

Speech

Honourable Minister of Justice,

Mr Ambassador,

Mr Director,

Mr Minister of the Republic,

Ladies and gentleman,

On behalf of the President of the Government, I would like to welcome you to Madeira

I hope you enjoy your stay in our island and take the most advantage of this 26th council

Given the relevance of the subjects to be addressed at this event, I would like to underline the important partnership that the Regional Government of Madeira, through the Secretary of Education, has maintained since 1994 with the prison facility of Funchal

It is through this partnership that each year that the Secretary of Education assigns about a dozen teachers who dedicate themselves and propose to train and equip with new tools and new skills these people helping them to their integration and a return to life in society as normal as possible

It is noteworthy that, from school year 94/95 up to the last academic year, there were 2185 registrations with the intention of completing mainly the basic studies whose average attained was 46%

It should also be noted that, as of the 2013/14 school year, there have been applications to complete secondary education and higher education

Another curiosity to register is that, in the same time line, there were 2561 registrants who looked for extracurricular activities such as sports, ceramics, plastic arts, english and ICT among others

These data leave no doubt and reflect well how important the role of education is in society at large and in their reintegration policy

The Government of Madeira has other programs such as measures which provide to the offenders during service time to participate in community activities

In connection with other local, regional and national institutions, we will continue our intervention, in the certainty that knowledge is increased through education, translated into skills that, we believe, are structural for a more effective

rehabilitation, then capable of promoting a more fair society for all

I can only express my thanks for the invitation and wish you good work

Thank you for your attention.