PROMOTING CONSCIOUS AND ACTIVE LEARNING AND AGING

HOW TO FACE CURRENT AND FUTURE CHALLENGES?

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Abstract
As part of its educational mission, the Polytechnic Institute of Leiria has been developing a lifelong learning project, *Program IPL 60+*, where senior students are provided with learning opportunities on themes of interest to this age group. These seniors, being also a part of the so-called Knowledge Society, must seek to know and learn the “new literacies” to be and feel part of this society. Therefore, *Program IPL 60+* includes “computer literacy“ as part of the curricular offer of this project.

Designing a curriculum in “informatics” that appeals to this age group and implementing it in a course offers several challenges. Besides the specific profile of students in this age group, which requires specific methodological choices, we must frame the course contents taking into consideration the needs and interests of each student, so that each one can make an adequate appropriation of the technologies. This issue presents a greater challenge when we consider that a significant part of this population does not know *a priori* all these technologies and their potential and, thus, cannot express their interests to the trainers concerning what would they like to learn.

This paper presents a proposal to offer ICT training for this audience, based on an informatics course of 3 academic years. This proposal comes from the experience of the authors in this project and is based on some theoretical frameworks on methodological issues, seeking to make a compromise between the expectations...