

## Instituto Politécnico de Bragança

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**Type of organisation:**

SME  Training  School  No Profit  University  NGO  Public Authority

**Fields of action :**

SMEs  Equal opportunities  Youth  Schools  Universities  Unemployed  Public Authorities

### **Description of the organisation**

The Polytechnic Institute of Bragança (IPB) is a higher education public institution with a defined mission in creating, transmitting and diffusing technical-scientific and professional knowledge through the articulation of study, teaching, applied research and experimental development. IPB belongs to the European Network for Universities of Applied Sciences (UASNET), which main objectives include the transferability of professional skills and the integration of applied research in their professional and technological education mission.

The IPB has an internationalization programme with widely recognized success, and is one of the few Portuguese HEIs awarded with both the ECTS and the DS Labels, thus assuring the quality and the transparency of the management and the fair academic and professional recognition of its qualifications ([www.ipb.pt/ectsguide](http://www.ipb.pt/ectsguide), [www.ipb.pt/sd](http://www.ipb.pt/sd)).

The number of students from other countries, with other cultural and origin has grown in Polytechnic Institute of Bragança, that have embraced an organizational policy of multi-cultural community, stressing and emphasizing the right of individuals to keep the culture of their origin alive in the new host Higher Education Institution. The presence of a community of students from African Portuguese-speaking countries is also a reality in the institution as a result of the Institute's involvement in the creation and development of higher education in Angola, Cape Verde, Mozambique and São Tomé and Príncipe. This will decisively contribute to the qualification of human and academic resources. The cooperation with Macao has allowed the establishment of protocols with Chinese Universities, involving the Portuguese and Chinese teaching and the creation of the Centre for Chinese Language and Culture in Bragança. The IPB has also distinguished itself by offering courses in Portuguese language and culture to foreign students.

Nowadays the IPB is a multicultural institution with 30% of international students. Among them there are 1144 female from several countries. Most of them comes from the African Portuguese-speaking countries such as Cape Verde, São Tomé e Príncipe, Est Timor, Moçambique, Angola, Guiné Bissau. In order to foster the development of inclusion practices, the organization has taken initiatives and projects aimed at raising awareness and changing attitudes through activities, training and dialogue.

The School of Education (ESE) is one of the schools of IPB that has specificity on the educational areas: social education, teacher education, environmental education. It offers bachelors, related to this area specifically the degree in Social Education. In this field students have to learn subjects such as: Pedagogies of social reintegration, Population Dynamics, Economic and Social Development, Social entrepreneurship.

It also has a master's degree in the same area, Social Education - Education and Lifelong Intervention, under which research related to migration and gender issues has been developed. Nowadays, the ESE is fortunate to have a multidisciplinary team of very dynamic professors, specialized in several areas. The Research Centre in Basic Education (CIEB), is located in the school of educational and developed several research projects in the educational areas.

### Experience of the organization in previous European projects

ERASMUS+ Programme, KA202 Strategic partnerships	2020	2020-1-PT01-KA201-078771	APEI - Associação de Profissionais de Educação de Infância
ERASMUS+ Programme, KA202 Strategic partnerships	2020	2020-1-ES01-KA203-082364	Universidad Pablo de Olavide (ES)
Eramus + Strategic partnership	2019	2019-1-ES01-KA203-065823	Universidade de Burgos
Eramus + Strategic partnership	2019	2019-1-ES01-KA203-064188	Universidad Complutense
Eramus + Strategic partnership	2019	2019-IT02-KA203-062432	Università degli studi di Genova
Eramus + Strategic partnership	2019	2018-1-PT01-KA203-047361	Polytechnic Institute of Bragança
Eramus + Strategic partnership	2018	2018-IT02-KA201-048274	Università degli studi di Genova
Eramus + Strategic partnership	2018	2018-1-RO01-KA201-049545	University Alexandru Ioan Cuza Iasi

### Experience and Expertise of the organization in the project's subject area

In 2016/2017, started the first edition of the project "INTEGRA(-TE): "Scientific Routes for an Intercultural Integration", promoted by the Ciência Viva Center of Bragança in partnership with the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança. This project aimed a community of young people from PALOP who study at the IPB and live in Bragança. This first edition promoted the participation of n=110 students, using scientific, technological, pedagogical and entrepreneurship resources. The results from this edition pointed a very positive attendance for all the actions conducted, highlighting the interest of replication of this initiative. They also address the possibility of its dissemination and extension to other contexts and needs.

ESpaço inter religioso.

Another project related to integration is the inter-religious and inter-cultural space. The Polytechnic Institute of Bragança (IPB) created a space for students of different religions to offer their prayers. It is a space stripped of religious symbols, it is open to all religious beliefs respecting cultural and religious differences, since the institute has many students from different geographical, cultural and religious latitudes.

IPB receives many foreign students, namely from African countries. This vast experience as a host institution for foreign students constitutes an added value for this project in the sense of allowing to give voice to foreign female students and thus, knowing their motivations to attend higher education, their future projects and also the difficulties they have faced on their way.

### Contributions that can be provided to the project

As researcher I have been working on gender issues, education for the promotion of gender equality, as well as issues of social justice and global citizenship, which is relevant to the project. This experience is added to my work as a teacher in a multicultural (migrant) and strongly feminized community which allows close contact with the reality experienced by young migrant women. As a course director of the Degree in Social Education (between January 2010 and December 2015) and as a member of the Social Education course committee, I work in articulation with several NGOs and social solidarity institutions that intervene in the scope of support of populations in situations of social fragility, namely with migrant populations and ethical minorities.

### Reasons of involvement in the project

Considering the education of strategic audiences, it is fundamental to analyse the situation of migrant women based on the concept of Intersectionality of the different axes of subordination. In other words, the potential discrimination

that these women are targeting interact with each other by maximizing their effect, gender, religion, belonging to racialized populations, age, sexual orientation (to give just a few examples) require holistic analysis and integrated into the real situation in which these women move and affirm or smear their identities.

In this sense, thinking about the education of social agents is, above all, enabling them to understand the complexity of these phenomena of exclusion, as well as to enable them to act as agents that disseminate instruments that question these logics of oppression and discrimination.

With regard to the social agents, it seems to us very important to consider the young migrant women (international students) that we receive in the IPB, since they are migrating and experiencing the situation of being a woman and a migrant, they can make an important contribution in their communities of origin, in the sense of promoting a culture of questioning the situations of disadvantage that are often interpreted by the women themselves.

#### **Contact Person's Experience and Expertise**

- Professor at the Higher School of Education of the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança, since 1998.
- PhD in Educational Sciences, Specialty in Adult's Education and Training, with a thesis in the field of lifelong education and promotion of gender equality.
- Teacher in the initial teachers training, social educators and environmental educators; having taught over the year's different curricular units such as Philosophy of Education, Social Pedagogy, Adult Education and Environmental Ethics.
- Participates in continuous teacher education as a trainer;
- Coordinates the team that is preparing the "Educational Charter of the Municipality of Mirandela";
- Integrates the monitoring team of the PIICIE (Intermunicipal project to promote school success) of the Terras de Trás-os-Montes Intermunicipal Community;
- Specialist recognized by the CIG (Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality) in Equality between Women and Men.
- In recent years, has developed special interest in qualitative and participatory research methodologies, in the sense of producing knowledge as a shared process, socially just and committed to people's rights.