Panel Session on Virtual Universities

Moderator:
Luis Borges Gouveia, University Fernando Pessoa
 Speakers:
 Luis Borges Gouveia, UFP;
 Feliz Ribeiro Gouveia, UFP;
 Maria do Rosário Almeida (UAberta) The Virtual University concept is again in the university agenda worldwide. As a result of a growing demand for new curricula and the need to train much more people both in quantity and quality, new strategies must be on place. The use of information and communication technologies, the hidden costs of e-learning, and approaches as blended learning place the open source collaborative learning environments at the centre stage. Among the open source offer, two initiatives are the most promising ones: Sakai and Moodle.
The panel will address a brief introduction to the virtual university issues (Luis Borges Gouveia) and presents the experience gathered from the use of Sakai at UFP (Feliz Ribeiro Gouveia) and Moodle at UAberta (Maria do Rosário Almeida).

Our presentation will focus on the adoption and implementation issues of an elearning platform which is an integral part of the University's strategy, and the basis of the Virtual University project (UFPUV) and the new platform proposal for distance learning (UAberta). In both UFP and UAberta cases, mainly oriented towards blended and distance learning. A time slot is schedule for discussion among all the panel participants.

Luis Borges Gouveia is an Associate Professor at Science and Technology Faculty, University Fernando Pessoa. He belongs to the Virtual University board where he is one of the two executive members for its implementation since end 2004. He earned a PhD in Computer Science from Lancaster University (UK) and an MSc in Electronic and Computing Engineering from University of Porto (PT). His main interests are related with the use of computers and networks both in e-learning and e-government uses. He authored nine books and more than two hundred papers within its research areas. Can be reached by lmbg@ufp.pt , and have both a Web page (www.ufp.pt/~lmbg) and a Blog (lmbg.blogspot.pt)
Feliz Ribeiro Gouveia is a Full Professor at Science and Technology Faculty, University Fernando Pessoa. He belongs to the Virtual University board where he is one of the two executive members for its implementation since 2004. He earned a PhD in Electronic and Computing Engineering from Technology University of Compiège (FR) and an MSc in Systems Control also from Technology University of Compiège (FR). His main interests are related with e-learning and with the use of database technologies. He is the Director of the Multimedia Resource Centre at UFP and the Mind Lab associate director.
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Maria do Rosário Almeida was born on February 28th, 1947, in Portugal. She received her Degree of Master (Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal, 1996) and Ph. D. (University of Sevilla, Spain, 2005). She is full Professor of the Department of Business Administration, Universidade Aberta of Lisbon, Portugal (2001-2007). Her professional activity has been: consulting, teaching and technician positions in Schools, Banks, Universities, Institutions and companies in Mozambique, Portugal and Macau. Her research interests include Open and Distance Education Systems, Marketing, Production and Operations Management, Strategic Management, Human Resources and Information and Communication Technologies. She is Author of several papers and books.
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