

Avaliação do DEM
no domínio da Educação para a Responsabilidade Social e Sustentabilidade

O IST participa no projeto QUESTE-SI (<http://plone.queste.eu/>), cujo objetivo é promover a sustentabilidade no domínio do ensino da engenharia e tecnologia. A sustentabilidade é definida como a integração de dimensões (em particular económica, social, ambiental) para além da dimensão técnica do ensino da engenharia. (Ver a apresentação do projeto na 24ª Conferência Anual da EAIE – European Association for International Education: Sessions 5.03 Sustainable Education_final.pdf).

O projeto envolveu um conjunto de 12 avaliações piloto, no sentido de testar os procedimentos e critérios que se encontram atualmente em revisão. O DEM-IST recebeu a visita da Comissão de Avaliação Externa em Outubro de 2012, tendo obtido a classificação de 3 em 4 níveis – demonstração de fortes realizações – em cada uma das quatro dimensões consideradas: estratégia institucional, educação e curricula, envolvimento dos estudantes, e investigação e inovação). O relatório de avaliação externa conclui:

The self-assessment report as well as meetings and discussions during the audit visit gave convicting evidence of the range of activities related to SRSE (Social Responsibility and Sustainability Education).

IST, as a leading national and international institution is well aware of its environment and of its consequences in terms of sustainable development.

This awareness is amply documented when examining the curricula, the students' opportunity to study SRSE related topics and the faculty involvement in research and development projects, whether national or international.

An impressive number of initiatives, very different in scope and ambitions have been presented and demonstrate the awareness of the students, faculty and management of the department.

Internationally, taking advantage of a rich portfolio of research cooperation and multinational projects, the expertise and involvement of IST are recognized.

This expertise is also validated and put into practice throughout the numerous cooperation programmes with the industry mentioned during the audit visit.

All persons with whom the audit team met proved to be very committed and involved in SRSE.

However, it is felt that this impressive track record stems more from the personal commitments of the staff, faculty and students (at all level from bachelor to doctoral) and from a rich history of cooperation with the industry, than from a deliberate strategy from the institution.

It also appears that the number and the quality of the various activities in the institution do not appear clearly to an external observer. More could be made to communicate and to share the institution commitment towards SRSE, introducing internal QA (Quality Assurance) system and an assessment process.

However, there is no doubt that the achievements and commitment of IST should be recognized and praised and that the QUESTE-SI label should be awarded.