



Friday 17th June 2011

Time: 10:00 - 10:30

SIDE: Teaching Support Information System

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Abstract:

SIDE is a portal based on a modular architecture for information systems in order to support teaching, unified academic management of courses and the support of the teaching and learning processes, having in mind the needs of integration of information flows of various university systems. This portal, which is in operation at the University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro since 2002, allows managing and storing all the data related to the courses processes, providing to each university stakeholder one platform to provide executive and decision support.

Taking into consideration that SIDE portal is online since eight years ago and supports several teaching activities of the courses within the UTAD, this indicates that the implemented model meets the needs of the institution, we consider that the users opinion related to the perform of the system is very important to adapt as close as possible the features of the system to the user's needs. The validation has an essentially qualitative basis, and is made through analysis of four surveys available to the different types of users. There were prepared surveys targeting all key actors in the platform with the purpose of gathering data which allowed to assess its amenability to system and simultaneously to characterize the sample of users in terms respecting to the use of web technology. The target users were divided into four groups: students, teachers, course directors and course managers.