

# SINFO Dev-Team and the Informatics Week

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## *Activities Report*

**Abstract**—This year SINFO organized the 22nd edition of the Informatics Week at IST, this happened last February and continuing the work from previous years we had company presentations, a tech expo and talks with international speakers. This event was a tremendous success with full conference rooms, amphitheatre and the tech expo's stands flourishing with people.

During this week not everything was dreamy and it implied lots of effort from the organization's members with everyone continuing their usual yearly work topped with the event, in the case of the development team this implied being able to do everything everyone was doing and keeping up the website working and our sponsors happy with it.

This report covers the activities done throughout that week with the description of a few difficult situations that occurred starting with the Friday before that week and ending on the Saturday of the following week.

**Index Terms**—SINFO, speakers, companies, presentations, talks, Informatics Week

*do not use contractions*

well and what didn't.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

After enrolling on SINFO past October and working on the tools for the organization February came, and with it our main event of the year, the Informatics Week. And while the last report focused on the activites done as a member of SINFO's Dev-Team, this report will focus on the activity as a member of SINFO with the responsibilities of being a member of the Dev-Team throughout the week of our main event.

This week was marked by talks given by international speakers from the various fields of computer science, entertainment and enterprise solutions with a spice of ethic and social aspects being approached as well. There was also a tech expo, company presentations and workshops, with a special event at the end of the week which we called the Startup Rush, in which several startup companies of the Lisbon area were invited to challenge the attendees.

So for this report I will be describing what was done during that week, and what went

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## 2 THE INFORMATICS WEEK

SINFO's main event of the year is the Informatics week, it happens every year at the end of February and as stated on the introduction it is marked with many activities throughout the day, starting with company presentations, then talks during the afternoon and at the end of the day to close we had some workshops. We also had a tech expo open all day at the Central Pavilion and at the Civil Engineering Pavilion in which our sponsors had stands there.

In this section I will be describing each type of activity that happened starting with the tech expo, following with the company presentations, following up with the talks, then the workshops and then a quick description of the Startup Rush.

### 2.1 The Tech Expo

One of the most important things on the Informatics week is the presence of the tech expo which is our main source of funding for all of the needs of SINFO so we can secure travel and lodging expenses for our speakers, reserve the space for the event and avertise it.

(1.0) Excellent	ACTIVITY					DOCUMENT								
(0.8) Very Good	Object × 2	Opt × 1	Exec × 4	Summ × .5	Concl × .5	SCORE	Struct × .25	Ortog × .25	Exec × 4	Form × .25	Titles × .5	File × .5	SCORE	
(0.6) Good	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.5		1.0	0.8	0.8	1.0	1.0	0.8		
(0.4) Fair														
(0.2) Weak														



Figure 1 22nd SINFO poster

This year the tech expo went from Monday to Thursday with the companies being present at the Central Pavilion and the Civil Engineering Pavilion of Instituto Superior Técnico, where the event took place. In each space SINFO had a stand so that we could answer doubts from people passing by and to provide assistance to the companies at their stands, be it with technical aspects, such as, the wifi for them or with logistical aspects, water and food stamps. At our stand we also sold merchandise as an effort to spread the SINFO brand as a committee that organizes events related to Informatics.

Everything with the tech expo went well, except for one or two occasions where a company employee parked on the wrong spot, or the company had the day wrong for their stand, being these situations solved by the people assigned to the stands.

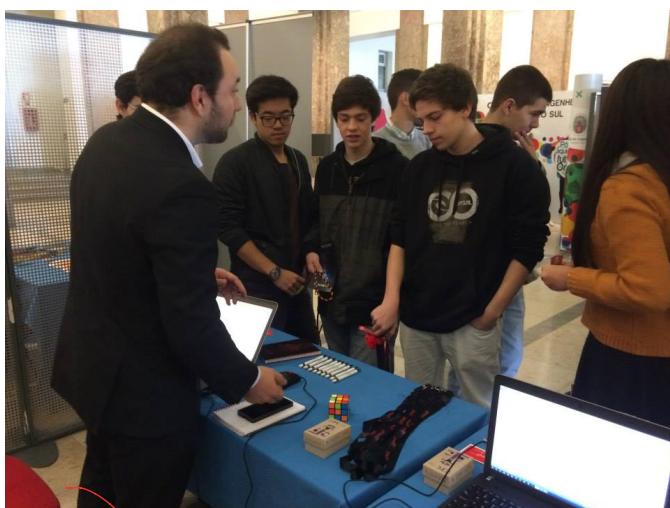


Figure 2. Tech Expo as seen from Growin's Stand on the Central Pavilion



Figure 3. Tech Expo at the Civil Engineering Pavilion

## 2.2 Company Presentations

As a part of the sponsor packs companies bought some acquired the right to have company presentations. These presentations were booked for the morning part of each day from Monday to Thursday and the SINFO members assigned to this had to provide assistance to the companies representatives that were going to give the presentation.

This assistance included guiding both the representatives and the attendees to the conference rooms where the presentations occurred, and making sure there weren't any technical difficulties with the projectors and other materials required by the representatives.

At the end of the presentations lunch time came and after lunch the talks would start round 2pm.

## 2.3 Talks

This was the most interesting part of the Informatics week. With international speakers being the big focus of this event, we had specialists from various areas on computer science, from security to enterprise solutions, from social media to torrents and the bigshot this year was Peter Sunde, one of the co-founders of the torrenting website "thepiratebay.se".

This was the most interesting part not only because of the nature of the talks, but also because of the kind of support the organization members had to give out to the speakers, journalists and people getting into the amphitheatre. In the case of speakers, since most don't

*Figures MUST be referenced in text!!*

speak Portuguese we had to provide translation and guide them around both at the event and around the city. In what regards journalists and the talk attendees as for some talks there wasn't enough space for everyone at the amphitheatre we had to control the entrance so that no incidents occurred and the first rows were kept reserved for the other speakers and journalists.

Even though we made efforts not to have issues, between every talk we would empty the amphitheatre so that preparations for the next were made. But in one instance 3 attendees felt like they had the priority in securing a spot for the most desired talk, the one given by Peter Sunde, and refused to leave the room, ending up in us having to call security and banning them from other talks, workshops and any future event organized by our committee.



Figure 4. The audience at our talks waiting eagerly for one of our speakers.

## 2.4 Workshops

Everyday after all the talks were done, some of us would go and have dinner with the speakers, and the others would stay behind and provide support to the workshops organized jointly with some of our sponsors.

These workshops lasted between 1 and 2 hours with various topics, such as, how to work with some programming languages, how to make a CV and the social effect of some technologies.

Some of these workshops were given by speakers, making these special events which got overbooked and were a success. Others



Figure 5. One of the speakers we had, Helder Pinto doing his talk

were given by guests invited by the companies that sponsored the workshop. These workshops also had their fair share of success, making the perfect end of the day activity.

After the workshops were done, some of us went home, others stayed behind to guard the stands until the security guards came and locked the places and started their rounds of vigilance. Making these days a marathon that started for some of us at 8am that ended after midnight. All members took part in all activities, all scheduled so that some wouldn't be over encumbered while others had it easy, everything in the name of fairness.

## 2.5 Startup Rush

This year to make things different from other years, we decided not to have talks, stands and workshops on Friday, instead we decided to extend the duration of the Informatics Week for 1 more day and make something different for Friday and Saturday. The end result was the "Startup Rush", an event where several startups from Lisbon were invited to challenge the attendees to do fun stuff with the technologies they use and reward those who had the best solutions to the challenges imposed by the startups.

These startups were invited by Lisbon's own startup incubator, Startup Lisboa, led by Pedro Carmo Oliveira, and the prizes offered were

varied, some offered money for the best solutions, others material, and the type of prize winners enjoyed the most was the chance to do an internship with the startup.

In between startup presentations there were pitches in which startups presented themselves to the audience, there were coffee breaks so attendees, speakers and startup representatives could network, and there were also talks by some special guests, Steve Francia from Docker, Phil Calçado from Soundcloud and Alberto Martin from PayPal.

With these speakers coming from a Startup environment it made sense that their talks were given to a smaller audience and in the environment that we provided, instead of the amphitheatre were the other speakers gave their talks.



Figure 6 Startup Rush Talk with Steve Francia

### 3 CONCLUSION

Concluding, It was a tiring week, filled with things to do and there wasn't not even an idle moment, from the day where we started to setup the stands and everything to the day in which we had to pack things and do the retrospective of the event, of everything that went well and the little things that went wrong. This was a rich activity, with a diverse repertoire of things that got done.



Figure 7. Me on the job!!

who coordinated this team for years and ensuring everything went right and the members of the Dev-Team for not yielding to those nights with little to no sleep and being able to fulfill both our roles as members of SINFO and of Its Dev-Team.

*Not a conclusion  
of the document  
but a personal  
statement*

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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