



GUNI

GLOBAL UNIVERSITY
NETWORK FOR INNOVATION

Sustainable Development Action Plan (PASUS)

Marílio Cardoso, Luís Castanheira, Ana Meira Castro, Nídia Caetano, António Ferreira da Silva
joc@isep.ipp.pt lcc@isep.ipp.pt amc@isep.ipp.pt nsc@isep.ipp.pt afs@isep.ipp.pt
Porto Polytechnical Engineering School (ISEP) www.isep.ipp.pt
Rua Dr. António Bernardino de Almeida, 431
4200-072 Porto



Introduction

Porto Polytechnical Engineering School (ISEP), a Global Reporting Initiative training partner in Portugal, has just presented its Sustainable Development Action Plan (PASUS), which main objective is the formation of a new kind of engineers, with a Sustainable Development (SD) philosophy in the core of their academic curricula courses.



Aims

PASUS's main goals are mainly focused on fundamental issues such as:

- Publishing of annual sustainability report
- Sustainable building
- Minimization of energy consumption and water policy
- Waste management
- Sustainable mobility
- Green procurement
- Research and postgraduate activity in SD themes
- Promotion of lectures and seminars in SD

Other important objectives are:

- Development of a Sustainability Performance Matrix
- Increase investment and coordination of R&D projects based on a SD philosophy
- Development of a reception manual for the new students who attend ISEP for the first time
- Promotion of sessions to inform the new students about the SD philosophy at ISEP and involve them in PASUS
- Promote ecoefficiency policies on buildings and equipment
- Obtain a EMAS certification



Methods

Some sustainability definitions make it very explicit for the relationship between concepts like Sustainability, Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

In fact, without the proper consideration of those synergies, the SD implementation may never be a reality, as some of the necessary interactions would be missing.

PASUS tries to comprehend this reality, by formulating a multidisciplinary and multi-objective plan, which ultimately will comply with its own objectives, furthermore will create new "sustainability agents" for our society.

Results

Since the plan was submitted just a few months ago, the results are still under development. There are, however, clear signs of their virtues and capabilities. The results already obtained can point out the involvement of top management and the various community ISEP members.

ISEP won a call to be Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) training partner in Portugal. To achieve this objective a consortium was formed with BioRumo (a consulting company in Environment and Sustainability) and LIPOR (institution responsible for the management, treatment and valorization of the municipal solid waste produced by eight municipalities of the Porto Region).

ISEP also became a member of CRE (Regional Centre of Excellence in Education for Sustainable Development of the Metropolitan Area of Porto) that is a consortium with more than thirty members, mostly from Porto and neighboring.



Conclusions

Transforming an engineering school into a nest of professionals with the ability to be effective and socially responsible, is a challenge of the present, to meet the needs of the future. It is also a big challenge. The first version of the recently presented PASUS, to be implemented between 2010 and 2015, is a major step towards this reality at ISEP. It's an integrated approach, which considers a set of qualification and quantification tools for monitoring and control, but also and most of all, tries to build the bridge between the tangible and intangible parts of sustainability, in a "plug-and-play" format into engineering students mental processes. The first analytical data, that supports the "base case" of this project should be available at the end of 2010, and subsequent results would be the support for future publications on this scope.

