



STEM Research
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

STEP Newsletter

ISSUE 2 | DECEMBER 2023



step.ipb.pt



STEM RESEARCH

CONNECTING IMAGINATION AND REALITY

Dear STEP Community,

We are thrilled to present the second issue of the STEP Newsletter, providing you with a glimpse into the accomplishments made in our ongoing mission to drive excellence and elevate the research capacity of Instituto Politécnico de Bragança (IPB) in Portugal, with the continuous support of our partnership. This is a collaborative effort, and your insights contribute to its success. We will appreciate if you share projects, ideas, and suggestions with us.

In this edition, we celebrate the achievements and milestones reached in the second semester of 2023 and look ahead into the upcoming initiatives and events lined up under the scope of STEP.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we are shaping the future.

Ana Isabel Pereira
STEP Project Coordinator

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STEM RESEARCH CONNECTING IMAGINATION AND REALITY

PAST EVENTS

STEP Talks!

[Institutional Challenges in Consolidating Gender Equality](#)

02 November 2023 | 22 👤

The fourth edition of STEP Talks! took place at the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança (IPB), with guest Benilde Moreira. The topic covered the difficulties that institutions can face when it comes to introducing gender equality and the solutions that can be taken even by employees to minimize the effects of these barriers.



STEP Workshops

[Gender Equality, Diversity and Inclusion: Auto-Diagnosis](#)

22 September 2023 | 12 👤

The workshop on EDI was organized in partnership between IPB and UCM. Professors Andrés Astray, Yanna Franco and Sonia Martín from UCM visited IPB to work on staff qualifications on the subject of EDI and promoted this workshop for the entire academic community. The workshop was very interactive, with the entire audience taking part to self-analyze their knowledge of the subject.



[Norm-Critical Design](#)

17, 22 October 2023 | 10 👤

Also promoted by the partnership between IPB and Södertörn University, the workshop on Norm-Critical Design took place in two stages, under the guidance of SH professors Kai-Mikael Jää-Aro and Fatima Jonsson. The first day was devoted to explaining the topic, showing how gender equality can be present in the design of products and services. The participants had to develop projects based on the knowledge they had acquired and give a seminar on the second day of the workshop.

[Literature review through the integration of qualitative and quantitative analysis techniques](#)

07 December 2023 | 76 👤

The literature review workshop took place online and included the participation of guest professor António Pedro Costa, from the University of Aveiro, Portugal. The event addressed the importance of integrating qualitative and quantitative analysis, showing different tools that can help the researcher to analyze the data in depth.

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PAST EVENTS

Pedagogical Relationship with ALL Students: Inclusion and Diversity - Realities, Challenges, and Prospects | 28 November 2023

The debate served as a platform for addressing the multifaceted aspects of inclusion. Several ongoing projects from various schools within the university were showcased, all centering around the vital themes of equity and inclusion. These projects demonstrated a collective commitment across the university's 18 schools to address and tackle issues related to creating an educational environment that is equitable and inclusive for all students. The presentations included a diverse range of initiatives, each tailored to address specific challenges and promote a more inclusive educational experience. This collaborative effort showcased the university's dedication to fostering an environment where diversity is embraced, and every student has equal opportunities to thrive. The session was followed by a debate where projects from institutions outside the University of Lisboa, including the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança, had the opportunity to share their own experiences and projects (such as STEP).



I want to be an astronaut - [*Voglio fare l'astronauta*](#) | 08 October 2023

How many women are truck drivers? How many men are obstetricians? Is there a feminine of vigilant? To solve this, and other headaches related to the link between Gender and job, you come here and play with us! Starting from the UniGe publication "Illustrates gender", the workshop proposes a collective design activity and an interactive approach to address the theme of gender stereotypes in the world of work and gender language.



How to promote gender equality through teaching activity - *Come promuovere l'equità di genere attraverso la didattica* | 15 December 2023

This training activity aims to promote a gender-sensitive and non-discriminatory approach to teaching, providing guidelines and tools to support teaching staff to integrate a gender perspective in the conduct of teaching. Main contents: the reasons for a gender-sensitive approach in universities; how to integrate the gender dimension in teaching: programs, teachings, contents, and methodologies; the importance of language.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

STEP Workshops

International Conference on Co-Creation Processes in Higher Education (In2CoP)

Bragança - Portugal

30/01/2024 12:00 am (WET)

Decolonial thinking in practice

Online

24/01/2024 1:00 pm (MET)

Funding for research projects, scholarships, and research visits: Sources and tips

Online

24/01/2024 2:30 pm (WET)

Journal article writing and where to submit

Bragança - Portugal

AVAILABLE SOON

STEP TALKS!

Connecting science and society: science communication practices

Bragança - Portugal

18/01/2024 2:30 pm (WET)

Based on an understanding of the scientific process, and in an era characterized by information but also disinformation, the ability to effectively communicate scientific advances becomes essential to build a scientific culture in society. Full citizenship and the efficiency of democratic processes depend on citizens having a better knowledge of issues related to science and technology, which are often the basis for political decisions. Scientific knowledge is necessary for many everyday decisions and for a better understanding of the world. In this STEP Talk, we will look at practices and examples of communicating science to the general public. We will present various models for conveying scientific concepts in a way that is accessible to non-specialists, highlighting initiatives developed at the Bragança Ciência Viva Center.

Equality, Diversity and Disinformation

Bragança - Portugal

08/02/2024 2:30 pm (WET)

Disinformation, fake news, and the promotion of various pseudoscientific practices are factors that contribute to the degradation of informed citizenship and thus run counter to the goals of equality, diversity, and inclusion. On the other hand, women and other weaker segments of the population are one of the favorite target groups for this type of practice, and there are historical and societal reasons for this trend. This session will look at the interconnected phenomena of disinformation and pseudoscience, relating them to gender issues, among others. As a counterpoint, it will be argued that the tools of scientific skepticism and critical thinking, if well used, can serve as a defensive barrier and promoters of more active citizenship.

Find all the information and the respective links to register in our website!

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COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION

International Conference on Optimization, Learning Algorithms and Applications 2023

The STEP project was one of the sponsors for the OL2A conference, which took place in Ponta Delgada, Azores, Portugal, from September 27 to 29, 2023. The event was attended by more than 50 participants including academics, researchers, teachers and guests.

UniGe EDI Young Research

On September 27, 2023, the presentation of work by the multidisciplinary Unige's group EDI Young Research occurred. In this course, the speaker/professor Angela Celeste Taramasso cited the STEM theme and STEP project, where she is involved.

An Accessible Perspective Drawing. Perceptual and teaching techniques in the field of autism spectrum disorders

Presentation at the second international conference DAI – Drawing Accessibility and Inclusion, on December 2, 2023, during the International Day of Disability. The authors presented the results of a drawing course focused on the issues of perspective offered to people with autism spectrum disorders. The aim was to deepen the themes of inclusive teaching within the architectural discipline.

Enhancement of Accessibility in Cultural Heritage

How can we make Cultural Heritage more accessible to users with sensory disabilities or neurodiversity? The first step is always to assess our knowledge: in this case, we must ask ourselves what are the methods and tools that allow for effective communication with a blind or deaf person, or people with autism spectrum disorders. Some proposals designed for the communication of cultural contents and the representation of space carried out for and with people with diverse sensory or neurological abilities will be analyzed and participatory activities that allow the knowledge acquired to be shared and put into practice will be proposed. In this course, that happened on November 9, 2023, the speaker/professor Cristina Cándito cited the STEM theme and STEP project, where she is involved.

Dissemination in Events

PRIMA Project Event

Bragança - Portugal | April 2023



SciCom Transformar

Bragança - Portugal | May 2023



STEM RESEARCH CONNECTING IMAGINATION AND REALITY

NEWS

[I.amAble](#)

Promoting access to science and scientific culture for people with intellectual disabilities

Its main objective is to promote access to science and scientific culture for people with intellectual disabilities through an inclusive methodology. This purpose is framed within the Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG) of the Education Agenda 2030, which commits the different countries to ensure inclusive, equitable and quality education and to promote learning and participation opportunities for all people. *I.amAble* is an innovative approach designed to promote scientific literacy in an inclusive learning environment. A collaborative team composed of faculty and students from the Faculties of Science (Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Geology) and Education (Pedagogy and Teaching) design workshops on scientific concepts proposed in secondary education programs and adapted so that students from secondary and special education centers can participate in scientific culture. We have plans to implement this kind of methodology in special workshops in the context of the STEP project, starting with one in the Escuela de Verano Complutense on July 2024.

Dissemination in Events

International Symposium Future Now!

Bremen - Germany | June 2023



Podcast 90 Seconds of Science *Online | December 2023*



[Listen here](#)

Partnership with *Instituto Italiano di Tecnologia*

Recently, the Italian Institute of Technology (IIT) has started its participation in the STEP project, also thanks to its close relationship with the UNIGE project partner. The Italian Institute of Technology is a scientific research centre based in Genoa with branches and collaborations worldwide. Its main objective is to promote science through projects and discoveries focussed on applications and technology. The IIT is involved in diverse and cross-cutting research projects focussing on different topics such as sustainability, robotics, cultural heritage, chemistry and much more, and more recently in the field of EDI. EDI topics are of fundamental importance to this research organisation.

More Information

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