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Transformation of face-to-face education into virtual – Experience of Argentina

Introduction

2020

The Argentine Radiation Protection Society: **SAR**, successfully shifted their traditional **face-to-face courses** into **virtual courses**

Online education brings new **challenges** and **benefits**

SAR Mission
- ✓ Promote the **execution of works and the interchange of knowledge** in **radiation protection** and related areas
- ✓ Promote knowledge about **radiation protection criteria** associated to the **handle of radioactive** and **fissionable substances** and **radiation sources**
- ✓ Consolidate and maintain **radiation protection discipline** as a **professional specialization**

Aligned with issued **safety standards** by the Argentine regulatory body
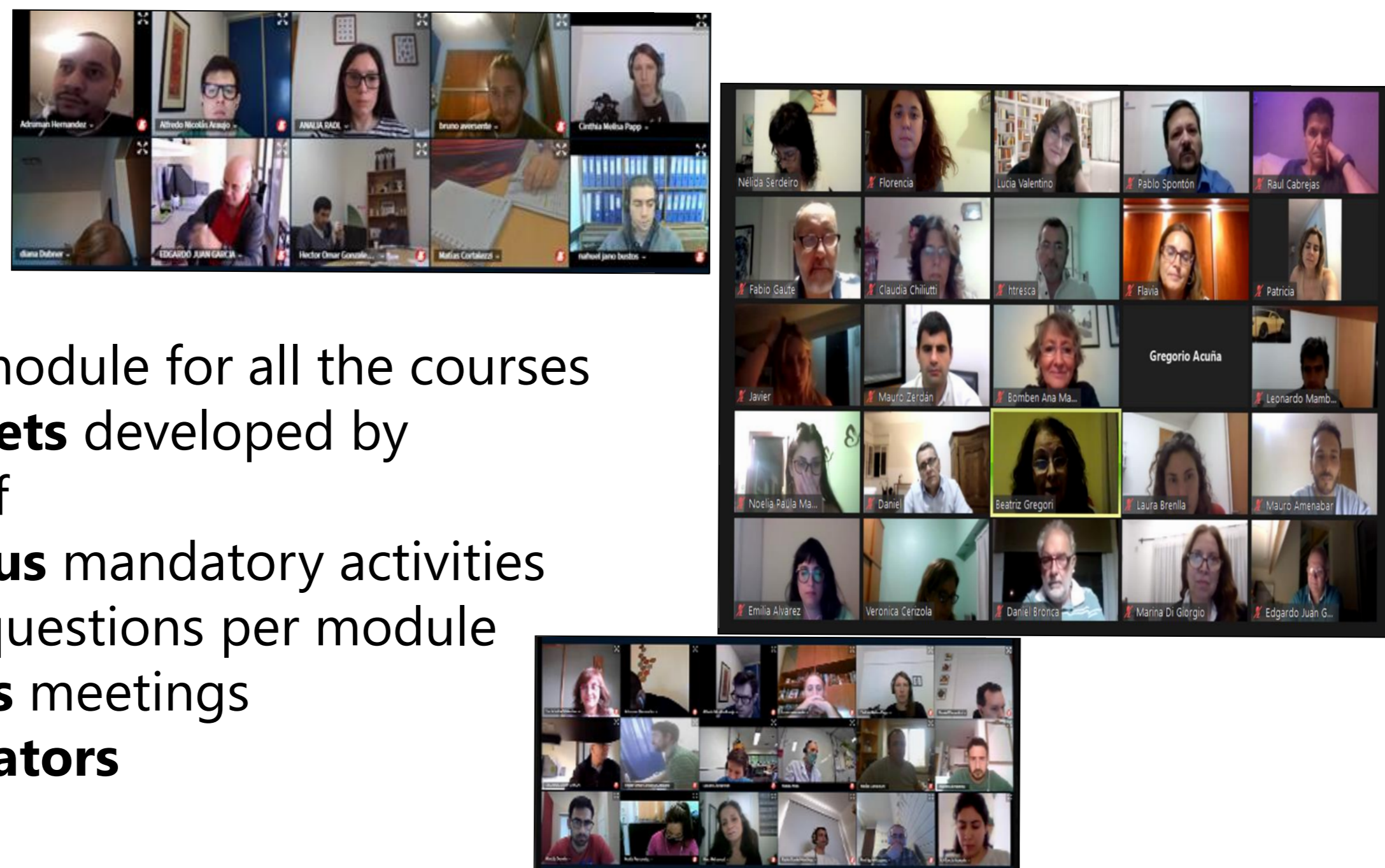
SAR members along the Argentine territory

SAR keeps interaction with **national, regional and international professional societies**
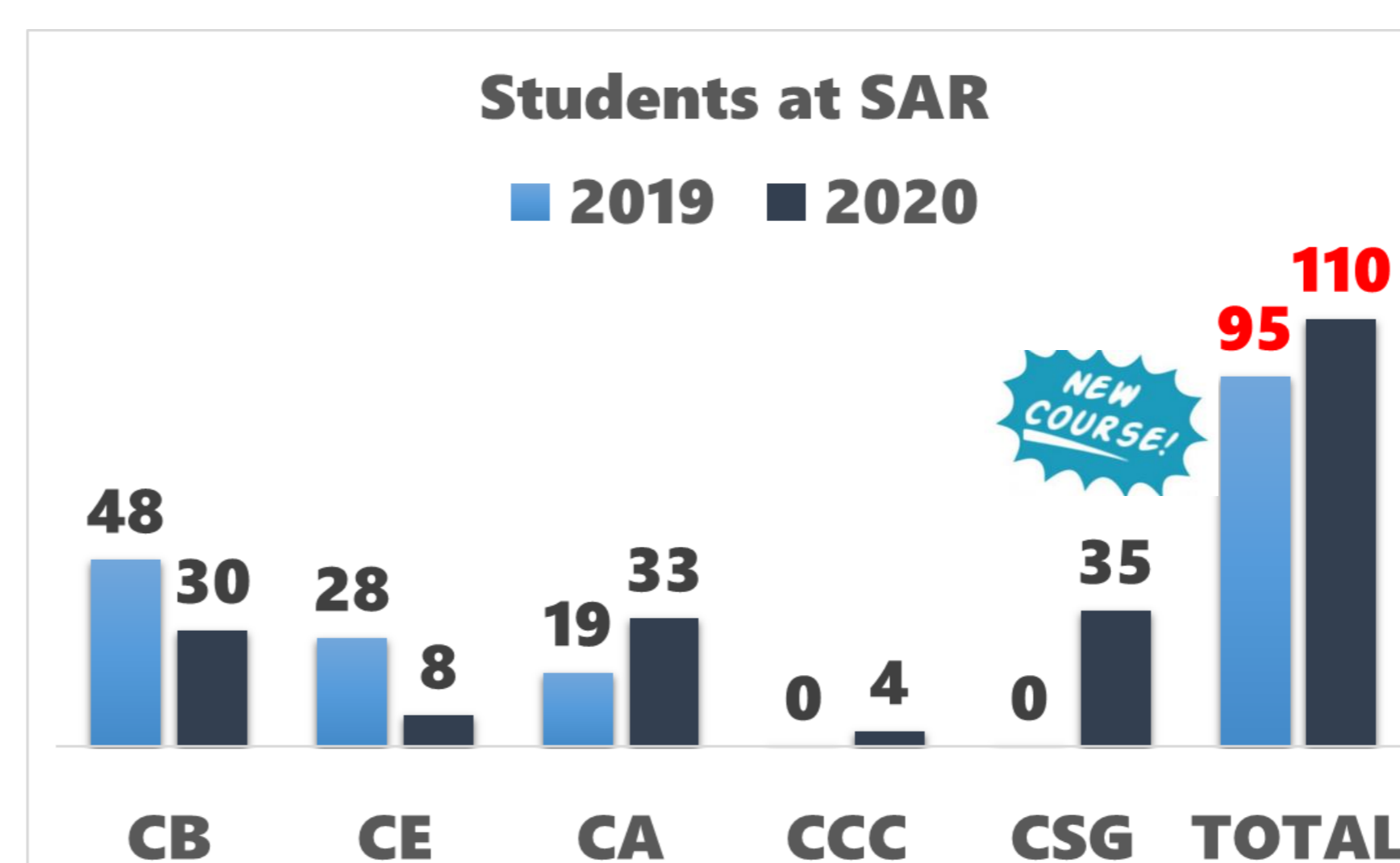
Methodology

More than **50 years of experience** educating students in classrooms on radiation protection and unexpectedly, due to the global sanitary situation, **virtuality** suddenly **took over and came to stay**

- **Videos** per module for all the courses
- **Study booklets** developed by teaching staff
- **Asynchronous** mandatory activities
- **Forums** for questions per module
- **Synchronous** meetings
- Use of **simulators**
- **Exams**

Challenges
- Select an e-learning platform & a system for synchronous meetings
- Consider tutors´ prior experience in the development of virtual education & their preferences
- Adjust existing academic material to e-learning and design new one
- Keep up with high quality education level
- Use new software & tools for the development of material
- Coordination of the virtual courses & Moderation role as a new necessity

Results

- The **coordination team** expanded responsibilities and also took the **moderation role**
- All the face-to-face **courses were adapted to e-learning** in 2020 due to the pandemic
- **Intensive courses** were shifted to **regular course**
- SAR academic **material** was **reviewed and updated**
- **New material** was developed for **e-learning** courses
- A **new course** was designed and imparted. It was a "Management System Course (CSG)"
- **Increase of 16%** in the total number of trained **students at SAR**
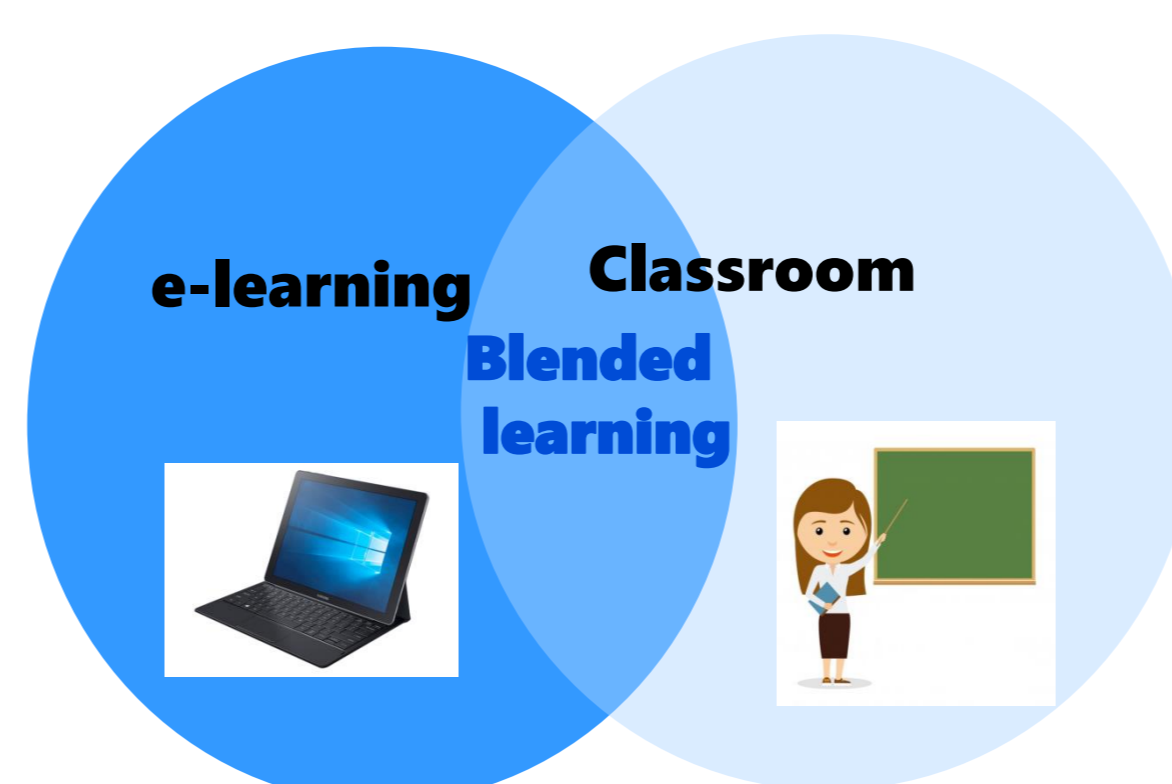
Students at SAR
2019 | 2020

Course	2019	2020
CB	48	30
CE	28	8
CA	19	33
CCC	0	4
CSG	0	35 (NEW COURSE!)
TOTAL	95	110

References:
- **CB:** Basic Formation Course
- **CE:** Specific Course
- **CA:** Update Course
- **CCC:** Fuel Cycle Course
- **CSG:** Management System Course

Conclusions

- The challenges brought by the year 2020 were overcome
- **e-learning** courses have **benefits & advantages** in several aspects
- **Technology Structure** is required for **e learning**
- A **coordination team** was **an essential aspect** for the development and performance of e-learning courses and included **moderation role**
- **Quality education** was improved
- SAR expanded its **academic offer** with a **new course**
- An **increase** in the number of trained **students** was identified
- In the **future**, SAR courses will probably approach to **blended learning**

e-learning | Classroom
Blended learning

ASPECTS	e-learning	classroom
Motivation	X	X
Personalization	X	X
Feedback	X	X
Interaction	X	XX
Discipline	X	X
Relevance	X	X
Mobility	X	
Tech Structure	X	
Tracking & control	XX	X
Study time	XX	X
Reduced cost	X	
Global reach	X	

Acknowledgments

- **Teaching staff** for joining the virtual format enthusiastically and contributing with new and updated material overcoming the difficulties of a new methodology
- **LATIN AMERICAN NETWORK** (LANENT) for supplying Moodle Platform and contributing to the spread of SAR Courses through its website, Facebook & twitter
- **Participants** for trusting SAR and letting us contribute to their intellectual capital

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