

PRESS RELEASE

Portugal hosts Open edX - the world's leading event on technology in education and training

April 26-29 at Nova School of Business and Economics

The Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) and Nova School of Business and Economics (SBE) welcome the face-to-face return of Open edX 2022, the most important international MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) conference, from 26 to 29 of April, in Carcavelos. The event will bring together the international community of ed-tech experts to discuss the future of education and work, combined with the globalization challenges of access to training and lifelong skills development.

Initially scheduled for 2020, the pandemic context forced Open edX to be postponed to 2022 and Portugal was the chosen place for this return. The reason for the choice is related to the pioneering spirit of our country in this area, introduced by MAU - Sempre a Aprender, a service developed and managed by the FCCN Unit of FCT, which allows the creation of courses in MOOC format, that is, courses open and accessible to all, produced by recognized and relevant entities in society.

For three days, this event composed of lectures and workshops brings a program full of case studies focused on the innovative use of technologies in Higher Education, in companies and state entities on a global scale. Open edX will be a space for sharing ideas, solutions and tools brought by some of the main experts and professionals in the field, focusing on the themes of pedagogy and instructional design in the production and delivery of courses.

Among the keynote speakers who will participate in the event, highlight for Anant Agarwal, professor at MIT and founder of edX, in an intervention entitled "The Future University: Pivot to Learner-Centricity"; Tobie Langel, one of the leading experts in open source, to address the topic "From Open Governance to Collective Ownership"; and Paula Marques, Executive Director for Education, Innovation and Digital at Nova SBE, who will explain more about this context in "Changing the Game's Rules: From Scalable Efficiency to Scalable Learning". These names are also joined by representatives of FCT | FCCN and the NAU platform. Pedro Cabral, NAU platform manager, Nika Shahidian, data analyst, Ivo Branco, software developer, and Sandro Costa, eLearning designer/developer, will contribute in interventions on the current situation of online learning platforms.

Ed Zarecor, Founder of edX, says that this conference "will bring together the Open edX community to share the achievements and lessons learned over two years of working remotely. It will be a moment of reunion between people who have contributed a lot to the growth of this area of training and education and who are eager to once again discuss, in person, their vision for the future of the platform and the open-source community itself."

According to João Gomes, Director of Advanced Services FCT | FCCN, the entity that oversees NAU Platform, "the platform is based on edX software and has been an active member of this community since the start. It is a great pleasure to co-host this important conference together with NovaSBE. In addition to being committed to making it a great conference back to face-to-face, we intend to take advantage of these days to strengthen the partnership ties we have with various entities present and open new collaborations in the area of massive online training."

Founded in 2012 by Harvard University and MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), edX is a non-profit organization responsible for the open-source software to promote open and massive online courses used in universities around the world, and which has currently around 14 million registered students.



Tickets for this event are available <u>here</u>.

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