Portugal continues to present very significant results of low qualification of its young people. The OECD report for 2016 shows that 34% of young Portuguese did not complete their secondary education. Thousands of young Portuguese continue to drop out of school without completing their basic education, becoming particularly vulnerable to unemployment, poverty and social exclusion.

Without adequate qualifications to access a job or to new training paths and without basic personal and social skills for an adequate social and occupational integration, the early abandonment of education and training condemns the Portuguese youth to unemployment, a precarious existence and an uncertain future.

Halting the process of massive and disqualified abandonment of the school is for this Municipal team a true local and national cause. As advised by European guidelines on this subject, we need to do more and the country needs a national strategy to reduce early abandonment, based on reliable information collection systems and integrating prevention, intervention and compensation measures.

In this sense, Matosinhos has been contributing to align Portugal with one of the most important European commitments in education, supporting the Second Chance School of Matosinhos and promoting moments of encounter for reflection and construction of joint measures, mediating with the Government, particularly with the Ministry of Education, the negotiations for the creation of programs to recognize and validate this response, integrating it into the current system.

It is today a joy and a proud to see that this lobbying action has been successful and that Portugal has a new law that may give hope to continue the work.”