This study aims to understand the importance of technologies like the Internet and Learning Management Systems on Higher Education students’ learning activities. We investigate how much and how students use the Internet and how important these technologies are to Polytechnic of Porto (IPP)’ students. This population’s habits were obtained through a questionnaire that was answered by 11% of all IPP’s students. Our analysis is focused not only on the global Internet usage profile of IPP’s students, but also on the differences between the students born before and after 1980. International trends are confirmed in this Portuguese Higher Education institution.

Sample distribution across scientific fields

Distributions across generations

Daily average connection to Internet

Moodle’s role in learning process

Most Used Internet’s Tools

Final Remarks

IPP’s students profile usage of Internet
- Internet is accessed 1 to 3 hours a day; Email and synchronous communication are the tools used daily; this last one, is more frequently used among the younger students
- Internet is primarily used to search information, access Moodle eLearning platform, exchange emails, and to talk with friends
- Most students have, at least, profile at one social network, and 33% usually meet new people through these platforms

LMS’s platform students usage (Moodle as 98% coverage in IPP)
- Daily accessed; Students find no difficulties in the use of Moodle and think this LMS is an important tool in their learning process
- Web 2.0 tools (wikis, forums or blogs) are scarcely used by teachers

Future research
- Replicate this study every 2 years, and use these data as an Internet Usage Observatory
- To study Internet’s usage habits of all IPP’s population and establish orientation guidelines to a successful exploit of Internet technologies in the Higher Education learning process