





**1c. Transverse
and Innovative
Projects**

SAUDAR – Health and the Air We Breathe

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[€16 900]

During 2008, the “Saudar” project completed its activity, in which it sought to analyse the relationship between (indoor and outdoor) air quality and human health, in order to promote better health conditions for the target population of the study through the improvement of the air quality, also seeking to disseminate a working methodology that may prove useful for other regions of the country in undertaking studies of a similar nature, as well as to promote a series of good practices.



In November, a session was held to present the results of the project and the launch of a book that describes the preparation and implementation of the project in detail, presents the methodology used and makes proposals for the dissemination of the information to the population and the transmission of practical advice, in an attempt to correct behaviours and practices that are harmful to health.

The project was undertaken in the municipality of Viseu and presents proposals for its application in many other regions of the country where similar situations are to be found.

Interuniversity Programme for Scientific Capacity Strengthening

Component of the Education and Scholarships Department

[€85 000]

The Interuniversity Doctoral Programme in Mathematics was begun in 2007 and is expected to last for three academic years. It came into being through the combined efforts of the scientific committees of the Department of Pure Mathematics of the Faculty of Science of the University of Porto and the Department of Mathematics of the Faculty of Science and Technology of the University of Coimbra, who wished to set up a postgraduate teaching programme that could become a benchmark of quality in research into mathematics and therefore sought to gain international recognition for the schools.

In 2008, four students attended this Interuniversity Doctoral Programme on scholarships provided by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. This support took the form of the payment of the fees, a monthly subsidy and the corresponding social security contributions.

Component of the Science Department

[€60 000]

Under the scope of the Interuniversity Programme for Scientific Capacity Strengthening, a Transverse and Innovative Project approved by the Board of Trustees at the end of 2006, a component was established that would provide support for the recruitment of mid-career scientists, considered to be an important tool for the transformation of the university environment.

In 2007, a protocol was signed between the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and the Faculty of Medical Sciences of the New University of Lisbon with the aim of sharing the benefits accruing from the scientific cooperation proposed between the two institutions. In this context, the first action taken was to develop scientific research projects in the area of cellular and molecular biology. The programme is being undertaken at the Faculty of Medical Sciences of the New University of Lisbon and at the Gulbenkian Institute of Science, from 2007 to 2011, and its progress is monitored and assessed on an annual basis.

Ageing and Health

The first phase of an experimental project, designed in partnership between the Health and Human Development Department and the United Kingdom Branch, was started in 2008. This essentially consisted of reflecting on the problems caused by the ageing of the population, making it possible to establish priorities for future interventions in problematic areas, such as dementia, intergenerational relations and loneliness. The results will make it possible to synthesise a set of conclusions and recommendations, with the aim of establishing guidelines for such interventions.

During the year, three conferences were held, exploring the themes of dementia, isolation and intergenerational conflict, identifying common issues and areas in Portugal and the United Kingdom, with the aim of establishing ongoing cooperation between the two countries. Different subsidies were awarded in support of new approaches and innovative ideas to meet the challenge presented by the ageing of populations. This aspect included the report of the Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR) entitled *The Politics of Ageing* (€ 51,100), the Royal Society of Art's "Action for Age" Design Awards (€ 73,000), research undertaken by Independent Age into the potential of the new technologies for reducing isolation (€ 37,230), and the work of STEER Mental Health, which looked into intergenerational models for helping elderly people with mental health problems (€ 21,900).