

Proposal for Hosting the
Fifteenth Portuguese Conference on Artificial Intelligence
(EPIA 2011)
in Lisbon, Portugal



a Joint Bid by

LabMAg/ Universidade de Lisboa
INESC-ID/Instituto Superior Técnico
Instituto Superior de Engenharia de Lisboa

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Abstract

This document contains a joint bid by the LabMAg/Universidade de Lisboa (FCUL), INESC-ID/Instituto Superior Técnico and Instituto Superior de Engenharia de Lisboa to host the Fifteenth Portuguese Conference on Artificial Intelligence (EPIA 2011).

Research in Artificial Intelligence is deeply grounded in Portugal nowadays, and raising an increasing interest in the community of young researchers. The importance of Artificial Intelligence in Portugal is visible by the number of PhDs (over 100), the sheer number of researchers, but also the success of recent workshops and conferences organised in Portugal, such as RoboCup&RoboCupRescue 2004, EUMAS 2006, AAMAS 2008, EKAW 2010, ECAI 2010.

EPIA has come of age as an international conference more than 20 years ago. Since the last time EPIA was organised in Lisbon (1989), the conference has been organised all over the country, raising considerable success and interest in the several local scientific communities, whilst never ceasing to attract researchers and practitioners from the whole country and a considerable participation of foreign scientists.

We believe that after this tour of Portugal, 2011 is the perfect occasion for EPIA to return to Lisbon, a well connected and central city in the country, where a significant number of AI practitioners are based, where some of the most important AI companies are located, and a city that both national and foreign visitors are always keen to visit for work and leisure purposes.

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1- Introduction

AI was started 36 years ago in Lisbon at LNEC (National Laboratory for Civil Engineering) connected to civil engineering applications. Now it is embedded in all computer science graduation programmes across the country and there are several research laboratories connected to the main universities with an already long tradition of student's supervision, leading to more than 100 PhD theses in this area.

EPIA has been conducted in English from 1989 onwards and published by Springer-Verlag, becoming a top-level international conference in the area. Portugal and APPIA (the Portuguese AI Association) were one of the founders of Iberamia (with Spain and Mexico) and responsible for adopting the same policy and so decisively contributing for its internationalisation and raising its standards to its present levels (around 250 submissions and 25% acceptance rate in 2006).

In recent years, a significant number of important AI conferences has been and will be happening in Portugal, such as RoboCup and RobotCup Rescue World Championship 2004, EUMAS 2006, AAMAS 2008, EKAW 2010 and ECAI 2010.

EPIA has been organised throughout the country, attracting significant interest from researchers and young practitioners. 20 years after EPIA was organised in Lisbon for the last time, we strongly believe it is time to bring it back once more. The huge number of students of computer science and artificial intelligence in the several universities located in Lisbon area are bound to be attracted to a big conference in Lisbon, so yielding a renewed interest, and attracting new blood to the field. Several active research groups in Lisbon and its outskirts, together with a bevy of technological companies in related areas are also another reason to conduct EPIA in Lisbon.

Finally, our organisation was able to put together a team of people from several higher education institutions based in Lisbon. This will spread interest around those institutions, allow for the division of the work load between several groups, and provide a comprehensive and engaging covering of the field practitioners in the big metropolitan area.

2- Organisational Structure

The organisation load for the event will be shared by the three proposing institutions (INESC-ID/IST, LabMag/FCUL and ISEL).

2.1- Institutions

INESC-ID (<http://www.inesc-id.pt>) is a not for profit, privately owned, institution, with the status of "utilidade pública", dedicated to advanced research and development in the domains of electronics, telecommunications and information technologies.

INESC-ID was created in 2000 and was awarded the status of "Laboratório Associado" in December of 2004. INESC-ID is owned by Instituto Superior Técnico and by Instituto de Engenharia de Sistemas and Computadores.

It integrates more than 86 PhDs and 260 post-graduation students (working on their PhDs – 120- and their master thesis – 140-) working in one of the five main action lines:

- Information and decision support systems
- Communication networks and mobility
- Virtual interactive environments
- Embedded electronic systems
- Computational processing of the Portuguese language

Research in AI covers topics, such as computational biology, decision support systems, information retrieval, natural language understanding and processing, ontology engineering, semantic web, knowledge representation and reasoning.

INESC-ID has three major sources of financing: national projects of R&D, funded by the national FCT; international projects of R&D, funded by the European Community; development projects funded directly by direct contracts between INESC-ID and national or international companies. Instituto Superior Técnico, Technical University of Lisbon

The Instituto Superior Técnico (IST, <http://www.ist.utl.pt>) is the engineering school within the Technical University of Lisbon (TUL, <http://www.utl.pt>), one of three public universities in Lisbon. IST has a large degree of autonomy and can almost be considered a university in itself.

IST has 10 departments (Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Biology, Informatics, Electrical and Computer, Civil, Mechanic, Materials, Mines, Management) and offers degrees in most engineering areas (<http://www.ist.utl.pt/en/htm/education/upto2006>). It is the largest engineering school in Portugal, with close to 8.500 undergraduate students and M.Sc. students and 600 Ph.D. students

The University of Lisbon (UL, <http://www.fc.ul.pt>) is one of the oldest European universities with 8 Faculties, 4 Institutes and 5 Museums. The Faculty of Sciences (FC) was set up in 1911 and it has now 5333 students and 450 teaching staff members (429 PhD's). The Faculty of Sciences has 9 Departments and one of them covers Computer Science where there are 4 scientific areas of interest and 2 R&D Laboratories. The area of Computation Methodologies includes the disciplines of Artificial Intelligence and Computer Graphics, each one with 7 and 3 PhD's. These 2 groups evolved in direct contact with groups of other universities to install the Laboratory of Agent Modelling (LabMag) and the Institute for Complexity Sciences (ICC), around common topics of research and similar desires of post-graduate education. The main scientific interests are in the field of Distributed Artificial Intelligence, namely agent modelling, architectural structures for animated agents, social implicatures and empirical evaluation, character modelling, conversational skills of interface agents, and applications (pedagogical, economical and telecommunications agents).

LabMag is a research unit certified at the Foundation for Science and Technology (Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia) of Portugal which assures regular funding. LabMag includes researchers from four different graduate institutions in Portugal, being hosted at the University of Lisbon in the

Computer Science Department at the Faculty of Sciences. In the Portuguese system, research is made within the scope of research units (like LabMAG) integrated in universities, where lecturing is the main activity.

The scientific area of LabMAG is Artificial Intelligence (AI) with special focus in the concept of agent and multi-agents systems: agent modeling, agent architectures, agent interaction, mobile robotics, emergent properties. As complementary areas which provide a deeper and boarder perspective, we may include: agent visualisation and animation, social simulation, artificial life, computation theory, specification and verification formalisms, complexity sciences, and natural language processing. LabMAG consists of 16 PhD investigators: 11 from the Computer Science Dept. of the University of Lisbon, 2 from ISCTE (Instituto Superior de Ciências do Trabalho e da Empresa), 2 from ISEL (Instituto Superior de Engenharia de Lisboa) and 1 from University of Évora. Currently there are approximately twenty postgraduate students.

High Institute of Engineering of Lisbon (ISEL) has resulted from the restructuring of an institution with a long-standing tradition in engineering teaching in Portugal, the Industrial Institute of Lisbon (Instituto Industrial de Lisboa), which was created in 1852 by Royal Decree signed by Queen Maria II. Since 1988 it became part of a network of Polytechnic Higher Education establishments, integrated in IPL - Polytechnic Institute of Lisbon (Instituto Politécnico de Lisboa). The IPL comprises eight schools in the fields of engineering, arts, education communication, health and accounting and administration, in which ISEL is the representative of engineering and the biggest institution here integrated. It provides degree courses in five different areas of engineering: Chemical and Biological Engineering, Civil Engineering, Electronic and Telecommunications and Computer Engineering, Electrical Industrial and Automation Engineering, Electrical Industrial and Automation Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering.

2.2- Proposed Organising Committee

Our proposal includes the following organisational roles:

- Conference and Programme Co-Chairs:
 - o Luis Antunes (LabMAG/UL)
 - o H. Sofia Pinto (INESC-ID/IST)
- Organisation Co-Chairs:
 - o Rui Prada (INESC-ID/IST)
 - o Paulo Trigo (ISEL)

The organisers will do everything in their power to support the Program Chairs and technical committees selected by the APPIA board throughout the preparation of the event and for the event itself.

In addition to the individuals listed above, the organising committee member institutions (FCUL, IST/UTL and ISEL) as well as the Portuguese AI community will involve a number of other staff to help out both during the conference days and in their preparation.

Moreover, the proponents will hire the services of a professional company to handle registrations, transportation, payments and hotel accommodations for the attendees. This will probably be Abreu – Agência de Viagens, which has handled these tasks for several events organised by Lisbon universities, and has quite some experience. Other possibilities will be also checked, such as TopAtlântico

2.3- Short bios of the proposed organisers

The team we have assembled gathers together a mixture of experience and enthusiasm. All members have already participated in the organisation of scientific events of various sizes, both as organising chairs and as scientific/programme chairs.

Luis Antunes holds a PhD in Computer Science from University of Lisbon (2001). He has been a researcher in Artificial Intelligence since 1988 and published more than 50 refereed scientific papers. He was the founder and first director of the Group of Studies in Social Simulation (GUESS). Luis Antunes is on the Program Committee of some of the most important international conferences on Artificial Intelligence, Multi-Agent Systems and Social Simulation, such as ECAI, ESSA, WCSS and MABS. He was co-chair of the international workshops MABS'05, MABS'06, MABS'07 on Multi-Agent-Based Simulation, and co-editor of the Springer-Verlag proceedings volumes. He is now a Senior PC member of AAMAS, a member of the MABS Steering Committee and of EUMAS Advisory Board. Antunes hosted EUMAS 2006 and AAMAS 2008, and will host ECAI 2010 as chair of the organizing committee. He is the proponent and a co-chair of the first IJCAI workshop on Social Simulation (SS@IJCAI 2009), and the founder of the first Portuguese Workshop on Social Simulation as a Special Track of EPIA 2009. He is a member of ESSA Management Committee and of APPIA (Portuguese Association for AI) board of directors.

H. Sofia Pinto is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Computer Science and Engineering of Instituto Superior Técnico (Technical University of Lisbon). She is a Senior Researcher at INESC-ID. She started research in Artificial Intelligence in 1987 as a Young Researcher scholarship holder from JNICT. She holds a PhD in Computer Science/Artificial Intelligence from IST (2001). She was an invited researcher at AIFB (2003-2004, 2005-2006, 2007) at ISWeb (2005-2006), and at the Ontology Engineering Group (1997-1999). She has worked mainly in knowledge representation: ontologies, inheritance systems, and truth maintenance systems. Her current research interests include: ontology engineering and ontology use, in general, including ontology learning, ontology evaluation, ontology similarity in DL's, semantic annotation, ontology reuse, semantic web, knowledge engineering, knowledge management, virtual organizations and organizational engineering. She has published more than 60 refereed scientific papers on those areas. She has received two best paper awards. She has served on several international program committees, including KR, ESWC and ECAI series. She co-organized several events, such as the workshop series on Building and Applying Ontologies for the Semantic Web (BAOSW 2005 and 2007) at EPIA and the workshop series on Ontologies and their Applications (WONTO'2006 and 2008) at SBIA. She is the Programme Chair of the 17th Conference on Knowledge Engineering and Knowledge Management (EKAW 2010). She has collaborated in several EU projects, such as SWAP, SEKT and NeOn, and coordinated several national projects OntoSeaWeb, FolkPeers and CLAW. She has worked on several occasions for the European Commission as project proposal evaluator and project evaluator. She is a member of APPIA.

Rui Prada is currently an assistant professor at the Computer Science Department of Instituto Superior Técnico – Technical University of Lisbon (IST-UTL), where he teaches courses on User Centred Design, Multi-agent Systems and Game Design and Development. He has a degree in Computer Science with a specialization in Artificial Intelligence. In December 2005, he obtained his doctoral degree, from IST-UTL, in Computer Science with his work on the believability of groups of autonomous synthetic characters. Since 1999, he is a researcher of INESC-ID, where he has participated in several research projects, such as, NIMIS, DiViLab, Safira, COLDEX, ELVIS and E-Circus. He belongs to the GAIPS (Intelligent Agents and Synthetic Characters Group) research group, where he develops his current research interests in the fields of Social Intelligent Agents, Virtual Collaborative Environments, User Centred Design and Computer Games. He is author and co-author of more than 30 peer-reviewed scientific papers presented at international events and journals. He was a member of the organization committee of ACII'2007, AAMAS'2008, IBERAMIA'2008 and Digital Games 2008 and has participated in the program committee of some of the major conferences in the area of autonomous agents and multimedia, such as: AAMAS, IUI, ICIDS, AIIDE, IVA and CASA. He is currently the vice-president of the SPCVideojogos (Sociedade Portuguesa de Ciências dos Videojogos).

Paulo Trigo holds a PhD in Computer Science / Artificial Intelligence from University of Lisbon (2007) and he is a Professor at the Instituto Superior de Engenharia de Lisboa (ISEL) where he has been teaching in the areas of Information Systems and Artificial Intelligence. His research interests are in the areas of Distributed Artificial Intelligence, Simulation and Decision-Making and the Semantic Web approaches; he has published more than 20 refereed scientific papers. He was the founder and first director of Grupo de Investigação em Ambientes Autónomos (GuIAA) at ISEL. He is a member of the Program Committee of AAMAS, BWSS / SBIA, IBERAGENTS /

IBERAMIA, CIAWI / IADIS, ISCIES; he participated in the organization of AAMAS-08, EEM-08 and EUMAS-06 and was chair in JFI / JETC-08 (national workshop at ISEL); he is a co-chair in ECAI 2010. He is a member of the IEEE Portuguese Chapter in Computational Intelligence Society and the Portuguese Association for Artificial Intelligence (APPIA).

3- Conference City

The location we propose for the conference is Lisbon, Portugal's biggest city and capital. Lisbon metropolitan area has little more than 2.5 million inhabitants, 3 public universities and several private ones, and hosts several of the most important research groups in Artificial Intelligence.

For the national participant, Lisbon allows many contacts with a large number of researches in AI, since a large number of them is actually based in Lisbon. For the foreign participant, the following sections illustrate the attractive reasons of this location.

3.1- Portugal and the Lisbon Coast



**Europe, Portugal,
Lisbon**

One of the oldest nations in Europe, founded by Dom Afonso Henriques in 1143, with the Treaty of Zamora, today Portugal is a blend of modernity and history. Over the years, due to its natural advantages and geographic features, it has become a chosen destination for tourism and business purposes. This unforgettable country attracts visitors from all over the world to relax on the clear water beaches, witness the incredible historic sites left as a memory of their ancestors, while enjoying the fabulous typical food that leaves one craving for more.

Portugal is a land of infinite options. You can mingle with the crowds in one of the most sophisticated beach resorts or wander through the medieval quarters of historic cities like Lisbon, Porto, Braga or Coimbra. Due to its coastline facing the Atlantic Ocean, Portugal features amazing beaches, where one can still see fishermen mending their nets beside brightly painted sardine boats.

The delights of Portuguese cuisine are also a tradition not to be missed. There are restaurants of all categories and for all tastes, from the most luxurious to the simple tavern where visitors will be surprised to find how low prices can be.

In addition to its breathtaking natural landscapes and pleasant weather, the heritage left by the ancient civilizations and their influence, has provided Portugal with an incredibly rich architecture. At the same time, the many journeys undertaken by Portuguese navigators in the past and the contact with other cultures from its old colonies, has left the Portuguese people with a unique openness and sense of helpfulness that allows visitors to feel at home.



Palácio da Pena, Sintra



Estoril

Portugal's attractions are countless and a few around Lisbon are all a matter of choice: a walk on the promenade at sunset in Estoril, a visit to Sintra, declared World Heritage by UNESCO and only

a few kilometers away from Lisbon, dinner at a restaurant where one can hear the Fado, the typical Portuguese music, being sung, etc.

Lisbon, known as the "city with the seven hills", is appealing in many aspects. Its weather, its infinity of historic attractions, which include museums, castles, monasteries, its nightlife, the



Torre de Belém



Mosteiro dos Jerónimos



Padrão dos Descobrimentos

proximity to the beach, and the good accessibility, all of this makes of Lisbon an excellent venue for tourism and business events.

From the Jeronimos Monastery to the old quarter Alfama, this legendary city with over 20 centuries of history, offers a wide range of possibilities to entertain visitors. The district of Belem holds some of the most important monuments in Lisbon: the Royal Coaches Museum, the Jeronimos Monastery, the Tower of Belém, a Unesco World Heritage site built as a fortress in the 16th century, and the Monument to the Discoveries paying homage to the Age of Discoveries and represented as a Caravel with Prince Henry, the Navigator. After a long day, one can give himself a treat by trying one of the most famous Portuguese sweets, the "pastel de Belém".

The São Jorge Castle, built during the Moorish occupation in the 10th century, besides its magnificent architecture, provides a splendid view of Alfama, with its typical narrow streets. At night, the streets in Bairro Alto boast with intense nightlife.



Castelo de S. Jorge

The touch of modernity is also very present in Lisbon, the host of the Expo'98, which kept the state-of-the-art buildings used in the event where several attractions are now available. One of them is the Oceanarium with living examples of marine life.



Oceanário

Lisbon is an enchanting city and has become an ideal destination for tourists from all over the world. In addition to that, it has been the host of several important events including the European Football Cup in 2004, which proved to be a great success. There is a wide variety of hotels that provide excellent accommodation for all budgets.

Interesting information on Lisbon and its surroundings can be found in the following website: <http://www.portugalvirtual.pt/tourism/costadelisboa/>.

3.2- Lisbon's attractions

The proponents believe Lisbon is a great location for attracting international researchers for EPIA 2011 for the following reasons:

- Lisbon is a world know city, famous for its history, tradition, architecture, hospitality, animation, cuisine and entertainment offerings. Lisbon is Portugal's most sought after tourist destination, with several million visitants per year. Lisbon is a great destination to travel both for work and for leisure;
- At the time proposed for EPIA 2011 October Lisbon provides a mild weather, with typical temperatures between 17 (min) and 26 (max) degrees Celsius, 10 daily hours of Sun, with little or no rainfall;
- Lisbon has an international airport very close to the city centre. Many carriers offer direct flights to Lisbon from most European cities, and some low-cost companies fly to Lisbon from central locations;

3.3- Accessibility

Lisbon is easy to get to. It is a short flight away from most European cities, and is just as easily accessible by road, railway or sea. Portela Airport (Lisbon) is an international gateway with flights departing and arriving from almost anywhere in the world and is only 7 km away from the centre of Lisbon. Major companies such as AirFrance, Air Luxor, Alitalia, Air Berlin, British Airways, Continental, Iberia, Lufthansa, TAAG, TAVC, TAP Air Portugal, among others, fly to Boston, New York, Toronto, Stuttgart, Luxembourg, Luanda, Moscow, Paris, Oslo, Madrid, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, London, Amsterdam, Zurich, Rome, Johannesburg, Caracas, Dublin, and many other major cities. There are several buses that run to the city centre (tickets cost €1.10, about 15-25 minutes).

BY AIR

Lisbon International Airport, 7 km from the city centre, has daily flights to and from the major cities in Europe and the world. The Portuguese airline TAP - Air Portugal, as well as major international airlines, fly to and from Lisbon.

<http://www.flytap.pt>

At the Airport, there are several means of transportation that run to the city centre:

AEROBUS – nº 91

Linking the Airport to downtown Lisbon and Cais do Sodré (every 20 minutes from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.) Tickets can be purchased on board and are valid for the day of the issue. Baggage is carried free of charge (tickets cost €3.00) (20-30 minutes, depending on traffic).

CARRIS - Buses: nº. 5, 8, 22, 44, 45, 83

There are several buses that run to the city centre (tickets cost €1.20, about 25-35 minutes).

<http://www.carris.pt/>

TAXIS

If one wishes to take a taxi, taxi are Available right outside the Arrival and Departure halls. A ride from the airport to the Lisbon Congress Centre costs between €8 to €10 (15 minutes).

TAXI VOUCHER

Taxi Voucher Service at the Lisbon Airport - courtesy, friendliness, and safe driving. This service is available to passengers arriving at Lisbon Airport who wish to travel by taxi. The service operates with vouchers on sale at the Turismo de Lisbon counter, located in the terminal. The price of the voucher depends on the distance of the trip or length of time, as well as on the type of service required: normal or personalized (in the former, the driver is trained to speak foreign languages and acts as tourist guide).

BY ROAD

Arriving in Lisbon by road is a pleasant experience, as the visitor can enjoy the beautiful countryside along the way. The city has good road accesses and the most frequently used routes are: the A1 motorway, the 25th April Bridge, the new Vasco da Gama Bridge, and the CREL, the outer ring-road for the Lisbon region.

BY RAIL

Scores of national and international trains arrive in Lisbon every day. In addition to Santa Apolónia terminal station, the city now has the new Gare do Oriente, which opened in 1998 adjacent to the Parque das Nações. Both stations have direct bus or underground connections to the city centre.

<http://www.cp.pt/>

BY SEA

The Port of Lisbon is the busiest port on the European Atlantic coast. It has three terminals for cruise ships: the Alcântara, Rocha de Conde d'Óbidos and the Santa Apolónia terminals. Lisbon is often a port of call for many cruise ships (coming from many different places). Furthermore, the city also has marinas for pleasure boats in the docks of Belém, Santo Amaro, Bom Sucesso, Alcântara and, most recently, the Olivais Docks.



3.4- Getting around

Lisbon city centre is a lively and busy hub, full of traffic. Therefore, if driving can be avoided, then it should be. Lisbon has an excellent public transport system that tends to make driving unnecessary. The best ways to get around Lisbon are on foot, via Metro, or on the many tram and bus lines. Taxis are readily available, and commuter trains serve nearby resort towns like Estoril and Sintra. The metro in Lisbon is safe, and is the quickest way to travel. There is an extensive network of buses, trams and funiculars in Lisbon.

3.5- Accommodation

The wide variety of hotels, experienced with large-scale events such as the EXPO'98 and the European Soccer Championship 2004, allows the accommodation of large numbers of participants and those accompanying them.

The Gulbenkian Foundation has an excellent central location, in terms of transport and accommodation. There are several hotels near the Foundation building, all of them within a 5-10 minute walking distance. The following are some indicative prices from some well known chains:

Hotel NOVOTEL Lisboa *** - Single / Double room: from 80€ till 140€ (with breakfast included)
Avenida José Malhoa, 1642
1099-051 Lisboa
Tel.: +351 217 244 800 Fax: +351 217 244 801

Hotel Ibis ** - Single / Double room: average price 64€ (breakfast not included: 5€ per person)
Avenida José Malhoa,

Lote H 1070-158 Lisboa
Tel.: +351 217 235 700 Fax: +351 217 235 701

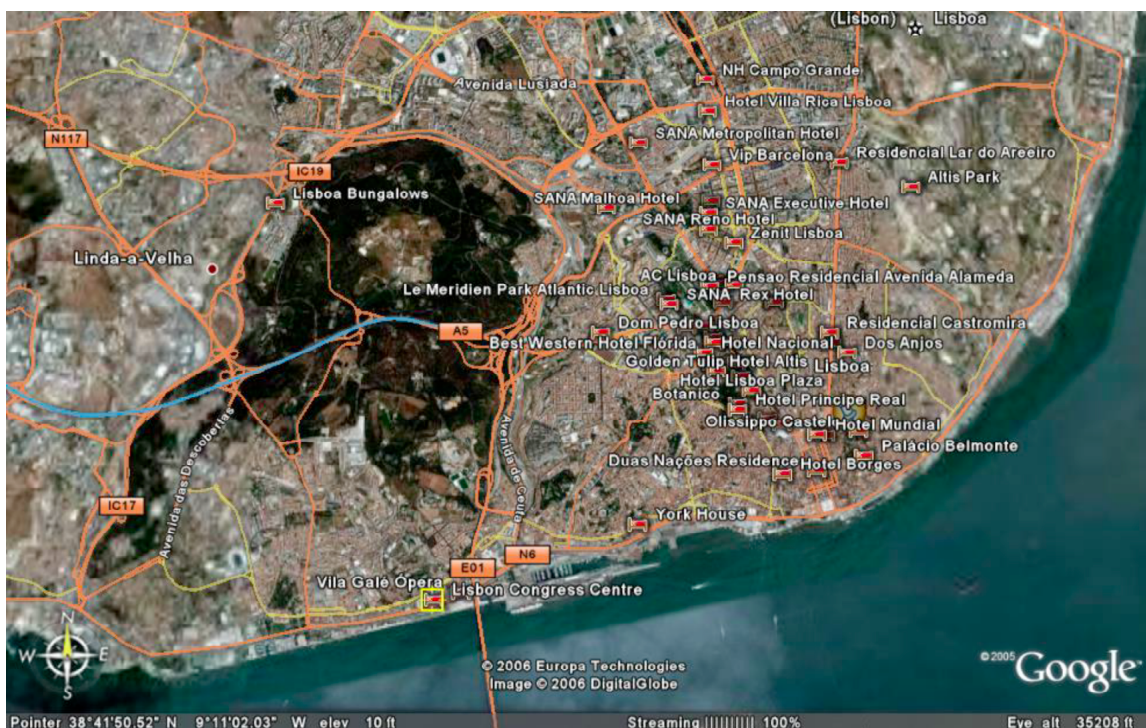
Hotel Olissippo, Marquês de Sá*** - Single/ Double Room: from 70€ till 150€ (with breakfast included)
Av. Miguel Bombarda, 130
1050-167 Lisboa
Tel: 217 911 014 Fax: 217 936 983

Also at walking distance are a number of bars and restaurants. The Foundation also has some restaurants and self-services inside its grounds that can be used if this is the chosen venue.

Further away in Lisbon there is an enormous amount of lodging possibilities for all purses. Since the venue is very well connected, it is possible to be lodged in inexpensive places and still be in a comfortable distance.

- Universidade de Lisboa has housing facilities for a limited number of guests for a price of circa 20€ per night;
- Several youth hostels located in the centre will receive guests for circa 15€ per person per night in a multiple bedroom, and circa 40€ per room per night in a double room;
- Budget 2* hotels close to the venue will charge 55€ per individual room and 65€ per double room, both per night;
- 3* hotels are 65€ per single room and 75€ for a double room;
- More comfortable 4* hotels prices start at 80€ per single and 100€ per double room.

The following map provides an illustration of a fraction of the lodging possibilities available in Lisbon.



Lisbon from the sky.

4- Conference venue

The meeting will take place in Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian building, in Avenida de Berna, close to Praça de Espanha (see map below). Fundação Gulbenkian is a Portuguese private institution of public utility whose statutory aims are in the fields of arts, charity, education and science. Created by a clause in Calouste Sarkis Gulbenkian's will, the Foundation's statutes were approved in 1956.

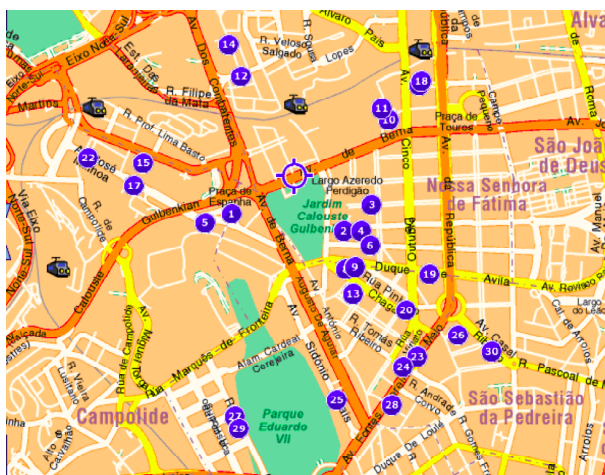
In addition to the areas occupied by the Foundation's management and various departments, the premises include a large auditorium, a space for temporary exhibitions, a congress area with auditoriums and other rooms, as well as a large building that houses the Calouste Gulbenkian Museum and the Art Library. The entire complex is set in the Gulbenkian Park, which was designed by Ribeiro Telles. In 1983, the Modern Art Centre, consisting of a museum and an education centre, was opened at one end of the park. The Gulbenkian Park also comprises a magnificent garden.

Conference facilities are state of the art, and there is professional support staff provided by the Foundation. The auditoriums where the meeting will take place are located in the same building as the large auditorium, as well as the Calouste Gulbenkian Museum, and the Cafeteria, where coffee will be served during breaks. There are fully equipped auditoriums for 80 and for approximately 300 people, and several rooms that can be configured for a given number of people. It is also possible to set up an Internet Room with full networking facilities.

In the Fundação Gulbenkian setting, we will find a modern, aesthetically appealing, comfortable, configurable, fully equipped location, surrounded by hundreds of square meters of beautiful gardens, two art museums and several amenities.

Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian is located between Praça de Espanha and Campo Pequeno, in the heart of the 'Avenidas Novas' zone of central Lisboa. This is a zone characterised by commerce and services, with some residential buildings and also parks, gardens and other leisure facilities. Transportation facilities are at its best here, with nearby train and subway stations, and a good bus coverage. The closest subway station is São Sebastião, less than 1 minute away from Gulbenkian Park. Taxis are not expensive in Lisboa. A typical ride from the airport will cost less than 10 euros. It is also very central, conveniently close to hotels, and car parks.

The map below shows the location of the conference site (blue circle) and nearby hotels of several categories and prices (numbered blue dots).



The area is also full of restaurants, cafeterias, and hotels in the neighbourhood. All logistics can be thus easily solved. Museums, art galleries, shops and historical buildings are just yards away from the venue giving attendants the opportunity to spend any free time enjoying the heart of the city.

5- Conference Program

5.1- Dates

Taking into account the most common dates of the EPIA conference, the dates of other major AI conferences, and the fact that the school year begins in September, we propose that in 2010 EPIA should take place from October 10 to 13.

5.2- Technical Program

The technical program we suggest follows the model of previous EPIA conferences:

One day for the Artificial Intelligence Doctoral Symposium and some initial workshop tracks, and three days of workshops tracks, forming the main conference. So, taking into account the dates we propose in the previous subsection, it would be as follows:

| | | |
|--------|-----------|----------------------|
| 10/Oct | Monday | SDIA/Main conference |
| 11/Oct | Tuesday | Main conference |
| 12/Oct | Wednesday | Main conference |
| 13/Oct | Thursday | Main conference |

| As tentative dates, which may be better adjusted at later stages, we propose:

October 2010 – Site launch, thematic tracks call emailing

November 2010 - Deadline for track proposals

January 2010 – Track proposal results notifications

April 2010 – Paper submissions

June 2010 – Paper acceptance notifications, registration

July 2010 – Camera ready papers

September - Schedule

5.3- Social Program

| As tentative dates we propose that the Opening Session and Reception should take place at the end of the first conference day, that is, on the 10th of October. The Banquet should take place in the evening before the last day, which is on the 12 October

6- Tentative Budget

In order to obtain a tentative budget for EPIA 2011 we considered four different scenarios according to the number of participants in the main conference (100, 150, 200, 250).

6.1- Income – registration fees for the main conference

The income estimates regarding the registration fees for the conference depend not only on the total number of participants but on their distribution regarding their registration status (student, member of APPIA, non-member), and on the timing of their registration (early, late, or on-site).

Taking into account information from previous EPIA conferences, we will assume the following defensive distribution:

| | Student | Member | Non-member | TOTAL |
|---------|---------|--------|------------|-------|
| Early | 30% | 30% | 15% | 75% |
| Late | 10% | 10% | 5% | 25% |
| On-site | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% |
| TOTAL | 40% | 40% | 20% | 100% |

Considering the registration fees that were applied in recent EPIA conferences we consider in our budget proposal the following values:

| | Student | Member | Non-member |
|---------|----------|----------|------------|
| Early | 225.00 € | 300.00 € | 350.00 € |
| Late | 250.00 € | 325.00 € | 375.00 € |
| On-site | 275.00 € | 350.00 € | 400.00 € |

The total income on registrations fees for each of the scenarios can be seen in the global budget table. Lunches, coffee breaks, conference dinner and welcome reception costs were treated separately since the costs to be charged to EPIA participants are the ones requested by the supplying companies. The values in the tables are the actual values being charged by these entities.

6.3- Income – Other sources

Other possible sources of income come from Sponsorship. The values we consider here are the most tentative of all but again we took into account previous experience. We estimate a reference value of 5.000€ from sponsorship.

6.5- Detailed budget

| # Registrants | | 100 | 150 | 200 | 250 |
|-------------------------------------|------------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| Revenues | | | | | |
| | per person | | | | |
| Registration fees - Main Conference | | 28,625 € | 42,938 € | 57,250 € | 71,563 € |
| Sponsorship | | 5,000 € | 5,000 € | 5,000 € | 5,000 € |
| Lunches+coffee+welcome | 185 € | 18,500 € | 27,750 € | 37,000 € | 46,250 € |
| Conference dinner | 80 € | 8,000 € | 12,000 € | 16,000 € | 20,000 € |
| Total Revenues | | 60,125 € | 87,688 € | 115,250 € | 142,813 € |
| Expenditures | | | | | |
| Conference Venue | | 7,000 € | 7,000 € | 7,000 € | 7,000 € |
| Rental of facilities | | 7,000 € | 7,000 € | 7,000 € | 7,000 € |
| General equipment | | 0 € | 0 € | 0 € | 0 € |
| Publicity and Promotion | | 2,700 € | 2,700 € | 2,700 € | 2,700 € |
| Poster design and production | | 1,500 € | 1,500 € | 1,500 € | 1,500 € |
| Web Design and Web Site | | | | | |
| Maintenance | | 1,000 € | 1,000 € | 1,000 € | 1,000 € |
| Postage | | 200 € | 200 € | 200 € | 200 € |
| Program Committee and Guests | | 4,500 € | 4,500 € | 4,500 € | 4,500 € |
| PC meeting | | | | | |
| Invited Speakers | | 4,500 € | 4,500 € | 4,500 € | 4,500 € |
| Other guests and tutors | | | | | |
| Administrative costs | | 12,088 € | 18,131 € | 24,175 € | 30,219 € |
| APPIA fee | | 8,588 € | 12,881 € | 17,175 € | 21,469 € |
| Conference secretariat | 15 € | 1,500 € | 2,250 € | 3,000 € | 3,750 € |
| Miscellaneous supplies | 20 € | 2,000 € | 3,000 € | 4,000 € | 5,000 € |
| Material for participants | | 9,000 € | 13,250 € | 17,500 € | 21,750 € |
| Paper proceedings | 60 € | 6,000 € | 9,000 € | 12,000 € | 15,000 € |
| CD/DVD/Pen Proceedings | | 500 € | 500 € | 500 € | 500 € |
| Other materials | 25 € | 2,500 € | 3,750 € | 5,000 € | 6,250 € |
| Social functions | | 26,500 € | 39,750 € | 53,000 € | 66,250 € |
| Lunches and coffee-breaks | 150 € | 15,000 € | 22,500 € | 30,000 € | 37,500 € |
| Welcome reception | 35 € | 3,500 € | 5,250 € | 7,000 € | 8,750 € |
| Conference dinner | 80 € | 8,000 € | 12,000 € | 16,000 € | 20,000 € |
| Total Expenditures | | 61,788 € | 85,331 € | 108,875 € | 132,419 € |
| Result | | -1,663 € | 2,356 € | 6,375 € | 10,394 € |

6.6- Final Comments – Break Even Points

The budget we provide assumes the existence of 5000€ sponsorship, to arrive to a breakeven point of 121 participants, which we think is a reasonable lower end expectation for EPIA 2011. Moreover, as we explained above, we will have plenty of time to negotiate better conditions and prices for some of the heavy entries in the expenses budget, so we believe it will be possible to lower the breakeven point significantly. As we expect to receive more than the 121 people needed to run a financially successful conference, the result we trust will happen will be a profit.

7- Supporting Local Industry and Potential Local Sponsors

To sponsor EPIA 2011, taking into account that it will be held in Lisbon, the capital of Portugal, and the International dimension and size of the event, as well as its scientific relevance, the following national/international government institutions, and private companies, will be invited to support the conference by means of grants or similar mechanisms:

- The Ministry of Science and Culture
- The Ministry of Education
- FCT: The Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (www.fct.mctes.pt);
- Gulbenkian Foundation
- Camara Municipal de Lisboa (CML): Lisboa City Council (www.cm-lisboa.pt);
- Associação de Turismo de Lisboa (<http://www.atl-turismolisboa.pt/>);
- ESF: European Science Foundation (www.esf.org);
- FLAD: Fundação Luso.Americana para o Desenvolvimento
- Portuguese Banks like CGD, BES, BCP, etc.;
- National Services Providers like EDP, Portugal-Telecom, CTT, Águas de Portugal
- Private Companies and Software houses:
 - o Siscog, YDreams, Declarativa, Novabase, Infinion, Siemens, Primavera Software, Enabler, Wedo, CPC-HS, COTEC-group, Sonae, etc.

We also have plans to ask for specific sponsorship programmes, for instance to sponsor the Best Paper Award, or a Specific Invited Speaker by companies or public organizations.

8- Publicity and Public Relations Service

There is a Public Relations Office in Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa and another in Instituto Superior Técnico, which are in constant contact with the local and national services. These offices will be coordinated by the organisers as needed to establish contacts with the appropriate specialised agencies.

9- Conclusion

We believe that Lisbon will be an excellent venue for EPIA 2011 because of its centrality and accessibility. The Fundação Gulbenkian holds all the necessary modern facilities to provide top conditions for the Conference. The local and national AI community gives full support to this proposal, and the university and R&D officials involved are thrilled with the opportunity to hold such an event. The city and its surroundings (especially Lisbon, Sintra and Cascais) are enchanting places to visit in the free time. We believe all of these combine the required conditions for our proposal and its analysis. We will spare no effort to make EPIA 2011 an amazing event.