

IAMCR Ambassador – Portugal

3 year plan

Luís António Santos
lsantos@ics.uminho.pt

The general purpose of this endeavour is to 1) strengthen IAMCR's presence and relevance and to 2) promote membership.

1. Dissemination / Relevance

a) It is our purpose to activate a relevant social network presence (creating IAMCR_PT accounts) and a weblog (to complement social networks activities, namely by being a repository of information).

As of August 2015 the following accounts have been created:

Gmail: iamcrpt@gmail.com

Facebook group: iamcr.pt

(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1463794727256711/>)

Weblog: <https://iamcrpt.wordpress.com/>

Social network and weblog accounts will have regular updates; the Facebook group will be 'Public' to further promote adherence.

b) (Subject to IAMCR's Executive Secretariat's assistance) the weblog will host an updated directory of current members, including contacts and research interests.

This task should be completed before the end of 2015. Updates will be made subsequently.

c) Initiate discussions with IAMCR's Publications Committee to increase the presence of IAMCR Publications in Portuguese universities libraries (namely through a 'evaluation copies' programme.

The initial contact should be made in 2015; subsequent developments – i.e. the actual delivery to Portuguese universities – should take place in the following years.

d) (Subject to the Executive Board's approval) Development of a simple procedure to validate the association of the organization to IAMCR's members promoted academic events.

The idea should be presented to the Executive Board in the first

trimester of 2016 and hopefully it will start to produce visible results in the second half of 2016.

2. Enhancement / Membership promotion

a) Establishing a programme of visits to active Communication research centres.

The first formal visit, still in 2015, will be to CECS (University of Minho).

Two centres should be visited in 2016 and two others should be visited in 2017.

b) Articulating special information sessions with at least three Doctoral Programmes:

- FCT funded Doctoral Programme on Communication Studies;
- University of Minho's Communication Sciences Doctoral Programme;
- University of Minho and University of Aveiro jointly promoted Doctoral Programme on Cultural Studies.

Initial contacts to assess opportunity/availability will be undertaken until the end of 2015. Sessions will take place as requested.

c) Presence in thematic research gatherings (seminars, conferences).

Whenever possible contacts will be made with the organization of events to promote opportunities for the presentation of IAMCR.

Confirmed for 2015:

- International Conference on Communication and Light, 2-4 November.

d) Presence in SOPCOM's young researchers network annual conference.

Confirmed for 2015:

- 19-20 October.

e) Presence in SOPCOM's annual congress.

Confirmed for 2015: 12-14 November.

A cyclical approach will be pursued; some of the visits to Doctoral programmes will take place at least once every year (preferably in time to promote researchers presence in the upcoming IAMCR conference) and attendance of relevant academic gathering will be subject to opportunity/cost considerations.

Final remarks:

The implementation of some activities will be conditioned by the interactions with the above-mentioned IAMCR structures but the intention is to launch both processes within the first year (years two and three will be a consolidation period).

Our application's Plan of Action included a third area of activity (we called it 'Connection'), which envisaged the promotion of closer ties among researchers and post-graduate students of different Portuguese speaking countries.

It would involve the preparation of pre-IAMCR conferences Portuguese language FAQ forums and the creation of an updated directory of Portuguese speaking IAMCR members (as a separate weblog page), including contacts and research interests.

It is still our purpose to contribute to such developments although we feel that they would largely benefit from one other proposed initiative: the promotion – in tandem with IAMCR ambassadors for other Portuguese speaking countries – of an informal network centred on support to trans-national research (funding opportunities, programmes, and proposals).

We very much hope that steps in this direction – with the help of other Portuguese-speaking ambassadors – can be taken in 2016 and 2017.

Braga, August 13th 2015.