

❖ Gulbenkian Programme to Combat Failure at School and Early School Leaving

The Gulbenkian Programme to Combat Failure at School and Early School Leaving was set up in 2008, with the aim of encouraging the development of innovative projects that help to combat failure at school and early school leaving and to improve the standards of both teaching and learning. Such projects must identify, promote and develop concrete experiences that make it possible to create the appropriate conditions for an effective improvement in the quality of the learning achieved by children and young people.

The aim is also to issue a challenge to the whole educational community, in its broadest and most complete sense (teachers, parents, school support staff, students, cultural, recreational and business associations, etc.), to commit themselves to projects of quality and excellence that may be promoted as effective proposals for combating failure at school and early school leaving.

Under the scope of this programme, public institutions from the basic education system (pre-school and 1st, 2nd and 3rd cycles) were invited to apply for support for projects designed to combat failure at school and early school leaving.

282 applications were received, and after an exhaustive analysis had been carried out in accordance with strict criteria, 12 projects were selected:

- › Acácio de Azevedo Group of Schools (Oliveira do Bairro) – “Sound and Image”;
- › Francisco Arruda Group of Schools (Ajuda, Lisbon) – “Literacy and Inclusion – Dreaming of Utopia”;
- › Lourosa Vertical Group of Schools – “This School is Mine”;
- › Luísa Todi Vertical Group of Schools (Setúbal) – “Success Option”;
- › Moure Group of Schools (Vila Verde) – “Knowledge is in My Hands”;

- › Lagares Vertical Group of Schools (Felgueiras) – “Faces and Pathways”;
- › Pontinha Group of Schools (Lisbon) – “Galileo: the Fascination of Knowledge”;
- › Évora EBIJI Group 1 – (Malagueira) – “Step by Step”;
- › Torre School from the 2nd and 3rd Cycles of Basic Education (Câmara de Lobos) – “Teaching Team Learning”;
- › Baião School from the 2nd and 3rd Cycles of Basic Education and Secondary Education “(Lack of) Success? ! Let’s go for it!”;
- › Évora No. 4 Group of Schools – “ ... Improvement in the Subjects of Mathematics, English and Portuguese ...”;
- › José Régio Secondary School, with the 3rd Cycle of Basic Education (Vila do Conde) – “Building Bridges: School – Family – Community”.

A subsidy was also granted towards the expenses of the “Education in the Rural Environment” project, carried out by the Oliveira do Bairro Institute of Education and Citizenship (IEC).

The IEC is located in a parish of the municipality of Oliveira do Bairro, a region that has one of the lowest rates of cultural and economic development nationwide.

Since the rates of school failure and early school leaving in this municipality of the Bairrada region are amongst the worst in the whole of the country, the IEC’s educational programme is of the utmost importance in striving for a better level of education in Portugal.

The total amount spent on this activity was

[€280 751]