REFORMING DISTANCE LEARNING IN PORTUGAL: Some comments from University of Minho perspective

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Abstract *— In the new legal framework of higher education institutions of 2007, the Portuguese Government made a commitment to develop new legislation for distance learning higher education. A Panel of external experts was constituted to advise the Government on the nature of reforms needed for the distance learning sector for it to play its rightful role in Portuguese higher education system. The objective of the Government was to assess the need for expanding the distance learning sector and the potential requirements for new legislation in pursuit of this objective. The Panel's report is intended to serve as a basis for consultation with the stakeholders before the Government comes to a decision on the nature and shape of the needed reforms. University of Minho was one of the 12 institutions listened. In this paper we'll discuss the major recommendations made by the panel and the divergences from our own point of view.*

Index Terms — Distance learning, Portuguese higher education system.

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