



I am delighted to say that the NPSC was a great success once again and we were particularly pleased on this occasion to have with us three excellent participants from the “far North” Bragança, as well as those from our old friends in Guimarães and Valadares!

The weather was on our side once again and we had an enjoyable picnic in the garden of the British Council, who as in previous years readily made their wonderful premises available to us . Our thanks go to APPI too who helped advertise the competition. Without the support of these partners and the Ministry of Education our task would be far more difficult.

The standard of the competition seems to get better every year and the variety of approaches is quite remarkable. If we can make one recommendation, please go easy on the quotations by famous women and men- sometimes your own experience can be more convincing and refreshing...although this year I have to say we were graced by a quotation from that well-known American sage Johnny Cash which was, of course, guaranteed to bring a smile to everyone’s face, and another in Latin, which impressed everyone, without exception!

The ten finalists were:

Cristiana Mota : Esc. Sec Jácome Ratton, Tomar

Sara Gonçalves : Esc. Sec. Dr. Joaquim Gomes Ferreira Alves, Valadares

Pedro Miguel Que Ye: Esc. Sec. Alves Redol, Vila Franca da Xira

Diego Reis: Esc. Sec. Jácome Ratton, Tomar

Inês Novais: Oeiras International School

Raúl Girbal : Oeiras International School

Nadia Consciência: Esc. sec Jácome Ratton, Tomar

António Carvalho: Colégio Valsassina, Lisboa

Aisha Ahmad : Colégio Valsassina, Lisbon

Ana Antónia Honrado: Colégio Moderno, Lisboa

The guest panel finally chose **Inês Novais** to **represent Portugal at the International Public- Speaking Competition** which will take place in **London** at the **end of May**, with **Raúl Girbal** as the runner-up, in what turned out to be a very close decision. Congratulations to them both and to their teacher Allyson Connell.

Our thanks go to all the teachers who worked so hard to prepare their students, to the participants themselves who all did so well, and to the members of the panel of judges who gave up a good part of their Sunday to be with us!

Congratulations to all concerned!

David Evans

Secretary

English- Speaking Union of Portugal