



### LOGO of the Escola Alerta Competition

On a white background, four stylised human figures form a semicircle. The first figure on the left is blue (on the viewer's right), followed by purple, green, and brown figures. Above the figures, in a semicircle, it reads "Escola Alerta" in blue, and below them, also in a semicircle, "accessibility for all!" in brown.

### CONTEXT

- The "Escola Alerta!" competition is a national-level initiative that began in 2003, the European Year of People with Disabilities.
- It's aim to raise awareness and mobilise the educational community around human rights, equal opportunities, and the inclusion of people with disabilities, in alignment with the United Nations Convention (UN, 2006).
- "Escola Alerta!" is aligned with the human rights paradigm, promoting the construction of a truly inclusive society, where schools and the educational community are recognised as key spaces for valuing diversity, equality, and participation.
- This initiative has established it'self as a national good practice in promoting the inclusion of children and young people with disabilities in school settings, through the recognition of projects developed by pupils, teachers, and other educational stakeholders.

### OBJECTIVES

To raise awareness among pupils regarding:

- The identification of obstacles and barriers to the promotion of equal opportunities;
- Respect for the human rights of persons with disabilities;
- The identification of discriminatory attitudes and practices;
- The promotion of the identification of barriers—particularly physical ones—to communication and information in areas such as employment, culture, sport, leisure, among others;
- The dissemination of work produced by pupils, guided by teachers, with feasible proposals for overcoming the identified barriers;
- The promotion of active citizenship.

### IMPORTANCE FOR THE PROMOTION OF INCLUSION AND HUMAN RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The projects submitted to the competition aim to ensure that all children and young people feel like an integral part of the school community. They promote an education that takes

human diversity into account and contribute to a fairer, more empathetic, and inclusive society.

## **IMPLEMENTATION/DEVELOPMENT**

- Between the academic years 2003/2004 and 2024/2025, a total of 1.473 projects were submitted, originating from 1.188 schools;
- Approximately 30.800 pupils and more than 4.000 teachers and technical staff were involved;
- Topics addressed included universal design for learning, the use of assistive technologies, adaptation of school spaces, access to culture and sport, and peer empathy awareness-raising activities, among many others;
- All levels of education were covered, from pre-school to secondary education.

## **PHASES**

- In the first phase, which runs from the launch of the competition until the submission of applications to INR, I.P., the work is prepared and selected at the school level.
- In the second phase, which runs from the receipt of applications at INR, I.P., until the publication of the competition results, the work is evaluated at the national level.
- During this phase, the evaluation is carried out by a National Jury, chaired by a representative of INR, I.P., and composed of representatives from various entities, namely:
  - A Person of Recognised Merit;
  - National Education Council;
  - Directorate-General for Schools (DGEstE);
  - Pró-Inclusão – National Association of Special Education Teachers (PIN-ANDEE);
  - Two non-governmental organisations representing persons with disabilities (Portuguese Association of Neuromuscular Disorders – APN and Portuguese Federation for Autism – FPDA).
- The evaluation and selection of the projects are carried out separately in three categories, defined according to the level of education.

## **EVOLUTION OF PARTICIPATION**

Bar chart showing the number of schools in blue and number of projects in purple, overlaid with a line chart showing the number of teachers in gold and number of pupils in brown, reflecting the evolution of the Escola Alerta! competitions from 2003/2004 to 2024/2025.

## **REFERENCES**

- UN (2006), Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- Law no. 38/2004, of 18 August – Basic Law of the Legal Framework for the Prevention, Empowerment and Participation of Persons with Disabilities

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