

Call for Papers der DGfE-Sektion Medienpädagogik und des interfakultären Medienforums  
Innsbruck anlässlich der internationalen Tagung an der Leopold- Franzens-Universität  
Innsbruck (11.-12. April 2013)

## **OpenLab ESEV - a narrative of Libre Software and Free Culture in a Portuguese higher education institution**

**Nelson Gonçalves & Maria Figueiredo, Polytechnic of Viseu, School of Education, Portugal**

OpenLab ESEV is a project of the portuguese Polytechnic Institute of Viseu's School of Education (ESEV) that aims to promote, foster and support the use of Free/Libre and Open Source Software (F/LOSS), Free Culture, Free file formats and more flexible copyright licenses for creative and educational purposes in the ESEV's domains of activity (education, arts, media). Although its roots can be traced to individual initiatives organized by some teachers in previous years, OpenLab ESEV came to existence in the end of 2009. It emerged in an environment characterized by the lack of knowledge of the existing Libre alternatives and by work habits exclusively built around proprietary software (Gonçalves & Figueiredo, 2008).

Today, OpenLab activities are implemented in a voluntary basis, including a core group of five teachers, several students and former students and other friends not related to the school. Taking into account its purpose, the project elected four key areas of action: dissemination, training, support and production. The first three areas are mainly targeted to the school community (ESEV and other units of the Polytechnic Institute of Viseu), educational community (schools and non-formal education partners) and local community. The fourth area extends the scope of OpenLab, seeking to build a national and international participation. This paper presents a description and a critical examination of the project and its current implemented activities.

The first part of the paper presents the core concepts and concerns that sustain the project, as Free Software (Stallman, 2010) and Free Culture (Lessig, 2004), and a detailed view on the implemented activities. The description includes diagrams portraying workflows and preferred software packages used for different tasks, adopted file formats and chosen copyright licenses using finished and ongoing projects as real case scenarios.

The second part presents a critical examination of the project based on the view and experience of the project coordination team members and a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis of the project carried out within the community stakeholders, including the project coordination team, school teachers and students with different degrees of involvement with the project. We'll share and discuss the results of our own learning process, presenting the successes and the experienced difficulties. Finally, the

## **Medien – Wissen – Bildung: Freie Bildungsmedien und Digitale Archive**

Call for Papers der DGfE-Sektion Medienpädagogik und des interfakultären Medienforums Innsbruck anlässlich der internationalen Tagung an der Leopold- Franzens-Universität Innsbruck (11.-12. April 2013)

authors will share a list of suggestions based on our experience that might be of interest to media artists, researchers and educators concerned with the raised issues and interested in exploring the use of F/LOSS, Free Culture, Free file formats and more flexible copyright licenses for creative and educational purposes.

### ***Literatur***

**Gonçalves**, N., & Figueiredo, M. P. (2008, July). Early adoption of Free and Open Source Software in a Higher School of Education: students' views about FOSS in the academic and future professional contexts. Paper presented in the First International Conference Free Knowledge, Free Technology - Education for a Free Information Society, Barcelona, Spain.

**Lessig**, L. (2004). Free culture. New York: Penguin Press.

**Stallman**, R. M. (2010). Free Software, Free Society: Selected Essays of Richard M. Stallman (2nd Edition). Boston: GNU PRESS/Free Software Foundation.

Retrieved from <http://www.gnu.org/doc/fsfsii2.pdf>

**Nelson Gonçalves** (nafergo@gmail.com)

is a teacher in the Department of Communication and Art at the School of Education of the Polytechnic Institute of Viseu, since 2003. He teaches several courses including Educational Technology and Multimedia Animation. Currently the president of Associação Ensino Livre (Free Teaching Association), a portuguese not-for-profit association devoted to the promotion of Free/Libre Software and open contents in education, he's also a founding member of OpenLab ESEV and AnimaXion Studioz, an independent animation collective devoted to the exploration of Free/Libre and Open SourceSoftware for animation.