

Brief Biographical Note of Pedro Ferraz de Abreu

Pedro Ferraz de Abreu founded and coordinates the informal “e-Planning Consortium” (www.e-planning.org), integrating 5 Universities and several Institutions (in Portugal and Brazil) in close collaboration with MIT (USA). e-Planning is a transdisciplinary scientific area he and Joseph Ferreira Jr. developed at MIT in 2003, articulating the study of Engineering with Social Sciences for better e-government, e-governance and e-citizenship.

The e-Planning Consortium offers a joint Doctoral Program, with an e-Planning Laboratory, whose international team directs. One of the "flag" projects he leads is on e-Planning for Local Power & Citizen empowerment in the Digital Transition, having as main partner the National Association of Municipal Assemblies (ANAM), representing the Municipalities of Portugal (www.anam.pt), that recently also joined the Consortium.

He is currently a Researcher at University of Lisboa (CIAUD-FA-UL) and Research Associate at the Dept. Urban Studies and Planning (DUSP) of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Institute with whom it has been affiliated since 1986. He founded (and chaired since 1996) CITIDEP - Research Center on Information Technology for Participatory Democracy (www.citidep.net), an international network of researchers, based in Lisbon, and which has a vast "portfolio" of high impact projects, such as IMS (www.citidep.net/ims/) and EuroLifeNet (www.eurolifenet.org)

He was an Invited Full Professor at the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Lisbon, at the University of Aveiro (2015-2019), at the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon (2013-2014) and at the Instituto Superior de Ciencias Sociais e Politicas of the Technical University of Lisbon (2007-2012). He was one of the founders of the International Forum of Portuguese Researchers (1998).

A former student political activist, founder of MAEESL (student movement of all Highschools of Lisbon, persecuted by the fascist regime), and student leader at Faculdade de Ciencias de Lisboa, he was expelled from all Universities by the Dictatorship and forced to go underground by arrest warrants (1972-74). Pedro left the political party (but never the civic) intervention in 1975, after the victory of the carnation revolution (1974), beginning his professional life as a metallurgical (Nervion) and chemical worker (Soda Povoá), studying at night.

Pedro has a Bachelor's Degree in Electronic Engineering and Telecommunications (ISEL), a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Engineering (FCT-UNL), a Master's Degree in Intelligent Computer-Human Interface, (MIT-Media Lab), and a PhD in Urban & Regional Planning, (MIT- DUSP); degrees that are part of a long path dedicated to research and intervention, focused on transdisciplinary (e-Planning) approaches to Information and Communication Technology and its social, institutional and citizen empowerment impacts, namely for Digital Inclusion in the so called "Digital Transition".