My stay at CMU ran from September 5 to December 13, 2010. Despite having a plan of intensive work at the Software Engineering Institute (SEI) at CMU, due to security restrictions and sudden termination of the project in which I would be inserted, the collaboration was reduced to some work together to prepare for a future initiative on crowdsourcing for disaster situations.

Having taken note of the security restrictions only 3 days before departure to the United States, I decided to do everything possible to transform a problematic situation into an opportunity to establish new contacts for research.

Thus, in the first seminar on the crowdsourcing, I realized that this topic has sparked interest among students and colleagues at CMU. After this seminar I received an invitation to develop a mini-course on crowdsourcing that is being prepared with Ari Lightman (CMU) and Linda Levine (SEI). In the semester of 2010/2011 we will have a class in video conferencing, joining students of UMinho with students of CMU. Ari Lightman and Linda Levine also joined a project proposal submitted to the FP7-SME ASSOCIATION -2011-1 (Research for SME Associations).

At the same time I started working with a colleague, Linda Argote, from Tepper School of CMU. In addition to participating in classes taught by her I developed a model of organizational memory that uses the metaphor of human memory as a reference. I presented this model in one of the classes and submitted a paper to the Organization Science Winter Conference (OSWC-XVII) on Organizational Memory, which was accepted. In this part of my research I’ll continue to collaborate with Linda Argote next year 2011 and with the iLab at CMU (Coordinated by Prof. Ramayya Krishnan). During the months of January and February I will be using a data set of iLAB to make a first test of the model before I validate it in an organizational setting.

Finally, I used this time to establish closer contacts with a research group in Neuroscience at Harvard University as well as to do two talks about crowdsourcing in other American universities, Penn State University and Virginia Commonwealth University. The theme of the talks was "the Crowdsourcing an open innovation model" and obtained a strong participation by masters and doctoral students, and faculty. These talks also resulted in interest in defining joint projects in these universities with colleagues that I know for some time from international activities of IFIP (International Federation for Information Processing) and AIS (Association for Information Systems).

My stay in CMU/Pittsburgh was a great experience for the contacts I was able to make with colleagues and students of CMU as well as the sharing of practices and experiences with them. I also think it was an enriching experience for the sharing it allowed with Portuguese colleagues, namely Rui Maranhão (FEUP), José Maria Fernandes (UA) and Hans Reiser (FCUL).
I believe the program will reach its full potential by facilitating the emergence of a knowledge community among the various participants, students and faculty of both the CMU and Portugal, beyond to the travel times of each individual. This community would allow the exchange of experiences, the development of future projects and an ongoing liaison between all those who one day took advantage of the support provided by the program.

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