


Departamento de
Sistemas de Informação



Universidade do Minho

Programa de Doutoramento em
Tecnologias e Sistemas de Informação

Information Systems Security Policies in the Local Public Administration in Portugal

RESEARCH PROBLEM:

Due to the growing dependence of organizations on their Information Systems (IS), the value of information has assumed a vital importance to the organizations in the last decades. The organizations, which used to focus their attention mainly on their tangible assets (physical and financial), are now focusing their attention on the information asset.

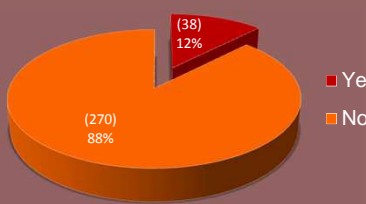
Information Systems Security (ISS) is a critical issue to bear in mind in the organizations all around the world. As far as Local Public Administration is concerned, what citizens expect from their local government is the development and updating of their IS, hoping that the offer of several online interactive services becomes a reality available to all, and that the security of the data used in those services has been carefully dealt with.

In the IS research domain, there is a reasonable number of studies into the security policies theme. However, the number of studies is reduced when we consider empirical works related to the adoption of security policies. With respect to Local Public Administration in Portugal, these studies are almost inexistent.

PRELIMINARY RESEARCH FINDINGS:

In consequence of the absence of studies into this area in the Town Councils, a survey was made and carried out in 308 municipalities. The main goal of this survey was to obtain an answer to the following question: "Do the Portuguese Town Councils have ISS policies implemented?" The results of the survey showed that 38 of the 308 town councils in Portugal have ISS policies and 270 of them do not have any ISS policy implemented or are still in the process of creating one for further implementation.

To have a Security Policies



Response	Count	Percentage
Yes	38	12%
No	270	88%

RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

The emphasis of this research proposal is to identify the factors which influence, positive and negatively, the adoption and application of ISS policies. Considering the aims of this research proposal and in order to bring this work to a successful conclusion, a series of questions must be raised such:

- Which factors influence the adoption of an ISS security policy by Portuguese Town Councils?
- What are the features of the existing ISS policies in Portuguese Town Councils?
- How do ISS policy adoption and application factors inter-relate in the realm of Portuguese Town Councils?
- What recommendations can be advanced in order to increase the adoption and application of ISS policies by the Portuguese Town Councils?

Author: Isabel Maria Lopes
Supervisor: Prof. Filipe de Sá-Soares
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