

a investigação no ensino- -aprendizagem práticas de articulação

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INTERDISCIPLINARY EXPERIENCE IN THE R&D PROJECT “SMARTWALK: SMARTCITIES FOR ACTIVE SENIORS”

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context

- experience with undergraduate students from the Health School and the Águeda School of Technology and Management of the University of Aveiro was conducted in the school year of 2016/2017.
- students and lecturers worked together the context of “**SmartWalk: Smartcities for Active Seniors**”, an in-progress R&D project that proposes the creation of a **physical activity monitoring system** for older adults using the network infrastructure of Águeda Smart City.

includes a back-office Web application to allow health professionals to see the data and propose small routine changes to promote the adequate physical condition, if necessary.



the experience

- undergraduate students of the 3rd year of **Gerontology** and **Physiotherapy**, from the **Health School**, and undergraduate students of the 3rd year of the **licenciatura (1st cycle degree)** on **Information Technologies** from **Águeda School of Technology and Management**.
- students were challenged to contribute to the following SmartWalk activities : a) **system analysis and specification**, and: b) **system development and first tests**.

- Several interdisciplinary meetings



IT students got feedback on the functional requirements in the perspective of health professionals
evaluation of the low fidelity prototype developed by IT students
10 health students participated in a 1st usability evaluation session organized by IT students
11 health sciences students assessed the final product usability



results

- Use case descriptions, Several prototypes, Usability evaluation plans for the different usability testing phases
- Both students and teachers considered that it was an enriching experience to engage in an interdisciplinary project supported by a real problem.
- Nevertheless, some challenges have arisen, mainly related to physical distance - schools are 25Km apart - and different participants' availability.



conclusion

- The involvement of students during their training in interdisciplinary research activities, to solve a real problem, can be a driver to better perform their curricular work and to increase their interest in research activities (students feel to give a valuable contribution to solve a real problem and can foresee practical benefits in conducting research activities).





thank you for your attention

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