This short report summarizes the activity developed during my visit at the Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), hosted by David Greenstreet (SDS—Social and Decision Sciences Department), from September 15th to December 14th, 2011.

My visit was mainly devoted to research issues and the work essentially followed the originally proposed plan of activities. More specifically, my work with David Greenstreet was focused on the study of the relationship between export-market participation and productivity performance at the firm level by examining total factor productivity (TFP) differences between exporting and non-exporting Portuguese firms in manufacturing and services sectors. The greatest part of my stay at CMU was devoted to study and experiment different solutions to the econometric problem of the estimation of (unobserved) firm-level productivity as the residual of the production function, using the observed firm-level variables, namely, the dynamic panel estimators by Arellano and Bond (1991) and Blundell and Bond (1998) and the structural estimators by Olley and Pakes (1996), Levinsohn and Petrin (2003) and Ackerberg, Caves and Frazer (2006). Research will continue over the next months.

During my visit, I also had the opportunity to attend several interesting presentations and seminars on a wide range of topics. This enriched my research knowledge and provided me with new ideas for future researches.

I also used this time to establish closer contacts with other SDS researchers, opening the door to future research collaborations.

Overall, my visit to CMU was very fruitful, and I believe that my visit it will have a long lasting effect on my research. Several lines of joint work are open and should produce results in the near future.

Pittsburgh, December 14th 2011