

Polytechnic Institute of Bragança - IPB

Name of the organisation :	Polytechnic Institute of Bragança - IPB	
Address:	Campus Santa Apolónia	
Tel:	(+351) 273 330 690	
Fax:	(+351) 273 313 684	
Web site:	www.ipb.pt	

Name of the contact person :	Elisabete Mendes Silva	
Function:	Assistant Professor	
Address:	Escola Superior de Educação, Campus Santa Apolónia	
Tel:	(+351) 965 347 276	
E-mail:	esilva@ipb.pt	

Type of organisation:

SME School University Public Authority
 Training No Profit NGO

Other (Specify)

Fields of action :

SMEs Youth Universities Public Authorities
 Equal opportunities Schools Unemployed

Other (Specify)

Description of the organisation

The Polytechnic Institute of Bragança (IPB) is a higher education public institution with a defined mission in creating, transmitting and diffusing technical-scientific and professional knowledge through the articulation of study, teaching, applied research and experimental development. IPB integrates the European Network for Universities of Applied Sciences (UASNET), whose main objectives include the transferability of professional skills and the integration of applied research in their professional and technological education mission.

Founded in 1983, IPB is presently composed of five schools. Its activities embrace a wide area of knowledge and technology, namely arts, communication and multimedia, business sciences and law, education and teacher training, agriculture sciences and natural resources, health, tourism, sports, technologies and engineering.

IPB has an internationalization programme with widely recognized success, including the annual mobility of more than 900 incoming and outgoing students and 300 teaching and non-teaching staff members, as the result of the cooperation with several European HEIs and with universities from the Community of Portuguese-Speaking Countries and all over the World (www.ipb.pt/iro).

Taking into account its dimension (9000 students and 500 full time teachers), IPB is placed in the first line of international mobility. Considering the latest governmental data, 30% of IPB graduates have had an international mobility experience during their study programme, which remarkably places IPB above the objective established by the EU for 2020 (20%). IPB also distinguishes itself as partner in European projects.

IPB is one of the few Portuguese HEIs awarded with both the ECTS and the DS Labels, thus assuring the quality and the transparency of the management and the fair academic and professional recognition of its qualifications (www.ipb.pt/ectsguide, www.ipb.pt/sd).

The focus on the qualifications of IPB's teaching staff has enabled the creation of the conditions for the development of applied research, cooperation with other institutions in the current system of science and technology and companies. IPB integrates the national system of science and technology, through the running of several R&D units at the IPB (The Research Centre of the Mountain (CIMO); Research Center in Digitalization and Intelligent Robotics (CEDRI); Research Centre for Basic Education (CIEB)), poles of associated laboratories and research units at the IPB (the Laboratory of Separation and Reaction Engineering, LSRE and the Research Centre for Sport, Health and Human Development, CIDESD), besides the integration of its teaching staff in R&D Units from other higher education institutions (e.g. University of Lisbon Centre for English Studies (ULICES), CITCEM, Research Centre for Languages, Literatures and Cultures-Aveiro University, among others).

IPB is a certified institution awarded with ISO 2001:2008 standards certificate, our Planning and Quality Management Office implements mechanisms of quality control in order to improve quality of services and follow financial implementation of projects.

All things considered, IPB has clearly proved, this last decade, its ability to obtain funding in several areas and present indicators of impact and excellence of its scientific and applied research. Internationalization is also one of IPB's main strategic challenges as it has proven to be a positive factor for differentiation among higher education institutions, both at national and international level. Currently, IPB is a multicultural institution, where 33% of its students are international students.

Experience of the organization in previous European projects

For the last 5 years, IPB has been involved in the following European Projects:

- Erasmus+ Capacity Building - Enhancing Early Childhood Education and Care in Palestine – CARE” (2021-2024)
- Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership - VR Science Tour” (2020-2023)
- Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership - “SG4NS - Serious Games - Developing Emotional Competencies for Nursing Students” (2020-2023)
- Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership - “TUT4IND – Training University Teachers for the Inclusion of People with Intellectual Disabilities” (2019-2022)

- Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership - “VIW – Voices of Immigrant Women” (2020-2022)
- Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership - “GAINKIDS - Global Citizenship for Kids” (2020 – 2023)
- Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership - “EcoChestnut” (2019-2022)
- Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership - “ACT - Cooperatively TransMediate” (2019-2021)
- Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership - CtwoSEAS - “Climate Change: Science, Ethics and Society” (2019-2022)
- Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership - “ROBOSTEAM Integrating Steam and Computational Thinking Development by using Robotics and Physical Devices” (2018-2021)
- Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership – “TELESPA Teaching Learning Spaces Competence from Early Childhood Education” (2018-2021)
- Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership – “MathE Improve Math Skills in Higher Education” (2018-2020)
- Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership – “SMiLD Students with Mathematic Learning Diasabilities ” (2018-2020)
- Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership – “VR@School Future Schools Using the Power of Virtual and Augmented Reality for Education and Training in the Classroom” (2018-2020)
- Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership – “DA.RE Data Science Pathways to re-imagine education” (2016-2019)
- Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership – “SPEET Student Profile for Enhancing Engineering Tutoring” (2016-
- Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership – AduLeT - Advanced Use of Learning Technologies in Higher Education (2016-2019)

Experience and Expertise of the organization in the project’s subject area

The Department of Foreign Languages of the School of Education at IPB focuses on the teaching of five different foreign languages: English, Spanish, French, German and Chinese. It has native speakers in French, German and Spanish. It strives to foster the use of Technology-enhanced language learning (TELL) tools and to integrate methodologies that concur for the use of ICT and Learning Technologies in different educational settings and teaching scenarios. Foreign language teaching follows the recommendations of the European Council's Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

To meet the challenging learning requirements within the pandemic context, IPB provided both teachers and students with adequate tools and training (cf. Virtual platform) aiming to develop the digital skills of its community.

Adulet project was also a springboard for raising awareness to the importance of the use of TEL tools to facilitate the teaching and learning of all areas in higher education, languages included. Through the creation of a community of practice, Adulet intended to provide the opportunity for higher education lecturers to share best practices in the field of Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL). By doing so, it aimed primarily at improving the teaching quality of lecturers by enhancing their skills concerning the use of technologies in an advanced way.

IPB is also eager to enforce innovative methodologies through participation in projects such as Demola, an international innovation challenge platform which aims at bringing together university students and local enterprises in collaborative and co-creative work to find sustainable and profitable solutions for the companies identified shortcomings.

Contributions that can be provided to the project

The members of the IPB team are all experienced language teachers. Their scientific and technical expertise in Languages for Specific Purposes (LSP) will definitely allow them to assess the quality of materials and their real use in classes as valuable tools in the learning-teaching process. In addition, the knowledge and experience in previous Erasmus + projects in TEL will also facilitate the work with digital technologies.

As a member of the European Network for Universities of Applied Sciences (UASNET) and through its Erasmus agreements signed with a wide range of International higher education (HE) institutions, IPB will effectively disseminate the project and cater for LSP experts.

Through its Language Centre and the national HE networks, IPB will disseminate it nationwide, sharing best practices among educational staff within higher education (HE) institutions and the Portuguese Association for HE language centres of which the IPB is a partner, allowing the contact with different levels of linguistic proficiency regarding Languages for Specific Purposes.

IPB will be able to provide LSP lecturers with a real life and diverse context to support their work throughout the project’s lifetime and beyond.

Reasons of involvement in the project

Being a technical higher education institution, IPB has on offer BA and MA degrees in several technical areas, e.g. Engineering, business and management, nursing, tourism, multimedia, marketing, environmental education, music. Languages, with special focus on English for specific purposes (ESP), represent an important mandatory area in the study plans of the different degrees. However, most of the language lecturers teaching ESP complain about the lack of more interactive and appealing material. Most of the times, they find those resources online, but in some websites these materials are not available unless paid for. Aware of the lack of open educational resources when teaching languages, IPB and the Portuguese team involved in the project aim to contribute to provide language lecturers with more resources available online and to give them the right tools and guidelines to be able to build their own materials. As such, IPB intends to improve the quality teaching of its lecturers and others across Europe by contributing to the identification, assessment and validation of quality materials as regards teaching LSP, more specifically English, Portuguese and Swedish.

Contact Person's Experience and Expertise

- Elisabete Mendes Silva is Assistant Professor in the department of foreign languages at the School of Education-Polytechnic Institute of Bragança (ESE-IPB), Portugal. She holds a PhD in English Literature and Culture studies and an MA in English Culture. She is researcher at ULICES - University of Lisbon Centre for English Studies. She has a 20-year experience teaching English culture, English Didactics, English as a Foreign Language (TEFL), English as LSP (e.g. English for academic purposes, tourism, tour guides and interpreters, music, international relations, business), Portuguese as a foreign language and Technical Portuguese within the law context. She participated in the Erasmus+ projects Intact (2012-2015) and AduLeT (2016-2019). The latter aimed to improve the teaching quality of lecturers in higher education by enhancing their skills concerning the use of technologies in an advanced way. Her pedagogical training gives her the expertise to build and assess teaching material for all levels of the English and Portuguese languages. Currently, and besides QuILL, she is also involved in two more projects: "TUT4IND – Training University Teachers for the Inclusion of People with Intellectual Disabilities" (2019-2022) and CtwoSEAS - "Climate Change: Science, Ethics and Society" (2019-2022) where her pedagogical expertise is also required to assess and validate training courses, both for students and lecturers, in the areas of Social education and Environment in the context of higher education.