

## PONTE...NAS ONDAS

In 1995, when a bridge was built between Salvaterra de Miño (Galicia, Spain) and Monçao (Portugal), a new collaboration project was born: Ponte...nas ondas. In this project Galician and Portuguese school children design their own radio programs, under supervision of their teachers. Ponte nas ondas aims to serve as a symbolic bridge (Ponte) of international communication between professionals and young people from the two banks of the River Miño.



The plot of the project is that throughout the school year all participating schools write their own radio programs. Once the programs have been written, they will be broadcasted live from different radio studios. Ponte...nas ondas strives to make pupils aware of the need to preserve their own (cultural) heritage. Therefore for many years the radio programs have been related to the presentation of the Candidacy of the Galician-Portuguese Intangible heritage (such as oral culture / language) to UNESCO.

In the last ten years more than fifty primary and secondary schools from Galicia and Portugal have participated in the project. Moreover, several schools from France, The Netherlands, Finland, Brazil, Argentina and Africa have been involved through Internet and video-web.

The first universities have joined the program in 2003. The University of Vigo and The Campus de Ourense and Pontevedra, participated by creating the necessary infrastructure for programs to be developed allowing the radio programs to be broadcasted for 24 hours. Furthermore, radio stations of Galicia and Portugal, telephone companies, private enterprises, editorials, television stations, town councils, the public radio Galega and institutions like Xunta de Galicia and Diputacion Provincial de Pontevedra have also taken part in the project.

This year a travelling exhibition to celebrate the project's 10th anniversary was organized, containing all the contents, programs and collaborations of the last ten years. So far the exhibition has been in Vigo, O Porriño, Vilanova de Cerveira, Ourense and Allariz. It will soon be in Pontevedra and other cities of Galicia and Portugal.

Ponte...nas ondas has proven to be very successful and received official approval of the Conselleria de Educación of Xunta de Galicia. A correspondent certificate will be issued soon. Those schools (primary, secondary, university) who are interested in participating in the project are advised to visit the website <http://www.pontenasondas.org> for more information. Don't forget to listen to the online radio on the same website to hear some of the interesting programs that have been made.