

## The Gulbenkian Portuguese Language Programme

The Gulbenkian Portuguese Language Programme (PGLP) was set up in 2003, with the aim of encouraging the promotion and development of the Portuguese language by supporting activities carried out by third parties or by the Foundation.

	Amounts in euros
Personnel costs	119 356
Subsidies and grants	684 909
Own initiative	582 518
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 386 783</b>
Receipts	22 689

### Subsidies

[€684 909]

The PGLP granted subsidies to a vast range of projects and activities, adopting guidelines of quality, rigour and effectiveness, both in terms of selecting the projects from amongst those submitted to the programme and in terms of projects and activities implemented by third parties but stimulated by the PGLP.

The following were of particular note: competitions to support the promotion of reading in municipal public libraries; incentives for reading in small libraries; and initiatives for the promotion of language and literature. Subsidies were also granted to school libraries/resource centres under the terms of the agreement signed between the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and the National Reading Plan.

One hundred and eighty-five schools and groups of schools received support under the scope of the agreement signed with the National Reading Plan.

The Competition to Support Projects to Promote Reading in Public Libraries aims to support innovative projects in municipal public libraries. A public call was made for proposals and 54 projects were submitted. The idea of these subsidies is to encourage the appearance of innovative projects for the promotion of reading, whose quality is such as to produce an effect of greater dissemination. Ten projects were selected from amongst those presented, and the proposals of the following municipal libraries should be highlighted:

*Project:* Reading Paths

*Proposed by:* Pombal Municipal Library

*Aim:* To develop the reading of literature in a group of roughly 50 children aged between 4 and 6, with the involvement of the respective families.

*Project:* Twelve Months, Twelve Writers

*Proposed by:* Matosinhos Municipal Library

*Aim:* To promote the direct contact of the reading public with 12 Portuguese writers, at monthly meetings.

*Project:* Inventing Readers

*Proposed by:* Montemor-o-Novo Municipal Library

*Aim:* To promote the creation of a readers' community with teenagers from the municipality.

Nineteen subsidies were also awarded to projects designed to encourage reading in small libraries. These subsidies are essentially designed to aid in the purchase of resources in small libraries at parish councils, cultural associations or social centres, which are ineligible to apply for funding under the terms of the Gulbenkian's Support for Public Libraries. Amongst the organisations awarded subsidies, attention is drawn to Alcains Parish Council, Areosa Parish Social Centre, Lageosense Social Welfare Association, Suão – Community Development Association.

The aim of Support for Projects Promoting Language and Literature is to contribute towards implementing third-party activities. The two factors prioritised by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation were reinforced by the creation of the PGLP. Of the four projects receiving subsidies, the following were of particular importance: *Livros Viajantes*, a documentary on mobile libraries in Portugal, produced by David & Golias; and the online publication of the complete works of Fernando Pessoa, carried out by the "Obra Aberta" Cultural Cooperative.

The "Bilingual Classes in Portuguese Schools" project, run by the Institute of Theoretical and Computational Linguistics (ILTEC), changed its name to Bilingualism, Learning Portuguese as a Second Language and Educational Success in Portuguese Schools, continuing the development of the experiment currently in progress involving the bilingual teaching of Portuguese-Cape Verde Creole in a bilingual class at a Portuguese school. In parallel to this, a new component was incorporated that was designed to promote the creation and application of strategies and materials leading to the educational success of Portuguese as a non-native language. This project is expected to last for sixty months.

The project known as the Gulbenkian "The Home of Reading" project, which was completed at the end of 2008, is based on a website composed of two separate sites [(“Serviço de Orientação da Leitura” (“Reading Guidance Service”) and “ABZ de Leitura” (“The ABZ of Reading”)].

The “Serviço de Orientação da Leitura” compiles essential information about publications (recent ones, above all, but also the classics, in some cases even in foreign languages) in the vast area of children's and young persons' literature. The “ABZ de Leitura” is dedicated to reading mediators and specialists, and, on this website, in addition to a specific bibliography selected after a careful study of nationwide shortcomings in this area, are to be found theoretical guidelines, information about projects already in progress, and, above all, the different laboratories – scattered around the country and distributed according to the various contexts and ages – which test in the field the countless practical suggestions that are presented there. Another aspect of the project, known as the “Living Library”, seeks to develop a list of suggested activities for encouraging reading. These activities are being tried out in two municipal public libraries (in Odivelas and Beja) and in two school libraries (in Ferreira do Alentejo), which will be set up as “laboratories” of good practices.

In January 2009, the international conference on “Training Readers to Read the World” will be held. This is intended to provide a forum for reflection and debate on themes developed on the “Home of Reading” website and will mark the end of the first phase of this project.

## Own initiatives

[€679 185]

The 18th Children's Literature Conference, under the title "Idle Words – The Language that Books Talk", organised by Rita Taborda Duarte. Besides the four panels bringing together specialists in this field, two workshops were also held, on the animation of children's books and traditional stories.

The "Weltliteratur – Madrid, Paris, Berlin, St. Petersburg, the World!" exhibition, curated by António M. Feijó, was held in the exhibition hall from the end of September 2008 to the beginning of January 2009. The architects Manuel Aires Mateus and Francisco Aires Mateus were responsible for the organisation and layout of the exhibition area.

A catalogue was published to accompany the exhibition, with graphic design by João Bicker/FBA. Besides reproducing all the texts and documents included in the exhibition, it also contains six previously unpublished essays.

During the three months that the exhibition was being held, a cycle of 18 lectures took place, with a wide range of different speakers: V. S. Naipaul, Eduardo Lourenço, António Coutinho, Clara Pinto Correia, Miguel Tamen, D. José Policarpo, Maria Filomena Mónica, Rui Ramos, Eduardo Batarada, Vasco Graça Moura, Maria Filomena Molder, Teresa Beleza, José Pacheco Pereira, Luísa Costa Gomes and Frederico Lourenço.

The [leitur@gulbenkian](mailto:leitur@gulbenkian) website continues to be updated regularly, with critical reviews of the works published in Portugal.

## ***Colóquio/Letras*** magazine

In 2008, the tests were completed for the development of the graphic interfaces and the research system for the website of the *Colóquio/Letras* magazine ([www.coloquio.gulbenkian.pt](http://www.coloquio.gulbenkian.pt)), a phase that enjoyed the cooperation of the Art Library. The research system required the construction of a database, with 8,800 main entries (articles) and hundreds of thousands of secondary entries (works quoted, literary data, historical data...), as well as the formation of a team to compile and index the contents.

Amongst many other functions, it is possible to access all the summaries of the *Colóquio/Letras* magazine, research by contributors, themes or authors studied, and visualise the roughly 24,000 pages of the magazine published since the appearance of its very first issue in March 1971.

The public presentation of the website took place in Room 1 at the Foundation, on 19 May 2008, at a session that enjoyed the participation of António Feijó, from the Faculty of Letters of the University of Lisbon, and the actor Ricardo Araújo Pereira.

The website has been available online on an experimental basis since October 2007 and, by the end of 2008, it had received a total of 352,461 visits (195,260 of which were from people in Brazil).

Meanwhile, at the end of 2008, the Board of Trustees decided to create an editorial board for the magazine, chaired by Eduardo Lourenço, and appointed Nuno Júdice as the new director.