

XXXI NATIONAL & VIII INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF ASP (PORTUGUESE ASSOCIATION OF SECRETARIES)

Lisbon 12-13 November 2011

This year the XXXI National & VIII International Congress of ASP, the Portuguese Association of Secretaries, was held at the Hotel Açores in Lisbon on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th November.

EUMA received a kind invitation to attend and our National Chairman, Glòria Gratacòs, was the ambassador.

Mrs. Maria da Graça Gomes (ASP President), Mrs. Isabel de Abreu (ASP Vice-President), Professor Ivo Dias (from ISLA University) and Glòria Gratacòs opened the Congress and welcomed the participants.

In her initial speech Glòria expressed her gratitude for the opportunity given to EUMA to contribute with our European experience. Indeed the topic for this year was *“Internationalisation – Innovate to create, motivate to win”*.

Attendees (about 80) came from Portugal and other African Portuguese speaking countries (Angola, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau & Mozambique).

Experienced speakers delivered very motivating speeches on different trendy topics such as multitasking, internationalisation, resilience, creativity & innovation, leadership, social media, and networking. Glòria’s speech was about our profession, the sense of pride (so many times lacking) and her European professional experience, linked to present EUMA as a great example of the European feeling.

We must be positive in our profession by assuming the new challenges we are facing through developing new competences, aiming for long-life training and accepting these changing times.

As said in the document of conclusions issued by ASP, we should aim to change the word “crisis” into “create” (in Portuguese “CRIsE” vs. “CRIE”) giving more value to what we have and being able to motivate ourselves by innovating to win. Indeed, it is in times of crises that we “create” ourselves again as new learning opportunities arise. We share to innovate and we incorporate resilience in our lives, this is the ability of taking a positive leadership against problems. In a world full of uncertainty and changes, so complex and ambiguous, trust and reputation are rare but necessary goods in the global context we are placed in, deep-rooted in the respect for multicultural differences.”

The wide variety of points discussed encouraged the attendants to ask the speakers about their main concerns and doubts, which turned out into very lively discussions.



Glòria is ready for her presentation. From left to right: Mrs. Mrs. Isabel de Abreu (ASP Vice-President), Glòria Gratacòs (National Chairman EUMA Spain) & Mrs. Maria da Graça Gomes (ASP President)



Photo session at the end of the Congress: the ASP National Committee & Glòria

Our Chairman, jointly with EUMA Spain and the European Committee, deeply thank ASP for this inspiring Congress and for this great opportunity of visibility given to our association!

Muito obrigado e um grande abraço!

Lisbon-Barcelona, 18th November 2011