



REGIÃO AUTÓNOMA DOS AÇORES

INTERVENÇÃO DO
SUBSECRETÁRIO REGIONAL DOS ASSUNTOS EUROPEUS E COOPERAÇÃO EXTERNA

**UNIVERSIDADE DE VERÃO
DA ASSEMBLEIA DAS REGIÕES DA EUROPA (ARE) – AÇORES**

21 DE AGOSTO DE 2012 – UNIVERSIDADE DOS AÇORES

On behalf of the President of the Government of the Azores, Carlos César
It is with great pleasure that I welcome all of you. It is my strongest belief
that the number of participants, from so many different countries – which
exceeded our best expectations – as well as the quality of our speakers
constitute the first, undeniable, success of 2012 AER's Summer School.

*Permettez-moi aussi, en ce moment initial, de prononcer quelques mots en
français, pour saluer la présidente de l'Assemblée des Régions d'Europe,
Michelle Sabban, et la remercier de sa présence aux Açores, qui nous
honore tant.*

*Votre participation, Madame la Présidente, ainsi que l'appui que depuis
toujours vous avez accordé aux actions et aux activités du gouvernement
des Açores, notamment au sein de l'ARE, doivent être ici justement
soulignés, de même que votre engagement sans faille dans la défense de
l'Europe des Régions.*

As I was saying, it is with great honour that the Autonomous Region of the
Azores and its Government host the 2012 edition of *Summer School*.



As we all know, this is a flagship initiative of AER, whose proposal for the event to take place in this region also results from the effort of the Government of the Azores to strengthen the European aspects of its policies regarding youth, namely those with a view to bring Azorean youngsters closer to their peers in the European space.

On the other hand, hosting the *2012 Summer School* also results from the active participation of the Azores in AER, which is highly focused on youth, mobility and employability.

As additional examples of our active role we may refer the presidency of the Eurodissey Programme since 2006, and other participations, such as in the Promoting Youth Employment, as well as the organisation in the Azores of events such as the Eurodissey Forum, in 2008, and AER's General Assembly, in November 2011.

So, following this dynamics of our external relations, the Government of the Azores brought forward its proposal for organising AER's *2012 Summer School* under the theme "*Culture: be Smart during the Crisis*", aiming precisely at calling on a dimension so many times underestimated in the current context: - the contribution that culture and creative industries may, and should, give to overcome these difficult times.

In fact, the subtheme "*The role of cultural and creative industries in promoting job creation and growth in European regions*" clearly illustrates the goals of this event, resulting from the strong belief that the development of any society is inseparable from knowledge, creativity and



cultural, scientific and technologic innovation, as well as entrepreneurship in general.

This set of factors reflects the importance our Regional Government attaches to the recognition of culture and creative industries, encouraging political and business actors to define bold strategies, to find the best options regarding territorial development and to pay special attention to the creation of wealth and value, without however undermining – actually, on the contrary, by valuing – the different regional identities of Europe.

We are certain that the Azores are a privileged European Region as regards the approach to these themes.

As we know, the Azores are an Autonomous Region of the Portuguese Republic since 1976, having a parliament and a regional government with vast legislative and political power. According to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the Azores are also an Outermost Region, thus benefiting – in virtue of their exclusive, structural and permanent constraints – from a specific statute and specific measures within the Union.



But, above all, the Azores constitute an asset for Europe, as they are a large maritime region with a significant economic potential, especially in such areas as biotechnology, oceanography, volcanology and seismology, as well as renewable energies, aerospace technology and, obviously, agriculture, fisheries and sustainable tourism.

In truth, throughout five centuries of history, the Azores and the Azoreans learnt how to turn difficulties into opportunities and today, in addition to their European outermost statute, the Azores proudly claim their Atlantic centrality and the great contribution to the national and European level.

In fact, many of the most significant Portuguese writers, poets, painters, sculptures and musicians were Azoreans, not to mention some of the most important names of political thought and action.

Therefore, dear friends, we find ourselves in a place where History and Nature, together with the institutional dimension, certainly form an inspirational set to debate culture and creative industries.

This is why we regard the election of the Azorean application to host this edition of *Summer School* also as the acknowledgement of the public policies being implemented in the Azores in the fields of culture, entrepreneurship and youth, which may also be an example, a reference at European level.



Investing in culture and creative industries, allying them to the value of our youth, does not mean to waste public funds: it means, as many fortunately acknowledge, creating a path for promoting an innovative and profitable sector.

Therefore, we are confident that we will contribute to a more intense debate between young Azorean creators and their European peers in search of new exchange and development opportunities, also for our Region.

The Summer School's programme will be also focused on regional specificities: we will show the environmental added-value of the Azores and our concern about sustainable development, the potential of technologic innovation and scientific research, both at sea and on land, and the value of human capital, culture and creative industries.

On the other hand, we cannot ignore the challenges of the current situation in Europe and the future of our youth cannot be seen in isolation from the aspects of good governance, decentralisation and regional authorities.

Therefore, through workshops, presentations by several guests and field trips, we will promote reflection about the European spirit and there will also be a social programme developed both to strengthen the existing bonds and to create contact networks among participants.



REGIÃO AUTÓNOMA DOS AÇORES

In fact, the aim of the Azorean Government is this *Summer School*, taking place in the Azores, to become the starting point for the creation of a network in which Young Promoters of European regions foster, from their own regions, the goal of sharing entrepreneur and regional development projects based on creative industries.

I am sure these five days will enable us to debate current issues, exchange points of views and share strategies and perspectives for the future of Europe, united by the will and the enthusiasm of European youth.

I wish you all a pleasant stay and good work here in the Azores, the Region where Europe reaches further...

Rodrigo Oliveira

Subsecretário Regional dos Assuntos Europeus e Cooperação Externa

Governo da Região Autónoma dos Açores