

**Wednesday 3 June**

**4:20pm - 5:00pm**

Room: Block Y, Room Y403

**Presentation Title:** Let there be autonomy!

<b>Presenter / Co-presenters:</b>	Noémia Bárbara, Instituto Politecnico de Coimbra Escola Superior Agraria, Portugal
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<b>Theme:</b>	Autonomy in the classroom
<b>Presentation Type:</b>	Paper presentation

### **Abstract**

Living at an age in Europe where the documents flowing from the Bologna Process point out that there is an increasing awareness that a significant outcome of the process will be a move towards student-centred higher education and away from teacher driven provision, this paper focuses on how autonomy seems to become mainstream in higher education in 46 countries. The problems of having teachers and students becoming autonomous overnight will be dealt in this paper as well as the struggle of institutions to cope with change of educational paradigms in so little time. A brief account of a pilot experiment in English teaching and learning at a Portuguese polytechnic institution will be offered as a case study that may offer a new and different perspective.

### **Biodata**

Noémia Bárbara studied for her BA Honours Degree at the University of Coimbra. She then started to work as a Lecturer in English at the Polytechnic of Coimbra where she has been working since 1989 teaching English for Specific Purposes to Engineering courses. She was awarded her Masters degree in Anglo-American Studies at the University of Lisbon. She is presently enrolled as a PhD student preparing a thesis on autonomy and innovation in English learning. Her research fields include the Bologna Process implementation, learner centered pedagogy, fostering of autonomy, development of creativity practices, interdisciplinary collaboration, portfolios as authentic assessment practice.