



Geography Programs and Bologna

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Main Objectives

External component as a pull force for restructuring

- **To exchange information on the transformation of Geography at University**
- To bring information about our ideas and perplexities
- **To work on a European Degree in Geography**



The dimensions

- Competitiveness
- Employability
- Challenges for teaching and learning



Competition

- relative standardization of the first cycle, geographically scattered
- competition vs cooperation in higher degrees
 - more central schools, ranked higher
 - higher tuition fees
 - better resources, big names
- proactive strategies, benchmarking practices



Lines for discussion

- programs for a wider clientele
- subjects with social relevance, citizenship and environmental questions, housing, planning , development
- second cycle's programs in partnership with prestigious foreign institutions
- courses in English



Employability

“the first cycle diploma will be relevant to the European labor market as appropriate level of qualification” (Bologna’s declaration)

- What specialization for what professional activities?
- At what level?



Our experience

- the reinforcement of the methodological component
- the increase in the specialization possibilities
- bridge with the professional practice



Challenges for teaching and learning

...different type of academic and training education, academic formation in a wider basis, focus on competence's acquisition, and learning upon teaching.

↓
course's structure and organization

↓
teaching methods



Learning outcomes and competences. Portuguese review

Generic competences -- features, capabilities and aptitudes

Ability to use ICT to communicate fluently by written, oral and visual means



Specific Competences in Geography

At internacional level	Portuguese teachers
Understand and interpret landscapes, the meaning of spatial relationships; build spatial models	Understand the interdependence of social actors, regions, locations; discuss spatial policies
Understand forms of spatial organization, diversity and interdependence of regions; spatial segregation processes, the nature of change	Identify patterns and explain spatial distributions; understand development disparities; process of change and its nature



Specific Competences in Geography

At internacional level	Portuguese teachers
Collect, compare, analyze, geographical information; use techniques and approaches in Geography	Use geographical methods for collection and analyze information; different approaches in the explanation
understanding of geographical concepts; communicate geographical ideas, principles and theories	understanding of geographical concepts; apply geography to identify problems and look for solutions



What do we need?

- A framework for discussion
- Exchange information
- Work together in European degrees proposal