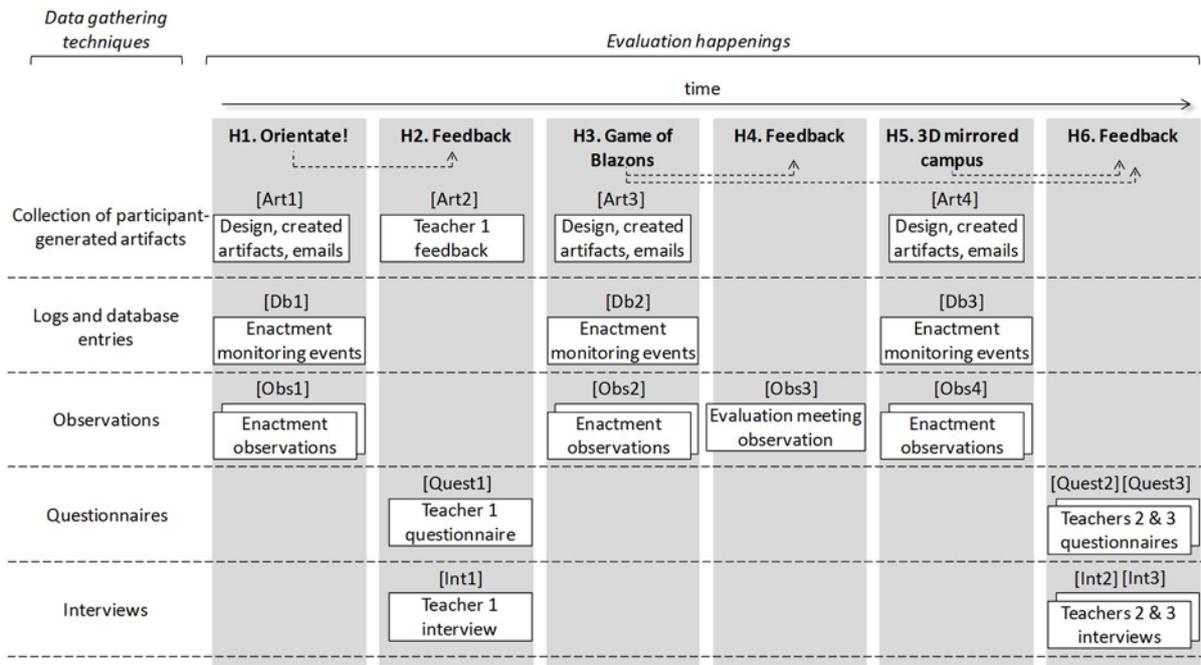
**Fig. 3** Ubiquitous learning life cycle supported by the proposed system, illustrated with screenshots of the different tools involved



**Fig. 4** Monitoring options provided by the proposed system, illustrated with screenshots



**Fig. 5** Schema used for the data reduction process



**Fig. 6** Evaluation happenings and data gathering techniques used during the evaluation



**Fig. 7** Session in the classroom during Study1 [Obs1] (left), and partial view of the web dashboard used in Study 1 [Obs1] (right). The name of the teams appears in green, meaning that the groups have submitted their work in the terms previously defined by the teachers and therefore, no warnings are shown by the system



**Fig. 8** Students at a blazon in a village during Study 2 [Obs2] (left), and students' avatars showed in the Junaio's map view during Study 2 [Obs2] (right)



**Fig. 9** A student outdoors in the university campus during Study 3 [Obs4] (left), and student's avatar in the 3D view of the Google Earth VG during Study 3 [Obs4] (right). The avatar shows the current location of the student in the campus

## Tables

**Table 1** Data gathering techniques and labels used to quote them along the text

Data gathering technique	Description	Label
Collection of participant-generated artifacts	Collection of a diverse set of electronic artifacts generated by teachers and students. Aimed at registering the use of the proposed system by the participants, gathering the opinions of the teachers, and complementing the observations with information of the learning artifacts generated. Types of data collected include emails with teachers, and learning designs and products.	[Art]
Logs and database	Logs and database entries with the monitoring events collected from the	[Db]

entries	different technologies, to register participants' actions, and to verify that data was gathered properly.	
Observations	Naturalistic, semi-structured observations to register the actions, impressions and other emergent issues of teachers and students during the enactment. Conducted by different experienced observers (five in Study 1, two in Study 2, and four in Study 3). The data collected were audio/video recordings, pictures, observation notes and screenshots of mobile devices and computers.	[Obs]
Questionnaires	Web-based exploratory questionnaire composed of open-ended and closed items (6-point scale [1 = strongly disagree, 2 = disagree, 3 = somewhat disagree, 4 = somewhat agree, 5 = agree, 6 = strongly agree] + Don't know/No answer). Aimed at getting the initial opinions of the teachers over a wide range of matters before conducting the interview.	[Quest]
Interviews	Semi-structured, face-to-face, one-to-one conversation with the teachers (recorded and transcribed), to capture their opinions in depth, after an initial analysis of other data sources (e.g., observation data, questionnaire answers, etc.).	[Int]

**Table 2** Main results of the evaluation process

Topic	Results	Supporting data
Ubiquitous monitoring	The proposed system enabled the students the run-time monitoring of activities conducted in physical spaces, and enabled the teachers the run-time and post-hoc monitoring of learning activities conducted in web, physical and 3DVW spaces. Such monitoring was provided by means of web tools, augmented reality and a 3DVW. The main limitation of the system referred to the monitoring of the students' collaboration.	Art1-3, Db1-3, Obs1-2, Obs4, Quest1-3, Int1, Int3
Affordability	The proposed system was easy to use for teachers and students, and affordable for teachers for post-hoc monitoring. However, their use for run-time monitoring was not affordable for the teachers, due mainly to the lack of available time, especially during activities in physical spaces.	Art2, Obs3-4, Quest1-3, Int1-3
Alignment	The monitoring features of the proposed system were pedagogically meaningful, aligned with the teachers' practice, and helped them to achieve their learning goals and to evaluate the students. However, the system should be improved to include: a run-time dashboard with summarized information of the students' actions; post-hoc information about the evolution of learning artifacts (e.g., different versions of a document through time); observations of the teacher; and a tracking feature representing the path followed by the students and information about their actions (e.g., times and location of interaction with artifacts).	Art2, Obs1-4, Quest1-3, Int1-3

**Table 3** Design guidelines for monitoring solutions in ubiquitous learning environments, indicating the sources from which they emanated in the research: experts' feedback [EF] or evaluation topics [Topic1] [Topic2] [Topic3]

Dimensions	Design guidelines
------------	-------------------

<p><i>Data and environments:</i> <b>What</b> kind of data does the system gather, manage, and use for the analysis?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Monitoring benefits from multimodal data, involving not only logs and learning artifacts, but also information provided directly by the participants (e.g., teacher observations or student feedback). [EF] [Topic3]</li> <li>● When different spaces are involved, consider gathering data from each space. [EF]</li> <li>● The learning context is not static. Elements such as the artifacts or users to be monitored may emerge during the scenario. Automatic detection of emergent elements is necessary to enable their monitoring. [Topic1]</li> <li>● In case of absence or shortage of available/accessible data, find alternative data sources or acknowledge the lack of evidence to avoid unreliable analyses. [Topic1]</li> <li>● Data has to be associated with contextual information, to enable the users access this context through inspectable interfaces (e.g., timestamped interactions, artifacts, users, etc.) [EF] [Topic 1]</li> <li>● When the situation includes outdoor activities, consider tracking user and resource location [EF] [Topic 1]</li> </ul>
<p><i>Stakeholders:</i> <b>Who</b> is targeted by the analysis?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The monitoring support must take into account users' workload and availability in order to provide actionable data at the moments the user can handle them. [EF] [Topic2]</li> <li>● Indicators and visualizations must be compliant with each stakeholder's tasks and data literacy levels. [Topic1] [Topic2]</li> </ul>
<p><i>Objectives:</i> <b>Why</b> does the system analyze the collected data?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Take into account users' purpose when designing data analyses and visualization. Monitoring may support different teacher and student purposes: awareness, assessment, self-regulation, group management, etc. The information needs of the users change with the purpose, and it is very important to provide exactly what each actor needs, avoiding overloading them with unnecessary information. [Topic1] [Topic3]</li> </ul>
<p><i>Methods:</i> <b>How</b> does the system perform the analysis of the collected data</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To get an overall picture of the learning scenario, it is necessary to integrate data obtained from different sources and spaces. [EF]</li> <li>● To increase the efficiency and accuracy of the system and reduce the monitoring workload of the users, automate the data gathering and integration as much as possible. [EF]</li> <li>● Consider that aspects/indicators to be monitored can be intra- or inter-spaces (specific of a space, or common across-spaces). [EF]</li> <li>● Focus on meaningfulness and contextualization: take into account the teachers' pedagogical intentions or assessment criteria to identify relevant indicators and to provide meaningful information to the participants. [Topic1] [Topic3]</li> <li>● The use of well-known design principles and standards (such as design patterns) enables interoperability and integration. This is specially important in ubiquitous learning scenarios, where the use of multiple and diverse technologies is the rule and not the exception. [Topic1]</li> <li>● Focus on affordability: identify which aspects can be checked synchronously, during the learning activity. Provide run-time analyses and visualization for these aspects, and leave other aspects for post-hoc, asynchronous inspection. [Topic1]</li> <li>● Depending on the scenarios to be monitored, it is necessary to deal with the scalability in terms of number of students and artifacts regarding both monitoring infrastructure and visualizations. [Topic2]</li> </ul>

## Captions

**Fig. 1** Research process followed, encompassing three cycles of the Systems Development Research Methodology proposed by Nunamaker et al. (Nunamaker et al., 1990)

**Fig. 2** Architecture of the proposed system

**Fig. 3** Ubiquitous learning life cycle supported by the proposed system, illustrated with screenshots of the different tools involved

**Fig. 4** Monitoring options provided by the proposed system, illustrated with screenshots

**Fig. 5** Schema used for the data reduction process

**Fig. 6** Evaluation happenings and data gathering techniques used during the evaluation

**Fig. 7** Session in the classroom during Study1 [Obs1] (left), and partial view of the web dashboard used in Study 1 [Obs1] (right). The name of the teams appears in green, meaning that the groups have submitted their work in the terms previously defined by the teachers and therefore, no warnings are shown by the system

**Fig. 8** Students at a blazon in a village during Study 2 [Obs2] (left), and students' avatars showed in the Junaio's map view during Study 2 [Obs2] (right)

**Fig. 9** A student outdoors in the university campus during Study 3 [Obs4] (left), and student's avatar in the 3D view of the Google Earth VG during Study 3 [Obs4] (right). The avatar shows the current location of the student in the campus

**Table 1** Data gathering techniques and labels used to quote them along the text

**Table 2** Main results of the evaluation process

**Table 3** Design guidelines for monitoring solutions in ubiquitous learning environments, indicating the sources from which they emanated in the research: experts' feedback [EF] or evaluation topics [Topic1] [Topic2] [Topic3]