

NATIONAL OVERVIEW

NEW MEDIA AND ICT IN ULLL

Country:

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University Lifelong Learning in the national context

Higher education in Portugal includes public and private institutions, which can be Universities and Technical Universities. There are 14 public universities.

In terms of national policy of LLL and continuing education, there is the National Agency responsible for implementing the European Initiatives (www.proalv.pt/). In 1999 AUPEC was created, a national association of universities for LLL. However, lately this association has not been very active.

Concerning research in LLL, there is no national strategy. Research in this area occurs at the university level.

The following chart summarizes national data on education in general, including LLL.


PORTUGAL 	Portugal		EU average		EU Benchmarks	
	2000	2009	2000	2009	2010	2020
Participation in early childhood education (4 years old - year before start of comp. primary)	78.9%	87.0% ⁰⁸	85.6%	92.3% ⁰⁸	-	95%
Reading	26.3%	17.6%	21.3%	20.0%	17.0 %	15%
Low achievers (15 year-olds; PISA study results)						
Mathematics	30.7 ⁰⁸	23.7%	24.0% ⁰⁸	22.2%	-	15%
Science	24.5 ⁰⁸	16.5%	20.2% ⁰⁸	17.7%	-	15%
Early leavers from education and training (age 18-24)	42.6%	31.2%	17.6%	14.4%	10 %	10%
Upper secondary attainment (age 20-24)	43.2%	55.5%	76.6%	78.6%	85 %	-
Increase since 2000	-	193.2% ⁰⁸	-	37.2% ⁰⁸	+15 %	-
MST graduates (higher education)					Improve gender balance	-
Share of females	41.9%	34.1% ⁰⁸	30.7%	32.6% ⁰⁸	-	-
Higher education attainment (age 30-34)	11.3%	21.1%	22.4%	32.3%	-	40%
Adult participation in lifelong learning (age 25-64; 4 weeks period)	4.3 % ⁰⁴ p	6.5%	8.5% ⁰³	9.3% p	12.5 %	15%
Investment in education Public spending on education, % of GDP	5.42%	5.30% ⁰⁷	4.88%	4.96% ⁰⁷	-	-

Figure 1 – Extracted from Progress Towards The Common European Objectives In Education And Training

http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-policy/doc/report10/report_en.pdf

Universidade do Porto (UPORTO) has two initiatives in terms of Continuing Education (http://sigarra.up.pt/up/pt/web_base.gera_pagina?p_pagina=122268). The internal training of staff members is managed centrally at the Rectorate, although most courses are administered locally at the schools. In terms of CE for the general public, all courses are managed and delivered by each of the Schools of the university. In the current school year, UPORTO offers 201 courses in the CE catalogue. Most of the courses are face-to-face and b-learning however UPORTO has several courses delivered in distance learning supported using e-learning. In terms of research in Lifelong Learning, there is no dedicated group of research. There are Research Groups that work in related fields like CIPES (Higher Education Policies) and CIIE (Research and intervention in education). UPORTO has participated in several European research projects in the area of CE.

Universidade de Aveiro (UA) has a unit that manages continuing education (UNAVE <http://www.unave.ua.pt>), including internal training of staff and courses for the general public. In terms of research, it does not have a specific research group for LLL but has research groups dedicated to education and training.

Universidade do Minho (UM) does not have a single department that concentrates Continuing Education, internal or for the general public. Credited continuing Education is distributed among the departments and units with some coordination from the rectorate. Internal training of staff is the responsibility of the human resources department. Tecminho is the unit responsible for delivering non credited courses. In terms of research UMINHO does not include a research group dedicated to LLL but has groups that work in related areas including in the school of Education, Engineering and Tecminho.

In **Universidade de Coimbra** (UC) Continuing Education is delivered by the different schools of the University. UCoimbra has a distance education unit that delivers online courses of CE. In terms of research, there isn't a specific group dedicated to LLL but some research groups work in related subjects, including the research group of the school of Education.

The **Universidade de Lisboa** (UL) has a unit responsible for LLL (<http://flv.campus.ul.pt>) that is responsible for delivering courses for the general public. It is also responsible for the integration of adult learners and recognition processes for access and for accreditation. This unit is also involved in research projects in this area. There is another department responsible for the internal training of staff.

In **Universidade Técnica de Lisboa** (UTL) the individual schools offer courses and initiatives in the area of LLL. This UTL has a Senior University that offers training for adult learners over 50 years old. It was not possible to find research groups dedicated to LLL or in related fields.

Continuing Education at **Universidade Nova de Lisboa** (UNL) is included at the level of the schools. In terms of research, even though there isn't any research group in LLL, Universidade Nova de Lisboa has related research groups that operate in the area. It has a research group in education and development that researches policies, education and training in Higher Education and transversal issues related with the society.

Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro (UTAD) has an unit for training (gForm) that works together with the e-learning unit. gForm delivers training courses in different areas but it doesn't research in the field.

Universidade da Beira Interior (UBI) has a unit dedicated to training, CIFUTE. It includes courses for the general society, internal training and specialization courses. UBI has a Unit for Education and development that offers courses for the faculty of the University. In terms of research in LLL, there is no research group operating in the area of LLL.

Universidade da Madeira (UMA) has CE courses that are offered by each department and that are opened for the general society and post-graduation courses. UMA has a research centre in Education that develops research in areas related with LLL.

Universidade dos Açores (UAc) has a unit that offers LLL courses for the general public. Also, it has a specific CE unit for teacher training. Each department offers other CE courses in the specific scientific field. In terms of research in the field of LLL it was not possible to find information.

Universidade do Algarve (UALG) offers CE at the level of the departments. Additionally, UALG has a specific unit for training teachers in the region. Also, UALG has a small offer of courses for the general public. In terms of research in LLL, it was not possible to find information.

In terms of CE **Universidade de Évora** (UE) courses are offered by the departments. The offer includes specialization courses, post-graduation courses and courses for the general public. In terms of research, UE includes a research group on Education. It does not have a specific research branch on LLL but deals with related subjects.

Universidade Aberta (UAb) has a specific unit dedicated to LLL. It includes vocational training and post-graduation courses in different areas. Also, includes specific training for teachers and courses for the general public. UAb does not include a research group in LLL. However it has a research group on e-learning and distance learning.

The use of ICT and New Media in ULLL

In Portugal, most of the public universities have some type of e-learning project or unit that provides support in this field for the academia. In the past ten years there has been a considerable growth at

national level. Some universities are offering programmes dedicated to e-learning or other learning technologies.

Universidade do Porto (UPORTO) has a unit dedicated to the use of Learning Technologies, GATIUP. GATIUP started as a project in 1997 and as a Unit in 2003. It is located at the rectory and gives technical and pedagogical support to the use of the e-learning platform to the academic community. The e-learning platform is available for all the courses of the university, credited and non-credited. The e-learning platform is completely integrated with the information system, facilitating access, validation, grading and other components of the pedagogical process. Additionally, GATIUP develops and gives support to the use of other technologies like audio, video, videoconferencing technologies and other media. GATIUP offers training for teachers, staff and students in the field of ICT and specific learning technologies. GATIUP also participates regularly in European research projects in the field of e-learning and education in general. GATIUP is involved in some internal research projects related with learning technologies including e-assessment, e-portfolios, accessibility and webcasting. E-learning at UPORTO is mostly blended learning, used as an online tool for traditional face-to-face courses. However, distance e-learning courses are used in internal training and continuing education.

In terms of other ICTs used for educational purposes, UPORTO has an open repository of scientific materials that includes papers, dissertations and other relevant resources.

Universidade de Aveiro (UA) has an e-learning unit that gives support to the use of the LMS and other learning technologies, including webcasts, blogs, wikis and edition of Learning Objects. At UA e-learning is used mainly in the context of traditional courses. However UA has some programmes using the b-learning model and a programme delivered fully online.

Universidade do Minho (UM) has an e-learning unit that provides support and training for the academic community in the use of the LMS and related resources. UM has an integrated approach of the use of the TICs for the educational process that includes e-learning LMS, the information system, the scientific repository and other technologies. The unit works closely with researchers in the field of pedagogy and technology to improve their service. UM has another e-learning unit that is part of TECMINHO, an interface institution between the university and the community. TECMINHO offers CE and vocational training courses using b-learning and distance learning. Also, TECMINHO offers support services to other institutions that want to develop online learning.

Universidade de Coimbra (UC) has a distance learning project based on a LLL strategy. It wants to increase the offer and the target audience. UC distance learning unit offers CE courses online and

works closely with researcher in the field of ICT and LTs. UC also provides an e-learning LMS that is used by the traditional programmes.

Universidade de Lisboa (UL) has an e-learning unit that offers support and training for the academic community in the use of the LTs. Elearning at UL is mainly as a support for the traditional programmes but it is now starting to move some courses to a b-learning model.

Universidade Técnica de Lisboa does not seem to have an integrated approach to e-learning. Some of the schools have their own LMS.

Universidade Nova de Lisboa (UNL) has offers programmes and CE courses in e-learning.

Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro (UTAD) has an e-learning project that started in 2010 with the goal of integrating ICT in the teaching and learning process. The strategy adopted at UTAD was using e-learning to support traditional courses. UTAD has also been developing fully online CE courses for teacher training. UTAD is now starting to transform some programmes to b-learning model. The e-learning team gives technical and pedagogical support to faculty and students and to the unit responsible for training courses. UTAD has been researching the area of e-learning in the fields of institutional implementation, instructional design and online assessment. UTAD has been participating in some European research projects in the area of e-learning.

Universidade da Beira Interior (UBI) has an e-learning platform that is used by the traditional programmes. Additionally, UBI has an unit that provides support in the use and development of different types of media.

Universidade de Évora (UE) has adopted e-learning to increase the offer and to reach new audiences. UE has some one 2nd cycle online programme and some post-graduation courses, including teacher training and courses for the general public. The e-learning team also gives support to the development of rich learning resources, mostly in video and webcasts but also using other media.

Universidade do Algarve (UALG), **Universidade da Madeira**, **Universidade dos Açores** don't have a clear statement in terms of e-learning on their website. It was possible to understand that they use moodle or other LMS.

Universidade Aberta (UAb) is a Distance Learning University. Since 2008 UAb changed their teaching and learning process to e-learning using their own Virtual Teaching Model. E-learning at UAb is developed in close collaboration with a research centre dedicated to distance learning.

Research of New Media in ULLL

In terms of research dedicated to e-learning and learning technologies, some universities have dedicated research groups and some other have related research groups.

Universities like UPORTO, UMINHO, UAVEIRO, ULISBOA, UTAD, UCOIMBRA have e-learning units that are not research centers but that develop research and work closely with research centers dedicated to education and/or technology. Most of these research centers research the use of learning technologies and e-learning. In UPORTO and probably in other universities there are several faculty members that research the application of LTs to their subject fields.

Universidade Aberta has a research center (LEAD) that is dedicated to distance education and e-learning. It has three research groups: Group I – Distance education and networked education; Group II – TICs and e-learning and Group III - Education, cyberculture and organizations in society.

Current means of dialogue

In Portugal there are some national events, conferences, workshops and seminars, related with e-learning that provide an opportunity for dialogue between peers. Also, Portuguese institutions are very active in the international community and have been organizing in Portugal international conferences dedicated to e-learning. The Portuguese e-learning community is also active in the social networks.

In terms of LLL there is no sense of community, as far as I could understand.

Relevant sources

Additionally, the following documents may be consulted:

- “O Mercado do e-learning em Portugal” is a report that provides an overview of the providers of e-learning in Portugal. Was produced by e-ruralnet in May 2011.
<http://www.prismanet.gr/eruralnet/themedia/File/PT%20National%20Report%20PT%20final.pdf>.
- “Reforming Learning Higher Education in Portugal” is a report of a panel of international experts requested by the Portuguese government in 2009.
http://www.eadtu.nl/files/Newsletter%202009/September/panel_report%20uni-ab.pt.pdf

- Statement for the national strategy for lifelong learning

https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/eurydice/index.php/Portugal:Lifelong_Learning_Strategy

This report was based on information found on the Internet, at the websites of the Universities. In some cases, it was possible to include information obtained by direct contacts at the institution.

Universidade do Porto: www.up.pt

Universidade do Porto (UPORTO): www.up.pt

Universidade de Aveiro (UA): www.ua.pt

Universidade do Minho (UM): www.uminho.pt

Universidade de Coimbra (UC): www.uc.pt

Universidade de Lisboa (UL): www.ul.pt

Universidade Técnica de Lisboa (UTL): www.utl.pt

Universidade Nova de Lisboa (UNL): www.unl.pt

Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro (UTAD): www.utad.pt

Universidade da Beira Interior (UBI): www.ubi.pt

Universidade da Madeira (UMA): www.uma.pt

Universidade dos Açores (UAc): www.uac.pt

Universidade do Algarve (UALG): www.ualg.pt

Universidade de Évora (UE): www.uevora.pt

Universidade Aberta (UAb): www.uab.pt