ACCREDITATION OF ENGINEERING COURSES IN PORTUGAL

F. Maciel BARBOSA*

Abstract: *The accreditation system for Engineering courses in Portugal was launched by the OE "Ordem dos Engenheiros" [3] (Institute of Portuguese Engineers) in 1994. Currently there is a keen international awareness that education quality is a key factor for development and social aspects. Guarantee the quality of the courses is extremely important either for the student that needs to choose the course so as to the professional that is looking for a job. The accreditation systems guarantees high professional standards and reinforce creditability in this profession.*

In Portugal there are classical Universities, Technical Universities and Polytechnic Institutes. The students can get a "Licenciatura" in Engineering after a five years course at the University. The "Licenciatura" has a wide formation in engineering technologies so as a deep knowledge in mathematics and physics.

At the Polytechnic the students can get a degree after a three years course ("Bacharelato"). After this three years course they can get a job or they can go on for a two years course at the end of which they get the "Licenciatura". The first cycle of the course at the Polytechnics has mathematics and physics so as technological subjects to prepare the students to get a job. At the second cycle at the Polytechnics the students complete their formation in mathematics and physics so as their technological subjects.