

**Network promoting
e-learning for rural development
e-ruralnet**

**LLP Transversal Programme
Key Activity 3 ICT - Networks**

WP8 – Dissemination

Report of Portuguese Conference



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For more information on E-ruralnet visit the website www.e-ruralnet.eu

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“Quality of life, diversification of economical activities and learning in rural areas”

Technology and the creation of new opportunities in rural territories

Covilhã, Portugal, 15 September 2010

Parkurbis Auditorium – Covilhã Science and Technology Park

1. Conference Abstract

Rural development requires the ability to attract and develop the economy, spaces and people, offering a competitive position against other parts of the country. This challenge requires a continuing stake in the renewal and acquisition of new knowledge and skills of people and in the promotion of Lifelong Learning (LLL). The e-learning tools that allows the encouragement of learning through ICT and the Internet, have been presented as a medium able of democratizing access to education and training, information and knowledge, approaching people and communities and reducing inequality of learning opportunities between rural and urban areas.

Taking advantage of this tools to promote the competitiveness of rural areas involves the reflection of their needs for knowledge. How to preserve the local knowledge that gives the region its identity? How to store and manage knowledge so that it is not lost between generations? How to stimulate a culture of sharing and acquiring new knowledge?

With this workshop we wanted to encourage discussion:

- Challenges of knowledge in rural areas;
- Benefits of e-learning and learning based on ICT;
- Benefits and constraints for the adoption of e-learning in rural areas;
- Strategies for promoting the storage, sharing and acquiring knowledge in rural areas.

2. Location

The conference was done in Covilhã, a city in the interior of Portugal. The major economic activities in the region include textiles, food industry and agriculture. It is also predominantly influenced by the University of Beira Interior, which gives inputs to regional development in areas as engineering, technology, medicine, cinema, among others.

In this conference we wanted to bring people that actually felt the need of education and training for their day-to-day life with impact in rural areas but at the same time, with a vision of the future and with know-how of the benefits technologies could bring to the



improvement of rural areas. For this reason, we thought the conference would benefit to be done in a city like Covilhã, where we could find political, social and academic partners with actual interest and knowledge about technologies in the improvement of quality of life, diversification of economical activities and learning in rural areas.



The conference was held in Parkurbis, the park of science and technology of Covilhã.



3. Organization of the Conference

The conference was developed in two different moments – the conference and the workshops.

a. Morning Session – The Conference

During the morning session different presentations regarding the conference theme were presented, with participation of political, social, academic and technical partners. The purpose of this session was to give inputs and testimonials able to allow participants to reflect about the importance of education and learning through technology to the development of rural areas and how that can contribute to quality of life. Presentations and their purpose are explained bellow.

Presentations	Objectives
P1: Welcome and presentation of the works of the day Pedro Farromba, Delegated Administrator of Parkurbis Pedro Neves, I.Zone SGPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present the theme of the conference • Present objectives of the day • Present the agenda and activities
P2: Presentation of E-Ruralnet Project Herculano Rebordão, I.Zone Knowledge Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present the E-ruralnet project to participants • Present its objectives and activities • Present how can people participate
ICT-supported learning as part of Lifelong Learning in rural areas - a European perspective Fouli Papageorgiou, Euroacademy Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give an European view of LLL in rural areas • Present first conclusions of providers survey of e-ruralnet project
E-Learning 2.0 in rural areas, a paradox? Etelberto Costa, Vice-President of the APG, Professor, Consultant and Trainer, Entertainer of the Learning Working Group@pt. President of the Center for Trainers and Coaches of the APG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present an overview of political and institutional initiatives implemented in Portugal to promote e-learning in organizations • Present the state-of-the-art of e-learning in Portugal
Presentation and Discussion: "Quality of life, diversification of the economic activities and learning: Technologies for lifelong learning and the creation of new opportunities in rural territories"	
The emergence of new business and management of local knowledge, Frederico Lucas, Projecto Novos Povoadores	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present the view of a local development agency that helps young couples to come from litoral cities to live in the interior of the country • Present the influence of technologies and education as instruments to quality of life in the interior
e-Learning and Web 2.0 tools supporting learning and local knowledge, Sara Petiz, I.Zone Knowledge Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present an overview of the state-of-the-art of elearning and web 2.0 tools in education and training
A look inside - testimonials	
António Edmundo Ribeiro, Mayor of Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present a testimonial of how a mayor of a very small city in the border of Portugal sees the use of technology and education to promote local development and attraction
Paulo Tourais, Chairman of the Parish Council of Ferro, Director of RUDE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present some strategies implemented by the Parish Council of Ferro to promote improvement of technological infra-structures and local training with ICT to promote better conditions for economical activities and better jobs to local community.

All presentations can be consulted in the URL <http://www.slideshare.net/SaraPetiz>

Pictures of the event can be consulted in the URL

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/IZone-Knowledge-Systems/192022072617?ref=search#!/album.php?aid=222053&id=192022072617>

b. Afternoon Session – The Workshops

During the afternoon participants could choose to participate in one of two workshops. One focused in solutions for lifelong learning in rural ares and other focused in technological challenges and solutions.

Workshop 1: Learning throughout life, preservation of knowing places and innovation management in the rural areas

Moderator: Eteberto Costa, Consultant and Trainer

Reporter: Joaquina Barrulas, INETI Researcher



18 participants from 9 different countries.

Topics for Discussion

- Key words / concepts:
 - Learning....long life... lifewide
 - Preservation of local knowledge
 - Innovation
 - In rural areas

Debate

- Basic questions: Why, What and How?
 - WHY
 - Value the knowledge of the past generations, increases the self estim of old people (the ones who have the local knowledge)
 - stimulates entrepreneurship, risk taking...

- If we loose track of the ancestors knowledge, we fail to understand the present....
- WHAT
 - Every local knowledge if contextualized, help us to understand the present day society
 - Making third generations aware of their grand parents knowledge
 - Local culture
 - Traditional competences and skills
- HOW
 - Break the ice (make connections)
 - Create conditions for sustainability of local markets
 - Discovering knowledge and store it (electronically)
 - Repositories
 - Guidebooks (local recipies, images...)
- Innovation
 - Special networks
 - Environment
 - Rural / urban specialists networwoks - role of the learner teacher
 - Elearning is an innovation and a tool for innovation
 - Adaptation to rural areas
 - Elearning platforms: cheap, fast interactive, attractive dissemination outside the local community
 - Problems: unfamiliarity with Ict
 - Youngster can teach the elders
- Conclusions of the workshop
 - Technology is not the (only) solution

- Elearning in itself is an innovation, but there is a need for the teacher to learn himself
- The role of the teacher has to change
- Incorporating the local knowledge (Metaphore of 2 soups: think about the soup we want to ourselves, or just giving the soup you wouldn't have)
- Make the community choose their journey.
- The technology helps us to learn in the way we want to learn, not in what other want us to know

Workshop 2: Technologies to the service of learning and knowledge

Moderator: Joel Rodrigues, IT, UBI

Reporter: Claudio Dobos, Communication and territorial development specialist



12 participants in the *workshop*, from 8 different countries and with different *background*, such as students, teachers, researchers, economists, *entrepreneurs*, *designers*, etc.

Topics for Discussion

1. Knowledge Management
2. Technology (what technology?)
3. Learning
4. Innovation

Debate

All members of the group spoke out during the workshop, pointing what they found relevant, from his own experience. In many cases examples were presented from their day-to-day experiences.

Outputs from the discussions are presented below::

1. Knowledge Management

- a. Good content costs money. From design, production, development and delivery.
- b. Although there are interesting tools, a strong resistance from teachers and educators is referred at the time of using them with an allegation of lack of time.
- c. We can not talk about knowledge without talk about people
- d. There must always be the question, "responds the needs"
- e. In all future learning will be less structured.

2. Technology

- a. There is a gap between the urban and rural populations and between age groups in the way they access to knowledge, even among technicians and educators in how they approach the problem, and there is not a consensus or a common line of approach to this problem..
- b. There must always be a standard of inter-operability
- c. The idea is not to impress the learner, but to help him through the process.
- d. Technology should adapt to people
- e. There is a GAP with respect to sensitivity to the technology
- f. There is also a GAP in regarding how one learns.

3. Learning

- a. For different ways of learning, various forms of education.
- b. You should always put the question: At the end, how do we learn? Through a dynamic of enjoyment, pleasure? Or through content?
- c. Learning process should be a group experience, otherwise it is not fun (enjoying)
- d. Learning must fit the individual needs of each framed in its context.
- e. Learning experiences through games are shown as increasingly positive.

4. Innovation

- a. E-learning experiences through group dynamics or communities
- b. When an e-learning experience starts with a face-to-face dynamic, final results show themselves superior.
- c. Why is it that teachers do not use tools such as Facebook yet?
- d. It is important to include social network tools in the learning process and relates them with content.
- e. There must be a new standard of interoperability and accessibility.

In conclusion:

It is important to look for a standardization of e-learning tools at the level of interoperability and accessibility.

The inclusion of new emerging tools of Social Networking in the learning process is an imperative.

There is a gap between the technological innovation associated with learning (e-learning) and technological innovation itself, and expresses the need for

convergence of educators and technicians in order to integrate specific knowledge of each area to produce e-learning tools up-dated.

These tools and the current processes of learning, are questioning the very figure of the teacher.

After both workshops were finished, participants were invited to meet again for presentation of results and debate.

4. Participants

NAME	ENTITY	COUNTRY
Alexandre Paulo da Conceição Madeira	Unemployed	Portugal
Anna Pokorska	Nicolas Copernicus University, Institute of Rural Sociology	Poland
Andrzej Kaleta	Nicolas Copernicus University, Institute of Rural Sociology	Poland
António Edmundo Ribeiro	Mayor of Figueira de Castelo Rodrigo	Portugal
Bernardino Mata		Portugal
Claudian Dobos		Portugal
Dulcinea Catarina Moura	Guarda Digital	Portugal
Emel Abu Mugheisib	URCS - University of Rostock	Germany
Etelberto Costa	Consultant	Portugal
Fouli Papageorgiou	Euroacademy Association	Greece
Francesca Ugolini	Council of National Research - Institute of Biometeorology	Italy
Francisco Santos		Portugal
Frederico Lucas	Novos Povoadores Project	Portugal
Gabriela Munares	Mediterranean Institute for Sustainable Rural Development	Spain
Guida Castro Martins	ADETeixo	Portugal
Herculano Rebordão	iZone KS	Portugal
Iren Kukorelli	Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Centre for Regional Studies, Institute of West Hungary	Hungary
Joana Matos	iZone KS	Portugal
João José Esteves Xavier	Professor Aposentado	Portugal
João Leitão	UBI; IST	Portugal
Joel Rodrigues	IT – UBI	Portugal
José Alberto Brioso	Instituto de Informática, Ministério das Finanças e da Administração Pública	Portugal
Kennet Lindquist	EMMERCE LTD	Sweden
Manuela Leitão Brioso	Centro Hospitalar Lisboa Central	Portugal
Maria Joaquina Barrulas	Investigadora INETI	Portugal
Marny Thompson	NRC - Norton Radstock College	UK
Miguel Lopes Bernardo	AECBP	Portugal
Nikos Varelidis	Prisma	Greece
Óscar Borges	UBI	Portugal
Paulo Tourais	Presidente da Junta de Freguesia do Ferro, Direcção da RUDE	Portugal
Pedro Carriço	iZone KS	Portugal
Pedro Farromba	Administrador Delegado do Parkurbis	Portugal
Pedro M. das Neves	iZone KS	Portugal
Praxedes Blazquez	Associação Beira serra	Portugal
Roger Evans		Estonia
Sara Petiz	iZone KS	Portugal
Sérgio Duarte	Guarda Digital	Portugal

Sofia Borges	iZone KS	Portugal
Susanna Keskinarkaus	University of Helsinki, Ruralia Institute for Sustainable Rural Development	Finland
Susana Ferrinho	Teacher	Portugal
Susana Júlio	iZone KS	Portugal
Tiago Miguel Carrola Simões	Investigador (Bolsheiro BII, FCT) - Instituto de Telecomunicações	Portugal
Timo Laur	Estonian University of Life Sciences	Estonia
Vasiliis Tsipidis	Euroacademy Association	Greece

Other 25 participants have participated in the Conference through the live transmission access on the Internet.