



DeltaCultura

Cabo Verde *

**Education Center Tarrafal
Data, Pictures & Stories**

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Delta Cultura annual report is celebrating its 10th anniversary. But the Education Centre - that is the subject of this report - has been in existence since 2004/2005, Delta Cultura's reporting was different in the years before that. The annual report describes the activities of the Education Centre in 2023 in figures, pictures, anecdotes, quotes and short reports from project managers, volunteers and stakeholders. Much more than figures and data, the aim is to provide an insight into everyday life at the Centre and also into the lives of the participants.

We hope you enjoy reading it.

Escape

(story told by Cutchinha, Educator and Football Coach)

Edza is 15 years old. She always tells me a lot about herself and her problems. One day she told me that whenever her mother hits her or yells at her, she feels like running away. "And then when I think about where I could go, the only place that comes to mind is the Education Center. It's the only place where I can be relaxed and where no one will bother me."





VISION

DELTA CULTURA ELIMINATES POVERTY THROUGH EDUCATION.

We keep children and young people enthusiastic about learning. By creating emotions that awaken curiosity, we make a significant contribution to self-determined, alert action and contribute to social change.

MISSION

DELTA CULTURA'S CORE COMPETENCY IS EDUCATION.

We develop educational activities aimed at creating emotions for the teaching content. This allows us to recognize potential and promote it. To generate emotions, we use tools such as telling stories, asking questions, questioning values and creating challenges.

We form an international knowledge network, to ensure the active involvement of our supervisors and provide the necessary infrastructure.

Through transcultural exchange, we create the basis for mutual understanding and awareness about cultural identities and the topic of migration.





THE EDUCATION CENTER

A SAFE PLACE, A PLACE OF ENCOUNTERS.

(OBJECTIVES, CREATED REQUIREMENTS, ACTIVITIES AND MONITORING AND EVALUATION)

OBJECTIVES

The goals of Delta Cultura and the Education Centre do not change significantly over the years. However, they are constantly adapted and supplemented through experience and knowledge gained.

Delta Cultura has a main objective:

THE CREATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF FUTURE PERSPECTIVES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

All created requirements, sub-goals and activities are designed to achieve this goal.

The most important sub-goals:

- Creating emotions that arouse the interest of children and young people
- Promotion of self-confidence
- Promotion of intrinsic motivation
- Promotion of social skills
- Promotion of creativity and artistic intuition
- Promoting of critical thinking
- Improving school performance

CREATED REQUIREMENTS (SINCE 2004)

The path to achieving these goals began with the construction of the Education Center in 2004/2005. Since then, the created requirements have been continuously improved. The most important requirements ensured:

THE EDUCATION CENTER - A SAFE PLACE

The term safe place does not just mean a physical place that keeps away danger and threat. The Education Centre is a place of trust and security for the children and young people, which helps awakening their interest. This is achieved by:

- Focusing on the strengths and not the weaknesses of the children and young people
- Story telling
- The promotion of talents
- Allowing mistakes out of the understanding that only making mistakes sets the learning process in motion.

The importance of such a place for children and young people's development has been examined and proven in numerous studies:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/aces/about.html>
- <https://eric.ed.gov/?q=learning+environment>



THE EDUCATION CENTRE - A PLACE FOR SOCIAL ENCOUNTERS

Delta Cultura has designed the Education Centre as a place of encounter. Children, young people, volunteers from different countries, staff and visitors exchange ideas and learn from each other.

The classic teacher-student situation is avoided as much as possible, as the participants do not feel comfortable with it. As mentioned in the previous point, it is all about trust and a sense of security. These conditions guarantee the healthy development of the participants.

CREATION OF LASTING POSITIVE MEMORIES

As this report shows, the Education Center is a place that gives the children and young people many positive lasting memories. Studies on this topic prove the importance of positive lasting memories for children's development and their future mental health:

- <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41562-017-0093>
- <https://elemental.medium.com/the-power-of-positive-memories-86c2441ffe07>
- <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/04/160420083949.htm>

FREE ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The offer of free internet for research purposes, but also the realization of regular workshops on relevant current topics and internet security significantly improve the access to information for children and young people.

TEACHING THE PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE

The mother tongue of the children and young people is Creole. They only "learn" Portuguese at school. However, Portuguese is not treated as a foreign language - which it is for the children - but it is assumed that the children already understand the language. As this is not the case, the children only learn by memorization without understanding exactly what they have memorized.

The Education Center antagonises this problem in particular with the kindergarten. The children are looked after by a Portuguese woman who only speaks Portuguese daily with the children and a Cape Verdean woman. In this way, the children learn the language early, spontaneously and playfully.

The same applies to the many Portuguese volunteers (in 2022 there were 11 who came for 2 months each) who are an integral part of everyday life at the Education Center. They cannot speak Creole and the children and young people have to speak to them in Portuguese. These numerous conversations improve the children's and young people's knowledge of Portuguese in a natural way and not in a mandatory school situation.

THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EDUCATION CENTER IN 2023

The Centre's offers change over the years. Here as well, Delta Cultura is constantly striving to adapt the programmes to the knowledge and experience gained. Unfortunately, it also happens that activities do not receive the desired continuity. This is almost always due to a lack of suitable educators.

Dance lessons could be added to the programme in 2023 after a suitable teacher has been found.

Slackline practice lessons were added in 2023. In addition to the enthusiasm that it arouses in many children, it also has a positive effect on the receptiveness of children and young people: by bringing the body out of balance, the nervous system produces a „chemical soup“ that is then also necessary for learning new content.

The offers in 2023 were the following:

- School support: help with homework and tutoring classes
- IT lessons for all interested participants as well as free access to internet for research purposes
- Kindergarten
- Educational games on and off the pitch (Football 3 tournaments, etc.)
- Art lessons: painting, handicrafts, and jewelry making
- Music lessons: choir, guitar-, and piano lessons
- English, French and Portuguese lessons

- Multi-purpose room with regular film screenings and workshops on the topic of the month (one of the 17 UN sustainable development goals)
- Football training and games on the weekends for U7, U9, U11, U13 (boys and girls mixed), U15, U17, U19 (men), U17 (women) and female's and male senior teams
- Slackline practice lessons (since October 2023)
- Dance lessons (since October 2023)
- Batuco (drumming-singing-dancing tradition)
- Tree nursery (also in 2023 the nursery planted and gave away over 1000 fruit trees)
- Agroforestry: in 2020 the project began with the planting of 90 fruit trees

In addition to the daily programs and activities, DCCV organizes educational, sporting and cultural events, especially during the Christmas and Easter holidays and in the first month of summer. The three-day summer camp in July is always one of THE highlights for many of the participants.

MONITORING OF THE PARTICIPANTS

All participants are registered in the Delta Cultura database. In addition to the most important data, the database also contains information about the social background of the participants.

Computer class every day

(story told by Suzete, Computer Educator)

Denilson is 11 years old. He came to the computer class for the first time and, as he told me, it was the first time he had sat at a computer. After the first lesson he explained to me: "I always thought that doing something on the

computer was very difficult. But that's not the case at all. You have to give me lessons every day now."



Elciany and the dance

(story told by Cutchinha, Educator and Football Coach)

When I enrolled Elciany, age 7, we got to the point of discussing interests and what programs she wanted to enroll in. Since I knew that she loves dancing, I asked her if she would like to take part in dance classes. "Dance? I can dance, I don't need lessons."





Each participant is assigned a member of staff as the person responsible. This person is responsible for checking attendance, monitoring academic performance and generally establishing a basis of trust with the participant. It is not uncommon for children to confide very personal information to this person, with the instruction not to pass it on. Naturally, this information is not entered in the database.

The entire Delta Cultura team meets once a week to reflect on particular incidents, developments of participants, etc., and to decide on measures if necessary.

EVALUATION

The same age as the Education Center (18 years) are Delta Cultura's experiences with monitoring and evaluating the activities of the Center. Over the years, many evaluation tools have been tried and some that did not bring meaningful results have been dismissed.

For educational reasons Delta Cultura does not use school grades as an indicator, the children and young people are not forced to bring in their school tests and grades in order not to destroy the relationship of trust between the educators and participants. For the same reason, no evaluation tests are carried out in IT or any other area.

Interesting in this regard are studies on addiction prevention. Iceland, which only 20 years ago was struggling with excessive alcohol consumption by young people and its consequences such as violence, is now a model country when it comes to addiction prevention. This was achieved by promoting leisure activities and promoting the talents of children and young people. This is exactly what the Education Center does.

An article about it:

<https://drugsandalcoholni.info/iceland/>

The indicators used in this report to demonstrate the success of the Education Center are:

- Number of educational activities carried out in 2023
- Number of sportive, cultural and educational events conducted in 2023
- Anecdotes that describe the typical everyday life of the Education Center, told by educators and volunteers
- Quotes from participants about what the Center means to them
- Brief reports from two volunteers
- Testimonies from two long-time participants



REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF DELTA CULTURA CABO VERDE

2023 was a successful year for Delta Cultura and the Education Centre. The financial situation is stable, the children and young people love their Centre as much as ever and the project management was able to work on expanding the Education Centre into a publicly recognised educational institution. This has resulted in the “Education 27” concept, which is described in this report. It is no great secret that this concept was penned by me. I wrote it during my holidays in August. I always need a bit of time away from the daily routine of the Education Centre to realise work that needs creativity.

But I did not just write this concept, I also worked intensively on my book. I have had the idea of telling

my life story for some time now. The final impetus for this was given to me by dear Armin. I got to know him when I visited various alternative schools on my tour through Europe in 2022. Armin Fährndrich, as the good man is called by his full name, founded a public school in Lucerne called the Zeit-Kind-Schule. As I was very impressed by his opinions on education, I invited him to Tarrafal, and he actually came in February 2023. You can read about his impressions here in this report. Today, my older daughter Natalina is working for him in Lucerne.

My year was characterised by efforts to bring changes to the everyday life of the Education Centre. I was aware from the outset that this endeavour was and is difficult.

But since neuroplasticity is something that everyone is capable of, this endeavour was and is accompanied by hope that I can succeed. Why changes? Because - as you can read in Education 27 - I think it makes more sense if we concentrate on what arouses interest in children and young people, if we encourage their intrinsic motivation, if we teach them to question their values without imposing ours on them. All of these topics will be addressed in an Education Forum that we are planning for the end of 2024. We are currently working on the concept so that we can then start looking for experts and, of course, funding. We have hired a new employee for all of these endeavours. Manuela helps me with fundraising, prepares the education forum together with me and is also familiarising herself with the complex topic of education. In this project, we are relying heavily on what the various sciences tell us: psychology, education, neuroscience and others. I could also just say that we are doing a school project. We want to become a publicly recognised school, but I want to avoid the word "school". Almost everyone associates it with school buildings, classes, teachers, blackboards, grades and all sorts of things that I don't think are good symbols for education. Hence Education 27 ... 27 is my favourite number, and I really hope to have completed the project before 2027.

Unfortunately, what didn't work out so well last year was the music sector. For various reasons, the successes were very modest. We are therefore back to zero. The piano teacher has returned to Switzerland anyway, the guitar teacher has realised that he is not blessed with the talent to teach children to play the guitar, the choir director has decided to concentrate more on her own career, and the collaboration with Anita from Switzerland has also come to an end. So a new start. However, as we were unable to find suitable instructors in Cape Verde, we searched around in Portugal and hopefully found what we were looking for. The very successful musician will arrive on 4 January and we will hopefully get the music department up and running. In general, 2023 was characterised by staff departures. The Portuguese woman who was employed in the kindergarten has thrown in the towel. Which was ultimately a stroke of luck for Delta Cultura and the children of the kindergarten, as we have now been able to hire Margarida. A Portuguese woman who studied pedagogy and has taken up her work with great commitment and enthusiasm. She also wrote the description of the kindergarten in this report.

The other departures were all due to the fact that Portugal is currently responding positively to practically all applications for visas for Portugal. This is by no means

out of philanthropy, but for the simple reason that Portugal urgently needs labour in many sectors. All three employees of the tree nursery have left the country, and one long-time employee, Zito, has also left for the promised land. I and Delta Cultura wish them all success in their new endeavours.

I could go on and on, because a lot happens in a whole year. Even if time flies by. But there's not enough space for that here now. I would like to finish by saying that I am very much looking forward to the coming year and I very much hope that I will be able to tell you about some incredible successes in the 2024 annual report. I would be delighted if this letter and the description of the Education 27 project arouse the interest of many dear people who would then want to support us with advice and/or action.

Thank you for your attention and I wish all readers the very best for all their endeavours.

Florian Wegenstein

**Luana
(9 years old)**

I really like the Education Centre. It's very entertaining here with my friends and my aunts (Marisa and Ida). My aunts do my homework with me.

I really like my aunts, they are very friendly. The Education Centre exists so that the children can learn and do many other things.

Ida is very nice with the children.





EDUCATION 27

WE HAVE TO BE BRAVE

FOREWORD BY THE AUTHOR

The vision of the association I co-founded, Delta Cultura, is to eradicate poverty through education. All of us at Delta Cultura want a world in which every child is given the skills and requirements to lead a self-determined, free and dignified life. We want education that promotes critical thinking to bring much-needed change to the world. The educational concept described here is in the early stages of its implementation and will make a significant contribution towards realizing this vision.

The genesis of this initiative is extremely complex and, of course, it is due to various factors. However, I would like to highlight one particular trigger because it illustrates the structure, the past and future development of this initiative. The German philosopher Richard David Precht gave this impulse during a television broadcast. He said: “We should forget everything we know about school and think about how we can best prepare our children and young people for a future that we don’t even know exactly what it will look like. We should consult developmental psychologists, child psychologists, learning experts...” I mention this because *Education 27* implements exactly that.

Over a year ago, I decided to develop a project from the existing Education Center that would enable children and young people to avoid having to forcibly attend public schools. This also corresponds to the often-expressed wish of the children and young people we look after on a daily basis. Our goal is to become a publicly recognized educational institution. I consciously avoid using the terms “kindergarten” or “school” because they awaken associations for me and many other people that have nothing to do with this educational concept.

I used the past year to question my ideas about education and school and to deepen my knowledge of neurobiology, psychology and pedagogy. I visited various alternative schools in Austria, Germany and Switzerland and had countless conversations about education, including with students. In Switzerland, I got to know and appreciate the founder of the Zeit-Kind-Schule, Armin Fähndrich. Since then he has acted as a consultant and his school offers people from Delta Cultura training and further education.

However, even after these trips and the numerous conversations, to the chagrin of some of my fellow campaigners, I found myself unable to write a description of

the planned educational concept. It was only by delving deeper into the subject of “emotions and learning” and knowing numerous scientific studies on this topic that I was able to put this educational concept down on paper. It was, so to speak, the last piece of the puzzle that was missing for me. It is now time to consult more experts.

I see Delta Cultura as a “link” between science and the practical implementation of the knowledge it acquires. Delta Cultura has 20 years of experience in financing and implementing projects. I would like to use this to get the *Education 27* project off the ground.

The second part of the headline is thanks to the neuroscientist Immordino-Yang, who has been researching emotions and learning for decades. In an interview with the neurobiologist Huberman, which is linked in this concept, she commented on educational concepts and said at the very beginning (and I like to repeat it): we have to be brave.

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Education 27 builds on Delta Culturals’ 18 years of experience in the educational sector. Scientific findings from the areas of neurobiology, psychology and pedagogy are already incorporated into the concept (sources are listed in each section), but must be deepened by experts in the various areas relevant to education. Contacting and involving these experts is part of the next planned steps.

The starting point of the educational initiative is the often-neglected importance of emotions in the learning process. Emotions here refer to complex processes in the nervous system that include feelings, physical reactions and thought processes.

To put it simply: Without emotion, there is no thinking, and without thinking, there is no chance of learning

anything. This concept is initially about how emotions that are important for the learning process can be generated. This is where things like telling stories, asking questions, questioning values and creating challenges come into play. All of these things generate emotions and thus promote the natural curiosity of children and young people.

Another part of the project process is the further announcement of the existing Education Center and the communication of the educational concept to a broader public, both nationally (Cape Verde) and internationally. Therefore, an education forum is planned for the end of 2024 in Tarrafal, in which international and national education experts will be involved.

Another activity, which also aims to make the project better known, is to search for celebrities from a wide range of areas (music, art, sport, media, etc.) who are willing to commit themselves to the project.

PRINCIPLES AND BASIS

Einige der wichtigsten Prinzipien der Bildungsidee dieses Konzepts sind:

- Education leads people into their freedom.
- Education leads people into action.
- Educational institutions offer people safe spaces in which they are welcome and recognized for who they are.
- Education preserves people in their originality and individuality.

This educational concept can be represented in a simplified graphic as follows:



We will be happy to send you a detailed description of this concept and the status of the development. If interested, please send a short email to florian@deltacultura.org.



REPORT FROM MARISA

PROJECT MANAGER / RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MUSIC AREA AND BATUCO

The Education Center is a place that children and young people love. They enjoy coming to the Education Center. The sentence you hear from them the most is “Delta is so beautiful. Delta is so pleasant.” Almost all children call the Education Center “Delta”.

When I see the happy children here, I am always happy as well. Because what matters most is the satisfaction and happiness of children and young people.

Among other things, I am responsible for the music area in the Education Center, and it is my great wish that this area develops further. So far we have not managed to design the music area the way we would like to. We need good teachers. We need good instruments that are suitable for children. In other words, we have to invest more money, and that’s exactly what we’re planning for 2024. We are currently in contact with a musician from Portugal. He will arrive here on January 4th, 2024 and we all very much hope that he will be the right person to further develop the music area at Delta Cultura. Our goal is to one day have our own music group or even perhaps an orchestra and a choir.

Within the music sector, I have also been leading the Batuco group “Delta Ramantxadas” for many years and I organize the annual Batuco Festival in December. However, this area is very well developed. The Batucadeiras are very well known in Cape Verde and got famous over the years. We are regularly booked for private parties, performances in pubs and all kinds of events. We also recently recorded and released some songs. [Here is the link to our YouTube channel.](#)

Music is something that all children and young people here like. She especially enjoys singing together. So I don’t understand at all why public schools don’t have music classes. I think music should always be part of education, and that’s why I’m so interested in expanding this area in the education center.

In 2024, I will continue to do everything I can to ensure that we make progress in the music sector, and I am happy about all the people who want to support us in this.

Marisa Correia



THE DELTA CULTURA TEAM 2023

In 2023, there were again some changes in the Delta Cultura team. The main reason for this was the fact that Portugal is currently approving the majority of visa applications due to a shortage of labour in many areas.

Micael, Mandela and Ni (all from the tree nursery project) have left us. We were able to hire Pilika and Ja instead.

Our long-time educator and football coach Zito has also answered the call and is now working in Portugal. Since September, Carina and Ida have taken his place, not yet permanently employed, but as volunteers with expense allowances. Both were participants in the Education Centre's programmes for many years.

There has been a welcome change in the kindergarten. Instead of Marta, we now have Margarida from Portugal. She studied pedagogy and started work in October with great enthusiasm and vigour. She also wrote the text about the kindergarten in this report.

Delta Cultura reorganised the music department in October 2023. A musician from Portugal will take over the management of this area at the beginning of 2024.

Manuela is a brand new member. She helps in the administrative area with fundraising, project development, preparing the education forum and more.

Florian, Marisa and Gilson were also in charge of the project in 2023.

This year we asked children to write something about the staff who work directly with them or asked the children from the kindergarten to draw something about their educators. Every child in the Education Centre has a responsible person who makes sure that the child comes regularly, monitors how they are doing in school, etc. All of the employees who work in the administrative area, also look after the participants.

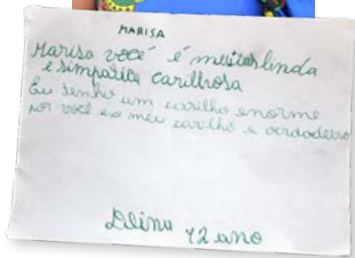
THE TEAM IN 2023



MARISA – Project Manager / Administrator / Cultural Director, Founder of Delta Cultura 2004

Deina, 12 years old, says about Marisa: “Marisa, you are beautiful, likeable and loving.

I feel enormous affection for you, and my love for you is sincere.”



KATIA – Public Relations / Volunteer Coordinator; with Delta Cultura since 2019

Melissa, 11 years old, says about Katia: “Katia, you are very special. Even though you sometimes

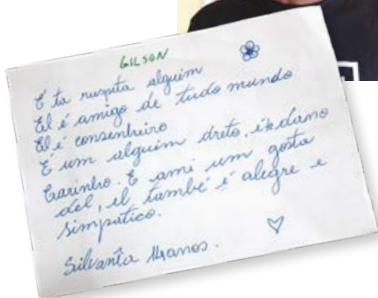
complain about us, you’re still a good friend. I never really got to know you, but now I do through my sister. I haven’t had the chance to get to know you better for a long time, but now I know why we should never form an opinion about someone we don’t know and now I want to be your best friend.



GILSON – Project Manager / Programme Coordinator; with Delta Cultura since 2013

Silvanea, 14 years old, says about Gilson: “He respects us. He’s good friends with everyone. He

treats us with love and I really like him. He’s cheerful and likeable.”



JASSICA – Kindergarten Coordinator; with Delta Cultura since 2011

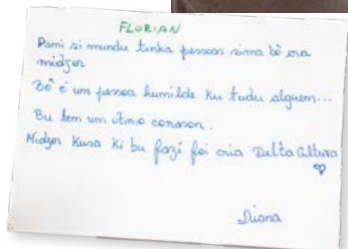
Pietra, 5 years old, made this drawing about Jassica.



FLORIAN – Fundraising / Project development, founder of Delta Cultura 2004

Diana, 18, says of Florian: “If there were more people like you, the world would be a better place. You’re a modest person. You have a good

heart. The best thing you have done was to found Delta Cultura.”



MARGARIDA – Kindergarten teacher; with Delta Cultura since 2023

Kiana, 5 years old, made this drawing about Margarida.



THE TEAM IN 2023



MANUELA – Project Development, Fundraising; with Delta Cultura since 2023
Manuela has only been working at Delta Cultura for 2 months and she mainly works in the administrative area. She is not yet working directly with the children.



KUTCHINHA – Educator, football coach, head of football department; with Delta Cultura since 2009
Mariolaine, 14 years old, says about Kutchinha:

KUTCHINHA
Kutchinha é bem responsável e simpática e alegre e ela motiva alguém e ela deixa sempre que possível.
Mariolaine
14 anos

“Kutchinha is very responsible and she is likeable and cheerful and she motivates you and is always there when you need something from her.”



NENE – Educator, football coach; with Delta Cultura since 2004
Leonardo, 18 years old, says about Nene: “Nene is a good coach, one of the best I know. I love being a player for him because he gives us confidence and teaches us to be good footballers.”

NENE
Leonardo de Barros 18 anos
O Nene é um bom treinador um dos melhores que já vi.
Eu gosto muito de ser seu jogador porque ele nos transmite confiança, e ensina-nos a ser um bom jogador.



SAMIR – Educator, Project Development; with Delta Cultura since 2011
Djalo, 17 years old, says about Samir: “Samir is tall. Sometimes he seems sad. He helps us a lot. He is very ok.”

SAMIR
Samir é alto ele ajuda muito mais do que eu.
17
Djalo



SUZETHE – IT trainer; with Delta Cultura since 2010
Diego, 9 years old, says about Suzethe: “Suzethe is very pretty and friendly. We always play very funny games with Suzethe.”

SUZETE
A Suzete é linda muito gentil. A Suzete nos dá jogos divertidos para jogar.
Diego, 9



CARINA – Educator, football coach; with Delta Cultura since 2023; previously a long-time participant of the Education Centre
Mayara, 11 years old, says about Carina: “Carina

you are very pretty, I like you very much, you are likeable and loving, you are a lovely girl. Never give up on anything. You’re really very sweet and I love you. You’re like an angel, I love you very much.”

CARINA
Carina você é muito bonita eu gosto muito de você, você é simpática, é carinhosa, você é uma boa menina não desiste de nada continua você é muito boa eu amo você, você é como um anjo eu amo muito
Mayara mãe de mi 11 anos

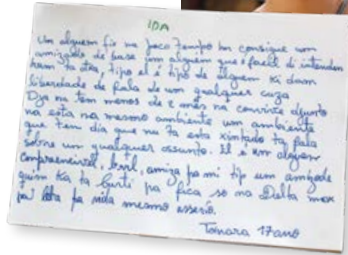
THE TEAM IN 2023



IDA – Educator, football coach; with Delta Cultura since 2023; previously a long-time participant of the Education Centre
Tainara, 17 years old, says about Ida: “Ida is lovely. I’ve built up a

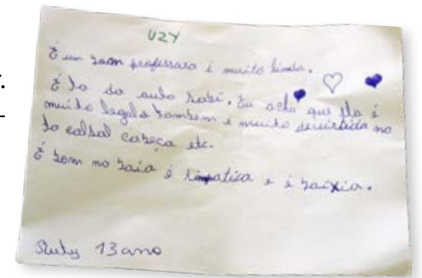
good friendship with her in a short time. She finds it easy to understand me. She gives me the freedom to talk about anything that is important to me. We have been friends for 2

months and always spend time in the same environment, an environment where I sometimes just sit and talk to Ida about anything and everything. She is very understanding. I want our friendship to go beyond the Education Centre and become a serious friendship for life.”



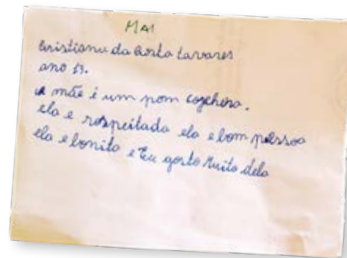
UZY – Dance teacher; with Delta Cultura since 2023
Ruty, 13 years old, says about Uzy: “She is a good teacher and she is very pretty. She gives good lessons. I think she’s very

okay and always funny, even when we annoy her. She’s a good dancer, like-able and she’s small.”



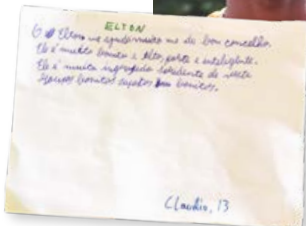
MAI – cook for kindergarten; with Delta Cultura since 2016

Cristiano, 13 years old, says about Mai: “Mai is a good cook. Everyone respects her because she’s a good person. She’s pretty and I really like her.”



ELTON – Driver, Educator; with Delta since 2023
Claudio, 13 years old, says about Elton: “Elton helps me a lot and gives me good advice. He is very handsome and tall, strong and intelligent.

He is very funny and makes a lot of jokes. He always wears nice clothes and shoes.”



PILIKA – Gardener Tree Nursery; with Delta Cultura since 2023

Pilika works in the tree nursery and therefore has little contact with children.



DENNIS – Slackline instructor; with Delta Cultura since 2023
Ariella, 10 years old, says about Dennis: “Dennis is a good guy and he never scolds us. He always teaches us new things and never gets impatient.”



JA – Gardener Tree Nursery; with Delta Cultura since 2021

Ja works in the tree nursery and therefore has little contact with children.



FURTHER TRAINING FOR EMPLOYEES 2023

Apart from the further training that all employees of the Education Centre regularly benefit from, the many years of practical experience in the education sector of almost all employees (see “The team”) is Delta Cultura’s greatest “asset”. All children and young people at the Education Centre benefit from this experience and all programmes are based on this knowledge.

Of course, Delta Cultura also focuses on further training for its employees. In 2023, the focus of these training courses was on neuroscientific findings related to learning and personal development. A total of five training courses were held in 2023:

- Neuroplasticity workshop (January 23): The aim of this workshop was to provide a basic understanding of what neuroplasticity is and what significance it has for learning.
- Clinton Callahan personal development workshop (April 23): This two-day workshop at a lodge in the mountains of Santiago was characterised by exercises aimed at leaving the comfort zone and developing reflection skills.
- Non-violent communication workshop (May 23): This workshop dealt with non-violent communication according to Marshall B. Rosenberg.

- Emotions and learning workshop (July 23): The focus of this workshop was on the importance of emotions for learning. The workshop was based on lectures by neuroscientist Immordino-Yang, who researches the importance of emotions for learning.
- Trauma management workshop (Nov. 23): This workshop covered a practical protocol developed by psychologist James Pennebaker for coping with trauma. It emphasised the importance of communication and honesty in coping with trauma.

In addition to these training sessions, Delta Cultura introduced a weekly team meeting in October 23 to discuss general educational topics.





TERESA RAMOS CORREIA

COUNCILLOR FOR CULTURE AND SPORT IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TARRAFAL

Firstly, please allow me to thank the Project Manager of Delta Cultura, Marisa Correia, for the invitation, the trust placed in me and the responsibility of presenting my views on one of the most important NGOs in Tarrafal. An NGO that has made a significant contribution to the development of our community of Tarrafal and therefore of Cape Verde.

Delta Cultura, a non-profit organisation, was founded in Austria in 2002 by Marisa Correia and Florian Wegenstein with the aim of jointly supporting the process of disseminating, promoting and developing various areas of activity, particularly in the fields of sport and culture. Culture and sport serve as a basis and instrument in the process of social promotion.

In this sense, many young people and adolescents experience that their lives would take a completely different direction if they were educated at Delta Cultura on the basis of fundamental values for the development of a human being. This makes our society healthier, fulfils the dreams of our young people and children, and at the same time contributes to the sustainability of families in the community of Tarrafal.

In 2002, Delta Cultura entered the lives of the people of Tarrafal as a helping hand and supporter, helping to educate the children in the kindergarten, contributing to the training of teenagers and young athletes and keeping their eyes on the fact that nothing could shake them in

their lives through sport and entertainment. Later, they started the Delta Ramantxada project, which has helped promote our Batuco in the country and around the world.

It is important to emphasise that the Municipality of Tarrafal sees Delta Cultura as a partner in the community development process. Together we have worked to promote a fairer and more equal society, providing a space for parents in vulnerable situations to leave their children safely while they are at nursery and school and parents can look for a livelihood for their family. The Education Centre provides education, taking in hundreds of children every year free of charge, while also training young people at the football school. Some youngsters have already been placed in international teams, such as Patrick, Tom, etc.

In terms of culture, the contribution is immeasurable, thanks to the Delta Cultura Batuco project, which is known in many countries, including Austria, Germany and Portugal.

It is important to emphasise that Delta Cultura has already done a lot and can do much more if it can continue to count on the support of partners. On behalf of the municipality, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the partnership in one way or another. With our helping hand, we have enabled the continuation and success of the project, which brings joy to the families in our community. At the same time, I appeal to new part-

ners to support this NGO so that Delta Cultura and the Municipality of Tarrafal can continue to move forward so that Delta Cultura can help every family in Tarrafal and beyond.

With these words of appeal, I end my vision and take this opportunity to thank Delta Cultura and all those who have contributed in one way or another to the development of this country and its people. I would like to thank Marisa for her trust and all the dedication she has put into this project together with Florian.

Many thanks on behalf of all the young people and families.

Teresa Ramos Correia

Sana has arrived ("from shy to shine") (story told by Samir, Educator)

Sana is 12 years old today. He came to Cape Verde from Guinea with his parents and sister about a year ago. At the beginning he was an extremely shy boy. He always kept to himself and did not participate in any activity. Of course I looked after him and tried to integrate him.

Today he is one of the most popular play partners, and the other children are constantly calling on him to play with them. The smile on his face shows his joy.



Wash Trash (story told by Jassica, Kindergarten Educator)

We sat in a circle and talked about the environment and waste. The conversation turned to the amount of rubbish that the wind brings with it and that accumulates on the fence around the Education Center. Many children agreed and said that the Education Center was sad with so much garbage and dirt.

Adrian (5 years old) had a suggested solution: "Jassica, I will collect the garbage, wash it at home and then bring it back."



Abolish School (story told by Zito, Educator)

Today while doing math homework, Neiva (12 years old) asked me if she could be like Amilcar Cabral (Cape Verdean freedom fighter). I asked her why she wanted to be like that. Her answer surprised me a bit: "Then I could find a lot of comrades-in-arms and abolish school. Because school just stresses you out."





THE VOLUNTEERS 2023

In 2023, a total of ten volunteers came to the Education Centre. All ten were female.

Most of them came from Portugal, namely six. One from Brazil, one from Italy, one from Austria and one local.

As always, the minimum stay was at least 2 months. Patricia stayed with us the longest. She is an art teacher and helps Gilson in the art room at the Education Centre for 6 months.

As volunteer work at the Education Centre is very important and the number of volunteers has steadily decreased in recent years, Delta Cultura has decided to rent a flat for the volunteers and make it available to them for a small rent.

It looks like this was the right measure, as a number of volunteers have already registered for the start of 2024.

On these pages you will also find two reports from volunteers about their time and impressions at the Education Centre.

Delta Cultura would like to take this opportunity to thank the volunteers once again for the great work they have done this year.

The ugly witch

(story told by Gilson, Program Coordinator, Project Manager, Art Educator)



I was in the art room with some girls when Nerline, 9 years old, started telling us about a witch she had met. “I immediately crossed my fingers underneath my shirt. Otherwise I would have died.”

I wanted to know from her why she was certain that she was a witch. “Because she was dark and extremely ugly. She also had red eyes and was dressed entirely in black.” “But maybe she just had red eyes because she had an eye infection,” was my attempt to explain, “and maybe she was dressed in black because she was in mourning. And just because she was ugly doesn’t mean she was a witch.”

But still not convinced, Nerline insisted: “Gilson, a woman that ugly, with red eyes, dressed in black, what else could it be if not a witch!? I know it was a witch, my mother explained that to me. And if I hadn’t crossed my fingers, I would be dead today.”

ANA – THE VOLUNTEER

MY EXPERIENCE AT DELTA CULTURA CABO VERDE.

SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2023

It is very difficult for me to summarise all my thoughts and experiences at Delta Cultura Cabo Verde on just one page, but I will do my best to do so. Delta Cultura immediately caught my attention when I was looking for volunteer projects in Cape Verde. One of the main focuses is on football, one of my favourite sports. There is music, art, languages and a huge range of activities for children, which really excited me! In Portugal, I do a lot of informal work with children and young people with the Scouts, so I thought this was the perfect project for me.

My days at Delta Cultura always had something unexpected. Sometimes I helped in the office with some translations into Portuguese, other times I helped in the art room (I'm not an artist!). Once I spent a day painting children's faces (I really want to emphasise again that I am not an artist) and I left the room extremely satisfied. My work was impressive.

I would say the funniest unexpected moment was when I was on my way to the stadium to help with football training, and two days later I started taking part in some practices myself! When I thought that my work at Delta Cultura would end at 5pm, I started to train football with the women's team until 6.30pm twice a week (the women even train every day, but this rhythm was too intense for me).

I was told very early in my stay that the majority of the children who come to Delta Cultura do not have the best socio-economic conditions at home. In the first two, maybe three weeks, I could not see any of that. They were always running around and playing with smiles on their faces ... It was very easy to fall into the illusion that the advice I had been given was perhaps a little exaggerated. Until one day, a child who usually only came in the afternoon turned up in the morning because he didn't have a class (school usually guarantees a mid-morning snack). At some point the child says he is hungry, there is no food at home, and then I remember: The snack he usually eats at school was not there that day. Fortunately, we managed to resolve the situation that day and the child ate a corn stew for lunch that the cook at the Education Centre had prepared. From that day on, I started to pay attention to what was around me. I realised that there were indeed some complicated situations for some children - so how could they not show it? Why the hell did I not see this before? That is the magic of Delta Cultura, the reason for the association's existence: we cannot see the children's problems when they are at the Education Centre because it has be-



come a place where they can forget their worries, they do what they like to do, they discover their own interests and they like to do it.

I firmly believe that my impact on these kids is almost zero. And I am glad that is the case, because I did not come here to leave my mark on them, but to help the association fulfil its mission and have a positive impact on the growth of these children through a joint and continuous effort. An effort that celebrates its 21st birthday this year.

I am very happy and satisfied to be part of the team that brings happiness, peace (and football!) to many children every day! However, the lessons I take away from here are a different story. I have learnt so much, had so many experiences and ideas, but I will keep them to myself so as not to bore those reading this report.

The people at Delta Cultura also made a great impression on me. Katia and Nene travelled to Praia on a Saturday just to pick me up from the airport (if I had known this, I wouldn't have scheduled the flight on a Saturday, sorry!)

Sharing the house with other volunteers was also a great advantage, so we always had company and someone to show us Tarrafal from a non-local's perspective, and we could have relaxing moments at the end of the week, which is also important!

I am very happy to have spent two months with Delta Cultura! And I am already looking forward to the next volunteers and the coming years of the organisation! The work done here is not to produce doctors or lawyers (although that does happen), but to give children a happy childhood. Mission accomplished!

Ana Margarida Silva



DELTA CULTURA KINDERGARTEN

The kindergarten in the Delta Cultura Education Centre currently accommodates a heterogeneous group of 28 children aged between 4 and 5 years. They attend the kindergarten every day from 7.30 am to 4 pm.

The main objective of Delta Cultura Kindergarten is to create a safe and welcoming space for children to play freely, learn about topics that interest them and develop on different cognitive, emotional, social and intellectual levels.

Therefore, in this learning space, the child's voice is valued and used as the most important learning tool. Every day, the children's interests are taken into account so that the pedagogical team can develop stimulating activities and moments that correspond to what the children want to learn and explore. The children, their interests and needs are therefore at the centre of our educational activities, because they are competent and active people with their own wishes and thoughts and therefore deserve to be heard at all times.

It is important that children feel safe and be heard and that their opinions are valued so that they develop a positive self-esteem and an enthusiasm and love for learning.

Free play also plays an important role in our kindergarten, because children learn and develop best through play. Play is a free and spontaneous activity that is already present in the first years of life and helps children to understand the world around them by exploring the five senses, as well as contributing to their holistic development and the expression of their individuality.

In our kindergarten we are inspired by various educational models such as Montessori, Waldorf, Reggio Emilia, the pedagogy of active listening, the project method and the MEM (Modern Education Movement). We are not guided by a single model, as we believe it makes more sense to utilise the best that each individual child has to offer, taking into account the group of children.

„No social problem is more universal than the oppression of children“

Maria Montessori

Gilsiane
(9 years old)

I feel good and happy at the Education Centre and I have a lot of fun here.





THE DELTA CULTURA ART ROOM

A REFLECTION BY THE ART TEACHER GILSON

The art room in the Delta Cultura Education Centre is one of the places where children like to spend their time. The aim is to develop their ability to express themselves and to encourage their creativity in all artistic areas. However, achieving these goals faces a major challenge, which is that the children are not able to be creative and self-confident on their own. I have noticed that most of the children who come into the room have a strong habit of copying from each other and deriving their own approval and satisfaction from the opinions and achievements of others. They find it difficult to make their own decisions about what they want to do or what they enjoy. For example, the children come into the room and the first question they ask is: “What are we doing today?” As soon as they are then confronted with the answer: “You can do whatever you want”, they are astonished and cannot say or do what they want. Instead, they look at what someone else is doing and copy it. So the question arises: “Why have these children lost the ability to be creative and to know what they really like to do?”

To overcome this challenge, I have developed and implemented a number of approaches and methods that are adapted to the needs and abilities of the children and

should help them to develop into creative, social and emotional individuals. These approaches and methods also served as experimental mechanisms to better assess and understand this challenge and to find sustainable solutions to it.

In recent years, the approach has been to divide the art space into two activity models.

Two days a week we organised special activities with the children where I chose a specific project and we worked exclusively on it. This was implemented with the aim of giving children the opportunity to develop specific artistic skills and knowledge about particular projects. In this approach, I play an active role in facilitating the activity by helping, guiding and explaining to the children what the project we are going to work on is about and how it will be carried out.

However, I realised that this approach was not as effective when it came to getting children to unleash their creativity on days when we do certain activities. For this reason, I changed the approach to a completely free activity methodology, the aim of which is to give children the opportunity to freely express their creativity on their own and in their own way. This has allowed the children to be more confident, increase their self-esteem, and be more



creative. It pushes them to think outside the box and leave their comfort zone by encouraging autonomy, introspection and critical thinking.

Through this approach, children are motivated to think for themselves instead of following or copying the work of others. They are educated to express their views, beliefs and interests in their artistic work without being pressurised or judged on the basis of predefined societal standards of what others would approve. In this approach, my role as a facilitator is to support their views and decisions, help them when needed and suggest ideas when they ask for them. However, it is very important not to intervene as the main producer of the project. The role of the facilitator is passive and supportive and allows the children to produce the project on their own and make their own decisions about it.

Certainly, working on this approach and achieving the expected results is a long-term goal as there are few challenges to overcome. For example, it is not always comfortable for children to be exposed to such an approach as they are very used to being told what to do and how to do it, be it at school or at home. So it can be very challenging and demanding for them in the short term to be in a place where people are suddenly giving them this decision-making power, giving them complete freedom and autonomy to decide what they want to do and how they want to do it. But once it becomes a habit, they will be able to restore their creativity and confidence as they become

fully aware of their strengths and embrace them in a way that is not defined by others' expectations or demands of them.





A FIELD REPORT ABOUT DELTA CULTURA

(BY ARMIN FÄHNRICH – FOUNDER OF ZEIT-KIND-SCHULE IN LUCERNE)

In February 2023 I visited Florian and Delta Cultura. As an educator and school founder from Switzerland, I was invited to get to know Florian's project better. Since he wants to expand his educational project to a private school, he asked me if I would like to support him. Without hesitation, I accepted this invitation with great curiosity.

However, I traveled to Tarrafal without a concrete plan or knowledge of a specific task. Rather, I wanted to experience what it felt like to be among the locals on the Cape Verde island of Santiago before we looked into education and school.

During the 90-minute drive from Praia to Tarrafal, I got to know Florian better. It quickly became clear to me: He is a kind-hearted person and, as it soon turned out, also something of a celebrity in Tarrafal. On the walk from the house to the café, which happened twice a day, people came from all sides who wanted to greet Florian. Children, teenagers and adults shouted "Florian" loudly and exchanged a few words with him. The children hugged him, even those who were not at his center. He didn't know them, but they knew him! The love for children that he carries in his heart should be a recurring theme in our time together. Florian wanted to found a school where children felt comfortable and



would not be beaten if they made a mistake. I never doubted for a moment that the motivation to found the school came from his heart. For me, this aspect is crucial because without it, in my opinion, it cannot succeed - no matter where in the world. Love for children and focusing on their needs form the basis for a school that serves children, because a school should be there for its children and not the other way around - the school for the children.

The lives of young Cape Verdeans are challenging! There are not many career prospects for them. That's why they want to get off the island as early as possible. Some may make it to Portugal or France, but some come back disappointed and discouraged. "Therefore there are some challenges when developing new ideas and visions. Suddenly someone who works for us has left because he is trying his luck somewhere in Europe. In addition, Cape Verdeans rarely have personal conversations with each other because it is not their style to ask about the feelings and thoughts of others. A Cape Verdean very rarely shares anything personal," Florian explained to me.

However, Delta Cultura Education Center is beautiful! When you first arrive there, you are firstly greeted

Cristiano
(13 years old)

Delta Cultura is a beautiful place. A good, incredible place that we love coming to.



The people here are very good and they like us. I really like Delta Cultura, it's a place for all children.

Elciane
(14 years old)

In my opinion, Delta Cultura is a good place to have fun. There are always lots of people here.



And I want to make an appeal to all the guardians of Tarrafal that the Education Centre is like an amusement park and they should give their children the freedom to come here.

by a loudly squeaking iron gate. Once you have left this behind you, you see a large, mostly bare sand and earth area on which the 8 buildings of the center are located. Behind it is the FIFA artificial turf pitch, which was sponsored years ago and serves as a training field for all children and teenagers who choose football as a leisure activity. Additionally, students can take art, music, language and computer lessons at Delta Cultura. There has also been a kindergarten for two years. This one is so beautifully and colorfully decorated that I stayed there for a while. The little ones are really cute, but a little shy at first. Their clothes and hairstyles are perfect, and there is great curiosity in their big dark eyes.

Florian would like to set up his school here. I think it's a perfect place because almost everything is already there. And so the very next day we began to think inten-

sively about the planned founding of the school. In the following 2 weeks, many concrete ideas were discussed on site. Those were really intensive days of work. It was agreed that Florian could act completely freely. I had no expectations and Florian knew better than me what could actually be implemented.

After returning to Lucerne, it was clear to me: I wanted to use my opportunities, experiences and skills to make it easier for Florian and his team to set up a private school in Tarrafal. Since then we have been in constant communication - and the best thing about the story for me is that Florian's daughter has been working in our school in Lucerne since last summer. There we will train her to become a teacher's assistant. She is an enrichment for our school. We are sure that after her training she will be a great support for Florian in founding and running the new school.

The different types of lies

(story told by Cutchinha, Educator, Football Coach)



I sat with some children and we talked. Erica came along. She put Txipo's bag, which was on an armchair, on the floor to sit down. When Txipo came, he complained and asked who put his bag on the floor. "Not me," Erica replied. "That's not true. You lie. It was you. You know lying is a sin?" Whereupon Sadine, 11 years old, went into a detailed explanation about lying. "No, not all lies are a sin. There are lies that are a sin, there are some that are normal, and there are radical lies. Sins are only those lies with which we harm someone. When we are not harming anyone,

they are normal lies, and the radical lies we use when our lives are in danger. So these aren't lies at all, because otherwise we would die."

DATA ON PROGRAMMES AND EVENTS

The numbers of programmes and events change little over the years.

However, there are programmes that are discontinued after a certain period of time for a variety of reasons.

The main reason for this is the trainers who leave the programme for a variety of reasons.

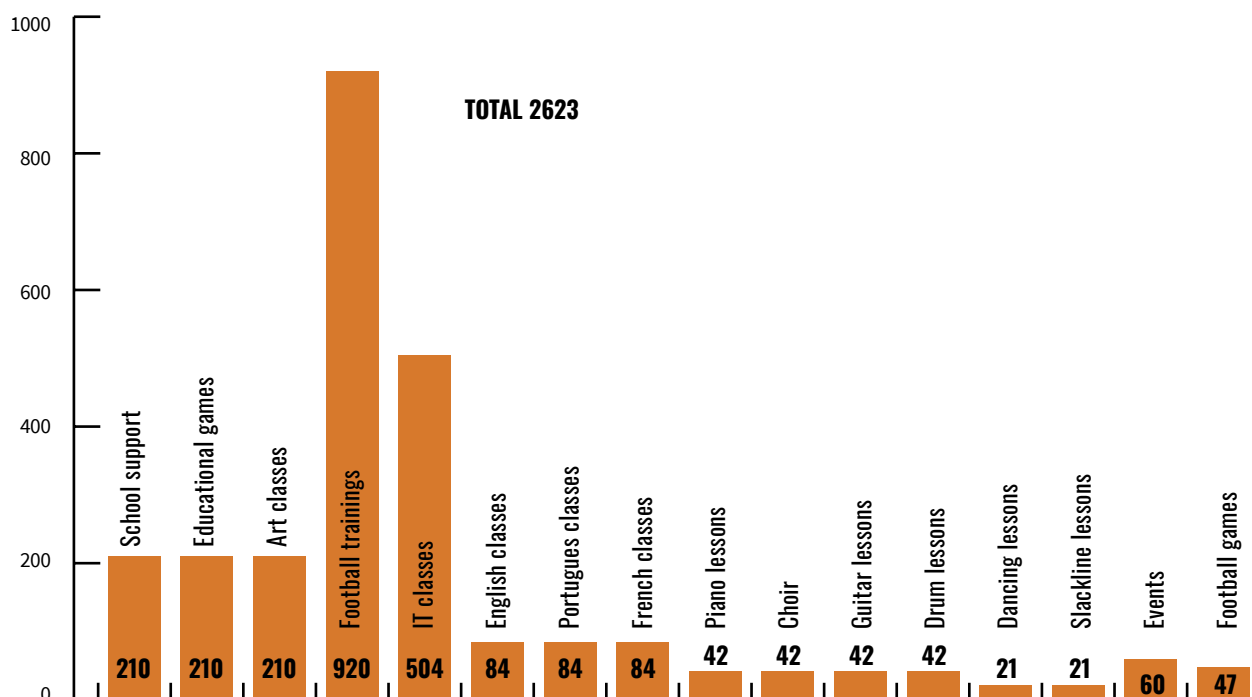
In 2023, guitar, piano and drum lessons came to an end in June. The death of drum teacher Txerno was particularly sad. We would like to take this opportunity to honour and thank him.

In January 2024, Delta Cultura is expecting the arrival of a music teacher from Portugal.

In October, the dance classes - which many children love - were resumed. Delta Cultura also found a slackline instructor. This is a useful activity in many respects and has been very well received by the children.

The figures illustrate the variety of offers and demonstrate the positive impact that the education centre has on children and young people.

PROGRAMMES CONDUCTED



The figures were calculated as follows:

- 42 weeks of activities per year; 5 days a week (=210 days) excluding weekends and July, when Delta Cultura only organises events and excluding August when the Education Centre is on holiday
- Football training for 10 age groups, each training twice a week (also in July)
- Computer lessons take place four times a day for 6 different age groups (each age group twice a week).
- Homework help, art activities and educational games are organised daily for the children who come in the morning and the children who come in the afternoon.
- Music lessons: choir, guitar, piano and drum lessons twice a week in the mornings and afternoons (until June 2023)
- Dance lessons: twice a week (2x in the morning and 2x in the afternoon), since October 2023
- Slackline lessons: twice a week (2x in the morning and 2x in the afternoon), since October 2023
- Batuco: twice a week

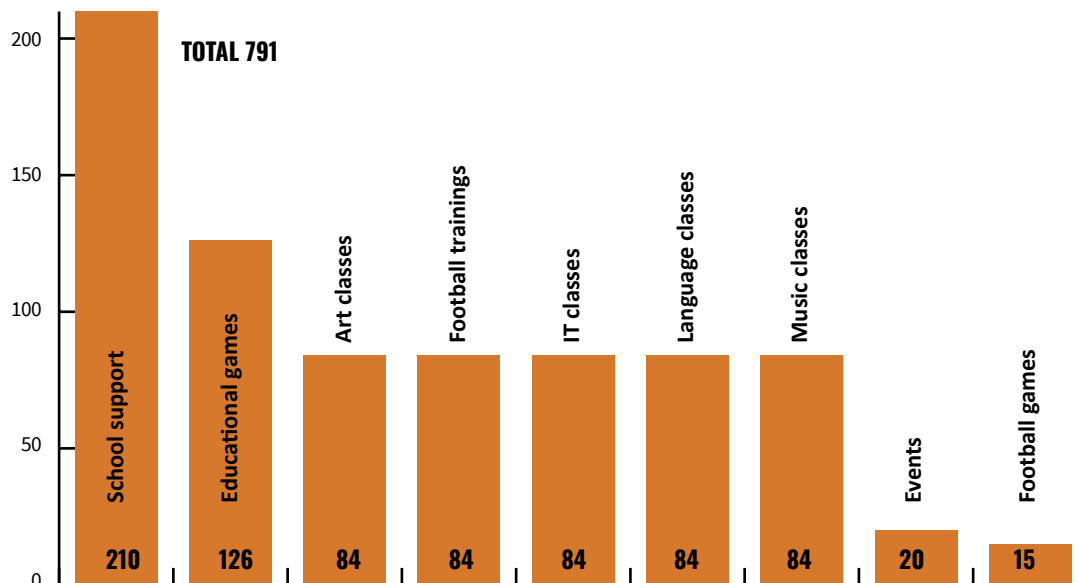


ACTIVITY PER CHILD

A child who takes part in football training, artistic activities, homework and tutoring groups, computer lessons and sports and cultural events is involved in **791 educational activities** over the year.

These figures were calculated as follows:

- 42 weeks of activities per year; 5 days a week (= 210 days)
- Homework help: daily
- Educational games: the number can only be estimated because these games take place all the time. Participation in games 3 times a week was calculated.
- Art activities: twice a week
- Football training: twice a week, 48 weeks per year
- Computer, language and music lessons: twice a week
- Events: 20 (estimated number)
- Football matches: 15 games at the weekends





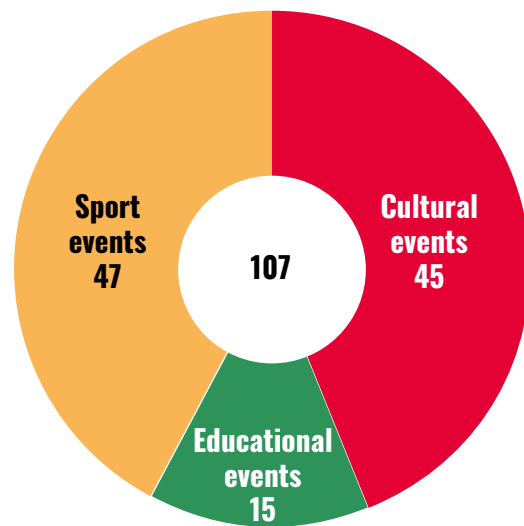
NUMBER OF EVENTS ORGANISED IN 2023

Delta Cultura organised a total of **107 events** in 2023. In the diagram below, the events are divided into sports, cultural and educational events. Of course, this categorisation is not a clear and precise one. Many of the sporting events (e.g. the football 3 tournaments) also train social skills. This also applies to cultural events.

The sporting events are almost exclusively football matches for different age groups as well as “Olympic Games” during the school holidays with football, volleyball, games of skill and running competitions.


The educational events include workshops on relevant topics, excursions to interesting places and sights, clean-up campaigns on the beach and “Delta in the districts”, when the employees of the education centre are out and about in the village in the evenings to introduce the population to the work of Delta Cultura.

The cultural events are mainly performances by the Batu-co group and the annual Batu-co Festival.



Edmar
(9 years old)

I do not come here because the Education Centre is a nice place. It's a nice place with lots of toys and there is someone, Ida, who teaches me a lot. The Education Centre has a kindergarten, plants and a swing.



Ruth
(13 years old)

The Education Centre is pleasant and fun. It is a fantastic place because there are art classes, dance classes and much more.



DATA ABOUT PARTICIPANTS

All participants of the Education Centre are registered in the Delta Cultura database. Since this year, the database has been provided by the Austrian company Marmara and the long-standing Delta Cultura sponsor Rupert Helm.

The number of registered participants varies only slightly from year to year.

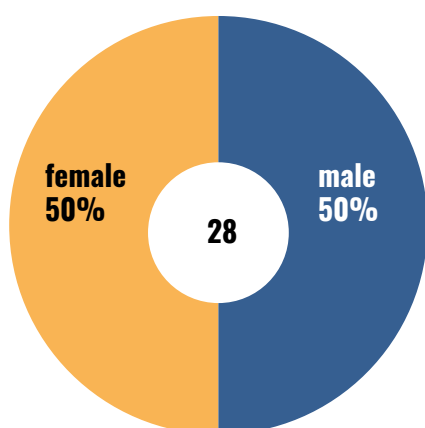
In 2023/2024, 385 children and young people are registered in the database.

PARTICIPANTS OF THE DAILY PROGRAMMES

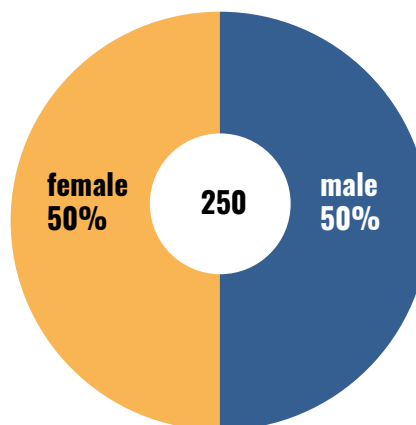
This includes all children and young people who attend the Education Centre on a daily basis and take part in the various programmes. They come partly in the morning and partly in the afternoon, depending on whether they attend the public school in the morning or afternoon.

CHILDREN OF THE KINDERGARTEN

The children come every day from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and receive a warm meal.

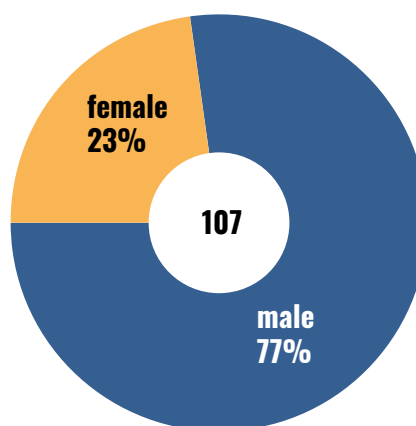


OVERALL REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS 2022



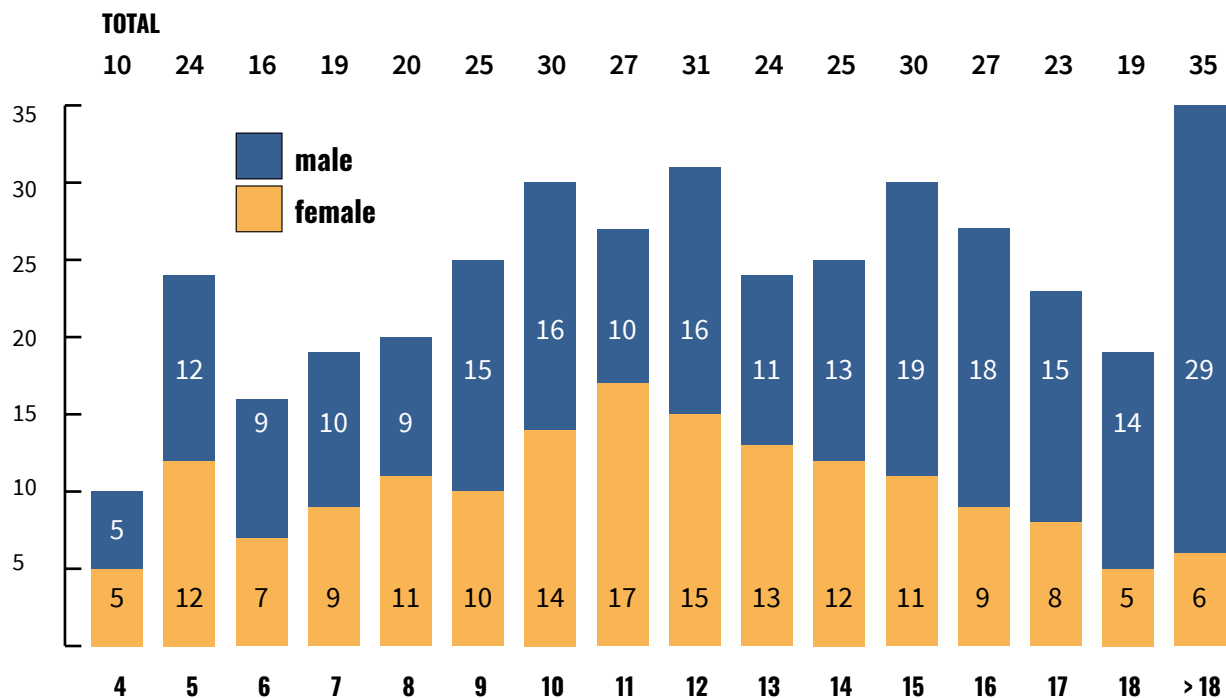
PARTICIPANTS IN BATUCO AND FOOTBALL

Among the children and young people who play football, there are many who are enrolled in the daily programmes, but there are also those who only come to football training twice a week and take part in matches at the weekends. The same applies to the Batucadeiras, who also practise twice a week and take part in events. As Delta Cultura includes 250 children and young people in its daily programmes every year, these children and young people are not counted. As more boys and men are enrolled in the football programme, the desired gender equality is not achieved in this area.



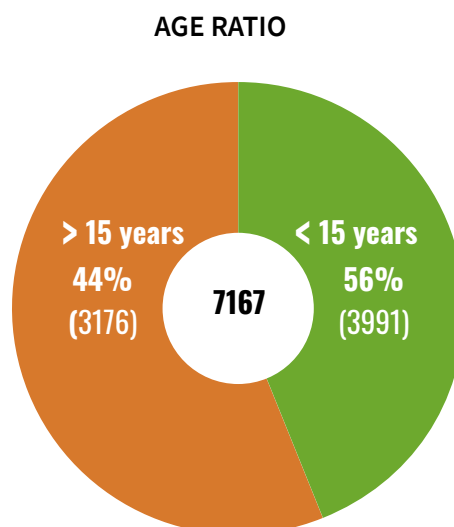
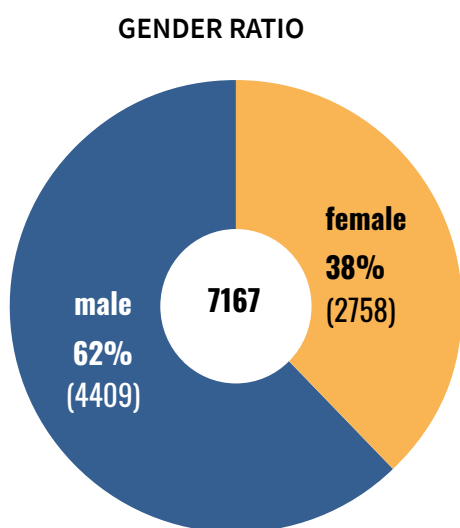
PARTICIPANTS BY AGE GROUP

The graphic below shows the division of children and young people according to age and gender.

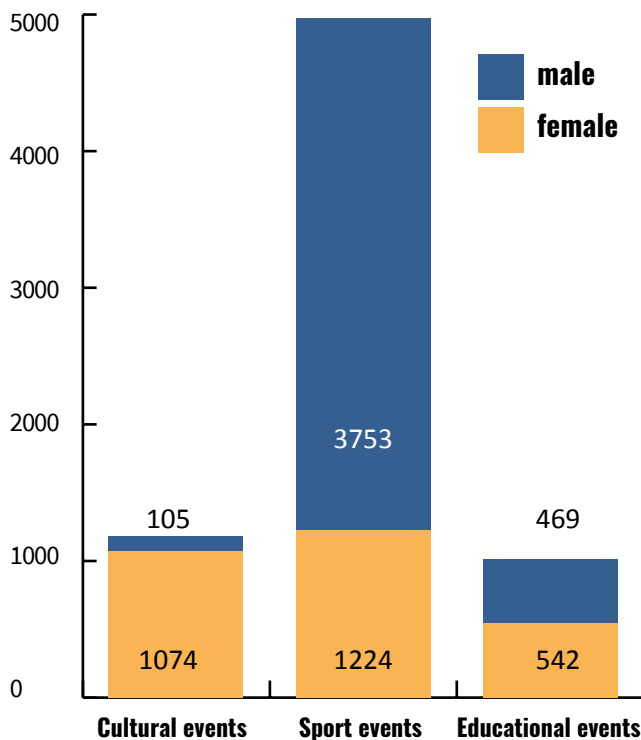


PARTICIPANTS IN EVENTS

Total number of participants in the 2023 events: 7167



NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS DIVIDED BY KIND OF EVENT



Dieser Bericht konzentriert sich auf die direkt Begünstigten der täglichen Programme sowie der Veranstaltungen. Es gibt aber auch zahlreiche indirekt Begünstigte:

- The educational programs of the education center improve the school performance of the participants, which generally improves the educational level of the public schools (approx. 4,200 students).
- The activities in the Education Center relieve the parents, who know that their children are being cared for and can devote themselves to their work or to finding a job.
- DCCV organizes many cleaning and beautification activities (see number of events) throughout the community. The entire population (9,000 inhabitants in Tarrafal) benefits from it.
- In 2023, DCCV brought around €130,000 from foreign donors to Tarrafal. This money benefits the local economy.

The participants in the events are often also active in other programs, but not always and not exclusively. For major events such as the Batuco Festival, the figures are estimated.

Cristiano learns the “D”

(story told by Cutchinha, Educator and Football Coach)



Cristiano is 6 years old and is in first grade. He can't write all the letters yet, and he isn't very focused when he's doing his homework. He'd rather fool around. One day he had to write the word “Dedo” (finger), but he didn't know

a single letter. I drew a big D on the table for him. He thought it was funny and the next day he proudly showed it to me and told me it was a D.

To complicate matters for him, the next day I erased the D from the table and painted it somewhere else on the wall. When Cristiano came, he was actually quite outraged. “Where is the D?” “It's somewhere else today, you have to look for it.”

It didn't take long for him to find it. He's known the D ever since, and now I have to write him new letters somewhere so he can look for them. This is also how people can learn to read.

VOLUNTEER PAULA

“If education alone does not change society, society will not change without it.” For me, this sentence by Brazilian educator Paulo Freire summarises the important role that Delta Cultura plays in the village of Tarrafal.

My first contact with the organisation was through Para Onde? and I chose this project because of the opportunity to get involved in IT.

However, the various programmes offered by the Centre also allowed me to get involved in other activities. This is one of the points I want to emphasise: volunteers can decide where they want to get involved depending on their wishes. This dynamic gave me the opportunity to work on new tasks, such as in the art room, tutoring and games.

In addition, the entire team is open to ideas, suggestions and experiences that can contribute to the social development of the children and young people participating in the projects. This means that the volunteers are integrated here and can play an active role in the everyday life of the Education Centre.

In terms of computer lessons, the support from Suzete, the IT instructor, was an extremely positive experience



that allowed me to give the children and young people the innovation and flexibility to experiment with important methods to improve their technological skills through games and graphic design.

In general, volunteering allowed me to be in direct contact with the daily lives of children, young people and Delta Cultura staff, who always endeavour to provide an encouraging environment so that everyone feels motivated and valued to learn.

Finally, I must thank Delta Cultura, where everyone made me feel welcome and gave me the chance to experience the transformative power of education. This experience has further strengthened my categorical commitment to social development.

I hope that my brief participation left a positive impression on each of the people I met, and since the needs are ongoing, I hope to be able to contribute in some way in the future if needed.

Congratulations to everyone involved in this project! Long live Delta Cultura! I will miss you all!

Paula Palmam (Volunteer - 2023)

Does money make you happy? (story told by Nene, Educator, Football Coach)

Jailson, 14 years old, actually comes from the neighboring town of Chao Bom. He also played for the local football club. But as he told me, he never got a chance there.

“I know I’m not that good of a footballer, but I still love playing. Here at Delta Cultura



everyone gets a chance, everyone is treated equally here. Nobody has prejudices. And if you

CARINA FROM A PARTICIPANT TO AN EMPLOYEE OF THE EDUCATION CENTRE

CARINA

Carina Andreia Martins da Veiga is the full name of Carina. She was born on 23rd of November 2004 in Tarrafal. She lives with her mother. Although she knows her biological father, she does not have a close relationship with him.

“He lives in Santa Cruz, an hour’s drive from Tarrafal, but I hardly ever see him, and only when I go to visit him.”

Carina has two brothers from her mother’s side. The older one has been in Portugal for 3 years, the younger one is with his mother. On her father’s side, Carina has 2 brothers and 3 sisters. However, she has little contact with these siblings.

Since Carina was born, her mother has worked in a pizzeria in Tarrafal. As she is dependent on this job and there is no such thing as maternity leave in Cape Verde, Carina’s mother had to find a place early on where she could leave Carina and where she could be looked after. She found this place with Eugenia, the mother of Marisa, the founder of Delta Cultura.

There were always lots of children at Eugenia’s. Her grandchildren, children of parents who emigrated, or children like Carina, whose parents had to work.

“Of course I can’t remember the early years at Eugenia. But I do later on. I was there every day. I often slept there when my mum had to work late into the night. My memories of Eugenia herself are consistently good. Eugenia was a very kind woman. She didn’t have much herself, her house was very simple, with an improvised kitchen and no toilet. When I slept there, it was in one of the two beds, together with many other children. Eugenia helped everyone she could. People often came to her to get a plate of hot food.”

Even before Carina came to the Education Centre as a pre-school child, she was already passionate about playing football. She played on the street with children from the neighbourhood and learned to assert herself there. Apart from football, Carina has a talent for sport in general. A talent for movement, as they say. When Delta Cultura brought stilts for the Education Centre for the first



time a few years ago, Carina was one of the first to teach herself how to strut around the Centre on them.

Carina played football at the Education Centre throughout her entire school career. In the end, she also took part in the regional championship twice. “But I was never extremely ambitious in football. I love playing, but whether we win or lose does not mean as much to me as it does to other players. It’s also very much in line with Delta Cultura’s philosophy of “winning yes, but not at any cost”.

Her former coach, Florian, says about Carina’s football abilities: “She was certainly one of the best players Delta Cultura has ever trained. Or let’s say, with the best skills. Her only weakness was that she always missed the ideal moment to pass the ball. She was too much in love with the ball.”

Carina’s football career is of course not over yet. She will be playing in the championship for Delta Cultura again this year.

Carina has completed twelve years of school without any major difficulties.

“I wasn’t a really good pupil, but I always passed to the next level, even though I never learnt much at home.”

Carina attended the Education Centre throughout her school years. Although she also received school support here, she was always more interested in other programmes: Football, IT and Batuco.

Carina successfully completed school in 2021.

When Carina was 16 years old, she realised that she was bisexual. As Tarrafal is still very conservative and outdated in this respect, it was not easy for Carina to accept this and show it publicly. But when she fell in love with a fellow player from Delta Cultura and began a romantic relationship with her, she no longer wanted to hide it.

This public display of her sexual inclinations has also had negative effects, but it has improved her relationship with her mother.

“She was against it at first, but it brought us closer together and we now talk more about personal things.

I was often bullied at school because of this. Only at Delta Cultura did I feel recognised in this respect. Here at the Education Centre, everyone can be who they want to be and who they are.”

As Carina was unable to realise her dream of becoming a vet after finishing school for financial reasons, Delta Cultura initially took her on as a volunteer. She receives an expense allowance and will be offered a position as soon as one becomes available.

“Delta Cultura has always been like my third home, after my mum’s and Eugenia’s house. Since Eugenia’s death, the Education Centre has become my second home and I am incredibly happy to be able to work here.”

Samir, a long-standing employee of Delta Cultura, says of Carina’s employment: “Today, Carina is with us at the Education Centre and works with the young children. Every day, you can see the joy she puts into her work on her face.”

Carina’s wish for her work at Delta Cultura: “I don’t want to emigrate any more. I want to work for Delta Cultura for as long as Cutchinha has.”

A big goal, considering that Cutchinha has now been working for Delta Cultura for almost 15 years.

Nimara and art

(story told by Gilson, Programs Coordinator, Project Manager, Art Educator)



Nimara is seven years old and was already in kindergarten at the Education Center when she was younger. Now she is in the second grade and still comes to the Education Center. She has enjoyed coming to the art room

regularly since she was in kindergarten. But I always noticed a way about her that many children have here. Instead of coming up with something themselves, they prefer to copy from others. She sees someone doing something and then she wants to do it too. As soon as she sees someone else doing something different, she stops what she is doing and wants to do the new thing she saw. In this way, she never gets anything done and never focuses on what she wants, only on what others are doing. Whenever she reacted like that, I talked to her about it. At the beginning it wasn’t easy for her to reflect on this. She felt uncomfortable talking about it.

But now that we’ve talked about it regularly, she’s already doing her own projects. She comes into the art room, asks for the materials she needs, and makes her own things. My conversations with her helped her find her creativity.



BATUCO FESTIVAL 2023

The year 2023 had the Batuco Festival again. The festival, which has now become a huge cultural brand, brings together Batuco groups from all over the island of Santiago every year. The highlight is not only the performance of the Batucaderas, but also the exchange between the groups.

The groups arrive in Tarrafal in the morning and a lively exchange quickly develops. Of course, having lunch together helps to promote this exchange.

There are few festivals in Tarrafal that attract so many people. A fact that is even more astonishing is that the festival traditionally always takes place on a Sunday and people have to go to school or work the next day. Batuco is a beloved tradition on the island, popular among the youngsters and elders.

“This festival certainly contributes to preserving this tradition. Because even Batuco is not immune to commercialization,” says organizer Marisa, “there used to be Batuco performances in our neighborhood almost every evening. That was before there was electricity and television, let alone the Internet.”


May this festival last for the next centuries to come!





Fofa
(12 years old)

The Education Centre is very entertaining. I love the Education Centre, it makes me happy. It's very important to me. I am very happy that I can be at the Education Centre. I love you Education Centre.





No favorite days

(story told by Cutchinha, Educator and Football Coach)



I learned English with a few girls. I asked her what her favorite day was. One girl said it was Monday. This is what Martin, 8 years old, said: “My favorite day is Saturday because there is no school.”

“And if there was school every day, which day would be your favorite?” I asked him. “Then I wouldn’t have a favorite day.”

Edney in Egypt

(story told by Cutchinha, Educator and Football Coach)

One weekend when we had another U13 game, Edney, 12 years old, explained to me after the game that every time he outplayed a player in a game, he thought of Egypt. “Why Egypt?” I was a bit surprised. “Because there is a lot of fruit there and huge buildings. It’s very pleasant there.”





AGRO-FORESTRY PROJECT / TREE NURSERY

The agro-forestry project on the grounds of the Education Centre began in 2020 with the planting of 90 fruit trees. At the same time, a green hedge was created around parts of the site. This will be expanded step by step. The tree nursery project, funded by the Daniel Schlegel Environmental Foundation, entered its second year in 2023. Once again this year, 1000 fruit trees were successfully grown and distributed to the community, farmers and families. In Pilika, Delta Cultura has gained a colleague who has a vast, self-taught knowledge of everything that has to do with plants. As soon as the collaboration has become well established, the plan is to expand the project and carry out reforestation with the aim of pushing back the invasive acacia species that grows everywhere here. Although these acacia trees are evergreen, they suck up groundwater and thus push back other species. Delta Cultura is confident that it will be able to make good progress with the current employees in the tree nursery and agro-forestry project in 2024.





TRAIN THE FOOTBALL COACHES (WITH SAMUEL GLATZ)

After several years, a football coach training course took once again place at the Education Centre in December 2023. Attentive observers will remember that a delegation of very well-known coaches from Austria visited Delta Cultura in 2008, including Didi and Germar Constantini as well as Samuel Glatz, all three from Tyrol.

This year, Samuel Glatz visited us on his own. Sammy, as everyone calls him, is a qualified physiotherapist and masseur and holds FIFA Elite and A licences. This means he has knowledge in areas that are often lacking here. So it was no wonder that Sammy was fully utilised for the two weeks he was here. He led training sessions with the U9s, U11s, U13s, U15s, U17s, the men's team and the women's team and treated injured players in between. The days were packed, but very instructive for the local coaches and players.

As on his last visit - Sammy visited Tarrafal twice more after his first visit in 2008 - Sammy was once again on fire for the cause. Delta Cultura is working on developing the football area together with Sammy. There are more than enough ideas. So 2024 also holds plenty of challenges in this area and one thing goes without saying: the football school will certainly never be just a talent factory. The social aspect must and will continue to take centre stage. But the one does not necessarily exclude the other.

Delta Cultura would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Samuel Glatz for his commitment during the two weeks in Tarrafal. We hope that the joy that the players had at his training sessions adequately compensates for his efforts.



Change of club (story told by Nene, Educator, Football Coach)

Jailson, 14 years old, actually comes from the neighboring town of Chao Bom. He also played for the local football club. But as he told me, he never got a chance there.

"I know I'm not that good of a footballer, but I still love playing. Here at Delta Cultura everyone gets a chance, everyone is treated equally here. Nobody has prejudices. And if you can't do something, you get the chance to learn it."

Cristiano doesn't talk to me anymore

(story told by Suzete, Computer Educator)



Cristiano, 6 years old, saw me in the village and called me. But I didn't hear him. The next day I tried to talk to him at the Education Center, he was mock outraged: "I called you yesterday and you didn't answer me, so I won't answer you either... Unless you buy me a snack."

Animal language

(erzählt von Jassica, Kindergarten Betreuerin)

A group of kindergarten children sat in the tree and talked in Portuguese. "What kind

of language are you talking about?" I asked her jokingly. Inaia had the answer: "It's an animal language." And after a short laugh, she corrected herself: "No, that's not true. That's French." She had to laugh again. Until Neiva lectured her: "No Inaia, that's Portuguese."



Taissa

(7 years old)

I like the Education Centre.

I go to the art room.

I study at the Education Centre.

I have a friend at the Education Centre.

The Education Centre is nice because I have a lot of friends here.

Different people have lots of toys.



Adrian listens

(story told by Margarida, Kindergarten Educator)

At the beginning of the year, Adrian (5 years old) was not behaving very correctly with his friends; he constantly hit other children. When an adult tried to talk to him and resolve the conflict, he ran away and there was no chance to talk to him.

Now in November, his less positive behaviors continue, but there has also been a very positive change in Adrian. When he hits his friends and an educator tries to solve the problem, Adrian no longer runs away; he can listen and apologize. It is a very positive development.



The game of checkers in the Education Center

(story told by Samir, Educator)

I made 3 checkerboards a long time ago so that there would be another free offer in the Education Center.

Zenilson, 11 years old, was very fascinated by the game from the start and watched the adults carefully to learn the game. Today he is the best checkers player in the Education Center. He only loses to adults who have more experience than him.





IMPRESSIONS OF THE CENTER





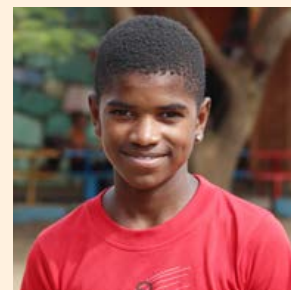
Gabi
(12 years old)

The Education Centre is a place of learning and education. They teach us games, our culture and other things like music, dancing, singing and playing. And then there are art and piano lessons, English, French and Portuguese and there is a car that brings us here.



Denilson
(14 years old)

I've been coming to the Education Centre since 2014. I learned a lot of things here. I really enjoy coming to the Education Centre. At the Education Centre, I learned to be with my friends. I like all the people who work at the Education Centre.





Victory and Defeat

(story told by Carina, Educator, Football Coach)

Last weekend we had football games with the U9 and U11. The following Monday I asked the children if they liked it. Tutu (9 years old) was disappointed: “No, because we lost, that makes me sad.”

Edmar (11 years old) contradicted him: “We lost too, but I had a lot of fun. It doesn’t matter, we’ll win next time.”





The consequences if a child cannot yet write and read
(story told by Carina, Educator and Football Coach)

I regularly do homework with Denise, 10 years old. She can't read and write very well yet. This makes her sad, as she told me: "The others make fun of me, and the teacher beats me with a stick."







Make ointments yourself

(story told by Samir, Educator)



One day I was sitting with Nerline (9 years old) and she said we should start doing homework. “Don’t you want to talk about something else first?” I asked her. Then she noticed an infection that I had had for a long time. “What have you done to yourself, and why aren’t you treating the wound?” I explained to her that I had an ointment that helped very well, but that ointment was no longer available. “It had 4 components and it always helped really well.” Nerline had the solution to my problem: “Then you just buy the 4 components, put them in a bowl and mix them well, and then you have your Ointment again.”





Rodrigo
(11 years old)

The Education Centre is very nice. But we need a mattress for our exercises on the slackline.









OUR MAIN PARTNERS IN 2023

All the activities shown above were possible thanks to our strong and dedicated partners. Besides Delta Cultura

in Austria and Germany our main partners in 2023 were (in alphabetical order):





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