



CIEC IN THE NEWS

Here's what happens at CIEC!!



Editorial

CIEC continues to focus on advanced training, attracting funding through projects, and internationalisation. All three areas are clearly on show in this edition of the CIEC newsletter, which once again highlights the success of the Centre's researchers in securing new projects funded by the European Union, winning international awards, and achieving another individual CEEC position in the latest Scientific Employment Stimulus Competition. In addition, there is more news of our FCT-funded doctoral scholarships, and reports on the work of CIEC researchers as they continue to participate widely in prestigious international conferences, presenting their research results and strengthening networks and partnerships. We continue to give a voice to our research fellows and doctoral students, including three newly-hired scholarship holders, and we find out about our researchers' regular participation in a wide range of initiatives, such as the European Researchers' Night 2025. We also hear about the noteworthy coverage of CIEC and its researchers in the national media, as well as keeping track of the regular visits to the Centre by foreign researchers. Looking forward, the III International Conference on Child Studies is currently being prepared and will take place at the University of Minho next year. Once again, it will be co-organised by CIEC and other similar international centres. It remains for me to thank everyone who contributed directly and indirectly to the production of this newsletter.



Maria Assunção Flores
Director of CIEC

CIEC doctoral student wins international award in Serbia

Adriana Cunha won the ERC 2025 Best Poster Award at the *Emerging Researchers' Conference* (ERC), organised by the European Educational Research Association in Belgrade

[more information](#)



CIEC researcher Assunção Flores once again features on the list of the world's top 2% most influential scientists

The World's Top 2% Scientists 2025 list includes the world's most influential scientists based on their index, volume of publications and citations of their work, according to the Scopus database up to August 2025.

[more information](#)



CIEC researcher wins individual CEEC in the Scientific Employment Stimulus Competition

Eva Fernandes took first place in the latest, 7th edition of the Scientific Employment Stimulus Competition (CEEC) with the project 'DAP - Diversification of assessment practices in primary education through a dynamic approach to teachers' professional development'

[more information](#)



CIEC has two more projects funded by the European Union

The first, 'AI Academy: A European Collaborative Framework for AI Teacher Training and School Innovation', involves the participation of CIEC researchers Assunção Flores and Diana Pereira.

The second, 'Co-Play STEAM Project: Promoting STEAM Education in Childhood through Computational Play', includes CIEC researchers Cristina Sylla, Orlanda Tavares and Cristina Parente.

[more information](#)



CIEC'S NEW FACE

Ana Gabriela de Arantes e Silva

My name is Ana Gabriela Silva, I have a degree in Education and I am currently studying for a master's degree in Educational Mediation at the University of Minho. I am a research fellow at CIEC, where I collaborate in the analysis of data from the Centre's projects and provide support in technical and scientific activities and audiovisual production. In addition, I have organised and coordinated educational and cultural events, as well as managing social networks and institutional communication. I consider myself to have good communication and organizational skills with experience in project management, team leadership and mediation, and I am constantly developing academically and professionally.



Rosa Maria Barbosa Ferreira

My name is Rosa Ferreira, I have a degree in Education from the University of Minho and I am currently studying for a master's degree in Education, specialising in Educational Mediation. I have experience in pre-school and primary school educational contexts, where I have developed skills in communication, empathy and group dynamics management. In addition, there is also a creative and entrepreneurial side to my professional career. As a research fellow, I am part of the *ED-TED project: Equity and Diversity in Teacher Educator Professional Development*, funded by the European Union and coordinated by Prof. Assunção Flores, through which I seek to combine research and professional practice.



Daniel Alexandre das Neves de Ramos Rosa

My name is Daniel Alexandre das Neves de Ramos Rosa. I was born on 15 June 2001 in São Domingos de Benfica, Lisbon. After living in Sintra for 20 years, I now live in Braga. I have a degree in Digital Animation (2022) and work as a digital film restorer. I have extensive experience as an assistant teacher in study rooms from primary to secondary school level, and between 2018 and 2025, I tutored Descriptive Geometry, a subject I wish to teach in the future. I am currently studying for a master's degree in Visual Arts Teaching in the 3rd Cycle of Basic Education and Secondary Education at the University of Minho and I am part of the EMIC-STEAM project. Passionate about learning, I am interested in Curriculum Studies, Philosophy, Politics, etc. I really enjoy reading, writing short stories, thinking about seemingly useless topics, or simply lying on the grass in the sun on a summer afternoon.



OUR RESEARCHERS

Paula Cristina Martins

As a full member of CIEC, I teach in the fields of Justice Psychology and Criminology. I have both a bachelor's and master's degree in Psychology and a PhD in Child Studies. My research focuses on the areas of protecting children and young people at risk and juvenile delinquency. I have been part of research teams for FCT-funded projects on professionals' representations of child abuse and the assessment of foster care contexts. I coordinated the projects 'Images of Childhood - media discourses on children at risk' and 'Child Poverty, Risk and Resilience', while also being responsible, on behalf of the University of Minho, for the Erasmus+ AESOP project. I led the *International Self-Report Delinquency Study* (ISR3 and ISR4) in Portugal and currently participate in the teams of two research projects funded by FCT on intergenerational transmission of violence - *Breaking the Cycle: Dynamics of Intergenerational Transmission of Violence through Biological, Epigenetic, and Psychosocial Pathways* (VBEPATH) - and *Causal Attributions of Vulnerability: Social Responsibility, Prejudice, and the Legitimation of Hate Speech* (BIASED).



OUR PHD STUDENTS

Maria Manuela Unas

I am currently undertaking a PHD in Educational Sciences, with a specialization in Curriculum Development, at the University of Minho, under the supervision of Professor Maria Assunção Flores (University of Minho, Braga) and Professor Sandra Fernandes (Portugalense University, Porto). I am conducting my doctoral project, entitled School Leadership and the Implementation of Curricular Autonomy and Flexibility: The Perspective of Actors in Context, within the Research Centre on Child Studies (CIEC) with funding from the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), under the individual doctoral grant reference SFRH.2020.06934.BD. The research draws upon and contributes to a broader national-level research project entitled Investigating the Effects of School Leadership on Student Outcomes (PTDC/CED-EDG/28570/2017), also funded by the FCT and coordinated by Professor Maria Assunção Flores.

Methodologically, the study adopts a multiple case study approach with a mixed-methods design. Qualitative data collection includes interviews with school principals, focus groups with school leadership teams, teachers, students, and parents/legal guardians, as well as the analysis of key school documents and open-ended responses from questionnaire surveys. Quantitative data was gathered through statistical analysis of closed-ended survey responses from school principals, leadership teams, and teachers. The study was conducted in three school clusters and one non-clustered school. All ethical procedures governing research involving human participants have been strictly observed. Throughout this process, I have benefited from the attentive and insightful supervision of my academic advisors, whose expertise and availability have been instrumental to the development of the project. Moreover, the opportunity to participate regularly in the academic seminars organized by the CIEC has greatly enriched my experience, offering a collaborative environment for intellectual exchange, critical discussion, and interdisciplinary engagement. Additionally, I have had the privilege of attending specialized training sessions, academic conferences, and thematic seminars where I was able to engage with and learn from leading national and international scholars in the field of education. These experiences have significantly broadened my academic perspective and contributed meaningfully to the depth and progression of my doctoral and professional work.



ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT AS PART OF OUR PROJECTS

ERASMUS+ REACT Project - Rural eHealth Facilitators

Researchers Graça Carvalho and Teresa Vilaça participated in the *Fifth (and Final) Transnational Meeting Within The Rural eHealth Facilitators Project at the South Denmark EU Office*, Brussels, Belgium, which took place between 17 and 19 September 2025 and was also attended by researchers from France, the Netherlands and Denmark.

This project involved training teachers, health professionals and nursing student trainers in e-Health to train e-Health volunteers e-Health volunteers working in rural areas to promote the well-being of seniors through e-Health technologies. REACT gathered considerable evidence showing that older, vulnerable people can face many barriers to digital participation, which are often interconnected but can be contextualised according to differences between countries or between different regions within the same country. Therefore, REACT participants argue that it is crucial that the flexible curriculum for training professionals and volunteers and the associated teaching materials created in the project, validated in different countries, are disseminated and used proactively and widely in local and regional initiatives to address future challenges and opportunities in the digitalisation of older people in modern society.



ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT AS PART OF OUR PROJECTS

CIEC participates in European Researchers' Night 2025

On 26 September 2025, at 5:30 p.m., another workshop in the EMIC-STEAM project (<https://emicsteam.com/>) was held in cooperation with CIEC, this time on the theme 'Rethinking Consumption: How to work with "Fast Fashion" in a school context', led by researcher Cristina Sylla (Principal Investigator of the EMIC-STEAM project) and researchers Sandra Palhares, Orlanda Tavares, Diana Pereira and Eva Fernandes, together with fellows Daniel Ramos Rosa, Linda Ferreira and Sílvia Lordani.

This workshop took place at Fórum Braga, as part of European Researchers' Night 2025 (<https://noitedosinvestigadores.org>), and explored how to develop creative projects related to sustainable consumption with students. Based on the EMIC-STEAM approach, participants explored the theme of "fast fashion" using accessible materials (paper, cardboard, reusable objects), creating micro-projects that can be replicated in a school context. The workshop included an introductory unit, maker activities and sharing of ideas for dissemination in the classroom.



RECRUITMENT

As part of the first edition of the FCT-Tenure Competition, Orlanda Tavares was recently hired as an Assistant Researcher at CIEC. In addition, a position as Assistant Professor in the area of Curriculum Studies and Educational Technology was awarded to CIEC researcher Diana Pereira. CIEC congratulates both on their appointments and wishes them every success.



AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

Adriana Cunha

Adriana Cunha, a PhD student in Education Sciences, specialising in Curriculum Development, at CIEC, supervised by CIEC researcher Maria Assunção Flores, won the 'ERC 2025 Best Poster Award' at the Emerging Researchers' Conference (ERC), organised by the *European Educational Research Association*, in Belgrade.

During the conference, held on 8 and 9 September 2025, the international jury evaluated 23 posters presented in interactive sessions and selected the poster 'Becoming a Teacher: Master Degree Students Reflecting on Their Learning Experience' as the best poster of the conference.

The winner will receive free admission to next year's *Emerging Researchers' Conference (ERC) and European Conference on Educational Research (ECER)* in Tampere, Finland, as well as a travel grant worth €550.

CIEC welcomes this further distinction, which attests to the quality of the research carried out at the Centre.



Assunção Flores

Assunção Flores is once again among the top 2% of the world's most influential scientists, according to a study by Stanford University (USA) and the Elsevier publishing group.

The 'World's Top 2% Scientists 2025' includes the world's most influential scientists based on their index, volume of publications and citations of their work, according to the Scopus database up to August 2025.

This annual list was created in 2019 with the aim of creating a public repository on the impact and influence of researchers on the progress of scientific knowledge and to combat self-citation abuses. The list, called the 'World's Top 2% Scientists 2025', includes 236,000 researchers, 984 of whom are linked to institutions in Portugal. UMinho has 17 units represented, and among its first nominees on the global list is Assunção Flores, in fifth place.

CIEC welcomes this recognition.



Eva Fernandes

Eva Fernandes, junior researcher at CIEC, won first place in the latest Scientific Employment Stimulus Competition (CEEC) - 7th edition.

The approved project is entitled 'DAP - Diversification of assessment practices in primary education through a dynamic approach to teachers' professional development'. This study aims to investigate the assessment practices of primary school teachers and promote their professional development, with a particular focus on assessment strategies and tools. It will use a mixed methods research approach to explore how teachers adapt their assessment strategies in response to the new assessment model and to identify the challenges they face.



OUR PROJECTS

Co-Play STEAM and AI ACADEMY Project

CIEC has just won another Erasmus+ research project, co-funded by the European Union. The 'Co-Play STEAM' project aims to promote interest and excellence in science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics (STEAM) in early childhood education, supporting teachers and educators in implementing innovative teaching practices through computational play. At UMinho, the team is led by CIEC researcher Cristina Sylla. CIEC researchers Orlanda Tavares and Cristina Parente are also part of the UMinho team.

The project brings together an international network of partner institutions – Halmstad University (Sweden) coordinating partner, University College Nordjylland (Denmark), University of Stavanger (Norway), University of Minho, and the Comparative Research Network EV (Germany).

With this active participation, CIEC reaffirms its prominent position in the European education research landscape and reinforces the University of Minho's contribution to the development of creative, inclusive, and transformative approaches to teaching.

Under the ERASMUS-EDU-2025-PEX-TEACH-ACA call, the project 'AI Academy: A European Collaborative Framework for AI Teacher Training and School Innovation' was recently approved, with the participation of CIEC researchers Assunção Flores and Diana Pereira. The project aims to establish an international teacher academy focused on improving teacher training and development through innovative and diverse opportunities using the pedagogical integration of AI and the development of living labs and communities of practice. Six countries (Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, Norway, Poland and Portugal) and 14 institutions are participating in the project, including the University of Minho, through CIEC researchers, and Casa do Professor.



OUR RESEARCHERS ABROAD

Ana Sani

Researcher Ana Sani participated in one of the most important European conferences on criminology – EUROCRIM2025, held from 3 to 6 September in Athens, Greece, presenting the following studies:

- Raising awareness and preventing online sexual crimes against minors: insights from parents' knowledge and attitudes
- Digital exploitation and privacy violation: A study on victimisation through non-consensual intimate images
- Perceptions and attitudes towards image-based sexual abuse: A study of the Portuguese population

Her participation highlights the growing role of research focused on children and young people in addressing emerging social challenges and reaffirms science's commitment to contributing to a safer and more equitable world.



OUR RESEARCHERS ABROAD



Adriana Cunha, Assunção Flores, Diana Pereira, Eva Fernandes, Maria Teresa Vilaça e Orlanda Tavares

A group of researchers from our Centre participated in the *European Conference on Educational Research* (ECER 2025), which took place in Belgrade, Serbia, from 9 to 12 September. Their attendance included several scientific contributions in different formats. Adriana Cunha and Assunção Flores presented a poster entitled 'Becoming a Teacher: Master Degree Students Reflecting on Their Learning Experience'. In terms of communications, Assunção Flores presented 'How do Teachers Look at Their Professional Development? Opportunities and Constraints', while Maria Teresa Vilaça addressed the question 'To what extent do the Schools for Health in Europe Network Foundation materials improve the quality of Health Promoting Schools?'. Luís Costa, Diana Pereira and Assunção Flores also reflected on 'Perceptions of Assessment During and After the Pandemic: Students' Views and the Influence of Innovation Plans in Portuguese Schools'. In a co-authored paper, Diana Pereira, Eva Fernandes and Assunção Flores analysed future teachers' perceptions of the curriculum in 'Pre-Service Teachers' Views of Curriculum: Perceptions about the Curriculum and of Their Role as Curriculum Agents'. Orlanda Tavares, Eva Fernandes, Diana Pereira and Assunção Flores presented the study 'Exercising Leadership in a Remote School: A Multiperspective Case Study'. In turn, Eva Fernandes, Orlanda Tavares, Diana Pereira, and Assunção Flores discussed the challenges of managing the pandemic crisis in 'We Had to Improvise: Teachers' Views on Learning Losses and Crisis Management in Portuguese Schools.'

The event also included a panel discussion moderated by Diana Pereira and representatives of the AI2PI project's partner organisations, entitled 'Teacher academy AI2PI from artificial intelligence to pedagogical innovation', as well as a presentation by Assunção Flores at the 'Teachers and the practice of leadership' symposium.



OUR RESEARCHERS ABROAD

Ana Maria Serrano

Researcher Ana Maria Serrano participated in the Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Conference, held from 2 to 5 September 2025 at the ISCTE CAMPUS in Lisbon. The conference was a great success, resulting from a partnership between ISEI and EURLY AID, which attracted 832 registrations and 759 participants from 60 countries.

Photos of the event are available at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/iscteiu/>.

The preparatory work that made the conference such a success was the result of two and a half years of intense collaboration between ISEI and Eurllyaid together with ISCTE, University of Minho and ANIP. The main lectures and all the presentations and poster sessions achieved the organisers' aim of bringing together researchers, professionals, policy makers, families and all those interested in the topic of IPI from around the world. It was clear that all those involved in preparing the conference succeeded in making it a lively and vibrant space for sharing. It provided an opportunity to forge many connections, exchange information/experiences and build networks between professionals, researchers, policy makers and families. On Thursday morning, a minute's silence was observed in honour of the victims of the Elevador da Glória disaster. At that moment, it was not known that one of the participants, Heather Hall, mother of two young children and professor at the College of Charleston, South Carolina (USA), had died in this tragedy. Professor Michael Guralnick, founder of ISEI, stated: "Given the high quality of the conference, I am sure that all participants returned home with new knowledge, innovative plans to improve IPI in their communities, and a high level of enthusiasm to do so. Of great importance are the new collegial relationships that have formed around the world and that will certainly flourish over time."



Teresa Vilaça and Graça Carvalho

Researchers Teresa Vilaça and Graça Carvalho participated in the webinar 'Strengthening the inclusion in digital health and welfare services -2025: insights from the REACT Project', Brussels, on 18 September 2025, with the guest lecture 'REACT in Portugal: Digital Inclusion in the Context of High Digital Vulnerability'.



OUR RESEARCHERS ABROAD

Graça Simões de Carvalho

Researcher Graça Simões de Carvalho participated in the XV ENPEC (National Meeting on Science Education Research), presenting a study on 'Schooling and smoking: Differences in school performance among adolescents with different frequencies of tobacco consumption', under the theme 'Science and Health Education'.

The event took place in Belém, Amazonas, Pará, Brazil, between 4 and 8 August 2025.

She also participated in the opening round table of the XXI MIPE (Integrated Research and Extension Exhibition), on the theme 'Women in Science:

overcoming challenges and building the future', organised by the University Centre of Formiga (UNIFORM-MG), Formiga, Minas Gerais, Brazil, which took place from 19 to 20 August 2025.

See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUTgy9dBQfQ>



Zélia Anastácio

Zélia Anastácio participated as an international guest speaker at the VII Symposium on Languages and Hermeneutics in Contemporary Times / VI Interdisciplinary Exhibition on Languages and Hermeneutics / V International Seminar on Critical Theory and Cultural and Decolonial Studies, promoted by the Postgraduate Programme in Sociocultural Practices and Social Development, UNICRUZ, from 13 to 15 August 2025, with the theme Body Language and Clothing as an Expression of Culture and Time.

Zélia Anastácio also participated as a guest trainer in the Sexuality Education Workshop, promoted by the Dean of Extension and Culture, Federal University of ABC, UFABC, on 20 August 2025, with a seminar entitled Sexual Education with Menstrual Education to Build Healthy Childhoods.



Assunção Flores

Researcher Assunção Flores participated in the *Annual Conference of the Association for Teacher Education in Europe (ATEE)*, which took place from 26 to 29 August 2025 at the Marino Institute in Dublin (Ireland). At this meeting, she presented the papers 'Educating for equity and diversity in initial teacher education' and 'Teacher well-being, emotions and professionalism in changing times', contributing to the international reflection on initial teacher training, teacher well-being and the challenges facing the teaching profession in contexts of change.



OUR RESEARCHRS ABROAD

Zélia Anastácio and Isabel Condessa

Researchers Zélia Anastácio and Isabel Condessa participated in the XXXIV International Congress of Psychology and Education INFAD - Psychology in Health and the Community, held at the University of Oriente (UNO) in Valladolid and the Autonomous University of Yucatán (UADY), Yucatán Peninsula, Mexico, from 9 to 16 June 2025, with a co-authored paper entitled 'Menstrual Education, Health and Physical Education - a study with Portuguese Adolescents'.

Teresa Vilaça

Researcher Teresa Vilaça took part in the Annual Conference of the Association for Teacher Education in Europe (ATEE), held between 26 and 29 August 2025 at the Marino Institute in Dublin (Ireland). She presented the papers:

'Co-creating Wellbeing in Health-Promoting Schools: Portuguese Multiple Case Study' and 'To what extent do the Schools for Health in Europe Network Foundation materials improve the quality of Health Promoting Schools?'



Sara Neves Bengui da Costa

Researcher Sara Costa participated in the 2nd ANELTA Women Special Interest Group (AWSIG) Conference on 23 August 2025 in Luanda, Angola. The theme of this conference was 'The Evolving ELT Classroom: Empowering Women, Transforming Education – Celebrating 50 Years of Angolan Independence' and featured international and national speakers. The speakers shared their knowledge and experiences through workshops and individual presentations on a variety of topics:

- Women in ELT Leadership: Pathways and Progress in 50 Years of Independent Angola;
- ELT's Role in Nation Building: A Historical Reflection (1975-2025);
- Innovative Pedagogies for the Modern Classroom;
- Integrating Technology for Enhanced Learning;
- Curriculum Development and Materials Design: Reflecting Angolan Identity and the Journey of 50 Years of Independence;
- Effective Assessment and Feedback Strategies.

The conference was held at the Higher Institute of Education Sciences (ISCED) in Luanda and its organisation was led by CIEC doctoral student Sara da Costa with the support of other administrators and members of AWSIG. AWSIG is a special group of female teachers and students in the field of English language teaching. This group belongs to the Angolan Association of English Language Trainers (ANELTA) and its mission is to empower and support female English language teachers in Angola, promoting a vibrant community where members can learn, grow and inspire each other.

The day was filled with inspiring presentations and connections that reaffirmed the power of collaboration and support in the journeys of professional women in the field of English language teaching in Angola.

The conference was also broadcast on Angola's main television channels: Televisão Pública de Angola (TPA) and TV Zimbo, where CIEC doctoral student Sara da Costa discussed the main aim of the conference.



OTHER PARTICIPATIONS BY OUR RESEARCHERS

Fernando Ilídio Ferreira

Fernando Ilídio Ferreira, External Expert at the Dr. Francisco Sanches School Group under the TEIP (Priority Intervention Educational Territory) Programme, participated in the organisation and promotion of the Meeting ‘Thinking of our Group as a school of citizenship and quality for all’, which took place at EB 2/3 Dr. Francisco Sanches School, Braga, on 7 and 8 July 2025.

This training meeting involved all teachers and other professionals from the School Group (Student and Family Support Office) with the following objectives: i) to reflect on the School Group; ii) to carry out a shared diagnosis; and iii) to design transformative actions for the 2025/2026 academic year. The training was based on participatory methodologies, including strategic diagnostic techniques such as SWOT analysis, as well as the Problem Tree and Objective Tree. Around three axes — Processes and Results; Transitions; and Articulation and Sequentiality — participants developed group work, organised debates and presented conclusions in plenary sessions, building collective knowledge and outlining concrete measures and actions in response to the challenges identified. The conclusions/recommendations of this Meeting were taken into account in the organisation of the 2025/2026 academic year, thus enriching the Action Plan and the Annual Plan of Activities for the Group.



Maria Helena Vieira

At the invitation of the University of Madeira, researcher Maria Helena Vieira gave the opening lecture of the symposium ‘Education through Art: Policies, Practices and Challenges’ on 19 September in the Auditorium of the Jesuit College Rectory. The lecture was entitled ‘Educational policies for music teaching in Portugal: how to avoid Trojan horses and siren songs’.



FCT DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Diana Elisabete Oliveira Neto



- **Thesis title:** Implementation of Pedagogical Guidelines for Nursery Schools and Professional Development of Early Childhood Educators: An Action Research Study
- **Supervisors:** Maria Cristina Parente (CIEC, IE) and Sara Barros Araújo (inED, ESSE)
- **Scholarship reference:** 2025.05544.BD

João de Aguiar Bernardo e Melo Sampaio



- **Project title:** Curriculum Innovation and Learning Quality: A study with secondary school teachers and students in the age of Artificial Intelligence
- **Supervisor's name:** Maria Assunção Flores (Ciec, IE)
- **Grant reference:** 2025.05709.BD

Maria Belmira Seco de Oliveira Gumbe



- **Thesis title:** Between Threads and Traditions: Angolan Tapestry as Cultural Expression and Strategy for Female Emancipation
- **Names of supervisors:** Sandra Palhares (CIEC, IE) and Paulo Seixas (ISCSP, co-supervisor)
- **Scholarship reference:** 2025.05657.BD

Maria João Gomes Gonçalves



- **Project title:** Worlds of Childhood: migrations and plural ways of being a child in early childhood education contexts
- **Supervisors' names:** Natália Fernandes (CIEC, IE)
- **Grant reference:** 2025.03600.BD

Patrícia Alexandra da Costa Grave



- **Project title:** Kick4CR: Making Sure Children's Rights Are Never Benched
- **Names of supervisors:** Rute Marina Roberto dos Santos (CIEC, IE), Catarina Tomás (ESELx) and André Seabra (FADEUP)
- **Scholarship reference:** 2025.02170.BDANA
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DOCTORATES COMPLETED



Edson Gonçalves da Silva

Thesis title: “The potential of continuing education for professional development and science teachers”

Specialisation: Doctorate in Education Sciences, specialising in Pedagogical Supervision.

Supervisor: Maria Teresa Machado Vilaça

Date of completion: 4 July 2025

HELD AT CIEC

Seminar on school absenteeism

On 14 July 2025, Meliá Hotels hosted a seminar on school absenteeism, as part of the European Erasmus+ OBSERVATORY SOS-Attendance project [2022-1-ES01-KA220-SCH-000088733]. The project, coordinated by the University of Alicante (Spain), involves partners from four countries – Portugal, Spain, Italy and Turkey – and aims to prevent and combat absenteeism and early school leaving through the creation of a scientific observatory on school attendance. The Portuguese team is coordinated by Maria Assunção Flores and Diana Pereira, from CIEC. The Vila Verde School Group and the Diogo de Macedo School Group are also part of the project.

The seminar was attended by international experts, with notable contributions from Trude Havik, from the University of Stavanger (Norway), and Cendel Karaman, from the Middle East Technical University (Turkey).

During the seminar, prizes were also awarded for the competition relating to the awareness campaign on the problem of school absenteeism. The winners in the professional category were Maria Manuela Oliveira Barbosa Gonçalves (AE Diogo de Macedo) and Manuel Flores (AE de Vila Verde) and, in the student category, Matilde Vieira Oliveira (AE Diogo de Macedo), Maria Nogueira Peixoto (AE de Vila Verde), Matilde Carolina Fonseca Dias de Jesus (AE Diogo de Macedo) and Santiago Manuel dos Santos (AE de Vila Verde).



HELD AT CIEC

Once Upon a Time' at 'Summer on Campus'

From 21 to 25 July, the 'Summer on Campus' initiative took place, a week specially dedicated to welcoming and integrating future students. 24 July saw the inclusion of the 'Once Upon a Time' project, led by researcher Cristina Sylla and assisted by scholarship holders Andreia Couto, Linda Ferreira and Rafael Faria. This was an interactive entertainment activity, providing a dynamic and enriching moment for participants. It allowed young people to learn about some of the educational and cultural dynamics developed by the project in a playful way, promoting involvement, creativity and community spirit among future students.



Doctoral Programme in Child Studies

On 25 September, at 3 p.m., the opening session of the Doctoral Programme in Child Studies for the 2025/2026 academic year took place.

The meeting featured a presentation panel, attended by the director of CIEC, Maria Assunção Flores, who presented the Centre and its facilities, as well as its research communities and regular activities of particular interest to new doctoral students.



CIEC'S REGULAR ACTIVITIES

CIEC Conferences

During the third quarter of this year, the following CIEC Conferences were held, given by national and international researchers:

15/07/2025

“Behind the Absences: Why the Reasons for School Non-Attendance Matter”

Trude Havik, University of Stavanger, Norway
Moderated by Orlanda Tavares, CIEC - UM.



15/07/2025

"Interculturality in teacher education ”

Cendel Karaman, Middle East Technical University (METU), Turkey
Moderated by Eva Fernandes, CIEC - UM.



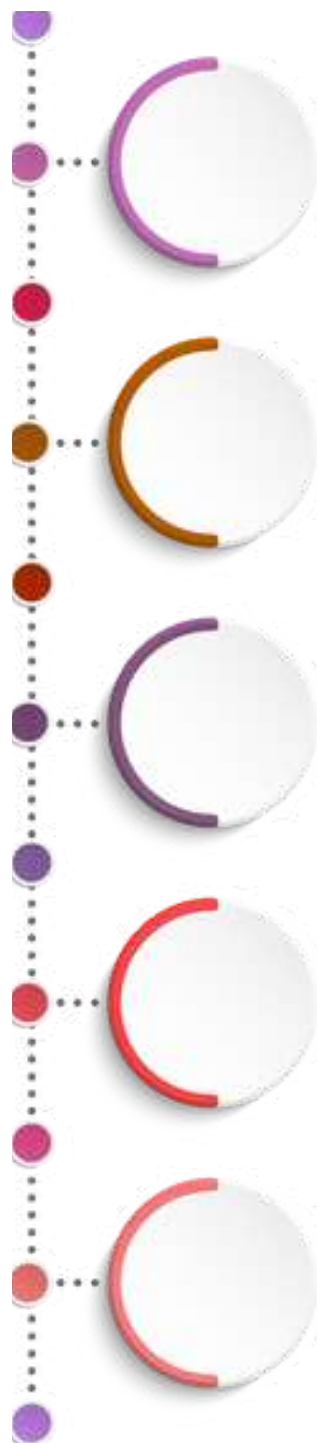
18/07/2025

“El poder del aprendizaje inmersivo en la formación docente: Hacia un prácticum más digital”

Juanjo Mena, Universidade de Salamanca Espanha
Moderated by Assunção Flores , CIEC - UM.



COMING SOON



Scientific Writing Workshops

22/10/2025 - 1st Session 'First Steps: Where to publish? What structure to adopt? What strategies to use?', room 2.35, Institute of Education

19/10/2025 - 2nd Session 'Introduction and Literature Review: from framework to narrative'

Science over Coffee

03/12/2025 - 1st Session, Room 2.35, Institute of Education, University of Minho

CIEC Conference

16/10/2025 - 'Physical activity and good eating habits in the prevention of cardiovascular risk factors in children and adolescents', presented by Neiva Leite | Universidade Federal do Paraná (UFPR), hosted by CIEC researcher Zélia Anástacio.

05/11/2025 - 'Health Promoting Schools and Teacher Training in Health Education', presented by Olgica Martins, Education and Teacher Training Agency, Zagreb, Croatia, hosted by CIEC researcher Teresa Vilaça.

Permanent Seminar on Research Methodologies

5/11/2025 - 'Jamovi Quantitative Research', to be led by researcher Regina Alves in room 2.35 of the Institute of Education, University of Minho

Scientific events

28/10/2025 - 1st Curricular Studies Forum, organised by: Assunção Flores, CIEC- University of Minho (Coord.)

Ana Maria Silva, , CECS- University of Minho

Carlos Silva, CIEC- University of Minho

Isabel Viana, CIEC- University of Minho

Diana Pereira, CIEC- University of Minho

Eva Fernandes, CIEC- University of Minho

OUR VISITORS

Trude Havik, Noruega

It was a great pleasure to be invited to Braga and the University of Minho to present at the “SOS Attendance Seminar” and engage in discussions with the CIEC research group. I appreciated meeting researchers and practitioners committed to improving school attendance, both locally and through international collaboration with Spain, Italy, and Türkiye. My presentation focused on school non-attendance, the ARSNA measurement tool, and the role of school factors. Based on survey and interview data from Norwegian students and parents, I highlighted how bullying, social isolation, and classroom management can influence school refusal. I also shared insights from new screening tools. The visit was inspiring and reaffirmed the value of cross-national dialogue in addressing complex educational challenges. I hope we can continue to collaborate on this challenging and important issue.



Cendel Karaman, Turquia

Thank you for the warm welcome during my visit to CIEC at University of Minho, Portugal between 14-17 July 2025. It was a pleasure to give a keynote speech during the Seminar SOS Attendance and interact with the Erasmus+ Project Participants including researchers, teachers, and students. On another occasion, at CIEC, giving a talk to a highly motivated team of educational researchers and graduate students was also very rewarding. I appreciated the opportunity to visit the research center and learn about your projects and engage with your dynamic team. I am particularly impressed by the collaborative research ecology and the depth of various research initiatives at CIEC.

I look forward to the possibility of future collaborations. Once again, thank you for making my visit both academically fruitful and enjoyable.



Juanjo Mena, Espanha

During my visit to the Research Centre on Child Studies at the University of Minho, I had the opportunity to exchange ideas with an inspiring team of scholars dedicated to advancing knowledge on childhood, education, and teacher development. As a Teacher Educator at the University of Salamanca, this experience was enriching, allowing me to explore innovative perspectives on teacher preparation, inclusive education, and research methodologies in the field of teacher education. The warm welcome and open dialogue fostered meaningful connections and potential ways for future collaboration between our institutions. I am grateful to the CIEC team for their generosity in providing me the opportunity to share knowledge, be open to critical discussion, and the building of international collaboration.



OUR VISITORS

Joseba Delgado, Espanha

My name is Joseba Delgado Parada and I am a pre-doctoral student at the Faculty of Education and Social Work at the University of Vigo. Given the proximity of our contexts, I decided to write this text in Galician. Between May and July, I completed a research stay at CIEC under the supervision of Professor Maria Assunção Flores. During this period, I was able to familiarise myself with the centre's lines of research and projects, review bibliographic resources and participate in conferences, research seminars, the CIEC Day and the Education Biennial, among other activities. I also had the opportunity to visit some educational centres to learn about their spaces and working methodologies. During this period, I acquired methodological and conceptual knowledge that will help me advance my research on creative strategies and ICT resources for socio-educational intervention. At CIEC, I found a team who even exceeded the academic excellence attributed to it. Therefore, I would like to thank the technical and administrative services, supervisor, teachers and doctoral colleagues for the treatment I received. All of them contributed to creating a comfortable, safe and trustworthy working environment. I hope that this stay will produce many future collaborations. Once CIEC, always CIEC!



Franciele Leite, Brasil

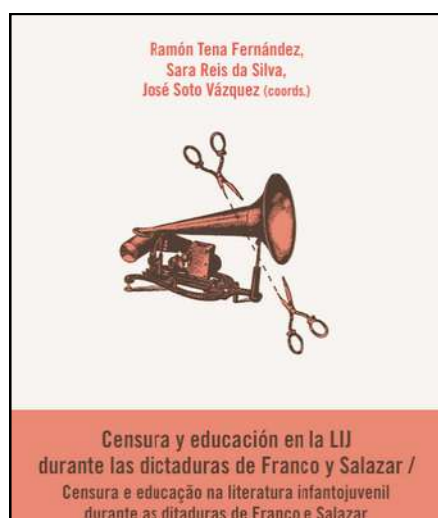
My name is Professor Franciele Marabotti Costa Leite and I am a lecturer in the Postgraduate Programme in Public Health as well as head of the Laboratory for Studies on Violence, Health and Accidents (LAVISA). I recently visited the Centre for Research in Child Studies (CIEC) at the Institute of Education of the University of Minho in Braga, Portugal. CIEC is a centre of excellence that undertakes scientific research and advanced training for researchers and professionals working in the field of childhood from multi- and interdisciplinary perspectives to producing holistic knowledge about children, adolescents and adults with whom children interact. It is a space that seeks to use science to improve the living standards of this group, especially those in socially vulnerable contexts. It was a very enriching experience and a great opportunity to strengthen internationalisation, partnerships and production in this area.



NEWS

Sara Reis da Silva

CIEC researcher Sara Reis da Silva has published the book 'Censorship and education in children's and young adult literature during the Franco and Salazar dictatorships.'



IT WAS IN THE NEWS

The seminar on truancy made the news!

Various media outlets highlighted the seminar held as part of the European Erasmus+ SOS-Attendance project [2022-1-ES01-KA220-SCH-000088733], reinforcing the importance of preventing and combating truancy and early school leaving. Coordinated by the University of Alicante (Spain), the project involves partners from Portugal, Spain, Italy and Turkey with the main aim of creating the first scientific observatory on school attendance.

The Portuguese team, led by Maria Assunção Flores and Diana Pereira (Centre for Research in Child Studies), is collaborating with the Vila Verde School Group and the Diogo de Macedo School Group.



Researcher Zélia Anastácio featured on television

CIEC researcher Zélia Anastácio was featured on SIC's Jornal da Noite programme in the context of the latest proposed changes to the Citizenship and Development subject.

<https://sicnoticias.pt/pais/educacao/2025-07-27-video-conteudos-sobre-sexualidade-praticamente-fora-da-disciplina-de-cidadania-mostram-documentos-em-consulta-publica-3e1d49cc>



CIEC researcher Assunção Flores featured in the media

CIEC researcher Assunção Flores was featured in the press in connection with the latest study, 'Choosing the teaching profession: motivations, expectations and sense of preparedness among new teachers', involving the participation of students enrolled in master's degrees in education at various, mainly public institutions. The data reveal that intrinsic and altruistic motivations are the most important factors when choosing the teaching profession. Most decided to enrol in a master's degree in teaching immediately after completing their bachelor's degree, having chosen teaching as their first option.

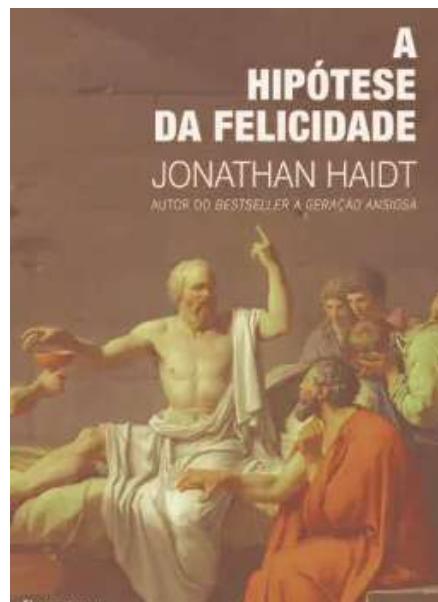
Published in the national newspapers *Diário de Notícias* and *Público*.



WORTH A READ...

Jonathan Haidt, the renowned American social psychologist and distinguished university professor, opens his book, *The Happiness Hypothesis* | Finding modern truth in ancient wisdom by, with a striking focus on the conditions of happiness, telling us: "Some of the conditions of happiness lie within us, such as coherence between the parts and levels of our personality. The other conditions require relationships with things beyond ourselves: just as plants require sunlight, water, and good soil to grow, people need love, work, and a connection to something greater than themselves". Haidt explores the mechanisms of happiness and the barriers that keep us from it. Connecting science, philosophy and compelling stories, he challenges us with his view of happiness as a constant state and shows how small changes in our perception and attitudes can transform our lives in a big way. Haidt provides an inspiring read for those who aspire to more balance, meaning and significance in their daily lives, for those who aspire to transform science into authentic well-being.

Isabel Viana



TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT...

Equity and educational pathways

Expanding access to education is an undeniable step forward for civilisation.

However, increased participation does not erase inequalities, it merely gives them new forms. Diversifying offerings and pathways broadens opportunities but does not neutralise the effect of the social and cultural context that weighs on early educational decisions. Lower preschool attendance among children

from low-income families translates into cumulative losses in language development, socialisation and the acquisition of learning routines. Later on, this same influence of context manifests itself in the choice of pathways: students from disadvantaged backgrounds tend to opt more frequently for vocational pathways, while families with greater cultural capital favour scientific and humanistic pathways. These choices, which are rarely free from constraints, function as social signalling mechanisms, shaped by family expectations and perceptions of the labour market and ultimately have lasting effects on educational pathways.

Responding to these challenges requires a framework for action based on evidence. It is important to measure access, progression and retention on a regular and comparable basis, broken down by territory, socio-economic status and migratory experience, in order to highlight inequalities and guide priorities.

Beyond the numbers, it is equally important to understand how these trajectories are experienced in the daily lives of schools and families, in order to capture less quantifiable but equally decisive dimensions. Equity should not be confused with uniformity of outcomes. It means mitigating the weight of the starting point and genuinely broadening the choices available to each child and young person, preventing the accumulated costs of decisions made too early and with insufficient information.

Orlanda Tavares



SOME PUBLICATIONS BY OUR RESEARCHERS

Amaral, A., Tavares, O., & Sin, C. (Eds.). (2025). *Reform and change in higher education: Challenges and innovations*. Edward Elgar Publishing. ISBN: 978 1 03534 705 6.

Tavares, O., & Sin, C. (2025). Academic inbreeding in Portugal. In A. Amaral, O. Tavares, & C. Sin (Eds.), *Reform and change in higher education: Challenges and innovations* (pp. 299–317). Edward Elgar Publishing.
<https://doi.org/10.4337/9781035347063.00026>

Sin, C., & Tavares, O. (2025). Conclusion: Key tensions in policy implementation in contemporary higher education. In A. Amaral, O. Tavares, & C. Sin (Eds.), *Reform and change in higher education: Challenges and innovations* (pp. 318–330). Edward Elgar Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781035347063.00027>

Carrillo, C.; Flores, M. A. & Mena, J. (2025) Artificial Intelligence in/for teacher education: Emerging themes and critical issues, *European Journal of Teacher Education*, vol 5

Condessa, I. C., & Anastácio, Z. C. (2025). Menstrual education, health and physical education: A study conducted with Portuguese young girls. *Revista INFAD de Psicología. International Journal of Developmental and Educational Psychology*, 1(1), 47-54. <https://doi.org/10.17060/ijodaep.2025.n1.v1.2802>

More about us

CIEC is a research institution at nationwide level dedicated just for the child studies in Portugal. You can visit us personally in the Institute of Education of University of Minho, but you will also find more information about us in our website www.ciec-um.com, our contacts: ciec@ie.uminho.pt (+351) 253601212

And can also reach us on our social media:

YouTube: @CIECUMinhooficial

Instagram: ciec_um

Facebook: ciecuminho

X: @ciec_um

LinkedIn: Centro de Investigação em Estudos da Criança



TECHNICAL INFORMATION

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