

PhD FCT Program #PD/173/2013
Technology Enhanced Learning and Societal Challenges
External Advisory Committee Report 2018

The External Advisory Committee of the Technology Enhanced Learning and Societal Challenges (TELSC) PhD Program was requested to examine the 2018 self-evaluation report and provide a report evaluating the activity and outcomes of the program in 2018, including recommendations for improvement.

The success and continuity of the program in 2018 aligns with a growing need for high quality research to enhance educational provisions of all kinds and serves to provide leading edge research in a highly demanding area for Portugal. There is no doubt that advanced competences and transformation practices across disciplines, contexts and professions are occurring as a result of the program.

Analysis

The ongoing and continuing success of the program in 2018 is demonstrated by the extensive publications and presentations occurring, and further graduations. The value of the complex approach being taken to understanding technology and education continues to grow in the academic literature and across a wide range of impacts in the private and public sectors.

The Committee extend congratulations to all stakeholders, including the PhD candidates themselves, in the whole program in terms not only of its sustainability and impact but also its ability to continue to tackle and seek benefit for all three institutions involved in the collaboration, and the substantive potential for synergy.

Recommendations

The external Committee suggest that during 2019:

- A search is made for any comparable programs that have been running long enough to produce any significant numbers of graduates, publications and presentations so ascertain any further scalable and sustainable actions, and perhaps share resource resources and knowledge.
- A report is commissioned that attempts to map similarities and differences across the depth, breadth and years of the programme in order to theme knowledge creation and its impact, which leads to recommendation for the knowledge domain for the future. We suggest that the 2019 seminar explores this critically important area.
- Further attempts are made to offer international opportunities to the candidates and graduates from the program to encourage wider knowledge dissemination. It might also be possible to engage some international technology companies.
- A persistent effort is made to start sending publications to top tier international journals and conferences.

Date: December 16th, 2018

Professor Gilly Salmon
Professor Albert Sangrà
Professor António Dias de Figueiredo

