



International Conference

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Title of presentation

Learning through the cooperation with business: the case of Portuguese experience.

Team

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Abstract

This paper aims at sharing the outcomes of an experience of “learning through the cooperation with business” at the School of Economics and Management, Catholic University of Portugal.. The experience started in 2005 following Bologna agreement. Employability and the development of transferable skills were two main goals that Higher Education Institutions embraced. Such goals led to the conception of three “project” courses, each one committed to developing specific transferable skills. These were subsumed under the label of “to think” (Project I); “to communicate” (Project II), and “to act” (Final Project). This paper discusses specifically Project II, the course engaged with improving communication skills and teamwork. The goals of Project II depend upon close cooperation with local business. Additionally, it incorporates the learning by project principles. This provides the opportunity for empirical work: the course main operations, main outputs and the assessment process of best teams. Businesses frequently award best students summer internships and even employment offers. The seemingly successful learning strategy requires nonetheless systematic appraisal. However, this is a challenge, since it is not possible to establish a direct link between students' employability and the learning opportunities provided in the course.



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