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Good practices for equity and inclusion in Higher Education in **Portugal**



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Organisers:

Portuguese Higher Education System

- **Binary** system: universities and polytechnics;
- **400 thousand** students in 35 public higher education institutions (HEI) and 94 private HEI
- HEI under the **supervision** of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education

A new paradigm in HE

- Last decades - reinforced **attention** of HEI to SEN, economically disadvantaged students, multiculturalism, diversity, internationalization, gender equity, non-traditional learners... The **social dimension** of HE.
- **New policies** at the level of basic and secondary education, lifelong learning, internationalization are only recently producing the expected results: the enlargement of the basis of recruitment of HE students.

RESAPES-AP - Rede de Serviços de Apoio Psicológico no Ensino Superior - Associação Profissional



- Psychological/vocational student support **association** in HE;
- Main **activities**:
 - Psychological counselling;
 - Mentoring;
 - Tutoring;
 - Academic volunteer activities;
 - Transversal skills training;
 - Support for the transition from secondary to HE.
 - ...

GTAEDS - Grupo de Trabalho para o Apoio a Estudantes com Deficiências no Ensino Superior



- **Working group** for the support to students with special educational needs (SEN);
- **Counselling** to HEI with services to support SEN students:
 - Improving the quality of those services;
 - Sharing good practices and experiences as well as the development of joint activities and the rationalisation of resources.

Who are we?



5 Schools



4 Cities

11000
students

900
teachers

450
staff



Education and Social Sciences



Engineering and technology



Fine Arts and Design



Tourism



Business and Law



Health and Sports



Good Practices for Equity and Inclusion at the Polytechnic of Leiria

1. Educational Programme to **Financial Literacy**
2. **FASE[®]** - Social Student Support **Fund** (for special situations)
3. Production of support materials and the use of different support resources for **blind** students
4. Supporting higher education students with specific **learning difficulties**: dyslexia, dysorthographia, dysgraphia
5. Special Needs Education: Support **Manual for Teachers**

Educational Programme to Financial Literacy

1

Objectives:

- Understand the **financial literacy** level of the IPLeiria students;
- **Improve** financial knowledge on IPLeiria student community to:
 - Ensure a more appropriate choice of financial **products** and services;
 - Raise awareness to the importance of **saving**;
 - Reduce **dropout** rates in IPLeiria;
 - Associate financial education to citizenship **values** and social responsibility.

Educational Programme to Financial Literacy

1

Results:

- Students are asked to fill a **questionnaire**;
- Answers obtained:
 - The seminars were **useful**;
 - Students admit to **change** their behaviour;
 - The seminar was evaluated as **important** to their personal development;
 - Easily would **recommend** the seminar to other students.
- **Financial inclusion** as part of personal wellbeing, integration in the university, psychologically, socially, physically and more participative in the academic life.

FASE[®] - Social Student Support Fund

2

Objectives:

- To deal with **special** situations;
- Support students from **economically** disadvantaged groups;
- **Prevent** early school dropout and promote academic success;
- Contribute to the consolidation of the educational path and strengthen academic and professional **qualifications** of students.

FASE[®] - Social Student Support Fund

2

Results:

- Yearly assessment producing **reports** since 2012;
- Assessment survey, available **online**
- Students recognize the relevance of the programme, not only as a financial aid but as a way to develop **transversal skills**;
- This recognition led, in 2014, to an increase of the financing source from 1% to **2% of the tuition fees** received, approved by the General Council with the support of the students.

Production of support materials and the use of different support resources for blind students

3

Objectives:

- Enable **blind** students to participate in society, particularly in the area of training and education;
- Assess and provide advice about the different **types** of equipment or products and the correct way to use them;
- Advise and **train teachers** in the use of supportive products and the development of specific materials.

Production of support materials and the use of different support resources for blind students

3

Results:

- Change of **mentalities** all across the institution about the concept and reality of visual disability, respecting the difference and equity of blind students;
- Contribution to the **inclusion**, through the access to all the documents provided by the teachers;
- Production of **materials** to use in museums and other institutions;
- **Translation** to Braille of the Cape Verde Constitution.

Supporting higher education students with specific learning difficulties: dyslexia, dysorthographia, dysgraphia

4

Objectives:

- Psychological assessment of specific learning **difficulties**;
- Psychopedagogical **intervention** with higher education students;

Supporting higher education students with specific learning difficulties: dyslexia, dysorthographia, dysgraphia

4

Results:

- Because this is a **recent project**, no formal assessment has yet occurred;
- Although, testimonies of students reveal great **impact** on their academic achievements;
- Better results could be obtained with specific national **legislation** to support SEN students in general and with specific learning difficulties
- Special **training** to teachers, staff and students is also required to identify and deal with those specific situations.

Special Needs Education: Support Manual for Teachers

5

Objectives:

- Present the main **characteristics of SEN** with higher prevalence in IPLeiria students;
- Provide essential **guidelines** with strategies to help HE teachers to deal effectively with SEN students;
- Contribute to the **equity, inclusion** and academic success of the SEN students.

Special Needs Education: Support Manual for Teachers

5

Results:

- Manual produced in **cooperation** with other Services/Units from the IPLeiria.
- Contains fundamental guidelines on how to **deal** with specific situations related to SEN and Inclusive Education.
- This document is a **free online** resource and is also available in an inclusive version with screen reader compatibility.
- It is also available a smaller and simpler **version** for students that contains information on rights and internal procedures.

The End

Thank you for your attention!

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