



**Application Proposal for the Organization and Hosting of the
Sixteen Portuguese Conference on Artificial Intelligence (EPIA 2013)
in UTAD,
Vila Real, Portugal**



Universidade do Minho

A Joint Application Submitted by:
Department of Engineering of UTAD University
Department of Informatics of UMinho University

September, 2011

1. Introduction

Artificial Intelligence in Portugal has been promoted significantly by the Portuguese Association for Intelligence, particularly through its biannual conference EPIA. EPIA first editions took place in the eighties of the last century in several cities in Portugal. These events have been quite successful with a significant number of participants and the level of internationalization achieved. However, these efforts have to be constantly pursued to consolidate and improve the field of AI in Portugal, namely by organizing the conference in places in which did not took place so far. This is the case of UTAD University in Vila Real.

UTAD has a small number of people researching in Artificial Intelligence and related topics, namely concerning Engineering Applications. An increasing interest has been rising within students towards AI, through its teaching in the degrees on BSs, MSc and PhD in Informatics and MSc in Electrical Engineering. Two strong points of this application are:

- The organization of EPIA conference for the first time in UTAD. This serves the purpose of promoting and enlarging the AI field.
- Vila Real is located nearby the Douro Region, which is a strong touristic region well known worldwide.

2. Organization

The University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro (UTAD), was formally constituted in 1986, as natural capitalizing process which started in 1979 with the University Institute. Today with a Staff of around 500 hundred teachers and researchers, around 7000 students UTAD has earned its rightful place among the new generation of Portuguese universities, and it is striving to make its name among both national and international levels as a centre of academic excellence and innovation.

The Department of Engineering, to which Paulo Moura Oliveira belongs, is responsible for teaching and researching in a wide Engineering spectrum, including Information Technologies and Communications. In the former area the Department activities involve undergraduate and post-graduate courses, research projects and extension activities.

The University of Minho (UMinho), founded in 1973, began its academic activity in 1975/76. UMinho is renowned for the quality of its teaching, the quality of its students, the public recognition given to its Alumni and for its intervention and strong links with the local community and the surrounding region. UMinho has a student population of 16.000, out of which 1.900 are postgraduate students. The University has 1.200 teaching staff, of whom 850 hold a PhD, and 600 administrative and technical staff.

The Department of Informatics, to which Paulo Novais belongs, is responsible for research and teaching in the areas of Information Technologies and Communications at UMinho. The department provides knowledge, expertise and resources in these areas through the teaching of both graduate and undergraduate courses, as well as by carrying out several research projects.

Organizing Committee

- **Conference and Programme Co-chairs:**

Paulo Moura Oliveira (UTAD)

Paulo Novais (UMinho)

- **Organizing Committee:**

Cesar Analide (UMinho)

Eduardo Solteiro Pires (UTAD)

João Barroso (UTAD)

José Boaventura Cunha (UTAD)

José Bulas Cruz (UTAD)

Lio Gonçalves (UTAD)

Teresa Azevedo Perdicoúlis (UTAD)

Pedro Rangel Henriques (UMinho)

Ramiro Gonçalves (UTAD)

Vítor Filipe (UTAD)

Vítor Santos (UTAD)

Conference and Programme Co-chairs Bibliographic Notes

Paulo Novais, is a Professor of Computer Sciences at the Department of Informatics, in the University of Minho, Braga, Portugal and researcher at the CCTC (Computer Science and Technology Centre). He received a PhD in Computer Sciences from the same university in

2003. He develops scientific research in the field of Artificial Intelligence, namely Knowledge Representation and Reasoning, Machine Learning and Multi-Agent Systems, with applications to the areas of Law and Ambient Intelligence.

He has leaded or participated in several research projects sponsored by Portuguese and European public and private Institutions and has supervised several PhD and MSc students. He is the co-author of over 100 book chapters, journal papers, conference and workshop papers and books.

He has been chair of the Organising or Scientific Committee of ISAmI (International Symposium on Ambient Intelligence), ESM 2011 - European Simulation and Modelling Conference, SOCO 2011 (International Conference on Soft Computing Models in Industrial and Environmental Applications) and PROVE 2007 (IFIP Working Conference on Virtual Enterprises) and member of organising committee of several others events (e.g., Pervasive Health 2011, Intelligent Environments 2011, ECAI 2010, EPIA 2007).

He is Vice-president of APPIA, the Portuguese Association for Artificial Intelligence (2006-2011).

Paulo Moura Oliveira, is an Assistant Professor (with aggregation) at the Engineering Department of UTAD University. He holds a PhD in Control Engineering from the University of Salford, Manchester (UK) in 1998. Since the MSc he has been researching in Artificial Intelligence Techniques applied to control engineering, robotics, agriculture, biology and sports applications. He is author within more than 100 international refereed scientific publications, and has been within the IPC of several international conferences. He has been the reviewer of some JCR Journals with significant impact in the Computer Science field. He is currently the coordinator of the UTAD Informatics Courses including the PhD in Computer Science. He is a member of APIA.

3. Vila Real and the Trás-os-Montes Region

Vila Real

While there are signs that it has been people living in Vila Real since the Palaeolithic period, and there is evidence of both Celt-Iberian and Roman Settlements. The city of Vila Real was founded officially by king D. Dinis in the 4th of January of 1289 (Vila Real de Panóias). Vila real nowadays is a modern capital of District proudly holding seven centuries of history. It holds a set of monumental buildings both religious and civilian with great historic and architectonical interest.

Vila Real is 95 Km from the coast and 70Km from the border of Spain. It has 450 meters high and it is run through by the river Corgo and surrounded by mountains (Serra do Marão, Serra do Alvão and Serra da Falperra). In winter the temperatures can be below zero, while in summer the weather can be very hot. Vila Real is a centre for farming, agro-industrial, commercial, administrative and services activities.

The gastronomy is one of the most appreciated aspects in Vila Real, presenting several traditional cooking specialities, monastery sweets and a good wine selection.

Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro Region

Trás-os-montes means literarily “behind the mountains” and its formed by the districts of Vila real and Bragança. This region constitutes the whole Northeast corner of Portugal. It is bordered to the West by mountains which constitute a natural barrier between the Atlantic coast and the interior of Portugal, to the north by the frontier with Spain and the autonomous province of Galicia and to the East also from the Spanish border and the autonomous province of Castille Leon

How to Reach Vila Real

By Car

From Lisbon: Lisbon-Porto via the A1 motor-way, then the A4-IP4 highway to Vila Real

From Oporto: Porto-Vila Real via the A4-IP4 highway

By Bus

From Lisbon: With Rodonorte departing from the Campo Grande bus-station (Nº 30 B, Lisbon, Telf. +351 21 7967443

Auto-Viação do Tâmega departing from the Campo Pequeno bus-station, Lisbon (Telf. +351 21 7976366)

From Oporto: With Rodonorte departing from Travessa Passos Manuel, Porto (Telf. +351 22 2005637)

Auto-Viação do Tâmega departing from Rua Alexandre Herculano, Porto (Telf. +351 22 2083019)

Accommodation

Some of the available hotels in Vila Real are:

- **Hotel Miracorgo (****)**, located in a privileged place in Vila Real, in the city historical and commercial centre. Its location allows excellent views to the wonderful Trás-os-Montes landscape, as the magnificent Corgo river scarps. It has a capacity of 166 rooms (22 Suites), conference rooms, meeting and congress rooms, panoramic restaurant, indoor pool, solarium and discotheque.
Avenida 1º de Maio, 76 a 78
5000 - 651 Vila Real
Portugal
Tel. 259 325 001
Fax. 259 325 006
E-mail: info@hotelmiracorgo.com
<http://www.hotelmiracorgo.com/>
- **Estalagem Hotel Quinta do Paço**, includes a manor house from the XVII century, with chapel, located at 3 Km from Vilas Real city centre, offers a 64 beds in modern wide and comfortable rooms, beside a presidential suite and a luxury room, both in the antique style.
Arroios, 5000-051 Vila Real

Telefone: 259 340790
Fax: 259 340 799
E-mail: geral@estalagemquintadopaco.com
<http://www.estalagemquintadopaco.net/>

4. Conference Venue: UTAD University



The conference meetings will take place in the UTAD University campus in Vila Real. The UTAD University provides facilities to conferences which include (not restricted to) :

- Aula Magna Auditorium, with a capacity for 400 persons.
- Geociências Auditorium, with a capacity for 165 persons.
- Auditorium 1 and 2 (Bellow the Aula Magna), with capacity for 100 persons each.
- Library Auditorium, with capacity of 60 persons.
- Library Exposition Room (If necessary for Poster session)

Most of these auditoriums are fully equipped. An Internet room will be provided near the Aula Magna.



5. Conference Program

The proposed dates were selected taking into account previous conference dates, other conferences dates as well as the usual academic University calendars.

Dates:

Conference dates

- **1st Day: 5th of June 2013 (Wednesday)**
- **2st Day: 6th of June 2013 (Thursday)**
- **3st Day: 7th of June 2013 (Friday)**

Estimation of other important dates:

- **Conference Site in Operation: January 2012**
- **Deadline for Track Proposal: June 2013**
- **Track proposal results notifications: September 2013**
- **Paper submission: January 2013**
- **Paper acceptance notifications, registration: March 2013**
- **Camera ready papers: April 2013**
- **Final Program Schedule: May 2013**

Social Program:

The opening session and welcome reception will take place in the end of the first conference day, and the conference banquet dinner will take place in the second day of the conference.

6. Tentative Budget

A Budget forecast is presented considering three possible registrant's numbers, which we think realistic:

- 100: 25 Students + 75 non-students
- 135: 35 Students + 100 non-students
- 175: 45 Students + 120 non-students

Forecast EPIA'2013: T1

Registration Fees			
	Student	Member	Non-Member
Early	250,00 €	350,00 €	385,00 €
Late	280,00 €	380,00 €	410,00 €
On-site	300,00 €	400,00 €	440,00 €

Registrants (Non-students)	75	100	125
	28.875,00		
Revenues 1	€	38.500,00 €	48.125,00 €
	26.250,00		
Revenues 1 for APPIA	€	35.000,00 €	43.750,00 €
Registrants (Students)	25	35	45
Revenues 2	6.250,00 €	8.750,00 €	11.250,00 €
Conference Gala Dinner	4.500,00 €	6.000,00 €	7.500,00 €
	39.625,00		
Revenues	€	53.250,00 €	66.875,00 €
Sponsorship	2.500,00 €	2.500,00 €	2.500,00 €
	42.125,00		
Revenues Total	€	55.750,00 €	69.375,00 €

Sponsorship

APPIA	1.000,00 €
FCT	1.500,00 €

Expenses

Conference Venue			
Rental	5.000 €	5.000 €	5.000 €
General Equipement			
Publicity and Promotion	1.050,00 €	1.050,00 €	1.050,00 €
Poster Design and Printing	750,00 €	750,00 €	750,00 €
Web Design and Web Site			
Maintenance	200,00 €	200,00 €	200,00 €

Postage		100,00 €	100,00 €	100,00 €
Invited Speakers		5.000,00 €	5.000,00 €	5.000,00 €
Invited Speakers		5.000,00 €	5.000,00 €	5.000,00 €
		13.462,50		
Administrative Costs		€	18.050,00 €	22.637,50 €
APPIA fee		9.750,00 €	13.125,00 €	16.500,00 €
Conference secretariat	10,00%	3.512,50 €	4.725,00 €	5.937,50 €
Miscellaneous supplies		200,00 €	200,00 €	200,00 €
Material for Participants		7.500,00 €	10.025,00 €	12.550,00 €
Paper proceedings	70,00 €	5.250,00 €	7.000,00 €	8.750,00 €
CD/DVD/Pen Proceedings	15,00 €	1.500,00 €	2.025,00 €	2.550,00 €
Other Materials	10,00 €	750,00 €	1.000,00 €	1.250,00 €
		11.000,00		
Social Components		€	14.775,00 €	18.550,00 €
Lunches and coffee-breaks	50,00 €	5.000,00 €	6.750,00 €	8.500,00 €
Welcome reception	15,00 €	1.500,00 €	2.025,00 €	2.550,00 €
Conference Banquet	60,00 €	4.500,00 €	6.000,00 €	7.500,00 €
		43.012,50		
TOTAL Expenses		€	53.900,00 €	64.787,50 €
Balance		-887,50 €	1.850,00 €	4.587,50 €

In former budget scenario contemplates the following options:

- Student's fee does not include the paper proceedings.
- The conference banquet is not included in the Member conference fee. However another scenario is proposed in which the conference banquet is included in the Member and Non-Member fees as follows. The student's fee does not include the Banquet.

Registration Fees (Sc2)			
	Student	Member	Non-Member
Early	250,00 €	410,00 €	445,00 €
Late	280,00 €	440,00 €	470,00 €
On-site	300,00 €	460,00 €	500,00 €

In important to state that due to the extreme economic circumstances' that Portugal (and Europe) lives currently and most possibly in the nearby future, the organization committee can only do its best in trying to achieve a positive balance.

7. Conclusion

We are certain that UTAD University and Vila Real is an excellence choice to host the Sixteen Portuguese Conference on Artificial Intelligence (EPIA 2013). Apart from the beautiful Douro region, this will allow to promote the field of AI within UTAD university students and researchers, by bringing this event for the first time to the Trás-os-Montes Region. We hope to be able to welcome you in UTAD in 2013.