

# CASE STUDY: RTVE LAB DIGITAL INNOVATION AND STORYTELLING PROGRAMME

## rtve.es lab

### **EDITO**

The media landscape and media consumption habits are changing. Building bridges between new ways of storytelling and traditional broadcast is a priority and a challenge for public service media nowadays.

This is what RTVE Lab has been doing since 2011: innovating with products and formats to find new ways to tell stories for digital immigrants and natives. They are placing users at the centre of their strategies, reflecting new ways of consuming content.

The team is made up of designers, developers, journalists and multimedia editors. The goal of their collaboration is not only to create new ways of telling stories, but also to invent new ways of doing things.

RTVE Lab hosted the first meeting of the EUROVISION Digital Labs Network in June 2015. The programme, run by the Media Online team of the Media Department, aims to connect digital labs run by PSM (whatever they are called) by enabling them to share knowledge and

learnings, as well as to find opportunities for working together with innovative digital products and formats.

Participants at the Madrid meeting included representatives from VRT Start-Up, DW Innovation, RTS Digital Lab, SWR E-Lab, SR Digital Innovation, the BBC Digital Innovation Unit, RTBF Interactivity Department and the hosts, RTVE Lab. This was the first in a planned series of visits, workshops and hackathons focusing on digital storytelling and innovative transmedia and interactive projects.

The following overview on RTVE Lab is based in the presentation they gave to the labs taking part in the visit in Madrid.



### ABOUT RTVE LAB

### WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF RTVF LAB?

The Lab was launched in 2011 to develop new ways of telling stories for audiences that RTVE is not reaching with traditional, broadcast media. Their first projects focused on finding new ways to produce content around big, national events such as the San Fermin Bulls Racing.

### **OUR ROUTE MAP**



### THE TEAM

RTVE Lab team is made up of designers, developers, journalists and multimedia editors. They are all equally interested in finding new ways of doing things. They define themselves as multitasking and multi-disciplinary, digital trends hunters, with a millennial soul and always ready to try something different all the time.

"The only way to innovate is to fail and try new formules. Don't be afraid of epic fails. Ricardo Villa"



**RE-THINKING OUR PROJECTS** 

### EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS BY RTVE LAB

### 3 projects, 3 definitions of our work

### DISRUPTIVE



Project #1: MONTELAB

- -First DocuGame
- -Gamification to generate empathy
- -A story too many times told
- -Experience the life of someone

### LIQUIDE



Project #2: ESTAFETA - 1

- -A personal story
- -Our own 'Snow Fall'
- -1 day of production

### OUR OWN IDENTITY



Project #3: THE ROYAL TRANSITION

- -A new first page with 20 days to prepare
- -But we have RTVE archive
- -Real time analysis

### We do also short term projects



### LAB VIRA

-Audovisual content produce just for FB and TW
-Simple questions, different visual answers
-For example: How your vote becomes in
a deputy seat?



Lablogatorio,
-Blog to catch all the innovation trends
-Building a community

### HOW THEY MEASURE SUCCESS

For the RTVE Lab team success means:

- Doing new things, things that have never been done before;
- Creating products that are used by other departments in RTVE;
- Having our colleagues in other departments progressively understand and admire what we do and the way we work.

### Our idea of success is different to the rest of the newsroom



Liga MasterChef, 300.000 users during the first week



Fallen in the Wall, Transmedia project. 5.000 users

## LESSONS LEARNED BY RTVE LAB SO FAR

(AS EXPLAINED BY THE LAB'S MEMBERS)

- 1. Content is king (not technology);
- The right technology plus the right story, lead to the right experience: it's about perception, sense and reactions from the user;
- 3. Simplicity: be better storytellers with limited resources: 'tell everything vs tell our own story";
- People, people, people: our users are interested in the characters, not in the events. Our stories must always tell something about someone;
- 5. Don't be afraid to fail, because you are going to fail a lot Failing is an important part of the process;
- 6. Go where the party is: generate discussion between our users by going where they are;
- 7. Take advantage of the big waves: great events generate a huge amount of traffic: use it to be part of bigger communities:
- Do what you love and love what you do: we don't love every project we do, but we try to love what we do with the projects.



### RTVE LAB'S NEXT STEPS AND CHALLENGES

### 1. MOVE FAST, BREAK THINGS

### Should we continue working like a startup?

You should decide

| Pros                                    | Cons   |
|---|--|
| You can test ideas very quickly         | Incredible dependence on tech & design                           |
| You learn a lot of things faster        | It can also hurt culture and morale in the long term             |
| It gives everyone a sense of urgency    | There is the peril of never doing anything well                  |
| It provides cultural and moral benefits | Sometimes you could forget that there is a price for being wrong |

### 2. KEEP CREATING TOOLS THAT COULD BE VERY USEFUL FOR THE NEWSROOM

### Tools developed by LAB RTVE, now used in the newsroom



### 3. CREATE AUDIOVISUAL CONTENT FOR THE INTERNET GENERATION

### **Digital Factory**

Our next formats



RT PIz

A weekly show for YouTube about
"the Social Noise". News, funny
videos, Trending Topics

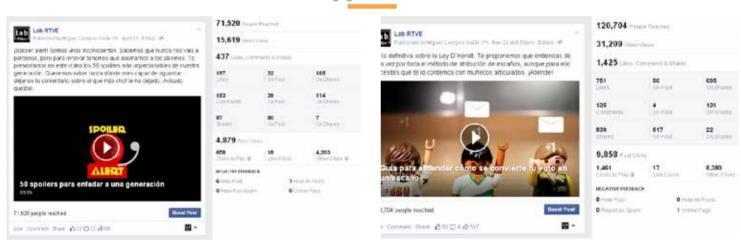


Upclose interviews with anonymous people on the cover of a newspaper for a reason

### 4. STUDY HOW TO ENGAGE TO GO VIRAL

### **Facebook Analytics**

Which videos engage better with the audience?



### **Spoiler Alert**

A game to see how people react to spoilers for TV series and movie spoilers

### The D'hont Method

We explained how your vote converts into a parliament seat in party-list proportional representation

### 5. BE MORE SOCIAL (AND NOT ONLY ON INTERNET)

### The scenario has changed

You have to go outside!

### First Factor

You have to be where your audience is

### Second Factor

The front page is dead. Long live to Social Networks and SEO



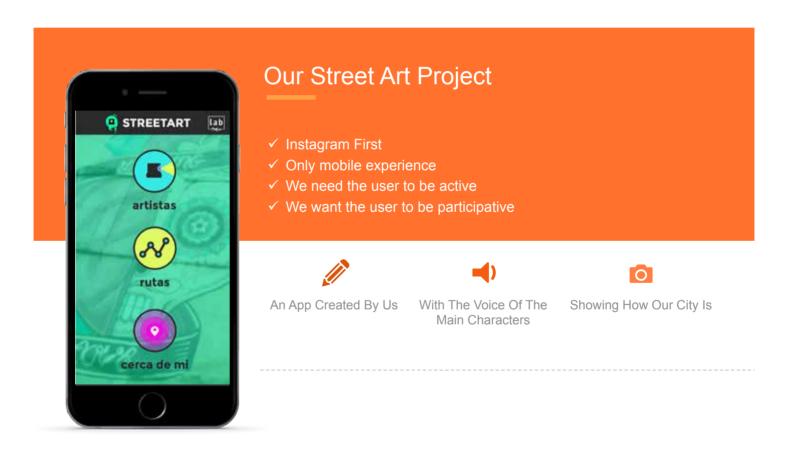
### Third Factor

Don't be obsessed with the click in your page. Be obsessed with doing engaging content

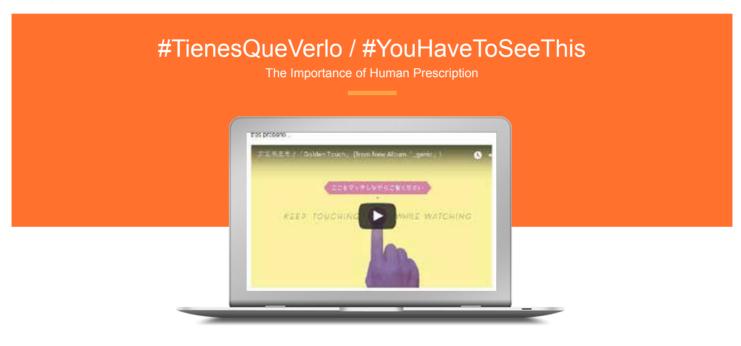
### Fourth Factor

Yes, not only on the Internet. You have to share what you do, to know other people working on innovation

### 6. FORGET MOBILE FIRST TO GO MOBILE ONLY



### 7. FINDING A VOICE AND A PERSONALITY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY IS IMPORTANT









### 8. MAINTAIN THE ATTENTION OF TRADITIONAL TV AUDIENCE AND GAIN THEIR TRUST

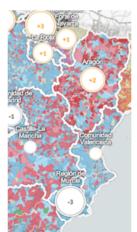
# Carlos, Rey Emperador Our next challenge

### 9. TEST, BE WRONG, LEARN; TEST, BE WRONG, LEARN; TEST, BE WRONG, LEARN

### We need innovation to be contagious

We have to learn something everyday

We need to multitask more...







### NEXT TOPICS TO EXPERIMENT WITH









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