

Ladies and gentlemen,

In 2008/2009 I started to work on my Master's Thesis at a multinational chemical company – Solvay Portugal, with only very basic notions about the meaning and the importance of the quality of a result. The company was interested in the method validation for six quality parameters of its industrial wastewaters discharge in order to meet the legal requirements.

To improve my knowledge on metrology I attended a TrainMiC® event. And a few months later, in 2009, I had the opportunity of enrolling in the EuroMaster on Measurement Science in Chemistry, and participated to the Intensive Summer School in Blagoevgrad- Bulgaria. I met a lot of people and made friends; people of different languages with different ways of thinking and working. This amazing experience gave me a new insight into the tools of method validation and measurement uncertainty. We visited a laboratory that was preparing for accreditation and this was perfect timing for me. I could use these new experiences and acquired skills in the preparation of my thesis.

Applying all the things I learned I managed to complete my Master's degree with an excellent classification. And I built up a very good CV.

After my Master's Project the Laboratory of Solvay Portugal asked me to stay for another year in order to develop and implement the quality control in routine. I worked on the preparation of the Quality Manual and on the organizational and technical procedures and forms for the implementation of ISO-17025. I also had the opportunity of participating in the first internal audit with certified auditors from the Portuguese Accreditation Institute, IPAC.

I am now moving to another job and had the possibility of even choosing from different job offers, which, at a time where unemployment is a problem, is something very exceptional. As a result of my CV, in which the EuroMaster on Measurement Science in Chemistry is very important, I have been selected for a position at the Portuguese Institute for Fisheries and Marine Research, IPIMAR, whose mission it is to conduct research and development applied to the sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture sectors.

I will work on sampling programmes and measuring metal concentration using highly sophisticated techniques. I will start in November and I aim at a Doctoral degree from the University of Lisbon. I want to learn more and continue to count on the support of Prof. Filomena Camões and Prof. Ricardo Bettercourt da Silva that led to me being here today. I would like to share with you this feeling of achievement.

Sometimes in life we have to make choices and I have made some lucky ones.

My new working place is located on the river Tejo where, by another coincidence, there is the Monument to the Discoveries showing Pedro Nunes whose findings in the Science of Measurement have had so much historical relevance.

*As European citizens we will certainly be meeting again and I invite you to come and visit Portugal and our beautiful city of Lisbon
Thank you very much.*

Bárbara Anes