



*Proposal for the organization of the
Sixteenth Portuguese Conference on
Artificial Intelligence (EPIA 2013)
Angra do Heroísmo, Azores, Portugal*



Universidade dos Açores



LARSyS

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Abstract

This document is a proposal to organise the Sixteenth Portuguese Conference on Artificial Intelligence (2013) in Angra do Heroísmo, Tereira, Azores. It is a joint bid by the *CMATI/Universidade dos Açores*, *LabMAg/Universidade de Lisboa* and *LIACC/Universidade do Porto*.

It has the contribution of APDR – Regional Development Portuguese Association, LARSyS – Laboratory of Robotics and Systems in Engineering Science, the Azorean Biodiversity Group (CITA-Azores University) and the TEAMSlab group.

Recent scientific meetings organised in Portugal, such as EUMAS 2006, AAMAS 2008, ECAI 2010, have been landmarks of the success of Artificial Intelligence in Portugal. APPIA has now the opportunity to choose Angra do Heroísmo, classified as a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1983, as the venue for EPIA 2013.

In the following the details of the proposal are presented.

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1- Introduction

Previous EPIA events have been organised throughout the country, attracting significant interest from researchers and young practitioners, but it is the first time there is a bid to host it in Azores University at Angra do Heroísmo – Terceira.

Azores is not only a beautiful place, with its natural scenario and marvelous landscapes, but it is also a place with a huge potential for researchers wanting to invest in research areas such as the exploration of deep sea by using robotics, the green-energy related projects which high-tech demands and an intelligent use of resources as well as the use of AI in the management of protected areas for biodiversity, and the need to overcome the overfishing problem of economically valuable species.

The team organizing this Sixteenth Portuguese Conference on Artificial Intelligence is aware of those opportunities which can be used as an attractive scenario for inviting new people to the field of artificial intelligence and also to create links among areas of applied research, which, hopefully, will contribute to settle down some of the expertise in the Azorean archipelago.

EPIA 2013 taking place in Angra do Heroísmo will promote a stronger interaction among participants than if it were in a more central place.

We expect to take advantage of the venue, to promote an EPIA 2013 with significant interest and successful by all standards.

2- Organisational Structure

The organisation of the event will be supported by different proposing institutions and groups, namely, **University of Azores - CMATI, LabMAg/FCUL and LIACC/UP.**

2.1 – Institutions

Universidade dos Açores - The Universidade dos Açores, or commonly abbreviated as *UAç*, is the only public university in the Autonomous Region of the Azores. It was founded on January 9, and it depends on the *Ministry of Science, Technology & Education*. It was established in order to advance sustainable development and higher education in the Azores. In order to effectively provide educational services to regional population, the University established three campuses, in Ponta Delgada (São Miguel island), Angra do Heroísmo (Terceira island) and Horta (Faial island) and organized into departments and schools to, essentially, provide instruction and investigation services. In addition to the Main Campus (Ponta Delgada), which provides a concentration of various disciplines, the other two campuses provided specialized training in agrarian sciences and oceanography. Research groups and centre have extend the research activities in all three campuses.

CMATI/UAç - Applied Mathematical and Technological Center - is a young research center at University of Azores, which promotes research activities in the areas of Applied Mathematics (dynamic systems and applications) and Computer Science / Informatics (information systems and software engineering). The center has been organizing several international scientific meetings in collaboration with international centers and organizations. In the recent past, it was responsible for the organization of several important theoretical computing international conferences and workshops, namely the 8th International Conference on Unconventional Computation (see <http://www.uc09.uac.pt/>), the 6th CiE 2010 in the Azores is the sixth conference of the Series CiE (Computability in Eurorpe) (see <http://www.cie2010.uac.pt/>) and the Workshop on Computability Theory 2010 (http://www.fmi.uni-sofia.bg/fmi/logic/msoskova/wct/index_files/Page417.htm). The center has also been playing a relevant role in spread of scientific knowledge, including the area knowledge of Artificial Intelligence, in the main schools of the archipelago.

LIACC - The Laboratory of Artificial Intelligence and Computer Science of the University of Porto was created in 1988 to promote the collaboration of researchers that were separately working in the fields of Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence in different Faculties/Universities. LIACC aims at helping to solve the following general problems posed by the use of computers: software reliability; problems of a distributed, dynamic and decentralized nature; security, and information processing reliability. It has about 20 PhD members from 6 higher education and research institutions in Portugal. LIACC members have been highly involved in EPIA throughout the years making this research unit one of the main driving forces of this conference.

LabMag/FCUL - The scientific area of LabMAG is Artificial Intelligence (AI) with special focus in the ideas of agents and multi-agents systems: agent modeling, agent architectures, agent interaction, mobile robotics, emergent properties, natural language processing, complexity, visualization and social simulation. It has 20 PhD integrated members and collaborators, from 8 higher education and research institutions in Portugal. LabMAG members have been involved in most of the recent organizations of international AI related events, in Portugal, and also in some abroad.

APDR - Portuguese Association for Regional Development - is a scientific institution founded in 1984 whose main objective is the promotion of research in the field of Regional Science. APDR is also the Portuguese Section of the European Regional Science Association (ERSA). APDR presently has around 220 effective members mainly working in universities or regional development private or public institutions. Most members are economists, geographers, architects and engineers. Since 1998, APDR organises each year a Meeting that gathers about 200 Portuguese and foreign researchers in the field of Regional Development.

ABG/UAç - This research group is part of the Centre for Agricultural Research and Technologies of the Azores (CITAA) in the University of the Azores. Its main focus is on ecology, biogeography, evolution, taxonomy, sustainability and environmental promotion in an insular environment. With 10 permanent researchers/professors and dozens of associate or post-doc researchers and PhD or grant students, it published 68 papers and other publications during 2010, including 18 papers in international journals listed in SCI.

TEAMSlab/UAç – This is a new research group with a special focus in technology and education. It is composed by a small number of researchers in areas related to technology applied to education, multimedia, didactic and curriculum studies.

2.2 - Proposed committees

Our proposal to *Conference, Programme and Organisation co-chairs* is the following:

- **Conference co-chairs:**
José Cascalho (UAç)
Luís Correia (LabMag/FCUL)
Luís Paulo Reis(LIACC/UMinho)
- **Programme co-chairs:**
Luís Correia (LabMag/FCUL)
Luís Paulo Reis(LIACC/UMinho)
- **Organisation co-chairs:**
Luís Gomes (CMATI/UAç)
Hélia Guerra (CMATI/UAç)
Pedro Cardoso (ABG/UAç)

The organisers are prepared to interact with APPIA board and with EPIA advisory committee throughout the preparation of the event and for the event itself. Locally, the organising committee will involve other staff in the preparation and during the conference days.

APDR staff will be responsible for the transportation management, registrations, payments and hotel accommodations for the attendees. Travel agencies that usually work with Azores University and APDR will be contacted to provide competitive prices.

2.3 – Short bios of the proposed organisers

The members of the team have different backgrounds but they have been working together in different projects for several years. Joining researchers from artificial intelligence, computer science and biology in a team, including members from different Islands, is a challenge, but it will be a way to enlarge the view of the Congress as an event for Azores archipelago, as well as, to improve sensitivity toward potential applications of Artificial Intelligence research in such a huge area across sea and land.

All members have, in their curriculum, the organisation of scientific events of various sizes, both as organising chairs and as scientific/program chairs. The team combines researchers with very strong background on the organization of scientific events and researchers that have been very active, at all levels, in the context of the EPIA conference.

Hélia Guerra holds a PhD in Computer Science from University of Azores and she is a Professor at the same university where she has been teaching in the areas of Information Systems, Software Engineering, Programming Languages, Neural Networks, Compilers, and Theory of Computation. Her research interests are in the areas of Information Systems, Software Engineering, Web Semantics and Text Mining; She has been a member of the Scientific Committee of *Iberian Conference on Information Systems and Technologies*; she participated in the organization of *Unconventional Computation 2009*, *Computability in Europe 2010*, *Women in Computability 2010*, *Computability Theory 2010*, and *Physics & Computation 2010*. She is a member of the Portuguese Association for Artificial Intelligence (APPIA).

José Cascalho (<http://www.uac.pt/~jmc>) holds a PhD in Computer Science / Artificial Intelligence from University of Azores (2008) and he is a Professor at the same university where he has been teaching in the areas of Artificial Intelligence and Mathematics. His research interests are in the areas of Distributed Artificial Intelligence, Multi-agent Systems architecture, Simulation and Applications ; He has been a member of the Program Committee of AAMAS and IBERAMIA; he participated in the organization of AAMAS-08, EUMAS-06 and ECAI 2010. He is a member of the IEEE Society , of the AAI, and of the Portuguese Association for Artificial Intelligence (APPIA).

Luís M. P. Correia (<http://www.di.fc.ul.pt/~lcorreia>) was born in Lisboa, Portugal, in 1959. He obtained an Electrical Engineering degree (5 year degree) in 1982, from Instituto Superior Técnico of Universidade Técnica de Lisboa, and a PhD in Informatics (Behaviour based mobile robots) from Universidade Nova de Lisboa, in 1995. In 2009 he got habilitation from Universidade de Lisboa. From 1982 to 2003 he was practicing assistant, assistant and assistant professor at Universidade Nova de Lisboa. Since 2003 he is associate professor at Universidade de Lisboa. From 2004 on he has been leading LabMAg research centre. His research interests are in the area of artificial life, autonomous robots and self-organisation in multi-agent systems. He has participated in several research projects, four of them funded by the EU, with a leading or co-leading role of the national team in two of them. He has supervised 5 PhD and 16 MSc thesis and wrote around 100 scientific articles, with revision, for journals and conferences. He is member of the editorial review board of the International Journal of Natural Computing Research (IJNCR) and of the advisory board of Editorial Polimetria. Regularly participates in program committees of conferences in the area of artificial life and evolutionary computation. He is member of the Portuguese Association for Artificial Intelligence (APPIA).

Luís Gomes holds a PhD in Informatics from University of Azores in 2007 and he is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics of University of Azores. His teaching duties are situated in Web Technologies and Distributed Systems. He is the author of some scientific articles in international conferences. He was a local organizer of CiE2010 and the Workshop on Computability Theory 2010. He is member of the Portuguese Association for Artificial Intelligence (APPIA).

Luis Paulo Reis (<http://www.fe.up.pt/~lpreis>) is an Associate Professor at the School of Engineering at the University of Minho and, since 2007, belongs to the Directive Board of LIACC - Artificial Intelligence and Computer Science Lab at the University of Porto, Portugal. He received his BSc ("Licenciatura" - 5 years), MSc and PhD (degrees from the University of Porto in 1993, 1995 and 2003. His research interests include Intelligent Robotics, Artificial Intelligence, Multiagent Systems (MAS), Coordination in MAS and Intelligent Simulation. He is one of the team leaders of the FC Portugal robotic soccer team/project, three times World Champion and six times European Champion in RoboCup. He also received more than 20 other scientific/research awards. He supervised 6 PhD theses and more than 70 MSc thesis to completion and is currently supervising 15 PhD theses. He is the author of more than 200 scientific articles, with revision, in international journals and conferences. He belonged to the PC of more than 100 international conferences. He has actively participated at the EPIA conference, mostly in the last 4 editions, organizing 7 workshops, being PC of 12 workshops and publishing a total of 27 papers (14 in the main proceedings).

Pedro Cardoso holds a PhD in Biology - Ecology and Biossistematics from the University of Lisbon (2005) and has been a postdoc in the University of Copenhagen, Denmark (2005/06), University of the Azores (2007/08/11) and the Smithsonian Institution, USA (2009/10). His research interests comprise biodiversity conservation and is now developing several projects using evolutionary algorithms for the optimization of protected areas management.

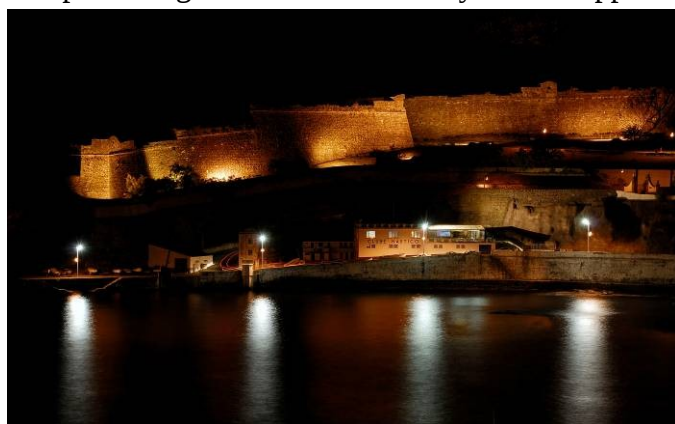
3- Conference City

"A ilha Terceira, universal escala do mar do ponente, é celebrada por todo o mundo, onde reside o coração e governo de todas as ilhas dos Açores, na sua cidade de Angra, cujo porto está em trinta e nove graus da banda do norte." In [Gaspar Frutuoso](#). Livro Sexto das [Saudades da Terra](#)).



Angra do Heroísmo is the Terceira main city with 22 000 inhabitants, situated 20 km from the Lajes Airport. It has modern facilities and its historic center was named a UNESCO [World Heritage Site](#), in 1983

The city was severely damaged by an earthquake in 1980. Its reconstruction, took more than three years, and it kept its original layout as well as all the historical buildings. The main streets leading to the port dates to the 16th century, around the time when Angra do Heroísmo was founded. The rectilinear plan is unique in its ability to adapt, through the reorientation of streets, to the direction of the prevailing winds. The small city has the appearance of a Portuguese trading post.



Forte São João Baptista

Two forts, São Sebastião (end of 16th century) and São João Baptista (16th-17th centuries), frame its port zone.

Numerous monuments (churches and convents) of Baroque inspiration, dating from the 16th and 17th centuries, make up a dense urban fabric.

Two-storey dwellings with painted wood balconies exemplify Brazil's Portuguese architectural heritage. The construction of a number of manors, convents, churches, and military fortifications in Angra, infrastructures that were usually

inappropriate for a small city (or small island) indicates the important role that Angra played in trans-Atlantic shipping for the Portuguese.

Few cities in Portugal have had an essential role in Portugal history Angra did. Its heroic resistance to the Kingdom of Spain, in the 16th century and the importance it had for the liberal movement in the 19th century are two of the several examples which usually illustrates the emblematic episodes in its history. The bay of Angra which was often full of caravels and galleons is now an agreeable place for pleasant walks, with restaurants, bars, with a marine and a small beach which is very popular during all summer, supporting all kind of recreation activities, like whale and dolphin watching, scuba diving and cannoning.

3.1 - Accessibility

Terceira is an island of the *central group* of Azores archipelago. Lajes airport is about 20 km from Angra do Heroísmo.



During the summer, there are three daily connections directly to Lisbon and at least one connection, twice a week, directly to Oporto made by TAP – Air Portugal in code share with SATA International. The connections among Islands are made by SATA, in modern Dash Q400 and Q800 airplanes. There are also direct connections from P. Delgada to other Europe destinations like Frankfurt, London, Stockholm, etc. It takes approximately 2 horas from Lisbon to Terceira. The cheapest prices for the tickets from Lisbon to Terceira, offered by the two companies, TAP – Air Portugal and SATA International, vary from 150 € to 250 € per person in a return trip.

The main hotels and country houses in Angra do Heroísmo have transfers from and to the airport. Taxis are always available. A ride from the airport to the center of the city costs between 18€ to 20€.

3.2 - Accommodation



Terceira Mar Hotel

Angra do Heroísmo has a plethora of Hotels of different styles and for all tastes” and all provide good services to their customers at reasonable prices. Nearby the campus there are two Hotels within a 5-10 minutes walking distance, medium size, usually used as main accommodations to the events that are organised by the University campus of Angra do Heroísmo – *Terceira Mar Hotel* and *Hotel do Caracol*.

In the town center, 20 minutes walking distance from University, there are housing facilities for a limited number of guests for a price of more or less 20 Euro per night. A youth hostel located at few kilometers distance, will receive guests from 15 euro per person per night in a multiple bedroom and circa 40 Euro per room per night in double room.

We made the following selection of accommodations available in Angra do Heroísmo:

*Hotel do Caracol (****) Single/Double room - from 70€ till 140 € (breakfast included)
Estrada regional 1, Silveira, 9700-193 Angra do Heroísmo*

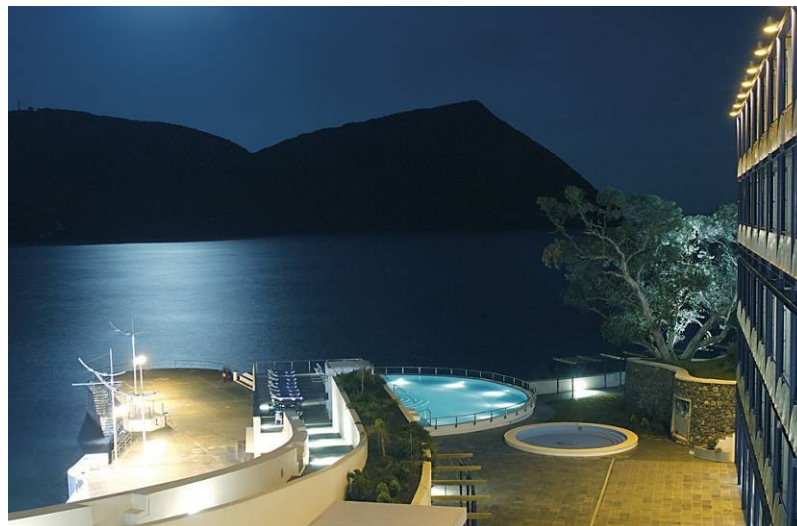
*Terceira Mar Hotel (****) Single/Double room - from 60 € till 140 € (breakfast included)
Portões de Sao Pedro, 1, 9700-097 Angra do Heroismo*

*Angra Garden Hotel (***) (Town center) Single/Double room - from 60€ till 100 €
Praça Velha, 9700-201 Angra do Heroísmo, Terceira.*

*Pousada da Juventude (Youth Hostel) – from 20 € (multiple bedroom) till 50 € (double room)
Negrito - São Mateus da Calheta, 9700-554 Angra do Heroísmo, Terceira.*

*Pousada Forte de S. Sebastião (Expected to be open in 2013)
Rua do Castelinho, 9700-045 Angra do Heroismo, Terceira*

*Quinta das Mercês (*****) (Country House) Single/Double – from 110 € till 130 €
Caminho de Baixo, S. Mateus, 9700-559 Angra do Heroísmo, Terceira*



A view from Hotel do Caracol

4. Conference venue

The meeting will take place in the campus of the University and in the Congress center of Angra do Heroísmo (Centro Cultural e de Congressos de Angra do Heroísmo), 15-20 minutes walking distance from campus. The campus is very close to the center of the city (at about 10-15 minutes walking distance). The social events are planned to be either at the Museum of the city or at the Forte de S. Sebastião (see the photos below).

The campus has three main buildings:

- The pedagogic complex, has a total of 13 classrooms and an auditorium with a capacity for more than 100 people, and two computer rooms. This building has wireless facility;
- The building with restaurant and students' canteen;
- The inter-departmental complex, teachers and labs building;



Pedagogic complex



Inside the restaurant building

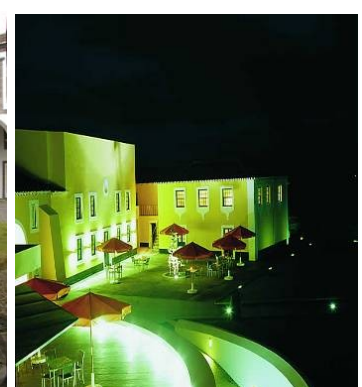
The Congress Center is a building with an auditorium for 500 people with sound, media projection screen and multimedia equipment, and other facilities (cafe, a smaller auditorium for 150 people and a piano bar). It is very well situated, with a wonderful view of the center of the city.



Auditorium in the Congress building of Angra do Heroísmo



Clastrum of the Museum



Pousada S. Sebastião

5. Conference Program

5.1 - Dates

Taking into account the most common dates of the EPIA conference and the dates of other major AI conferences, we propose that in 2013, EPIA should take place from September 9 to 12, which is precisely before the start of the Autumn Term (first semester) activity in Pólo de Angra do Heroísmo.

5.2 – Technical program

EPIA 2013 will follow the now standard EPIA format, of forming the event as a set of thematic workshops. However, we will promote integrative initiatives in the program, so that inter-thematic communication is effective. Namely, we will try to organise the program in such a way that plenary sessions, besides having renown invited speakers will also present one communication per each thematic area.

5.2.1 – In the Conference

We suggest the following model, adapted from previous EPIA conferences:

- Use the first day for the Artificial Intelligence Doctoral Symposium and to initiate some of the workshop tracks;
- Use the next three days for workshops tracks, forming the main conference.

So, the tentative schedule would be as follows:

Monday, September, 9 th	SDIA/ Main conference
Tuesday, September, 10 th	Main conference
Wednesday, September, 11 th	Main conference
Thursday, September, 12 ^h	Main conference

5.2.2 – Knowledge Interchange AI applications and general Scientific Research

Azores is part of Macaronesia, a group of five archipelagos situated in the North Atlantic Ocean. In an attempt to improve knowledge about AI applications, the organisers will setup a special program in which scientific research problems related to islands and archipelagos, often linked to Regional Development, will be listed by some researchers, while other researchers from Artificial Intelligence are invited to study and sketch some solutions for those problems.

The discussion is planned to start one year before the conference - simultaneously to the dedicated website launch – and to finish two months before the conference start – July 2013. As a result of the online discussions, organisers will invite researchers to propose a special track to present the most relevant results of the interaction among different research areas, which is expected to empower possible research opportunities and new research projects. In this track, ongoing projects could be invited to show their progress and results, as well.

5.2.3 – Important dates

As tentative dates, which will be adjusted at later stages, we propose:

- **September 2012** – Site launch, thematic tracks call emailing, including a special call for discussion of research topics related to AI and
- **November 2012** - Deadline for track proposals
- **January 2013** – Track proposal results notifications
- **March 2013** – Paper submissions
- **April 2013** – Paper acceptance notifications, registration
- **July 2013** – Camera ready papers
- **September 2013** – EPIA 2013 conference

6. Tentative Budget

A tentative budget will consider different scenarios, as done for the last EPIA 2011 bid. Four scenarios have been considered, depending on the number of participants in the main conference (100 to 200) assuming that the most probable scenario relies between 100 to 120 participants.

6.1 - Registration fees for the main conference

Taking into account information from previous EPIA conferences, and the fact that the location of the conference is on the middle of the Atlantic, we assume a reduction in the values of the fees to keep the attractiveness of the Congress when compared to the last ones organised in the mainland - 40 to 50% lower than the prices offered in the last conference.

We assume the following scenario with respect to registration fees:

	<i>Student</i>	<i>Member</i>	<i>Non-Member</i>
<i>Early</i>	100,00 €	190,00 €	230,00 €
<i>Late</i>	120,00 €	220,00 €	250,00 €
<i>On-Site</i>	150,00 €	250,00 €	280,00 €

With respect to registration, our approach was to consider a scenario in which the great majority of the participants do their registration in the “Early” period, assuming that the decision to go to a conference in the Azores must be planned some time in advance:

	Student	Member	Non-member	TOTAL
Early	40,00%	25,00%	15,00%	80,00%
Late	10,00%	5,00%	5,00%	20,00%
On-site	0,00%	0,00%	0,00%	0,00%
TOTAL	50,00%	30,00%	20,00%	100,00%

This scenario will give a mean value 181 € of per registration.

6.2 - Detailed budget

		# Registrants				
		100	120	150	200	250
Revenues		per person				
Registration fees – Main Conference		15.750,00 €	18.900,00 €	23.625,00 €	31.500,00 €	39.375,00 €
Sponsorship		15.000,00 €	15.000,00 €	15.000,00 €	15.000,00 €	15.000,00 €
Lunches+coffee+welcome	55,00 €	5.500,00 €	6.600,00 €	8.250,00 €	11.000,00 €	13.750,00 €
Conference dinner	40,00 €	4.000,00 €	4.800,00 €	6.000,00 €	8.000,00 €	10.000,00 €
Total revenues		40.250,00 €	45.300,00 €	52.875,00 €	65.500,00 €	78.125,00 €
Expenditures						
Conference Venue		2.000,00 €	2.000,00 €	2.000,00 €	2.000,00 €	2.000,00 €
Rental of facilities		2.000,00 €	2.000,00 €	2.000,00 €	2.000,00 €	2.000,00 €
General equipment						
Publicity and Promotion		4.500,00 €	4.500,00 €	4.500,00 €	4.500,00 €	4.500,00 €
Poster design and production		1.000,00 €	1.000,00 €	1.000,00 €	1.000,00 €	1.000,00 €
Web Design and Web Site		2.000,00 €	2.000,00 €	2.000,00 €	2.000,00 €	2.000,00 €
Maintenance		1.000,00 €	1.000,00 €	1.000,00 €	1.000,00 €	1.000,00 €
Postage		500,00 €	500,00 €	500,00 €	500,00 €	500,00 €
Program Committee and Guests		7.000,00 €	7.000,00 €	7.000,00 €	7.000,00 €	7.000,00 €
PC meeting						
Invited Speakers		7.000,00 €	7.000,00 €	7.000,00 €	7.000,00 €	7.000,00 €
Other Guests and tutors						
Administrative costs		6.425,00 €	7.710,00 €	9.637,50 €	12.850,00 €	16.062,50 €
APPIA fee		4.725,00 €	5.670,00 €	7.087,50 €	9.450,00 €	11.812,50 €
Conference secretariat	12,00 €	1.200,00 €	1.440,00 €	1.800,00 €	2.400,00 €	3.000,00 €
Miscellaneous supplies	5,00 €	500,00 €	600,00 €	750,00 €	1.000,00 €	1.250,00 €
Material for participants		7.000,00 €	8.400,00 €	10.500,00 €	14.000,00 €	17.500,00 €
Paper proceedings	60,00 €	6.000,00 €	7.200,00 €	9.000,00 €	12.000,00 €	15.000,00 €
CD/DVD/Pen Proceedings	10,00 €	1.000,00 €	1.200,00 €	1.500,00 €	2.000,00 €	2.500,00 €
Other materials	3,00 €	300,00 €	360,00 €	450,00 €	600,00 €	750,00 €
Social functions		12.100,00 €	14.520,00 €	18.150,00 €	24.200,00 €	30.250,00 €
Lunches and coffee-breaks	51,00 €	5.100,00 €	6.120,00 €	7.650,00 €	10.200,00 €	12.750,00 €
Welcome reception	30,00 €	3.000,00 €	3.600,00 €	4.500,00 €	6.000,00 €	7.500,00 €
Conference dinner	40,00 €	4.000,00 €	4.800,00 €	6.000,00 €	8.000,00 €	10.000,00 €
Total		39.025,00 €	44.130,00 €	51.787,50 €	64.550,00 €	77.312,50 €
Result		1.225,00 €	1.170,00 €	1.087,50 €	950,00 €	812,50 €

We expect to negotiate better conditions and prices for some of the entries which will easily end in a financially positive result for 100 participants. Moreover, some of the budget entries have a 'conservative value' (e.g. *Rental facilities* which is calculated for the most expensive scenario in which all invited speaker talks take place outside the University campus).

7. Supporting Local Industry and Potential Local Sponsors

We assume as a main source of sponsorship, the local Government and FLAD, which regularly support projects related to science and technology events in Azores. However, we will endeavour to complement sponsorship from a variety of institutions related especially with artificial intelligence, computer science but not exclusively.

To sponsor EPIA 2013, taking into account that it will be held in Azores, 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:

- Direcção Regional de Ciência e Tecnologia (DRCT);
- Fundação Luso-Americana para o Desenvolvimento (FLAD);
- Direcção Regional de Turismo (DRT);
- Câmara Municipal de Angra do Heroísmo (CMAH);

Also, private Companies and Software houses:

Siscog, YDreams, Declarativa, Novabase, Infinion, Siemens, Primavera Software, Enabler, Wedo, CPC-HS, COTEC-group, Sonae, etc.

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

It is expected to exhibit underwater vehicles in Angra do Heroísmo bay during the conference with the collaboration of the Centre of IMAR of the Department of Oceanography and Fisheries of the University of the Azores (IMAR/ DOP/UAç) – a research unit of **LARSyS** – Associate laboratory of Robotics and Systems in Engineering and Science. These vehicles have been used in different research projects in Azores.

8. Conclusion



We strongly believe that Angra do Heroísmo, Azores will be the perfect venue for the Sixteenth Portuguese Conference on Artificial Intelligence (EPIA 2013). The organizing structure is supported by strong research labs/institutions and researchers with large experience in the organization of scientific events and that have been deeply involved in the last EPIA conferences. The organizing committee will make all efforts to make EPIA 2013 a memorable event for all participants.