

Continuing Education

Book

The University of Porto – Roots and Memories of The Institution

Professor Cândido dos Santos

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The University of Porto has been involved in the development of Continuing Education at university level for several years. It has participated in international and national networks and as a result was a founding member of EUCEN (European University Continuing Education Network - www.eucen.org - 1991), of RECLA (Red de Educacion Continua Latino Americana - www.recla.org - 1995), of AUPEC (Associação de Universidades Portuguesas para a Educação Contínua - www.up.pt/aupec.htm - 2001) and Prometeus (www.prometeus.org - 2002). In these organizations it has acted as vice-president (Eucen), member of steering committee (Recla), president (Aupec) and treasurer (Prometeus). It has also been involved in other networks and in cooperation projects related with Continuing Education.

The actual structure of Continuing Education is composed by a management board, an advisory committee and a liaison group with the fourteen colleges that represent the University of Porto. It produces a catalog (online and printed) of the actions offered, supports initiatives within the colleges, markets courses, provides training in ICT for staff, manages multidisciplinary courses, produces and delivers ODL courses and participates in international projects. Continuing Education is defined by all educational activities that do not attribute an academic degree and therefore comprises short and long courses including postgraduate courses. In 2001 there were 223 initiatives and about 2700 learners involved in these activities. The involvement of alumni and of representatives of society has been sought and is considered crucial for the development of university Continuing Education. In 2002 the university has approved the creation of the IRIC (Institute of Common Resources and Initiatives) that is expected to foster and coordinate the activities of Continuing Education.