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## Design Thinking For Educators

### Ante Demo

Earlier this summer, I had the opportunity to participate in a teacher training course in Málaga called Design Thinking for Educators. Guided by an innovative facilitator, we explored how design thinking can reshape the way we teach and learn. This article captures key insights from that experience, highlighting how playful mechanics and creative problem-solving can turn everyday classroom routines into meaningful, student-centered learning and fun.

### Design Thinking: From Ideas to Impact

Design thinking empowers educators to empathize, ideate, and prototype solutions tailored to student needs. Using tools like:

- **Structured brainstorming**
- **Visual clustering**

Teachers generate diverse ideas, then refine them through **prototyping**—making abstract concepts tangible and testable.

### Gamification: More Than Just Play

We got a glimpse of how Gamification introduces game mechanics—points, badges, quests—into education to boost motivation and persistence. Inspired by a museum visit (Malaga OXO Video Game Museum), I as an educator observed how interactive exhibits sustained attention and encouraged autonomy. In classrooms, this translates to:

- **Clear goals** and **instant feedback**
- **Progressive challenges** for mastery
- **Avatars and roles** for identity exploration
- **Leaderboards** for collaboration or competition

The goal: engagement with learning, not just rewards.

**Classroom Quest: Micro-Gamification in Action** Imagine turning homework into a mission or peer feedback into a collaborative game. Educators redesign routines using:



**International  
House**  
Split



**Sufinancira  
Europska unija**

- **Journey maps**
- **Empathy maps**
- **Pitch canvases**

These tools help scale ideas from prototype to practice, ensuring sustainability and impact.

To conclude, Design thinking along with ideas such as gamification aren't just methods, they're lifestyles. They invite educators to celebrate progress, embrace iteration, and make learning more appealing, especially for younger generations.