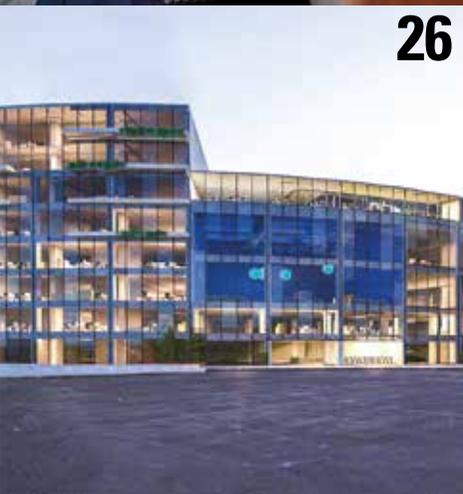


# **40 YEARS BUILDING THE FUTURE**





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40 years

# A Portuguese institution with global reach

**From knowledge sharing, to community support, the Polytechnic of Leiria has been assuming its role as a multifaceted institution: it trains professionals, but it also boosts society through health, economy and arts. Continuously crossing borders, it has shown that teaching is capable of expanding horizons and rewriting the future.**

Founded in 1980 as a public higher education institution in Portugal, the Polytechnic of Leiria was born under the essence of education and training, but has evolved within its own mission. Over the past forty years, the institution's trajectory has grown in infrastructures, and in activities focused on knowledge transfer and service providing to the community.

The numbers help to tell the story: the polytechnic has now five higher schools and 15 research units, spread over different parts of the region of Leiria and the West: from Leiria, where its headquarters is, to Marinha Grande, to Caldas da Rainha, Peniche and, more recently, Torres Vedras. It is within this territory that the Polytechnic of Leiria also maintains a center for sharing and



**13.000**

Year after year the academic community of the Polytechnic of Leiria expands. Currently, more than 13.000 students compose the institution's student community

**170**

Between undergraduates, masters, post-graduations and professional technical courses, the institution has more than 170 higher education courses spread over its five schools

**1.600**

Altogether, 1.600 professionals are responsible for the activities and for the operation of the Polytechnic of Leiria. Of these, more than 950 are professors, 60% of whom have doctorates and more than 200 are researchers

**1**

The Polytechnic of Leiria, in partnership with the University of Minho, is the first polytechnic higher education institution to have a PhD in association (Direct Digital Manufacturing for the Polymer and Mold Industries)

valuing knowledge and two scientific infrastructures. Research, development and innovation also leave their imprint as an important foundation in the progressive development of the institution, which currently includes a scenery of 13 thousand students and celebrates more than 50 thousand graduates over four decades of operation.

With this profile the Polytechnic has focused its action towards the economic and social sectors of the region where it is located, mainly through its 2.500 internships per year and its innovation and research ecosystem. Among mobility and social responsibility projects, welcoming students has been another constant premise at the Polytechnic of Leiria. Support services have grown over time: the quality of the food units and more than 700 beds spread over

eight residences. Medical consultations with different specialties, promotion of sports activities and scholarships help to complete the support structure for students that grows continuously and crosses borders.

Currently, more than 400 protocols with institutions spread across different continents reaffirm the global vocation assumed by the Polytechnic of Leiria

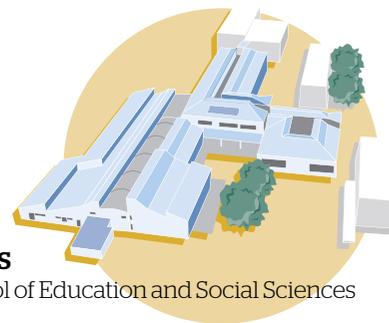
It is based on its multidisciplinary and multipolar character that the institution has been seeking to consolidate itself not only in the European Higher Education Area and in the Lusophone Area, but also in the international context of education. By investing in actions and activities based on the exchange of international students and the international mobility of its entire academic community, the Polytechnic has consolidated its position in the world. Currently, more than 400 protocols with institutions spread across different continents reaffirm the global vocation assumed and perceived also through the more than 75 nationalities that are found on the Portuguese institution's campuses.

# Ecosystem Polytechnic of Leiria

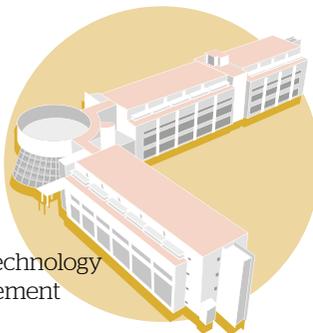


## Centrality and mobility

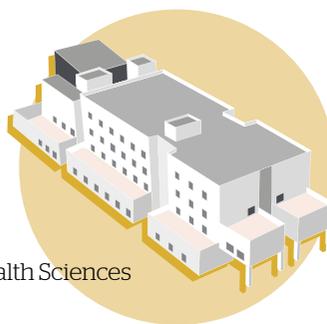
- Coastal centre of Portugal (between Lisbon and Porto)
- Close to beaches and nature parks
- Great road access
- Urban transport network
- 220 electric bikes



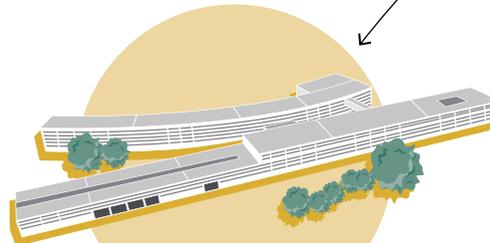
**ESECS**  
School of Education and Social Sciences



**ESTG**  
School of Technology and Management



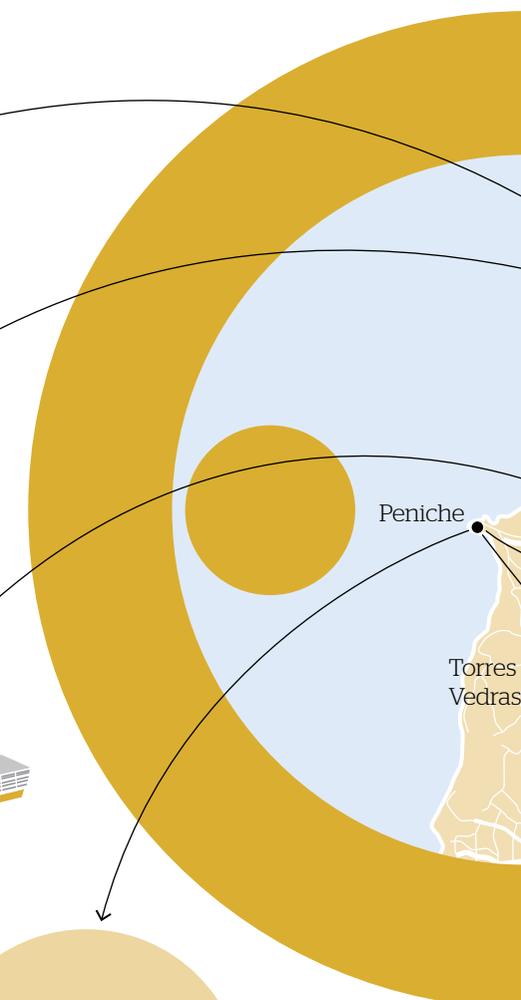
**ESSLei**  
School of Health Sciences



**ESAD.CR**  
School of Arts and Design



**ESTM**  
School of Tourism and Maritime Technology



## Academic Offer

**45** Undergraduate degrees

**75** Masters and Post-graduate degrees

**47** Professional Technical Courses



## Knowledge Areas

- Arts and Design
- Science and Maritime Technology
- Business and Legal Sciences
- Education and Social Sciences
- Engineering and Technology
- Health and Sport
- Tourism



## 15 research units

- Social sciences, education, inclusion, tourism, management, legal sciences, health, engineering, sport and quality of life, science and maritime technology

## 1 business association

- NERLEI - Business Association of the Leiria Region

## 1 technological center

- CENTIMFE - Technological Center for the Molds, Special Tools and Plastics Industry - Marinha Grande

## 3 business incubators

- IDD - Incubator D. Dinis + StartUpLeiria - Leiria
- OPEN - Business Specific Opportunities - Marinha Grande
- ABC - Base Support to Creativity - Óbidos

## 1 Live Science Centre

- Alviela Live Science Centre - KARSTSCOPE

## 1 business school

- Leiria Business School

## 2 regional energy agencies

- Regional Energy Agency of Alta Estremadura
- Regional Energy and Environment Agency of the West

## 2 scientific infrastructures

- CDRSP - Centre for Rapid and Sustainable Product Development
- CETEMARES - Centre for R&D, Training and Dissemination of Maritime Knowledge

## 1 technological park

- OBITEC - Óbidos Technological Park

## 9 clusters of technology and competitiveness

- AED - Aeronautics, Space and Defense Cluster
- Fórum Oceano - Association of Maritime Economy
- InovCluster - Centre Agri-Industrial Cluster Association
- Mobinov - Automobile Cluster Association
- Pool-Net - Engineering & Tooling Competitiveness Cluster
- PRODUTECH - Production Technologies
- TICEPT - Information Technologies, Communication and Electronics
- ACPMR - Association of Mineral Resources of Portugal
- AEC - Architecture, Engineering and Construction Cluster

## 1 Maritime Science and Technology Park

SMART OCEAN

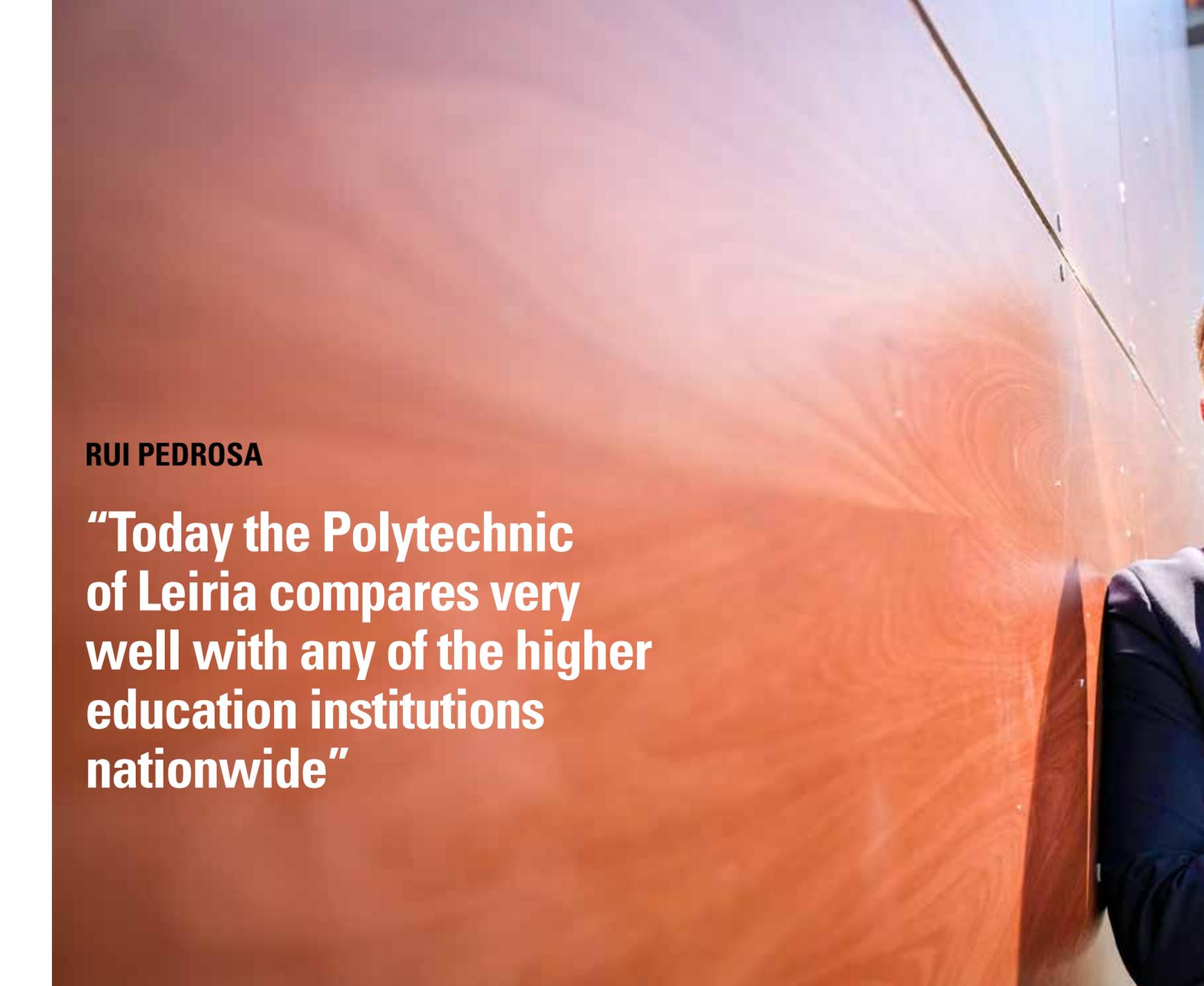
## Torres Vedras Training Centre

### Infrastructure

- 11 pedagogical buildings
- 6 support buildings
- 9 residences
- 4 libraries
- 130 laboratories
- Medical services with different specialties
- Canteens, bars and study centers on all campuses

### Multiculturalism

- + 400 International protocols
- 9 Masters and 1 Undergraduate degree taught in English
- 1.500 students from more than 75 nationalities



**RUI PEDROSA**

**“Today the Polytechnic of Leiria compares very well with any of the higher education institutions nationwide”**

**For more than six years in the presidency team of the Polytechnic of Leiria - two as president and four as vice president - Rui Pedrosa takes stock of the institution's four decades that occupies a prominent place in Portuguese public higher education. And states, in one of the most complex years for the academy, that this is a success story written by each of the people of the present and the past of its five schools.**

**It is just over two years at the head of the presidency and about four as vice president. What is your assessment of these last six years at the forefront of the Polytechnic of Leiria?**

I think it is a very positive balance. An experience, from the point of view of the management of the institution, very intense, in which some objectives and some important milestones were achieved,

but today many challenges are yet to be achieved. The Polytechnic of Leiria has a project, as a public higher education institution, which is never finished. Every day we have to improve and achieve new challenges, especially with this idea that, increasingly, knowledge will be at the service of society and will make an impact on citizens. This is our philosophy: each day try to do a little better and reach new stages.



**Born in Guimarães, Rui Pedrosa is a doctorate in Human Biology and for about four years he served as vice president of the Polytechnic of Leiria before assuming the main chair of the institution in 2018.**

**40 years of operation, five schools, 15 research units, different social programs and an international community that keeps growing. Is the Polytechnic where it would like to be?**

Not even in the best dreams at the beginning of the constitution of the Polytechnic, would anyone imagine that in such a short time we would have already grown so much. In fact, from

just over 100 students at the beginning, we've grown to a higher education institution that, today, has approximately 13.000 students. That during this time has already graduated more than 50 thousand people. That today has in its community, among teachers, researchers, technicians, research fellows, more than 1.600 people, who work every day for the public good and higher education.

If 40 years ago someone said that the Polytechnic would have it all, in particular in its academic community more than 1.500 international students; that we were going to have undergraduates and masters in English; that we would have courses such as Portuguese-Chinese / Chinese-Portuguese translation-interpretation, which is unique in the world; or a master of design for health and well-being or a PhD in direct digital manufacturing, perhaps they would think it would be utopian and too ambitious. And what is certain is that, in this path, in a gradual growth, there were many achievements. Many goals have been achieved, many others are yet to be achieved. Today the Polytechnic of Leiria compares very well with any of the higher education institutions nationwide, whether we are talking about the quality and diversity of its training offer, whether we are talking about the quality of the research we do, or whether we are talking about the innovation services we have, or the ranking of industrial property patents or, as you also mentioned, the differentiating projects we have, when we talk about public higher education that must be prepared for everyone. So, I would say that today we are doing very well.

**The achievements are growing and ambitions are growing to?**

It is true. It is unavoidable. As we achieve more, we have a greater ambition. But, above all, because this greater ambition is always supported by people. Today the Polytechnic of Leiria has a highly qualified teaching staff. More than 60% of professors have doctorates, and approximately 70% of whom are already career professors. We now have PhD researchers, in a substantial number. A technical team that supports us in all the activity and is decisive. With all these people, which is what we are talking about, we always want to build a better future. It is evident that in 40 years there has been enormous work, merit of all and of many in particular.

But today, the most important thing is to plan the future. And these are more than 1.600 people, who work every day at the Polytechnic of Leiria, who have, each one of them, the responsibility to build a better future for the Polytechnic of Leiria. Naturally, from there to the region, to the country and I would say to the world. Because we are an institution that is, in fact, focused on regional development, but with a global matrix.

**At the beginning of the mandate, you mentioned two projects as a goal: changing the designation of the Polytechnic to Polytechnic University of Leiria and the beginning of the construction of the “new” School of Social Sciences on the grounds of the prison-school. What do these achievements mean for the Polytechnic and what is the current situation?**

They remain two priorities for us. Regarding the designation, a proposal for a legislative change promoted by citizens is underway, which will reach the National Assembly, and which has two very well defined objectives, which only have advantages. And these two objectives of altering the basic law of the educational system and the legal system of higher education institutions will result in the alteration of the designation of polytechnics, changing to the designation of polytechnic universities. And this has no additional budget need, so there is no additional expense for the country, on the contrary: it has enhanced revenue. This means that we will be better positioned internationally and, with this positioning, we will have a reinforcement in attracting international students and participating in international projects, because the designation is very important, since it implies an immediate social perception of what we do, both nationally and internationally. The second rather crucial dimension of this initiative is the materialization of what is already provided for in the legal framework of the law of degrees and

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diplomas, that is, polytechnics may have doctorates. And, therefore, to enable this idea that is already legislated, that the polytechnics can be able to grant the degree of Doctor. It is evident that this will have the rules that everyone has in higher education - which is to have an accreditation agency that will regulate these processes - whereby doctoral projects can only be submitted if the institutions have research centers rated, at least, "very good".

Regarding the new School of Education and Social Sciences (ESECS), today, if there is one thing that this pandemic has shown us, it is the importance of education, of the courses related to social sciences, in particular, social intervention, social service and the response we have to provide. This idea that digitization has to start early, from pre-school age, drives us to think about the training of future teachers.

And, for that, it is also necessary to have infrastructures, not only human resources - and that, fortunately, we

have - but it is necessary to have infrastructures that also promote this idea of having training for future teachers, for the future social organizations and all the challenges that exist. Therefore, we have an important objective, to find a way to build a new school.

Regarding the situation, we have been working, in articulation with three ministries, naturally the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education, but also the Ministry of Justice, because we have identified a piece of land in the prison-school, which we are now available to purchase for the construction of the school, and also the Ministry of Labor, Solidarity and Social Security, because they are interested, through IIEFP (Institute of Employment and Professional Training), in using the facilities where the School of Education is based nowadays, for the IIEFP district headquarters in Leiria. We are still working on the process. We made a recommendation that the strategy of the Centre region contemplates the possibility of financing

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Not even in the best dreams at the beginning of the constitution of the Polytechnic, would anyone imagine that in such a short time we would have already grown so much. From just over 100 students at the beginning, we've grown to a higher education institution that, today, has approximately 13.000 students.”

this type of infrastructure and, therefore, it is a path that we are following.

**The return to presential classes started at the beginning of September, after a completely atypical year for school education. Was it the most challenging year you've seen so far?**

It has been a very challenging and very difficult year. But, in fact, a year in which, once again, the Polytechnic of Leiria and its entire academic community, from students to teachers, technicians, researchers, all gave a huge, remarkable, committed response and to whom I would like to give a very good grade and to thank.

To thank everyone for their resilience, commitment and dedication. Because they were active from the first hour, whether in response, in social intervention projects, or even in the creation of a diagnostic center for Covid-19. To thank all the work of our teachers in supporting the community in a transversal way, but particularly, for the change, in just over three days, to 100% of distance learning, without interruption. We, in none of our schools, have interrupted the teaching activity. This is remarkable. Taking into account the context and the time, we are very pleased with everything we have achieved. The performance and commitment of everyone



**It has been a very challenging and very difficult year. But, in fact, a year in which, once again, the Polytechnic of Leiria and its entire academic community gave a huge, remarkable, committed response.”**

(teachers, researchers and technicians) and the understanding and dedication of our students, also allowed us to prepare better the academic year of 2020/2021. We have made a huge investment with the involvement of all schools to reduce the contamination risk and have strategies to prevent chains of spread, in direct articulation with the health authorities. I believe that, in fact, we were the first higher education institution in the country to start the school year, with the second, the third and, in some cases, with the fourth years. At the beginning of October we started with the new first year students.

This preparation allowed us two or three things that were very important. First: optimize the process. We have classroom teaching, we also have some distance activities, namely theoretical classes, and we have activities with hybrid teaching, in which half the class is in the classroom and half is at a distance, and then they switch, all these are strategies to reduce the pressure on our campuses. But this time of teaching activity, before we welcomed the new students, allowed us to optimize the teaching and learning processes; optimize behaviors within the community; optimize responses, in articulation with health authorities when we have positive cases; prevent chains of contamination; sensitize the whole community to the importance of responsibility, not of everyone, but of each one; and, also, to have a commitment, from the first moment, from all student associations, in the integration of new students and in raising awareness of behaviors within the academic community.

**Are you confident that the measures taken so far will be successful in curbing the spread of the virus on campuses?**

We are currently very confident. Because, in fact, regarding the positive cases that we have already had, we have very good news. The good news that there is direct, permanent and very good

coordination with the health authorities. The good news that we were able to act quickly with a proactive response from the schools so that these students were immediately in prophylactic isolation, respecting the guidelines of the health authority, particularly when we had to put entire classes, for some time, in distance learning - that we tested and verified that all students were negative. This gives us confidence, because wearing a mask, maintaining social distance works. We are managing to stop chains of contamination. With this logic of screening and also testing students going to internships, we have already been able to identify a situation and prevent a student from going to the internship, because he was asymptomatic. The great virtue of screening, of testing all students who go on internships, is because we can and are able - we have already shown it - find asymptomatic people and, thus, intervene and block the chains of contamination.

**What other occasions come to mind when we talk about achievements to celebrate in 2020?**

This year we had the pandemic issue, but there was also very good news. It was a year of affirmation for the Polytechnic of Leiria. The Regional University Network was approved, and the Polytechnic leads this European University, a network of eight European educational institutions. A very competitive call: of all European universities in which Portuguese public higher education

institutions participated, only two are led by Portugal - one by the Polytechnic of Leiria and the other by the Polytechnic of Porto. It was the year in which, on the priority list, the issue of asbestos cement, which we have at the School of Education and Social Sciences, became the number one priority.

This means that today we are preparing the intervention to remove six thousand square meters of asbestos cement from ESECS, with 100% financing, and that we will finally solve this problem after more than 30 years. This will allow us to have an ESECS with a clean new face and free of asbestos cement in the next academic year. But none of that changes the need for a new school. Today we have more than 2.300 students. The space is very limited and we need to open the range of training areas, laboratories associated with pedagogical innovation, social intervention, and other areas such as music.

The project to find the means to build the new School of Education and Social Sciences does not change. We are working on that perspective. It should also be noted that this was the year, in the history of the Polytechnic of Leiria, we had the highest number of candidates in the National Competition for Access [to Higher Education], with 1.886 students placed. Therefore, a very difficult year, but also with remarkable achievements for the Polytechnic of Leiria, for the region, and I would say, for Portuguese higher education.

**How is the connection between schools and the entrepreneurial sector of the region going on? Is it being fruitful?**

I would say that, all schools have a tremendous relationship with the economic, social and cultural players, in a transversal way, in the two intermunicipal communities of 22 municipalities. It is natural that the relationship is closer depending on the schools location. But I would say that we have this relationship, every day, in Leiria, in Marinha Grande,

through the research center, in Caldas da Rainha, in Peniche and, also today, already in Torres Vedras. I would not highlight a particular school, but all the work, from all schools, from research centers in the relationship they have with the community and with society.

**Still within the scope of the pandemic, it was also necessary to make adjustments regarding the reception of international students. What changes with the reduction of foreign students in the academic community?**

In fact, we will have some reduction of international students and this will be, this year, a step back in the growth of the Polytechnic of Leiria. There is also a reduction in Erasmus mobility, and this is significant. In more than 1,500 students, there are those from Erasmus mobility who have a few hundred students and, this year, effectively, we will have a smaller number. As an immediate consequence we will have some reduction in the multiculturalism that we have in each of our campuses and also, it is true, international students already have a considerable role in the budget of the Polytechnic of Leiria - because they are not financed through the state budget and they already represent two million euros - and a reduction in these students will have a budgetary impact. But I am convinced that the reduction will be less than what can be projected and that in a year from now, with the vaccine being administered globally, the performance that we already had will recover very quickly.

**Speaking of impacts on the budget, how do you assess the budgetary dimension of the Polytechnic of Leiria nowadays?**

Today the Polytechnic of Leiria really does a lot considering the financing it has. We, in fact, have a special quality here that I, I confess, sometimes find it difficult to even understand how we do so much with so little. I mean, I unders-





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tand: it is with sacrifice, commitment and mobilization, beyond what was often supposed, of all the people who belong to the Polytechnic of Leiria. But today, it is important to say that it is incomprehensible when public higher education institutions in Portugal, which are basically the same size as the Polytechnic in terms of students, have over 10 million euros of State Budget funding per year than the budget of the Polytechnic of Leiria. And we have public higher education institutions, which have approximately half the number of students the Polytechnic of Leiria has, and which have budgets slightly above the one the Polytechnic of Leiria has. Today we have enormous budgetary difficulties, we must always have a creative engineering in the budget and we will not be able to endure many more years with these constraints. It's impossible. Because our structure fixed expenses are always increasing, resulting in its essence, from the training and quality of our human resources, from the career progression of human

resources, fortunately, with the stability of the teaching staff that has grown, but that begins to be incompatible with the low budget that we continue to receive via the State Budget.

**We are about a month away from the end of the year. Is it already possible to point out some points of strategic planning for the next years?**

There are things that are always on the agenda. I can talk about some challenges that we have. Some, which are naturally linked to the development, implementation and execution of the European University project. I would say that this is probably one of the biggest challenges we have. But I can identify others. At the end of this year, but especially in the next, we want to have a learning factory ready, which will be a space for innovation in the area of knowledge and in the direct relationship with companies, particularly in the area of direct digital manufacturing itself, but in a transversal way, in

the digitalization of the industry. We want to strengthen our health innovation hub with the creation of new laboratories. The challenge of being an active and determining player in the digital innovation hubs that are being created in Portugal, but in particular also in the Digital Innovation Hub, which is being designed and will have its headquarters at the north top of the stadium and that the Polytechnic of Leiria will have the challenge of having a space that connects training, research and innovation, particularly in the context of the area of digitalization. The challenge of continuing to seek solutions for the creation of the new School of Education and Social Sciences, which is a permanent challenge. The challenge of finding strategies to reinforce student residences and our infrastructures for sport and culture; the challenge of growing and consolidating our position in Torres Vedras, namely also in the area of health. The challenge of continuing to support and stimulate the development of the

Leiria Social Innovation Hub, the social innovation incubator in which the Polytechnic of Leiria is a social investor. The challenge of being a key partner in the Science and Maritime Technology Park in Peniche, the Smart Ocean, and the Science and Technology Industry Park of Marinha Grande. The challenge of executing the 100% In project, a project for the full integration of students with specific needs and which aims to create public policy for higher education in the country, with the Polytechnic of Leiria as a pilot for this project. The challenge of transforming some of our training and teaching and learning processes into modular, more dynamic structures that will allow not only curricular flexibility, but above all, to attract professionals, whether for requalification or advanced qualification. This is a great challenge: the challenge of pedagogical innovation and curricular transformation, particularly in master's degrees and also in doctorates which, surely, we will build.



**2.300** students  
**15** masters

## School of Education and Social Sciences (ESECS)

### CAMPUS 1 OF THE POLYTECHNIC OF LEIRIA

It is the oldest higher education institution in the district of Leiria. Formally created in 1979 as an autonomous school and later grouped at the Polytechnic of Leiria, the School of Education started with its teaching activities in 1986. Under the original matrix of a school dedicated to the training of primary school teachers and kindergarten teachers, only from 1993 did it receive new offers of higher education in the area of social sciences. Undergraduate courses in areas that did not exist in the district, and that presented complementarities with their traditional fields of training, became part of the curriculum: Human Relations and Organizational Communication, Communication and Media, Social Work, Social Education, Sports and Well-Being, Applied Portuguese Language and Translation and

Interpretation in Portuguese-Chinese / Chinese-Portuguese (TIPC-CP) make up the new academic offer.

Following the growing impact of courses in the area of social sciences, the School of Education changed its name to School of Education and Social Sciences in 2008. Nowadays, it has more than 2.300 students attending its six professional technical courses (CTeSP), eight undergraduate courses, one postgraduate degree, 15 master's degrees and specialized and professional training, beyond training for seniors. The formats are also varied. They take place in different regimes - daytime, after-work and b-learning - they have different operating modes and take place in different locations. In these 34 years of activity, the cultural dimension has been inherent in the school routine.

“

**We are a School of schools that aggregates various expertise and knowledge with a humanistic basis, with high skills in communication, media, human relations, languages, translation, sports, arts and culture, education and social. We work with people for the people with local and global positioning. ”**

**Sandrina Milhano**  
Director of the School of Education and Social Sciences (ESECS)

Many cultural activities were promoted by its students and teachers, but there were also many exhibitions, open classes, seminars, conferences and workshops dedicated to the academic community and the general public. Comprising three educational buildings, divided into classrooms, a library, laboratories, recording and multimedia studios, ESECS also assumes the particularity of hosting a Chinese Language and Culture Center, and also the Resource Center for Digital Inclusion (CRID). Altogether, there are about 180 teachers and more than 20 technical and administrative collaborators that form the staff of the first school of the Polytechnic of Leiria.



**5.400** students

**30** years of academic teaching

## School of Technology and Management (ESTG)

### CAMPUS 2 OF THE POLYTECHNIC OF LEIRIA

Founded in 1985, the School of Technology and Management (ESTG) started its academic activity about five years later, with 100 students enrolled in its three bachelor courses. With 30 years just completed, it is the largest higher education institution in the district of Leiria and, among its counterparts, one of the largest nationwide. From the beginning, there was an evolution characterized by the dynamism that accompanied the history of the school. It had its headquarters temporarily installed in the building of the former Convent of Santo Estevão, in Leiria, where it remained until 1995. That same year, it was transferred to the campus 2 of the Polytechnic of Leiria, where it is located until today

through the dimension of five buildings: one for administrative and academic services, one for research and foreign projects and three for teaching, one of those destined to the Automotive Engineering course.

The Leiria School of Health (ES-SLei) is also part of this campus and shares areas such as the José Sara-mago Library and structures operated by the Social Services, such as the canteens. With approximately 5.400 students distributed by undergraduate, master's and technical professional courses, carried out in daytime and post-work regimes, the school essence lies in the areas of Engineering, Technology, Business and Legal Sciences. However, it also has in its mission

the promotion of continuous training actions, services providing, scientific research and technology transfer. Projects and partnerships with entities and companies at a regional, national and international level are also activities in which the school has shown its commitment, a fact proven through different kinds of recognition. Today, ESTG has several international academies, such as: Cisco Academy, Microsoft Academy, Oracle Academy, Edu-Net / Phoenix Contact Academy and, worldwide, as one of the first Siemens Academies.

“

ESTG is a versatile school in all dimensions, offering education applied to the constant demands of the market and considering the real needs of students. The training offer, the research and the projects it presents cover several areas of knowledge leading to differentiated teaching.”

Carlos Capela  
Director of the School of  
Technology and Management  
(ESTG)



“

30 years being better with the world and being the most beautiful School of Arts and Design in the world on Google Maps.”

João Santos

Director of the School of Arts and Design (ESAD.CR)

## School of Arts and Design (ESAD.CR)

### CAMPUS 3 OF THE POLYTECHNIC OF LEIRIA

The School of Arts and Design (ESAD.CR) has reached its thirtieth year as a teaching and research institution with a nationally and internationally recognized performance. Located in Caldas da Rainha, a city in the coastal center of the country with a strong artistic nature, the school is surrounded by the creative atmosphere of a stimulating environment, associated with a region of great economic, cultural and well-being development. Supported by practical and experimental teaching-learning processes, the formation of ESAD.CR is mediated by theoretical and transdisciplinary debates about contemporary culture and its multiple forms of expression. With the premise of responding to the demands of the pre-

sent, but also of the future, the teaching unit has an interdisciplinary, technologically sustained and creative approach. The individualized method, updated research and attention to the emerging professional areas end up outlining the identity of the institution that currently hosts 1.650 students.

At the School of Arts and Design, didactics develop through straight lines: the more than 130 teachers are experienced professionals and internationally recognized in different creative areas. To enhance this aspect, the institution invests in the permanent development of teaching-learning processes and in the qualification of teachers, as well as technical and administrative

**+130** teachers  
**1.650** students

staff. The building it occupies was also strategically designed and built around the studio and workshop spaces, turning it into one of the most unique and complete projects in national artistic education. Among oaks and pine trees, Campus 3 of the Polytechnic of Leiria is organized into four spacious buildings,

with laboratories and workshops that allow access to the most varied technologies, from traditional ones, such as Analog Photography, Engraving, Ceramics, Wood or Metals, up to the most current ones, such as Digital Photography, Digital Printing, Prototyping and 3D Printing, Audiovisuals or Multimedia. Among others, the academic offer includes undergraduate courses in Plastic Arts, Industrial Design and Product Design in Ceramics and Glass, as well as Masters in Cultural Management, Graphic Design and Design for Health and Well-Being. Among the options of TeSP, teaching is divided into four areas: digital prototyping, graphic production, digital and audiovisual media and multimedia.

# School of Tourism and Maritime Technology (ESTM)

## CAMPUS 4 OF THE POLYTECHNIC OF LEIRIA



“

ESTM is recognized by the areas of Maritime Sciences and Tourism Sciences, it develops its activity around training, research, cooperation, internationalization and knowledge sharing. It is a quality benchmark for the professional success of its thousands of students who, around the world, carry ESTM in their hearts.”

Paulo Almeida

Director of the School of Tourism and Maritime Technology (ESTM)

The creation dates back to 1991, but it was only eight years later that the School of Tourism and Maritime Technology (ESTM) started with its academic DNA, supported by two major areas of knowledge: Tourism Sciences and Science and Maritime Technology. Installed in Peniche, the institution has as its headquarters a modern educational building, located close to Cabo Carvoeiro and the island of Berlengas as a backdrop. ESTM's brand image and the support of its identity are always there: the sea. Altogether, nine undergraduate courses, a postgraduate degree, eight professional technical courses and nine master's degrees make up the offer of education that

fosters a strong relationship of proximity with the employability factor.

Therefore, Marine Biology and Biotechnology, Tourism and Food Engineering appear as options taught by the institution in close symbiosis with applied research and the job market. It is Tourism, in particular, that has stood out as a constant investment by ESTM through multifaceted training, with its six degrees being certified by the World Tourism Organization (OMT). In addition to seek affirmation as an essential asset of the region and the country, the School of Tourism and Maritime Technology has also assumed the role of crossing borders. Through the valorization of the sea and applied

research, developed in close collaboration with the entrepreneurial and corporate actors, the campus 4 unit of the Polytechnic of Leiria has dedicated its efforts to scientific, technical and cultural exchange with similar institutions or that have common goals. The actions are mainly focused on providing services to the community in the scientific and technological areas in which the school carries out its activity. The development of research and service providing activities, such as research and investigation activities and professional updating and vocational retraining projects, complete the list of initiatives outlined as a mission by ESTM.

## 20 years

**This school has been operating for two decades and its first academic year was in 1999/2000**



## School of Health Sciences (ESSLei)

### CAMPUS 2 OF THE POLYTECHNIC OF LEIRIA

It has more than 45 years of existence. Conceived in 1973 initially as a School of Nursing, the School of Health Sciences (ESSLei) today has its main pillar in extended, multidisciplinary and interprofessional training in the areas of health. For the last 19 years integrated in the Polytechnic of Leiria, the institution has since then followed a process of deep internal reflection and adaptation to new training paradigms. Among other achievements, it is in particular the academic offer that proves its reinvention over time. The trajectory of students who choose to specialize on campus 2 begins in undergraduate courses and expands with the offer of professional technical courses, postgraduate courses and master's degrees that also

## 3 thousand

**Number of professionals trained by ESSLei in courses such as Nursing, Physiotherapy, Dietetics and Nutrition, Speech Therapy and Occupational Therapy**

cover the areas of well-being and care for the elderly. From Dietetics and Nutrition to Physiotherapy, Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Nursing, the study options allow the extension of training to other areas of health.

Having a quality education, the follo-

wing bets from ESSLei are focused on aspects that have played a determining role in the qualification of health professionals in the region. Examples of this are excellent scientific research, international mobility opportunities and partnerships, in addition to innovation, social support and entrepreneurship activities. With a space established at national and international level, in addition to the number of three thousand professionals trained over these years, the institution fosters the pride of being an active driving force in society through the training of active professionals, whether in health institutions, in institutions of higher education or in civic or professional organizations.

“

The School of Health Sciences has in its matrix the training of health professionals of recognized quality and prestige, and the responsibility to integrate in its training offer the best scientific evidence and innovation associated with health care.”

Rui Fonseca-Pinto  
Director of the School of Health Sciences (ESSLei)

## Research units

**Key elements for the Polytechnic of Leiria research, development and innovation (R&D+i) ecosystem, the research units have been carrying out activities in four scientific domains within the institution. The aim is clear: to give practical and applied responses to a variety of social, economic, technological, environmental, touristic**

**and health and well-being themes. Altogether, there are 15 units that are divided into different structures, six of them as main management units, six centres of research units, in which the Polytechnic of Leiria is a management unit, and three delegations of research and development non-profit associations.**

## SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES



### CARME

Leiria

The Centre of Applied Research in Management and Economics (CARME) is a research and development (R&D) unit that emerges from the work of the professors from the Department of Management and Economics of ESTG, of the Polytechnic of Leiria. In order to develop activities focused on the areas of interest and knowledge of these teachers, the unit aspires to have a central role in co-creating the knowledge shared between higher education, the social partners and the industry. Contributing to regional development and innovation is also on the agenda for CARME, which has been integrating basic and applied research in management and economics. This centre, on the other hand, is oriented towards professional practice and involves researchers, students, companies and non-profit organizations in a collaborative way.

### IJP

Leiria

Founded in 2018 on the basis of multidisciplinary research within the scope of Legal Sciences and Public Administration (IJP), the Portuguese Legal Institute has developed advanced training and services related to current legal issues, such as issuing legal opinions and promoting scientific update courses in Public and Private Law. Aware of the constant legislative changes that happen in Portugal, and that influence directly the lives of companies, institutions and citizens in general, the Polytechnic of Leiria assumes, through this research unit, the crucial role of responding to the needs of the region, supported by the academy/community relationship, as well as by the quality of the training provided.

### CiTUR

Peniche



Installed in Peniche, the Centre for Tourism Research, Development and Innovation (CiTUR) has been focused on permanent training and service providing in various fields related to Tourism and similar areas. From hotel management to the development of new concepts, products and tourist brands, the contribution of this unit has been made through the association with 17 institutions, including universities and polytechnics of our country, and the work of more than 200 researchers. In parallel with the mission of producing and sharing scientific knowledge in tourism, CiTUR's vision also involves having its research recognized by civil and business society due to its ability to generate and share knowledge in the area to which it is dedicated.



## **CICS.NOVA**

### **Leiria**

Through its centre at the Polytechnic of Leiria, the Interdisciplinary Centre for Social Sciences (CICS.NOVA) promotes scientific research in the area of identity reconstruction through a personal, professional, social and cultural perspective. The research takes place in a diverse set of areas of the social sciences, in particular on social trajectories, intercultural mediation, migration, heritage, tourism and identities. The mission is to create products applicable to different areas, such as heritage, tourism, social service, social education, communication and information. The centre, operating at the Polytechnic of Leiria, also hosts the Observatory of Inclusion and Accessibility in Action (iACT).

## **CI&DEI**

### **Leiria**

Headquartered at the School of Education and Social Sciences (ESECS), the Centre for Studies in Education and Innovation (CI & DEI) is a research and development unit whose mission is to develop research in education, guided by researchers from the Polytechnic of Viseu, the Polytechnic of Guarda, the Polytechnic of Leiria, the Polytechnic of Bragança and the Polytechnic of Viana do Castelo. Assuming itself as an organizational coordination structure, the centre has, in its essence, interdisciplinary network research activities to create an integrated vision of collaboration between higher education institutions.

## **CIEQV**

### **Leiria**

The Life Quality Research Centre (CIEQV) has its mission aligned with the challenges of contemporary society: it seeks to promote the creation of knowledge and innovative programs that result in the improvement in the quality of life of human beings. In that sense, the unit has provided, transversally, improvements in different age groups and social contexts of the populations through the production and promotion of indicators such as adequate food, physical activity and education combined with the creation and the use of innovative and applied technology. From six research areas, CIEQV develops each project with its own approach, without excluding the possibility of having a multidisciplinary interconnection between them.



## **LIDA**

### **Caldas da Rainha**

Established from the mission of developing artistic, scientific and technological research activities based on experimental development and knowledge in the areas of design and arts, the Design and Arts Research Lab (LIDA), based in Caldas da Rainha, has, among its priorities, the impact through innovation. Therefore, being a benchmark in the creation, progress and transfer of knowledge in innovative products, services and processes, according to international standards, has been the central pillar of the unit. Its work is developed by members and collaborators specialized also in the areas of heritage and urban studies.

## ENGINEERING AND EXACT SCIENCES

### ADAI Leiria



The Association for the Development of Industrial Aerodynamics (ADAI) has its delegation in Leiria headquartered at the School of Technology and Management of the Polytechnic of Leiria. It is linked to the Mechanical Engineering Department of the Faculty of Science and Technology, at the University of Coimbra. Under the mission of promoting scientific and technological knowledge and development in the field of automotive engineering, from areas such as aerodynamics, thermodynamics, energy conservation and the environment, the research unit has its objectives aligned with actions of advanced scientific training and service providing.

### CDRsp Marinha Grande



In an autonomous building, based in Marinha Grande, the Centre for Rapid and Sustainable Product Development (CDRSP) has as its backbone the contribution to scientific and technological development. The aim is that its work will result in new products, materials and processes that are more appropriate and effective for the industry. Recognized as a research unit of excellence, as the name implies, the central idea is to promote awareness around the rapid and sustainable development of products in society, such as the provision of research services, advanced training and consultancy in strategic areas, also priorities of this unit.

### CIIC Leiria



Created in 2008, the Computer Science and Communication Research Centre (CIIC) had its initial approach focused on projects. With more than 30 researchers, the unit has currently promoted networked research, with strong external collaboration, and a focus on technology transfer to Industry, especially through the creation of spin-off companies. Scientifically, four lines of research define the role of CIIC: Computational Intelligence and Optimization, Communications and Telematics, Research in Computer Graphics and Sound, Smart IoT Ecosystems.

### LSRE-LCM Leiria

Result of a partnership between the Laboratory of Separation and Reaction Engineering and the Laboratory of Catalysis and Materials (LSRE-LCM), the initiative, which has one of its external poles at the Polytechnic of Leiria, has dedicated its activity to the development of technical-scientific knowledge of the separation and reaction processes applied to environmental engineering. Modelling, simulation and process control are part of the mission that goes hand in hand with sustainable industrial techniques and the training of doctorates and post-doctorates.

## NATURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

### INESCC Leiria

Affiliated with two other institutions, namely the University of Coimbra and the Institute for Systems Engineering and Computers, the Institute for Systems Engineering and Computers of Coimbra (INESCC) has in its delegation in the Polytechnic of Leiria the mission of carrying out technical and scientific research in engineering and management, in order to improve the performance of organizations and the progress of knowledge. The approach, which aims to creatively combine theory and methodology, technical issues and human factors, is based on Systems Engineering. However, the unit brings together different backgrounds, from Electrical Engineering to Geographic and Mechanical Engineering.

### IT Leiria

Connected to the Polytechnic of Leiria since 2013 through a delegation, the Telecommunications Institute (IT) has the main purpose of deepening scientific knowledge and technological development in the field of telecommunications. To pursue this mission, the research unit has been promoting advanced training initiatives in human resources, both at master's and doctoral level. In parallel, there are projects and services provided to the community within the scope of its main area of activity: telecommunications.



### MARE Peniche

With its own facilities in Peniche, the Marine and Environmental Sciences Centre (MARE) has its research focused in the areas of Marine Biotechnology, Marine Biology and Aquaculture. Considered a reference unit in the field of Marine Sciences by the National Science Foundation, the centre feeds

its research and development component associated with the interconnection of these areas. With this purpose, it manages to promote innovation and knowledge transfer to companies, namely the awareness for sustainability, a feature deeply carved in MARE's DNA.

## LIFE AND HEALTH SCIENCES

### ciTechCare Leiria

Inaugurated in early 2019 to assume a decisive role in the health innovation hub of the Polytechnic of Leiria, the Centre for Innovative Care and Health Technology (ciTechCare) has its DNA focused on solutions dedicated to health promotion. Based on a multidisciplinary and interprofessional approach, which meets the development of cutting-edge technologies, the unit seeks to provide more effective and rapid solutions to improve health, prevent diseases and overcome the current difficulties that patients, caregivers and health professionals face on a daily basis. The mission of the unit located next to the Hospital Centre of Leiria also involves collaborating to obtain early diagnoses and therapies more quickly, in addition to providing healthier nutrition solutions and training patients and caregivers in a broad preventive perspective.



## Support services

**An essential structure for the Polytechnic of Leiria to enforce equal opportunities among students, the social services appear as another functional unit of the institution. As an area that also contributes to school attendance and success, it has led projects that emerge as an example of overcoming economic and social inequalities, giving direct support or other social benefits. From accommodation options for scholarship students, to medical services and sports available to the academic community, the commitment to equity and quality, in the context of integral student training, is visible on all Polytechnic campuses in Leiria.**



### Food

Food service at social prices. This is the motto of the offer served in the food units of all the campuses of the Polytechnic of Leiria. Through its two restaurants, five canteens, eight bars and a snack bar, the institution ensures access to a balanced and diversified diet. In the menus posted in the restaurants and made available on the institution's website, students find a very complete menu (meat, fish or vegetarian), complying with the strictest food safety rules.

### Accommodation

Preferably destined to displaced students and benefited by scholarships awarded by the Directorate-General for Higher Education, the accommodation of the Polytechnic of Leiria has nine units in Leiria, Caldas da Rainha and Peniche. The 777 beds are distributed, mostly, in double rooms, with shared or private bathrooms. The application process is made exclusively online, through the institution's platform, which deals with the admission criteria to the service of furnished rooms, with bed linen and towels, laundry, internet, central heating, dining room and supervision of the facilities.



## Scholarships

Destined to students without a minimum level of financial resources to attend higher education, the scholarships provided by the Polytechnic of Leiria work as an annual monetary benefit, in order to contribute to the costs of mandatory courses or professional internships. Assigned as a social support system, the assistance is directed to students enrolled in professional technical courses, undergraduate degrees and master's degrees. The program also helps citizens with special needs, who have a disability equal to or greater than 60%. Those can apply for a scholarship corresponding to the amount of the fee actually paid. The Social Support Fund for Students (FASE) scholarships, created in a pioneering manner at the Polytechnic of Leiria, are destined to students in economic need who are committed to completing their degree and collaborate in institutional support activities.

## Medical services

With specialties such as gynaecology, ophthalmology and sports medicine, the medical services of the Polytechnic of Leiria have as premise to provide varied consultations at reduced prices. Under the purpose of maintaining the academic community's well-being, the assistance by registered health professionals is done in three cities where the institution is present: Leiria, Caldas da Rainha and Peniche. All students, teachers, researchers, technicians and administrators are included and can make appointments by phone or via email.

## Sports

Futsal, athletics, basketball, handball ... The list of sports offered by the Polytechnic of Leiria is varied. Led by the Sport Sector of the Social Services, the activities are divided into leisure or competition. At the second level, in addition to frequent practice, teams can participate in National University Championships, organized by the Academic Federation of University Sports (FADU). And it has been fruitful. The promotion of sport in the academic field has been so successful that, in recent years, the athletes at the Polytechnic of Leiria have been at the level of competitors of the largest institutions of higher education in the country in terms of participation and results. Altogether, there are more than 70 national university titles brought to Leiria, to which are added countless classifications in podium places.



# Hand in hand to boost the region and the country

## Poliempreende

Fostering an entrepreneurial culture, which promotes student's development of skills and the creation of new companies, is the objective of the Poliempreende network, of which the Polytechnic of Leiria is a member. The target is clear: to stimulate entrepreneurship and provide professional opportunities through the creation of one's own job. The initiative, which also supports and rewards the creation of creative and innovative projects with a business vocation, is promoted by 21 polytechnic higher education institutions, having already held more than 15 contests for innovative ideas and projects.

## Business Incubators

The innovation ecosystem of the Polytechnic of Leiria also includes different business incubators that facilitate the development and acceleration of projects and the creation of new ideas with a business and social vocation.

## Demola

The Polytechnic of Leiria is also associated with the global platform Demola, which seeks to bring together students and companies to solve real problems. The objective of the partnership is equally well defined: to create value with and for the local community. The project, which appears in the con-

text of an international platform, where global and local organizations challenge higher education students to create a better future, was established in the city of Tampere, Finland, and today operates in 18 countries: Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, France, Lithuania, Latvia, Hungary, Portugal, Mexico, Namibia, Nepal, South Africa, Japan, China and Nepal.

## Polytechnic of Leiria + Industry

Entitled + Industry, the cooperation protocol launched by the Polytechnic of Leiria, NERLEI (Business Association of the Leiria Region) and CEFAMOL (National Association of Moulds Industry) consists on the development of joint

activities, so that students can contact with the business community since its first year. Under this purpose, actions are developed that involve training in the work context, the development of projects in partnership with companies, the practical use of the content of the curricular units and the identification and enhancement of joint projects.

In this same scenario, since 2013, + Industry grants have been awarded, financed by the business community of the region of Leiria and the West, which, in partnership with the Polytechnic of Leiria, assumed the compromise to develop actions that bring the academy closer to the industrial reality. The expected result is the promotion of training in a business context, the dissemination

## Testimonies

### Strong connection to the labour market

**+ 800**  
collaboration agreements with  
institutions and companies

**+ 1.300**  
offers at the Employment Fair of  
the Polytechnic of Leiria

**+ 2.500**  
internships per year

**+ 95%**  
employability rate in  
undergraduate courses

(Source: DGES / IEFP – 2019)

of knowledge and technology and the implementation of joint social responsibility actions, benefiting students, teachers, researchers and companies. Under this protocol, 184 students have already been supported by around 60 companies.

### Leiria-IN – Industry Week

Annually, 50 young students of secondary and professional education from all over the country participate in the thematic action “Leiria In – Industry Week”, focused at a set of activities related to the industry and its potential. The program includes workshops, leisure and entertainment activities, cultural experiences and visits to more than twenty

companies and industries, with the main objective of highlighting the importance of these businesses for Portugal’s economy and development.

Awakening vocations for training and professions related to these sectors of activity, among students, is another objective of this project that opens the doors of the region’s industry. Promoted by the Polytechnic of Leiria and by the Student Forum, the initiative has the collaboration of the Municipality of Leiria, the Municipality of Marinha Grande, NERLEI (Business Association of the Leiria Region), CEFAMOL (National Association of Moulds Industry) and ADAE (Alta Estremadura Development Association).

### Tanto Mar Week

Every year, the Polytechnic of Leiria takes half a hundred young people to discover the ocean at the Tanto Mar Week Summer Academy, which takes place in Peniche, during the month of September. From all over the country, different young people from secondary education come to know the strategic value of the sea, in all its aspects, through activities related to scientific research, sport, economy, tourism and history. This awareness also has the main objective of helping to awaken vocations to professions linked to the sea, thus increasing the qualified human capital that makes the Portuguese marine resources profitable. Therefore, the Tanto Mar Week assumes itself as a form of support for public and private institutions related to the ocean, so that they can reach more young Portuguese students more effectively. The organization is carried out by the ESTM of the Polytechnic of Leiria hand in hand with the Student Forum and the Municipality of Peniche. The support has many origins: several municipalities in the Leiria region and also different institutions and companies linked to the maritime sector make the action happen.



**Manuel Heitor**  
Minister of Science, Technology and  
Higher Education

To think about the West within the scope of the celebrations of the 40 years of the Polytechnic of Leiria, as well as of the 40 years of polytechnic education in Portugal, obliges us to address the challenges and opportunities that higher education institutions will face in the next decade. It is also a time for the recognition of all those who know how to dignify and value the role of knowledge and the polytechnics in the development of Portugal.

The evolution of the Polytechnic of Leiria represents well the challenges associated with the territorial integration of any science and innovation strategy, in a region where academic activity and the relationship with the territory are important drivers of social, economic and cultural activity. We must also underline its social responsibility, especially in the context of the growing impact of knowledge to face the health crisis we are experiencing.

We are experiencing a new framework to think about the evolution of science and higher education in Portugal in the European context, especially in terms of the growing demand to better articulate policies and strategies for cohesion and competitiveness, to guarantee an effective process of European convergence by 2030.

This process will only be successful with more knowledge, referring to the public option and certainly, to the respective political thought, the guarantee of considering knowledge as a “public good”, reinforcing its role in creating more and better jobs.



**António Poças**  
Chairman of the Board  
of NERLEI

Since its foundation the Polytechnic of Leiria has shown the capacity to assert itself as a partner of excellence for the business sector. It qualified its teaching staff, developed relevant training for the region and the country, promoted and increased scientific research, professional innovation and knowledge sharing, and today has a fundamental role in the internationalization of our region. The Polytechnic has a strong connection with NERLEI, always demonstrating great availability and a strong commitment in the promotion of joint initiatives.

Regarding to regional development projects, its involvement in the creation of IDD Net, StartUp Leiria, Leiria Business School and GES Região de Leiria was fundamental. Regarding the actions to strengthen the connection between the business community and the academic environment, we highlight the protocols “Polytechnic of Leiria + Industry” and “LEIRIA IN Industry Week”

# Ideas capable of changing the future



### Health Innovation Hub

This is a space for research and knowledge sharing, used by professors and researchers of the Polytechnic and also by health professionals at the Hospital Centre of Leiria (CHL). This is the heart of the Health Innovation Hub of the Polytechnic of Leiria, located on campus 5. It is a health innovation platform, that has been a decisive factor in the area of training, research and innovation in the region.

Another feature of the Health Innovation Hub is its integration in the facilities of the ciTechCare (Center for Innovative Care and HealthTechnologies), a research unit that has developed innovative solutions in the area of health and disease prevention.

In the same building we have the Harvest Center for Covid-19, created by the Polytechnic of Leiria, with the support of ACES (Grouping of Health Centres) Pinhal Litoral, ACES Oeste Norte and the Portuguese Red Cross, which has been on the frontline in the prevention and containment of the new coronavirus on the Polytechnic

of Leiria campuses. Also part of this same space, we have the External Consultation Unit of the Psychiatric and Mental Health Service of the Hospital Centre of Leiria and the Medical Services of the Polytechnic of Leiria, which provide medical consultations, of different specialties, addressed to the academic community of the institution.

### Social Innovation Hub

Entitled Leiria Social Innovation Hub, the project, in which the Polytechnic of Leiria is a social investor, has the mission, from its headquarters on campus 5, to develop conditions for access to knowledge that can generate networks of partnerships and social transformation. The central idea is to maximize the creation and replication of new solutions for the social and environmental challenges that the country currently faces. In a not-too-distant future, the objective is even more audacious: to turn the Leiria region a national reference geography for the creation of new innova-

tion and social entrepreneurship initiatives.

### 100% IN®

As a result of a partnership between the Polytechnic of Leiria and the Padre António Vieira Institute (IPAV), 100% IN was created in 2018 with the aim of promoting the full inclusion of students with special educational needs. In 2020, the project received the Portuguese trademark registration granted by the National Institute of Industrial Property, the year in which it also saw its application for the Portugal Social Innovation program approved. The project reinforced the vocation of the Polytechnic of Leiria for inclusion, assumed as one of the fundamental values of its action in terms of its internal dynamics, but also in its relationship with the outside - either within its community, either at national or international context.

Based on the challenge of considering each person as a whole, 100% IN provides an articulated and effective response for total inclusion. The intention

is to involve the entire institution and the community in the mission of finding new solutions that will help overcome obstacles such as the lack of resources, limitations imposed by bureaucracy and other variables external to the institution itself. In its debut academic year (2018/2019), the full inclusion initiative reached more than 100 students with specific needs, to guarantee their integration and conditions that promote success in their academic training in higher education. This project is strongly supported by the Resource Centre for Digital Inclusion (CRID) and the Student Support Service (SAPE).

### Leiria Digital Innovation Hub

At the genesis of the new technology-based business centre, to be installed at the north top of the Leiria Stadium, is also the Polytechnic of Leiria. It is part of the creation of the project that is under development by the Municipality of Leiria. This innovative centre will allow the installation of technology-based companies, aiming



## U-Bike

There are 220 electric bicycles granted for a period of up to six months. The project that was born as an alternative to the use of automobiles, inside and outside the campuses of the Polytechnic of Leiria, has the name of U-Bike and, since it was launched in 2018, has already had 550 users. Altogether, around 200 thousand kilometres were covered by the institution's students and employees, who saved more than 10.05 toe (equivalent tons of oil) and reduced CO2 emissions by more than 35 tons. The project is in line with the mobility plans of the municipalities where the schools and scientific infrastructures of the Polytechnic of Leiria are located, namely Leiria, Marinha Grande, Caldas da Rainha and Peniche. With this initiative, the institution wants to favour the reduction in the use of individual motorized transport in the communities where it operates, in addition to making its campuses more attractive by reducing the pressure of motor vehicles. Among the goals of the Polytechnic of Leiria is the mobilization of the municipalities in order to create their bike sharing systems, in order to improve the conditions for the circulation of bicycles in the cities, create more mooring and loading areas and bet on inter-mobility with public transport and the use of individual motorized transport.

to transform Leiria into a city of business, entrepreneurship, innovation and culture. A hub destined to companies and talents from all backgrounds, who are committed to transformation to increase access to highly qualified human resources, competitive costs, research and innovation in the area of digital transformation. In addition to the Municipality of Leiria, the initiative resulted from the participation of a group of external entities, such as the Polytechnic of Leiria, NERLEI (Business Association of the Leiria Region), the TICE.Leiria group and several associative entities from different areas.

### Culture Network 2027

In addition to programs related to innovation and social inclusion, the Polytechnic of Leiria also integrates artistic and cultural dissemination initiatives. This is the case of Culture Network 2027, a pioneering project at the level of intermunicipal communities, which aims to encourage the creation of a network of

cities and towns to cooperate in the field of arts, culture and knowledge. Composed of 26 municipalities, part of the Intermunicipal Communities (CIM) of the Leiria region, the West and the Middle Tejo region, the action integrates the agents and cultural associations of each municipality. It is an unprecedented intermunicipal network in the country, which aims to substantiate an application for European Capital of Culture, through the participation of 1.500 cultural agents and about 650 ambassadors.

### MGPARK: Park for Science and Industry Technology

The Park for Science and Industry Technology will have its headquarters in the industrial area of Marinha Grande, and its main mission is to promote competitiveness and innovation in the most dynamic industrial sectors that make up the region's economic environment. The objective is to extend the value chain associated to local industries, especially moulds, plastics and

glass, and to enhance the potential of the local innovation system and the local and regional business initiative. MGPARK is part of a partnership made up of different organizations. They are the Municipality of Marinha Grande, the Polytechnic of Leiria, CENTIMFE (Technological Center for the Moulds, Special Tools and Plastics Industry), CEFAMOL (National Association of Moulds Industry), OPEN (Association for Specific Business Opportunities) and the POOL-NET association (Portuguese Tooling & Plastics Network).

### Smart Farm CoLAB: Collaborative Laboratory for Digital Innovation in Agriculture

Led by the Municipality of Torres Vedras, the Collaborative Laboratory for Digital Innovation in Agriculture (Smart Farm CoLAB) has the participation of the Polytechnic of Leiria, which integrates the mission of creating innovative solutions for resource management and maximizing the added value of national products of

horticulture, fruit and viticulture. With this unit, composed of about 15 partners among higher education institutions and companies, a strong impact is expected on the modernization of agriculture and the economy of sustainable production.

Part of the collaborative laboratory's objectives is to develop smart and sustainable agriculture, combining an applied science component with a strong presence of companies from the sectors involved. The purpose is to respond to advances in agricultural production and management, but also to the needs for training and employability in the sector. Among the partners of Smart Farm CoLAB is a set of institutions from the national scientific-technological system, including the Polytechnic of Leiria, the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon, the Faculty of Sciences and Technology of the Universidade Nova de Lisboa, ISCTE (University Institute of Lisbon) and the National Institute for Agricultural and Veterinary Research.



## Smart Ocean: Park for Science and Maritime Technology

The Park for Science and Maritime Technology is being born in Peniche, which aims to achieve the sea's purpose, promoting the sustainable exploitation of maritime resources. The technological infrastructure of business hosting focused on the economy of the sea is a project of the Municipality of Peniche, but also of Docapesca, the Polytechnic of Leiria and Biocant. Named Smart Ocean, the project will promote the transfer of knowledge to the business community and technology-based innovation. The mission is to capture and retain talents and resources, in addition to generating sustainable innovation, assuming the role of catalyst for a sustainable, highly entrepreneurial sea economy.

This way, it will be possible to economically value applied research and take advantage of a collaborative network focused on innovation that is friendly to the sea and the environment. The proposal also includes the action of diversifying the activities developed in the port areas and is directed to startups and spin-offs in the area of the sea economy, entrepreneurs, researchers and entrepreneurs who intend to take advantage of this innovation ecosystem. The new technology park will also allow the creation of a symbiotic relationship between the territory of Peniche, which has a strong vocation and maritime tradition, and higher education in the areas of tourism and science and maritime technology, at the School of Tourism and Maritime Technology (ESTM), and the Research Centre of the Polytechnic of Leiria, MARE, operating in the Cetemares building.

## Institutional



**António Pereira de Melo**  
President of the Polytechnic of Leiria  
1994 - 1999

On November 2nd, 1988, I took office as president of the Installing Committee of the Polytechnic of Leiria. I have found an institution, (created in 1973, extinct in 1979, and recreated in 1980, which started operating in November 5th, 1987), reduced to one headquarters provided by the City Council. Only ESEL was operating (1980) and ESTG had the Installing Committee appointed (1987-4-20). It was urgent to implant IPL and ESTG. We have looked for temporary facilities, initiated the hiring of teaching staff and the first ESTG courses started functioning in 1989/90. We have started the construction of the ESTG buildings (occupied in 1995). ESAD (Caldas da Rainha), (created in 1988-12-14 and its Installing Committee appointed in 1989-3-10), started its teaching activity in 1989/90 and the buildings construction in 1992. It was an arduous task, but exciting, also with the creation of social services (two canteens and five residences) and one teaching pole in Peniche beyond promoting academic training for teachers. I left IPL, after 10 years (1999-3-15), leaving 5200 students, 319 teachers and 105 employees.



**Luciano de Almeida**  
President of the Polytechnic of Leiria  
1999 - 2009

We soon realized that the consolidation of the Polytechnic of Leiria depended more on us than on third parties, including the State, and that it was a collective and not an individual job.

We reorganized the training offer according to the central areas of each School and the needs of the economic and social structure of the Region of Leiria and the West. We innovated in the training offer, qualified the teaching staff, and from the bottom of the table we moved to the first ten places in the recruitment and number of students at national level. About 46% of graduates settle after completing their studies in the Region.

In terms of research, the Polytechnic of Leiria has developed numerous experimental R&D projects applied in partnership with the business sector, occupying an enviable position in the registration of patents and in the development of a policy of transference and valorization of knowledge for economic, cultural and social agents.

The Polytechnic of Leiria has consolidated and qualified itself, and in order to fully fulfill its mission, it should, as is its right and in the interest of the Region and the Country, see the University Statute recognized, which is currently prohibited by law.



**Nuno Mangas**

**President of the Polytechnic of Leiria  
2009 - 2018**



**Jorge Carvalho Arroiteia**

**President of the General Council  
of the Polytechnic of Leiria  
2009 - 2011**



**Pedro Lourtie**

**President of the General Council of  
the Polytechnic of Leiria  
from 2013 to date**



**José Ribeiro Vieira**

*In memoriam*

Throughout this 40-year journey I have had the privilege of experiencing many moments in the life of the Polytechnic of Leiria. I joined ESTG in 1994, when this school was still operating in the Convent of Santo Estêvão. The Polytechnic and ESTG were then in an embryonic phase, but very defiant. There was a lot to do, in many fronts and in a short time. It was the new facilities and laboratories that were being built, the students who arrived in the city from all over the country, the teachers who needed to be hired, the new courses and academic degrees, the connection to the territory and to the companies that needed to be built. The years passed, the Polytechnic of Leiria has grown, expanded its intervention and became an institution of enormous relevance for the region of Leiria and the West. It certainly flourished on fertile ground, in a particularly dynamic region and made up of entrepreneurial people. But above all, it is important to emphasize that it was and still is an institution that never settled, that always wanted to go further, that knew how to do differently and, above all, better. A word of appreciation and, above all, of incentive for the entire academic community. The future of our Polytechnic is built, day after day, with determination, ambition and confidence. May the next decades continue to be of achievement and affirmation.

At various moments of our professional lives, we have closely followed the evolution of polytechnic higher education and the Polytechnic of Leiria. About a decade ago we joined its General Council, assuming that in this council the greatest interest would be to reach consensus for the development of its schools and regional implantation. With hope, contacts were made, listening to the community about the possible alteration of the Polytechnic to a public foundation under a private law regime.

Another project was also considered, to transform the Polytechnic of Leiria into a University Institute, consolidating advanced training, research and international recognition.

The joint work of its academic community is guaranteeing these results. The future dictates so. However, if we could go back to the time of the "Rei Lavrador", we would have to remember that: to include in the document of creation of the General Study - signed at the court of Leiria in 1290 - the fairness and opportunity of an entity of this nature in the city of its loves. The Centre-West region requires it.

In 2013, I was co-opted for the first time to the General Council of the Polytechnic of Leiria and, later, elected President of this council. I already knew the Polytechnic and I accepted the invitation with pleasure. I followed the growth and affirmation as a dynamic higher education institution that seeks quality in teaching, research and ways of serving the region and the community.

The Polytechnic is currently in a development phase in which it has the capacity to train Doctors and there are students who do the work here for their theses, but is prevented from awarding the doctoral degree by law. The adoption of a polytechnic university designation is an aspiration and a factor for recognition in the eyes of the world. It is with pride that I strive to achieve these two goals and that I see, in the most diverse media, the social and academic prestige enjoyed by the Polytechnic of Leiria.

José Ribeiro Vieira exercised his mandate as President of the General Council of the Polytechnic of Leiria from 2011 until the date of his death, on January 20, 2012. He also was a member of the Scientific Council of the School of Technology and Management, being a guest professor in the 1995/1996 school year. Besides being part of the institution's staff, Ribeiro Vieira was president of NERLEI, Councillor of the city of Leiria, deputy of the Municipal Assembly and was administrator of the Movicortes Group.

## Municipal partnerships



**Gonçalo Lopes**  
President of CIMRL

The Polytechnic Institute of Leiria has always been, without a doubt, a reference partner for the Region of Leiria in general and, in particular, for the Inter-municipal Community of the Region of Leiria (CIMRL)! The excellent institutional relationships that have been built over the years have been fundamental for the promotion of the development of education, the training of people, the dynamization of the economy and the promotion of culture in our region, proving to be an important contribution to the rest of the country. It is worth mentioning the excellent academic-scientific-cultural training of the Polytechnic of Leiria and the partnership relationship existing between the two institutions, which is achieved through various activities and cooperation protocols.

We are pleased with the Polytechnic of Leiria, for its innovation in the training offer, for the introduction of always innovative technologies, for promoting quality in the institution, for the quality in Applied Research, for the entrepreneurial attitude, for the constant partnership with the labour market, for the employability of trained students, in the end, for its relationship with civil society.



**Pedro Folgado**  
President of Oeste CIM

One of the central objectives of the European Union is, as well as of Portugal, the realization of a Europe based on knowledge. In line with this objective, the Intermunicipal Community of the West (OesteCIM) and the Polytechnic of Leiria have been working towards a quality education system that fits the needs of the territory and the challenges of the digital and climate transition that we are experiencing today, transforming knowledge into added value. Together we ensure the excellence of our universities aiming a knowledge-based economy, capable of guaranteeing a sustainable economic growth, with more and better jobs, and with greater social cohesion. On behalf of the twelve Municipalities of the West I want to congratulate the institution for its 40 years, wishing the continuity of a relationship that invests on the increasingly higher qualification of our students and that will certainly be a fundamental stimulus to the competitiveness of the economy and social cohesion of the West.

## International relations



**Vincent Cunnane**  
President of LIT (Limerick Institute of Technology), Ireland

I would like to congratulate Polytechnic of Leiria on its 40 year anniversary and in particular its President Rui Pedrosa. This is a very special occasion for a very forward thinking institution and an important milestone. Polytechnic of Leiria is a cherished partner of Limerick Institute of Technology - LIT and we look forward to continue our research collaborations, staff & student mobilities and numerous international activities that will help further the International strategic objectives of both Institutions. The success of RUN-EU (Regional University Network - European Union) represents a new direction for higher education in Europe and LIT is proud to be a co-coordinator of this Consortium led by the Polytechnic of Leiria. LIT and Polytechnic of Leiria will join its RUN-EU partners in creating one of several new European universities capable of transcending languages, borders, and disciplines.



**Gabriel Fernandes**  
Rector of the University of Santiago, Cape Verde

In these troubled times, when it is necessary to rethink the collective future, the production and sharing of knowledge continue to function as one of the most important bases to understand about what unites us and what we should expect. The Polytechnic of Leiria, through its directors and professionals, is a perfect example of how to explore the socio-transformative potential of science and how, from the field of knowledge production, to induce complicity and to force synergies in favor of a better world. As a partner, the University of Santiago has, since its creation, been able to reap the benefits of this way of being and be inspired by the way the Polytechnic of Leiria operates, a reference institution, which, with mastery and affection, has been placing science at the service, not only of development, but also of the gathering of people and cultures.



**Ney José Lazzari**  
Rector of the University of Vale do Taquari (Univates), Brazil

The relationship we have with the Polytechnic of Leiria started in 2002. During this beautiful history, Polytechnic of Leiria and Univates developed and consolidated a strong relationship of partnership and friendship. Today I can say that the Polytechnic of Leiria is the institution with which we develop the most academic actions, for the development of the people and communities in which they live. This solid relationship was only possible because we have people who believe in cooperation as a way to improve the world and leave a legacy for those who come after, always aiming to the human development, quality of life and world peace. Univates is very proud to be part of the history of the Polytechnic of Leiria. Congratulations to the Polytechnic of Leiria for such significant work in these 40 years. Let the next come! We'll be together!

**1980**

Creation of the Polytechnic of Leiria

**1987**

Integration of the School of Education, current School of Education and Social Sciences (ESECS)

**1989**

The School of Technology and Management starts operating (ESTG)

**1990**

The School of Art and Design, posteriorly School of Arts and Design (ESAD. CR), starts its activity

**1999**

The School of Maritime Technology, current School of Tourism and Maritime Technology, starts operating



**Cleber Prodanov**

Rector of FEEVALE University,  
Brazil

Institutional relations sometimes resemble human relations. There are cases in which commercial partnerships are overcome by connections that inhabit the field of affections. Such is the relationship between the Polytechnic of Leiria and FEEVALE. A friendship initiated in 2009, which is distinguished by synergy and assertiveness in joint actions and common goals. A successful connection that expands learning spaces for new knowledge and new ways to contribute significantly to society. Therefore, the 40th anniversary of the Polytechnic of Leiria is celebrated with the enthusiasm of a sister in educational excellence. In a world of accelerated changes and constant technological advances, it is necessary to build the appreciation of the human aspect, as well as the relationships that the Polytechnic of Leiria and FEEVALE have developed over the years.



**Marcus Im**

President of the Polytechnic  
Institute of Macao

Created in 1980, the Polytechnic of Leiria offers teaching of excellence, being an institution of reference in the production of scientific knowledge, as well as in the training and professional qualification of students, in different fields of knowledge. The Polytechnic Institute of Macao (IPM) and the Polytechnic of Leiria began a close collaboration with the exchange of students and scientific research a decade ago, which resulted in a fruitful friendly relationship that extends to the present and will become closer in the future. On behalf of the IPM, I congratulate the Polytechnic of Leiria on its fortieth birthday, wishing that many others will follow with the same quality in the production and dissemination of knowledge, as well as in the quality of internationally recognized educational training.



**Diogo Rodrigues**

Undergraduate in Tourism -  
ESTM  
Year of completion: 2018

From this institution I took with me many exciting and intense moments, great friendships created over the years and great empathy with the teachers. ESTM provided me with very important weapons, both professional and personal, from how to deal with and lead in solving day-to-day problems, working methods, strengthening relationships inside and outside the work context, among others. A few months after finishing the Degree in Tourism, I moved to the United Kingdom, more precisely to the city of Southampton, where I live today. On the tenth day, I signed my employment contract with the largest hotel chain in the United Kingdom, Premier Inn, that has more than 800 hotel establishments and 80000 beds. Two years later, I took up the position of Duty Manager in this important hotel chain.



**Inês Pinto**

Undergraduate in Nursing –  
ESSLei  
Year of completion: 2017

My four years as a student at the Polytechnic of Leiria were the best years of my life. I keep friends and teachers to whom I owe my training and good memories regarding the spirit of companionship. I started my professional career in March 2017, at the Cardiothoracic Surgery Intensive Care Unit of Santa Cruz Hospital, where I did my Clinical Nursing Teaching to People in Critical Situation. Afterwards, I went to work at Hospital da Luz Lisboa, where I started working at the Medical-Surgical Internment, and later I was integrated into the Special Unit of Adults Internment. Since 2018, I have been working in the Operating Room of the Hospital Center of São Francisco, in Leiria. I decided to apply for the Nursing Degree at the Polytechnic of Leiria, as my first option, due to the recognition and credibility recognized to this institution.



**Maria Oliveira**

Undergraduate in Human  
Relations and Organizational  
Communication – ESECS  
Year of completion: 2017

Studying at the Polytechnic of Leiria was an experience full of great memories. The Polytechnic of Leiria had a strong impact on my professional life because I completed my curricular internship at the Image and Communication Office, thus having my first contact with the reality of the labour market. This experience took me, professionally, to the "Associação Inspirar o Futuro". Today, through the "Inspiring Future" project, I help other students make the transition from Secondary Education to Higher Education or the job market. In addition to being a trainer, I manage contacts with Secondary Schools with the aim of promoting roadshows, promoting skills workshops and organizing Higher Education Fairs where institutions have the opportunity to disclose their training offer. With the Polytechnic of Leiria I learned, shared and led.

## 2001

Integration of the School of Nursing, current School of Health Sciences (ESSLEI)

## 2007

Beginning of the transition to Bologna for the courses at the Polytechnic of Leiria and entry into force of the Legal Regime for Higher Education Institutions

## 2014

Inauguration of the scientific infrastructure Cetemares - Center for Research and Development (R&D), Training and Dissemination of Maritime Knowledge

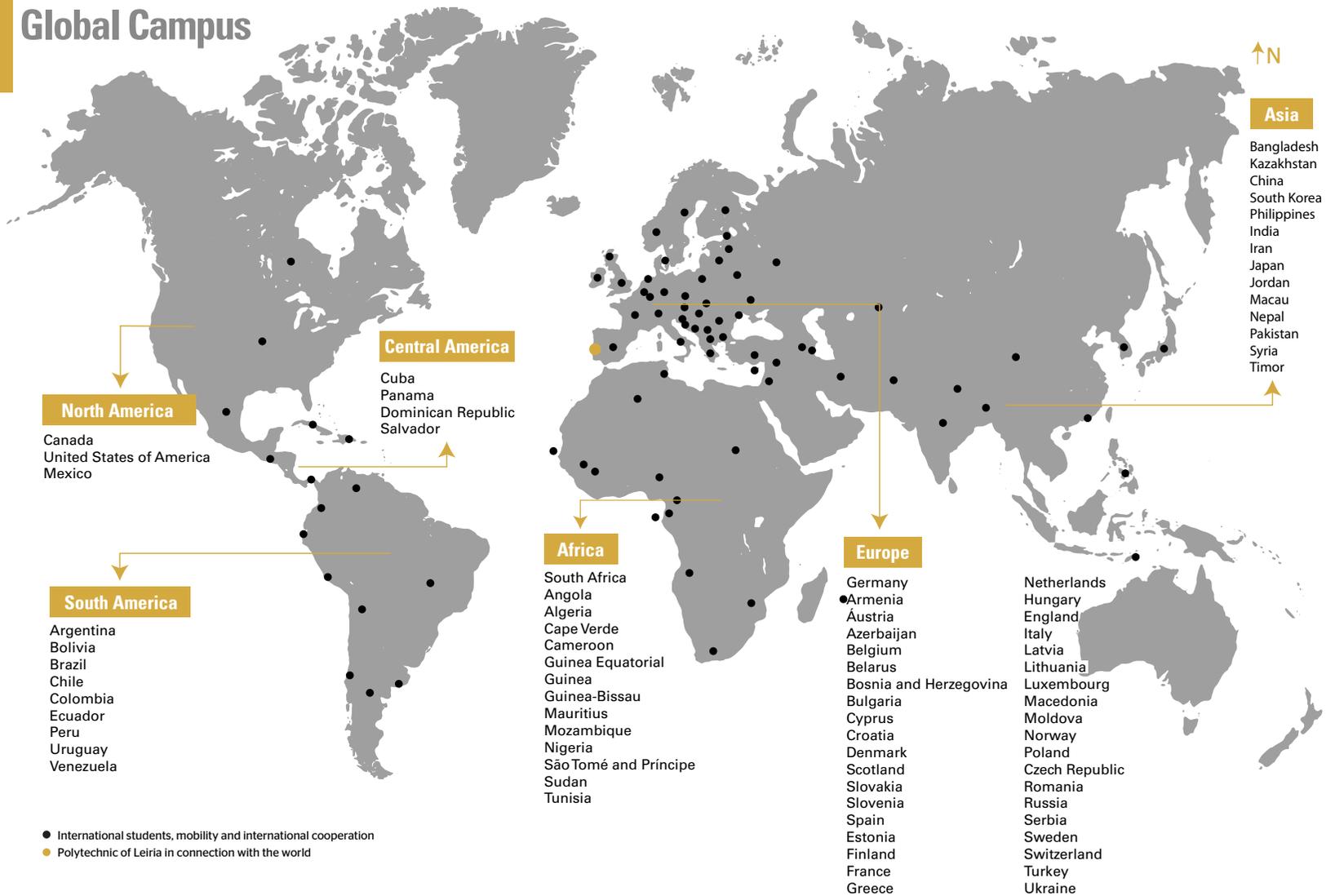
## 2015

Inauguration of the scientific infrastructure CDRSP - Centre for Rapid and Sustainable Product Development

## 2020

Approval of the Regional University Network (RUN-EU), European University led by the Polytechnic of Leiria

# Global Campus



## The Polytechnic in the world

Built in a multicultural environment, the Polytechnic of Leiria allows its students, teachers and researchers to share experiences from the four corners of the globe. Divided into 76 nationalities, approximately 1.500 students make up the institution's international community, each academic year. An internationalization that has been seen as a priority and has transformed the Polytechnic into a true global campus. From Brazil, the champion country of origin for students from abroad, to Guinea-Bissau it is possible to establish connections in the libraries, canteens and classrooms of the schools.

Among different programs and incentives for the experience of European education, the Polytechnic of Leiria maintains more than 400 cooperation agreements with higher education institutions from all over the world. Through these partnerships, it is possible to carry out everything from an Erasmus-type mobility program to an exchange program outside the European context or even short-term modules. Annually, more than 350 Portuguese students choose to have an experience abroad in the scope of carrying out studies or internships. The Polytechnic of Leiria serves as a bridge for these future pro-

fessionals to widen their horizons and discover new cultures. The same is foreseen for teachers and technicians, who also take advantage of internatio-

nal mobility in terms of development cooperation initiatives and research and innovation projects.

### TOP 10 of the countries of origin with more international students at the institution

**411** Brazil

**241** Ecuador

**162** China

**56** Cape Verde

**55** Poland

**45** Spain

**38** Guinea

**36** Italy

**32** Germany

**27** Ukraine

The Polytechnic of Leiria is at the centre of the world. Its internationalization strategy has transformed it into an intercultural institution, with students from over 75 nationalities and cooperation agreements on all continents.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### European leadership

Leader of the Regional University Network - European University (RUN-EU). This is the role played by the Polytechnic of Leiria under the European Universities initiative, which brings together higher education institutions from six countries. Altogether, eight higher education representations are part of this European university, in order to jointly develop various teaching-learning actions.

Through the availability of different international programs, in addition to the implementation of international cooperation projects in the scope of research and development, students from institutions that integrate RUN-EU will have the possibility, in the future, of obtaining double and multiple European degrees within the scope of joint training programs that may be developed.

### UNESCO international distinction

In December 2018, the Polytechnic of Leiria was awarded the Chair in “Management of Arts and Culture, Cities and Creativity”, assigned by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UNESCO.

The new Chair, directly associated to the School of Arts and Design of Caldas da Rainha (ESAD.CR), aims to develop research and training in management and urban policies for the arts and culture, in conjunction with different Portuguese and foreign organizations. The municipalities of the region are part of this panorama, in addition to universities in Latin America and African Portuguese-speaking countries.

### Internationally certified training and cross-border recognition

Both nationally and internationally, at the Polytechnic of Leiria, all courses are subject to assessment, accreditation or certification. The School of Tourism and Maritime Technology of the Polytechnic of Leiria is one of the good examples: the United Nations World Tourism Organization recently renewed the TedQual quality certification for all undergraduate degrees in the field of tourism.

This is a “quality seal” of the training provided by this school, recognized nationally and internationally, which seeks to promote the continuous improvement of training and research in tourism, defining a standard of criteria for the quality of education in tourism. In 2018 the World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT) awarded international recognition to the undergraduate degree in Occupational Therapy taught at the School of Health Sciences (ESSLei) of the Polytechnic of Leiria.

With the recognition of this entity, which is the official representative of occupational therapists around the world, the course is recognized by the international academic and professional community, and the graduates have the guarantee that their training is accredited abroad. The ESTG of the Polytechnic of Leiria has, since 2016, the European seal EUR-ACE. Awarded by the Order of Engineers, on the accreditation of the European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education (ENAE), this distinction is a quality label that certifies the excellence of engineering courses taught in Europe.

## Alumni experience



**Anurag Venkat**

Master in Product Design  
Engineering – ESTG

Years of completion: 2016 and 2018

**India**



**Lucas Moreira**

Undergraduate in Fine Arts  
– ESAD-CR

Year of completion: 2015

**Brazil**

The Polytechnic of Leiria has given me opportunities, not once, but twice, to learn from the best. The integration of education with industrial implementation is a must to develop the technical skills necessary to compete in this fast-paced world. The courses are structured to meet all market needs. Connections with industry and the professional approach pass on the experience to each individual connected to the institute, preparing them for the ever-changing market.

I completed the Master in Product Design Engineering in 2016 with a one-year full-time internship at Moldegama S.A., two research and development projects and a full-time job as a Dimensional Control Analyst. Again in 2018, I entered the post-graduation in Lean Six Sigma Black Belt. In 2020, I worked as a Project Leader, R&D Project Manager, Quality Director and Dimensional Control Analyst. In 2019, I started my own Career Accelerator company, mentoring more than 300 students in just one year.

I came in 2012, due to an exchange program, to ESAD, in Caldas da Rainha, for the Fine Arts course, through the partnership between the school and my university in Brazil, Feevale. Thinking about ESAD-CR, of the Polytechnic of Leiria, will always remind me of my arrival to Portugal and having found the country where I want to spend my life. It was a time of maturity in many ways. The difference in teaching made me discover and experience several new possibilities within the field of the arts. I started working in audiovisual production companies due to my knowledge in motion graphics and animation. I currently work at Porto Canal and do independent work for the newspaper Público, JN, Porto Editora, among others. I also dedicate myself to the production of animation short films and illustration/comics, in a personal capacity.

## Who arrives from abroad



**Kenia Rosario Matos**

**Dominican Republic**

Master in Communication and Media

**School of Education and Social Sciences**

I chose to take my master's degree in Portugal in order to relate and learn a different culture from mine, see the perspective of communication in another scope, and increase my knowledge in this area to the maximum, for both professional and personal development. I chose to come to Portugal, among other destinations, because what I had read caught my attention, as well as its culture, and even better, to learn the language. In Portugal people are very hardworking, very dedicated and diligent. Those were the things I liked the most so far and that motivate me the most to want to work here.



**Edgar Manuel Lopes Maurício**

**Cape Verde**

Undergraduate in Marketing

**School of Technology and Management**

Portugal was my first choice due to the Portuguese culture and language and the passion for sport. Portugal has a quality of teaching recognized worldwide, and is the country chosen by many Cape Verdeans to complete their studies. Portugal and the Portuguese continue to inspire me for the beauty of the country, for its genuineness and for the work. I believe it is the ideal place to build bases. Here we also learn to take more risks, to give everything we have and we don't have.



**Efecan Serin**

**İzmir | Turkey**

Master in Graphic Design  
**School of Arts and Design of Caldas da Rainha**

The weather is an important factor for me, and being similar to my country, I chose Portugal as a destination. In addition, I realized that the people are friendly and have no prejudice, particularly towards the Turkish people. I consider that Portugal is similar to Turkey and its greatest similarity is the power to be useful to other people and the spirit of mutual help that exists here.



**Naho Miyamoto**

**Osaka | Japan**

Master of Sustainable Tourism Management  
**School of Tourism and Maritime Technology**

I intended to take a course related to environmental protection. I found the master's degree in Sustainable Tourism Management, which also interested me because it had an e-learning component. Portugal's pastry and wine are so delicious. I can't resist them. Another important thing is security. I feel very safe here. As in Japan, I can walk alone on the street without any worries. That makes me extremely comfortable.



**Maximiano Oqui**

**Dili | Timor-Leste**

Master of Nursing to People in Critical Situation  
**- School of Health Sciences**

I chose Portugal because among the CPLP countries it is the most developed country in the area of education. The course I came to take corresponded to my interest, which is related to the care process and its implementation in health care. Portugal is also a safe country for a learning experience. The Portuguese inspire me when I realize the level of development in education, the study environment and the development that exists in health care.



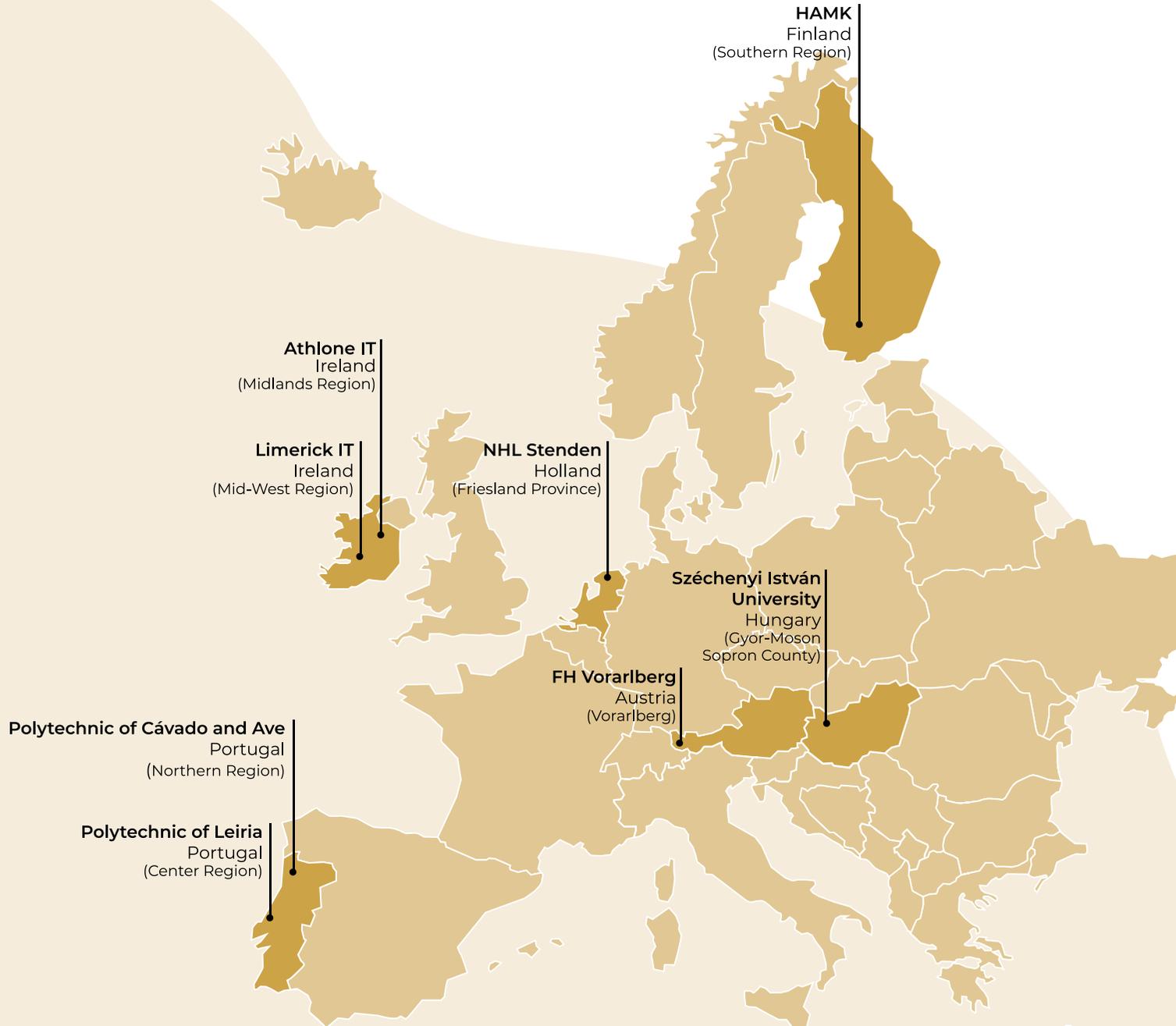
**André Luís Rocha de Souza**

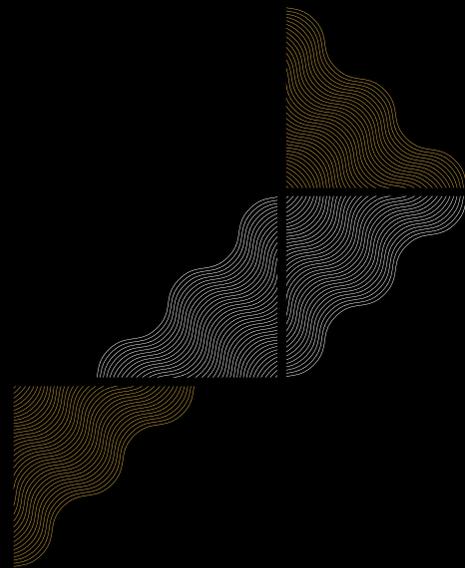
**Brazil**

Professor at the Federal Institute of Education, Science and Technology of Bahia

**Research Unit: CARME - Centre of Applied Research in Management and Economics**

The experience of conducting research at the Polytechnic of Leiria, through the School of Technology and Management, as part of my PhD, was not only one of the most important experiences I had in my life, but it was also an experience that I have never forgotten, due to the infrastructure, the potential, quality and opportunities provided by the Institution to deepen my studies and research, and the excellent professionals who welcomed me very well.





**POLITÉCNICO  
DE LEIRIA**



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1980-2020