



Godinho, F. (2010) *Uma Nova Abordagem para a Formação em Engenharia de Reabilitação em Portugal* [A New Approach to Rehabilitation Engineering Education in Portugal] PhD thesis

Abstract

This work focuses on a new approach to education and training in Rehabilitation Engineering that is taking place at the University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro (UTAD) in Portugal, through the programme of studies in Human Accessibility and Rehabilitation Engineering.

The implementation and analysis of such a programme of studies cannot be pursued without an overview of previous efforts, as well as of the current standing of Rehabilitation Engineering and its relationship with accessibility and assistive technologies. A diagnosis of the status of the profession and of the development of Rehabilitation Engineering in Portugal is carried out.

We compare the education and training model used for Rehabilitation Engineering at UTAD with academic programmes in other countries and with studies on related educational models, from which some concepts were drawn in support of the effort at UTAD.

The overall operation of the degree at UTAD is also a source for reflection, based on the profile, preparation, and expectations of its students and new challenges associated with this educational project.

Main findings

The qualification and certification of Rehabilitation Engineering professionals is required, considering the positive or negative impacts for people with disabilities.

We acknowledge that in Portugal there are few Rehabilitation Engineers and there is a lack of recognition of their important role in supporting the elderly and people with disabilities.

In July 2010 the UTAD awarded the first higher education degree in Rehabilitation Engineering. This contribution to society will allow us, in the medium and long term, to analyse the relevance of this training.

Web link for additional information

<http://repositorio.utad.pt/handle/10348/572>