



RoboParty'2017 short summary Univ. do Minho

The 11th RoboParty edition held last 2 to 4 March at University of Minho in Guimarães, Portugal, was very successful. This event was organized by University of Minho and botnroll.com and hosted about 500 young people in 120 registered teams, with all robots completely built and in full operation, under a relaxed environment with great enjoy and happiness. Important to point out the participation of teams coming from Brazil.

The program began with the solemn opening session, with the presence of the University of Minho Rector, the city of Guimarães mayor, the Directorate General of Education of the Portuguese Government, and other individuals. All the elements emphasized the importance of this event, both at the technological level and at the educational level, and also because of the young age of the participants and its importance for the future.

Shortly afterwards, the first training was started "construction of the controller board and electronic components soldering", and then it was delivered the electronic and mechanical components for the construction of the Kit Arduino compatible, Bot'n Roll ONE A. The participants started the robot construction and in a few hours the robots were already assembled by most of the teams. The participants could, in parallel, enjoy some fun and sporting activities such as badminton tournament, chess tournament and Jump class.

After dinner there was a traditional musical performance of the Tuna Afonsina - Engineering Tuna of the University of Minho, and the Tun'Obebes - Female Engineering Tuna of the University of Minho. Participants continued to work night in, and a good percentage stayed the whole night working, such was the will to see the robot built. Those who gave in to fatigue rested in a sleeping bag and mattresses made available on the spot, in a side area of the pavilion called RoboHotel.

On the second day, there was a training on "Arduino IDE" robot programming and the participants started to program their botnroll ONE A. This language was much appreciated and easily learned. There was still time for a table tennis tournament. Teachers enrolled in the accredited training attended the Open Roberta class (a robot programming tool developed by the Fraunhofer Institute for the botnroll) and the OpenCV (image processing and computer vision tool). At the end of the day the robots were already programmed, and the first robotic challenge "Obstacles" was held. Some participants still managed to stay awake during the second night, albeit in smaller numbers.

On the third day, the race challenge was held (a robot chasing an opponent on a circle track with a bridge). A demonstration of Kick boxing followed in parallel, where participants could try guided by professionals.

After lunch in the canteen of the University of Minho, the dance challenge began, with mixed teams. With a large audience to watch, where practically the teams participated, which demonstrates the degree of success in building the robots. Here the participants showed their imagination and created beautiful robots, who danced to the rhythm of the music. Many photos were taken of all the robots, and participants, and there will be available on the official website in a couple of days on www.roboparty.org.

It should be noted that this year RoboParty provided government credited training to teachers, with 30 training hours, 1.2 credit units. The topics this years were about assembly and programming the robot, programming with Open Roberta (A robot programming tool developed by the Fraunhofer Institute for the botnroll) and OpenCV (an image processing and computer vision tool).

It is important to highlight the commitment of the approximately 120 volunteers students of Industrial Electronics, in order to organize such a large educational event.



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Photo of the robot built this year (Bot'n Roll ONE A)

