

# Bridging Academia and Society: The Impact of a Dedicated Lifelong Learning Service at U.Porto

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## Infrastructure and Support Services



3+1 University centres

14 Faculties

1 Business School

48 Research units

18 Libraries

12 Museums

4 Sports facilities

20 Food service facilities

10 University halls of residence

2 e-learning cafés

## The Community



~3,900 Lecturers and Researchers (~2200 FTE)

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~1,850 Technicians and Administrative Staff (~1,840 FTE)

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+35.700 Registered students

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~8,100 Graduates

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+115,000 Former students registered in the U.Porto Alumni database



## Courses



**315 Courses (degree awarding)**  
**50** Bachelor's Degrees (1st cycle)  
**6** Integrated Master's Degrees (1st and 2nd cycle)  
**165** Master's Degrees (2nd cycle)  
**94** Doctorates (3rd cycle)

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## Research

**48** Research units

# FCUP mission

- **highly diversified training offer in Exact, Natural and Computer Sciences**  
more than 70 Bachelor's, Master's and PhD programmes  
strong **interdisciplinary synergies**
- culture of **Academic Excellence in Science, Research, Technology and Innovation**

## Departments:

- Biology
- Chemistry & Biochemistry
- Computer Science
- Geosciences
- Mathematics
- Physics & Astronomy
- Science Teaching

# FCUP @ U.Porto

## Courses:

- ~4500 students (degree awarding programmes)
- ~15 programmes of 1<sup>st</sup> cycle of studies (Bachelor's)
- ~40 programmes of 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle of studies (Master's)
- ~ 30 programmes of 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle of studies (PhD's)

## Research:

- 8 R&D units under FCUP jurisdiction
- 9 R&D units with their own jurisdiction





# FCUP mission

- highly diversified training offer in Exact, Natural and Computer Sciences

more than 70 Bachelor's, Master's and PhD programmes  
strong interdisciplinary synergies

- culture of Academic Excellence in Science, Research, Technology and Innovation

- cultural and social responsibility initiatives, in an open and inclusive environment, that aims to promote innovative and sustainable societal impact at regional, national and international level

## HEI Third mission

Promoting continuing education through the dissemination of strategic sci&tech knowledge

Promoting adults upskilling and reskilling

# LLL implementation

- Specialized courses  
(ECTS awarding / 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle difficulty )
- Credited LLL (ECTS awarding)
  - Single courses (*micro credentials*)
  - Continuous Training (Multiple Courses)
  - Transferable and Transversal skills courses
- Non credited LLL
  - Free courses

**faculty scientific council recognition**

**U.Porto rectorate recognition  
and ECTS creditation**

**FCUP offer**



# FCUP LLL supporting structure

- **Employability** @ Research, Tech & Innovation Support Services

  - link to tech companies

  - academic internships in partnerships with external entities

- **Alumni** @ Image and Communication Services

  - mentoring and strategic counselling

  - (sought, but not implemented)

- **Continuing Education** @ Academic Services

  - developing strategic upskilling and reskilling



academia

society

## Training & Cooperation Services (SFC)

Employability (1)

proximity with external entities

academic internships outside  
academia

Alumni (1)

mentoring

strategic counselling

Continuing Education (2)

developing upskilling and reskilling

outreach (trainees & external entities)

scouting new LLL opportunities

EduTech (2)

supporting media production

LMS

One of the best-practices described in  
EUGLOH WP4/TG3 “Institutional Strategies  
in Lifelong Learning Report”, June 2024

# LLL @FCUP through time

## Offer characteristics:

- mostly directed to schoolteachers
- reduced offer
- reduced dissemination (mailing)
- LLL Academic Responsible - driven

... - 2021

Trainees  
(*micro-credentials*)

~20



SFC establishment

Recovery & Resilience  
Facility (RRF / PRR)

EC response to the  
COVID19 pandemic





# PRR *Adults Impulse* boost of LLL

## U.Porto Multidisciplinary Training Program: *Adults Impulse*

- **upskilling & reskilling active population** in relevant knowledge
- meet **companies' expectations and training needs**
- create HEI additional value
- **digital** and technological **literacy** of the population
- **develop strategic skills** in active population
- ...
- **bring together external entities** and academics (mandatory!)



# PRR *Adults Impulse* boost of LLL

## financial support:

- **LLL grants funding**
- reinforcement of multimedia capabilities for remote interaction in blended and e-learning actions (post labor training programmes)
- reinforcement of computer classrooms capacity

## fully dedicated staff, devoted to:

- prospection of **new opportunities of upskilling and reskilling involving external partners** (professional associations, companies, governmental bodies...)
- implementation of **new micro-credential** / LLL actions in **close contact with academic staff & partners**
- **LLL targeted dissemination**

# PRR lifelong learning offer @FCUP

The image displays a screenshot of the EDC (Educação de Ciências da Universidade do Porto) website, specifically the PRR (Programa de Recrutamento e Retenção) section. The website is viewed through a browser with the URL [edc.fc.up.pt](http://edc.fc.up.pt). The page features a navigation bar with links to 'Início', 'Cursos PRR', 'Cursos Curta Duração', 'Competências Transversais', 'Especializações', and 'Contactos'. A large banner image shows a group of people walking towards a building entrance with a 'bem-vindos welcome' sign. Below the banner, the text 'Educação Continuada' is visible. The main content area is divided into several sections, including 'O que são?', 'Bolsas PRR', 'Manifeste o seu interesse', and 'Contactos'. A grid of course cards is displayed, each with a 'Candidaturas Abertas' (Applications Open) label and a PRR logo. The courses listed are: 'Criptografia no dia-a-dia', 'Paisagens em Transformação: Ecologia e Ferramentas Avançadas para o Planeamento Sustentável', 'Desenvolvimento Web em Low Code - Frontend', 'Adequação de Ferramentas Bioinformáticas ao 3º Ciclo do Ensino Básico e ao Ensino Secundário', 'Análises de Solo - Análise comparativa de métodos e interpretação de boletins', 'Aquaríofilia step-by-step: otimização de um aquário para espécies ornamentais', 'As Algas como um Novo Recurso', and 'Agricultura e Sustentabilidade'. At the bottom, there is a footer with contact information for the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Porto, including the address 'Rua do Campo Alegre, s/n 4169-007 Porto' and the email 'formacao.continua@fc.up.pt'. A cookie consent banner is also visible at the bottom right, with 'Agree' and 'Em R' buttons.

edc.fc.up.pt

about:blank#block... modelação My Red Pitaya All Bookmarks

EDC | U.PORTO FACULDADE DE CIÊNCIAS UNIVERSIDADE DO PORTO

Início Cursos PRR Cursos Curta Duração Competências Transversais Especializações Contactos

U Cursos PRR - Educação Continuada na FCUP

EDC | U.PORTO FACULDADE DE CIÊNCIAS UNIVERSIDADE DO PORTO

Início Cursos PRR Cursos Curta Duração Competências Transversais Especializações Contactos

Home » EDC » Cursos PRR

O que são? Bolsas PRR Manifeste o seu interesse Contactos

Candidaturas Abertas PRR

Criptografia no dia-a-dia

Candidaturas Abertas PRR

Paisagens em Transformação: Ecologia e Ferramentas Avançadas para o Planeamento Sustentável

Candidaturas Abertas PRR

Desenvolvimento Web em Low Code - Frontend

Candidaturas Abertas PRR

Adequação de Ferramentas Bioinformáticas ao 3º Ciclo do Ensino Básico e ao Ensino Secundário

Candidaturas Abertas PRR

Análises de Solo - Análise comparativa de métodos e interpretação de boletins

Candidaturas Abertas PRR

Aquaríofilia step-by-step: otimização de um aquário para espécies ornamentais

Candidaturas Abertas PRR

As Algas como um Novo Recurso

Candidaturas Abertas PRR

Agricultura e Sustentabilidade

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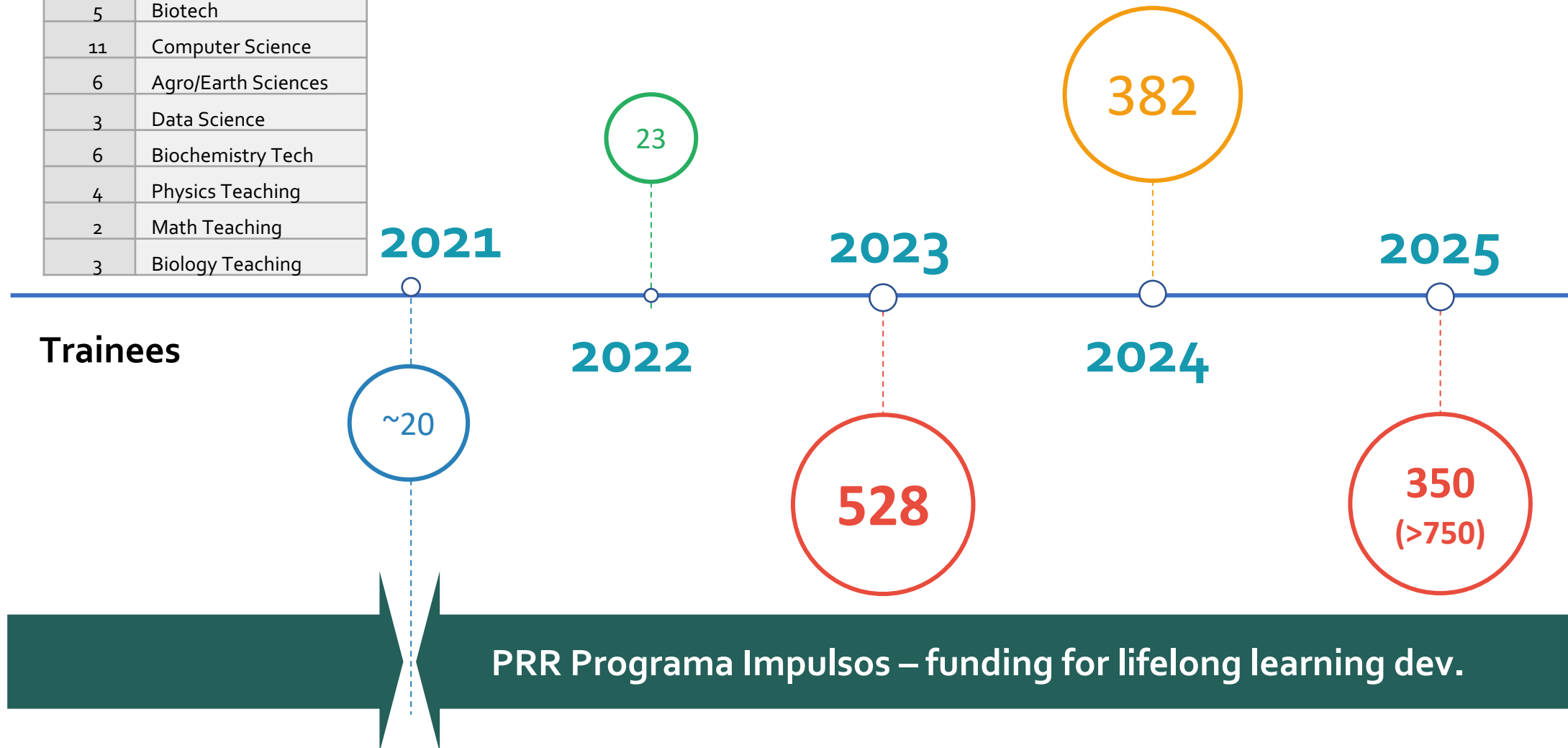


# PRR lifelong learning offer

40 new micro-credentials

#	Scientific Field
5	Biotech
11	Computer Science
6	Agro/Earth Sciences
3	Data Science
6	Biochemistry Tech
4	Physics Teaching
2	Math Teaching
3	Biology Teaching

(as today)  
LLL editions: 57  
Grants awarded: 947  
Enrolled trainees: ~1280



# Impact

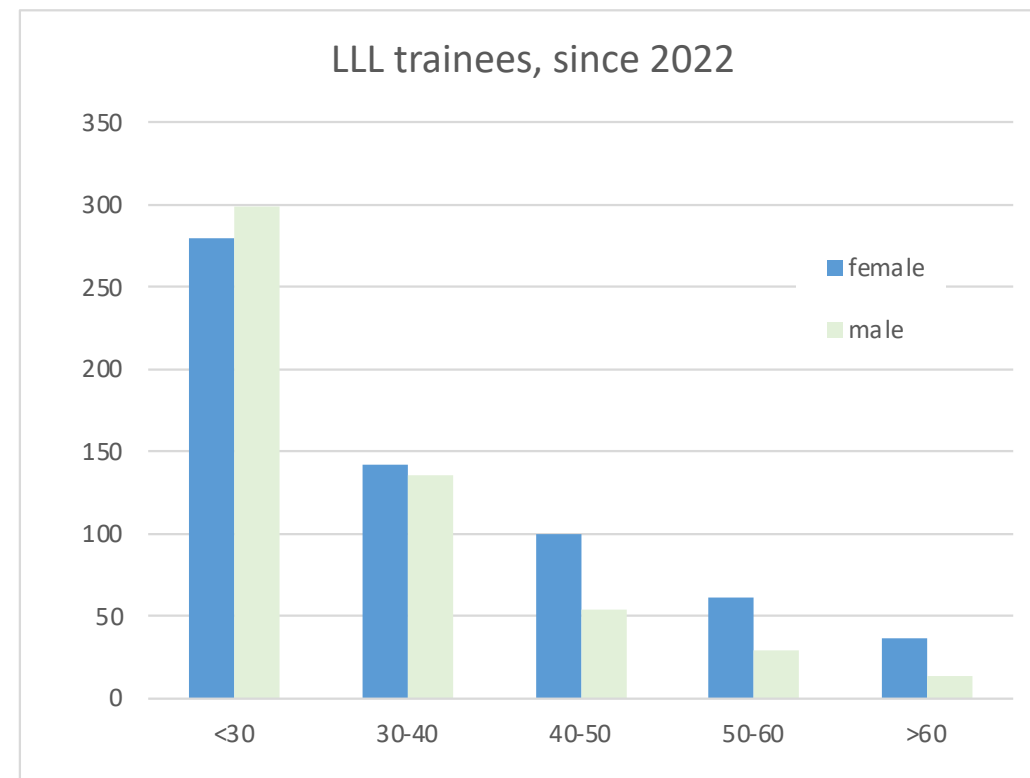
## post labour blended learning

- e-learning, when advantageous
- presential teaching in practical sessions promoting direct contact
- revive adults' appetency for learning
- promote networking and discussion

## external entities partnerships

- dissemination
- trainers providers
- co-creation of LLL actions
- speciality study visits
- receptors of FCUP on-demand training actions

(as today)  
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# Testimonies

Leandro Ferreira - Python Programming

*The team of trainers played a fundamental role in the teaching process, **making it possible to learn Python programming for anyone who has no experience in the programming area.** I acquired solid knowledge that was of great importance for my professional development.*

António Pereira - Low Code Web Development - Backend

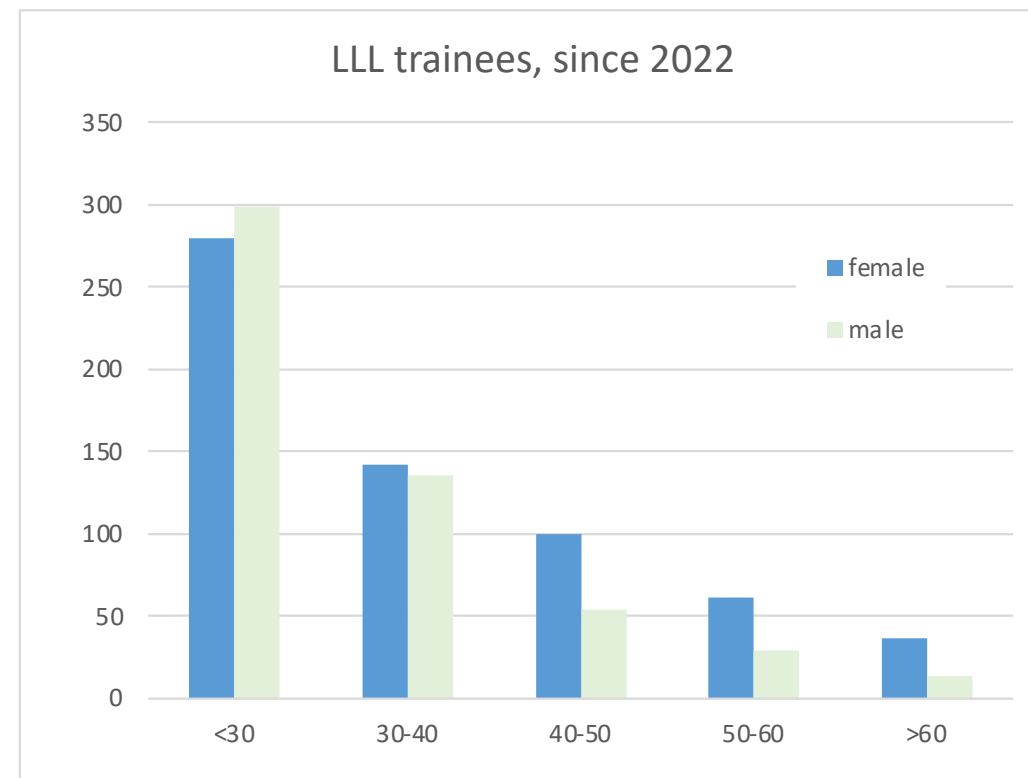
*The **training** in Low Code Web Development - Backend was **essential to transform an idea I had for some time into a concrete reality.** I was able to start the development (still embryonic) of an application ... that strengthens the community.*

Maria Isabel Silva - Data Analysis and Exploration in R

*The course **provided me with technical skills to handle databases,** explore data using statistical methods and graph analysis, as well as develop forecasting models and evaluate their performance. **The knowledge I acquired allowed me to respond more efficiently to tasks involving data analysis and made it easier for me to learn other programming languages used in my professional environment (e.g. Python).***

(as today)

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# LLL challenges

## engaging academic staff

- proximity and joint work on alumni, employability and LLL creates SFC awareness to societal needs (from external entities and prospective trainees)
- FCUP R&D strengths and society demands are bridged by SFC, facilitating the engagement of new academic staff into LLL
- SFC knowledge and external recognition facilitates LLL dissemination (hard task!)

## threats and challenges

- the need for further **LLL grants support** (mid- term)
- European-wide recognition of microcredentials (EUGLOH)
- development of Joint Programmes (EUGLOH, ...)





# Thank you!

ccrosa@fc.up.pt





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UNIVERSIDADE DO PORTO