

NEIIST: Event organization and promotion
&
Escola de Inverno

Nuno Xu

Learning Report

Abstract—Starting with describing how I felt about the way communication was handled at Núcleo Estudantil de Informática do Instituto Superior Técnico (NEIST) when performing the NEIST:Event organization and promotion activity, as it was too slow and impersonal, which kept me unmotivated to perform the tasks. And how performing tutoring at *Escola de Inverno*, subdued a bit of my fear of stage and changed my view of children. This document describes my thoughts and opinions on how I have improved by performing this activities.

Index Terms—fear, communication, NEIIST, *escola*, *inverno*, learning, audience, children.

1 INTRODUCTION

THIS report aims to present my thoughts on what I have learned during my experiences working in the NEIIST: Event organization and promotion, and *Escola de Inverno* activities. It will start by addressing communication and how it easily becomes slow and impersonal, then describing how I got a better understanding of my fear of audience and children. Finally I will draw some conclusions on how this experiences helped define myself as an individual.

2 COMMUNICATION

At the start of my activity as an event organizer at NEIIST, I was seeking to learn how communication flowed on a organization where members mostly work remotely. As this is a student organization, each member has very different schedules, making in-person meetings hard and inconvenient, so most contact is made through online platforms, namely e-mail, Trello, and a private forum. While this way of

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communicating is probably taken out of necessity, I felt it made contact extremely impersonal, as I didn't personally meet anyone inside the organization, aside from the colleague assigned to the same task as me and members I met in contexts outside of the organization. This made me feel less motivated to perform my assigned task, as I felt like I was working for a faceless entity. Additionally communication was very slow, especially through e-mail, as writing long messages takes a considerable amount of time, from correctly transferring thoughts into text and double-checking for errors, to the delay in reading, understanding and replying.

In sum, experiencing this way of communication let me find out that I really dislike working in this conditions. Not personally knowing who my co-workers were, made me feel unmotivated and performing the task a secondary thought, specially when compared to *Escola de Inverno*, where we had various meetings throughout the activity, and my experience as an office intern, where most of the people I had to speak to where working in the same space as me.

3 FEAR OF AUDIENCE AND CHILDREN

From a young age I always had a fear of stage or audience, as I would feel extremely nervous

(1.0) Excellent	LEARNING					DOCUMENT						
(0.8) Very Good	CONTEXT x2	SKILLS x1	REFLECT x4	S+C x1	SCORE	Structure x0.25	Orthogr. x0.25	Gramm. x0.25	Format x0.25	Title x0.5	Filename x0.5	SCORE
(0.6) Good												
(0.4) Fair												
(0.2) Weak	1.6	1	4	0.7	7.3	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.5	0.5	2

and be unable to perform the presentation without some stuttering. Additionally I also dislike speaking with children, as I normally can't help but feel condescending towards persons much younger than my age. This is part of the reason I decided to apply to *Escola de Inverno*, as it would address this issues directly.

In the activity I performed duties as a monitor and tutor, to 13 and 14 year old children, and throughout the ordeal I became a little more accustomed to speaking in front of an audience. Although I realized that I no longer stutter, the uneasiness and nervousness are still there, making the time passed seem far longer than it really was, and disrupting my thoughts. As I only performed in one session, it was just a small step to better myself in this regard, but by attending the following sessions I feel hopeful in that I will improve over time.

Talking to the children also made me think of how should I properly address people younger than me. How knowledgeable should I assume them to be? Should I talk to them differently from how I address an adult? What if they are disrespectful or rude? Fortunately (or unfortunately) the last question did not come to happen, as the children attending the session were very well behaved, but they showed themselves to be more intelligent that I assumed them to be, to a point that my vision of them changed, from a difficult to approach young kid, to just a young person. This allowed me to speak more naturally with them, without the strange awkwardness I experienced previously.

4 CONCLUSION

Through this report I wanted to transmit my thoughts on how important communication is to me, and how experiencing them in the NEIIST: Event organization and promotion activity demotivated me in my tasks as it became distant and impersonal. Additionally I addressed my fear of audiences and my awkwardness towards children, which *Escola de Inverno* helped me improve, by making me monitor and tutor young children, which changed my view of children to a simpler one and also give me the will to address my fear by continuously participating in the activity.

I am glad to have taken time to perform this activities, as they helped better define who I am and made me improve on aspects that I considered important.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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John Doe My name is Nuno Xu, 21 years old and I'm currently attending the Master's degree in Information Systems and Computer Engineering at Instituto Superior Técnico (IST). I have a passion for video games and hope to one day pursue my dream of becoming a video game developer.

APPENDIX**STATEMENT OF EXECUTION - NEIIST: EVENT ORGANIZATION AND PROMOTION****COMPROVATIVO**

Venho por este meio comprovar que os seguintes alunos participaram na actividade “Escola de Inverno” durante os meses Novembro de 2014 a Janeiro de 2015 no âmbito de Portefólio.

69984	João Miranda
69396	Francisco Ferreira
73378	Nuno Gonçalves
73092	Miguel Faria
73393	Joana Teixeira

Prof. Miguel Mira da Silva

Instituto Superior Técnico

APPENDIX

STATEMENT OF EXECUTION - *Escola de Inverno*



Para os devidos efeitos, declara-se que o(a) aluno(a) Nuno Xu, número mecanográfico 73378, no 1º semestre do ano lectivo 2014/2015, exerceu o cargo de Colaborador no NEIIST – Núcleo Estudantil de Informática do Instituto Superior Técnico, tendo realizado as actividades Organização e divulgação de eventos.

Lisboa, 12 de Janeiro de 2015

A Direcção do NEIIST:


(Vânia Mendonça – Presidente)


(Denise Pedro – Vice-presidente)


(Rita Gomes – Vogal)


(Manuel Alves – Gestor Financeiro)