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S3 EP 06: école nationale de santé

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École nationale de santé: VR in Vocational Training

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Anne Colle — Professeure en Santé

My name is Anne Colle. I have been a Professeure en Santé at the ENSA for fifteen years. The VR project began four years ago as part of our school development plan. Today virtual reality is part of the curriculum, and for two years we have run more than four hundred simulations a year; each pupil does about two simulations per year on average.

We work with two technologies: an animated virtual world in which the pupil has to react to a patient's condition, and 360-degree video, which focuses above all on empathy and communication. The greatest added value is a safe environment where mistakes are part of the learning process, and the emotion: the immersive quality you can achieve neither at the blackboard nor in a role-play.

A simulation always follows the same principle: a briefing, the simulation itself, and a debriefing in which we look at what went well and why. But VR replaces neither the internship nor the other methods — it is an additional method for transferring theory into practice. I also see potential in transferring the 360-degree technique to other fields, for instance safety on construction sites.

Robert Kanz — Deputy Director

My name is Robert Kanz, deputy director of the École nationale de santé. We train the health professions — nurses, care assistants, family helpers — and have around 3,600 pupils. Because internships in hospitals and care homes are becoming ever more complex, we invested in simulation and now also in virtual reality, in order to place pupils in the situation of a hospital room and observe how they behave.