

Press release

The Norwegian Centre for Foreign Languages in Education (www.fremmedspraksenteret.no) has been tasked by the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training with appointing a Foreign Language Ambassador. The honour is bestowed upon “a person, a group of persons or an organisation who in an exemplary manner and at a national level a) distinguish themselves by their use of foreign languages and/or b) highlight the importance of mastering a foreign language, demonstrating how multilingualism is an asset.”

This year's award goes to Portugal's ambassador to Norway, Her Excellency Clara Nunes dos Santos.



The jury says:

The diplomatic corps in Norway is an important group with regard to highlighting the importance of learning foreign languages and exploring foreign cultures. The objective is to obtain a better understanding of each other and to increase interaction between countries. The ambassadors are the highest representatives of their respective countries in Norway, and they have extensive networks in both the public and private sectors. They are also in frequent contact with the Norwegian authorities and help set the agenda on issues relating to language and culture. Many countries have also established language and cultural institutes to support the work of their ambassadors.

The jury should like to honour this group of diplomats by giving this year's award to the Portuguese ambassador to Norway, Her Excellency Clara Nunes dos Santos. She is given the award for her commendable work to establish Portuguese language as a subject in the Norwegian education system. Her personal involvement goes far beyond what one would normally expect from an ambassador. She spends a great deal of time to convince school owners, pupils, parents and businesses of the advantages of being able to speak Portuguese, the world's sixth largest language. She works steadfastly in regions that export fish for Portugal's national dish bacalhau/bacalao, she keeps reminding us of Portugal as a tourist destination, and she continues to point out that Norway has extensive economic interests in countries where Portuguese is an official language (such as Brazil and Angola). As a diplomat stationed in several countries, she has also learnt how important it is to master a foreign language in order to be able to live together in a multicultural society. The jury should like to congratulate Clara Nunes dos Santos on the award!

The appointment will take place during the event being held to mark the start of Portuguese language courses at **Trysil Videregående Skole**, Vestbyvegen 5, Trysil, on Wednesday **1 October 2014**. The event starts at 12 noon. The event is open to the press.

More information is available from the Chief Executive of the Norwegian Centre for Foreign Languages in Education, Steinar Nybøle, on 4540 7578.

About the Portuguese language across the world:

<http://fremmedspraksenteret.no/nor/fremmedspraksenteret/sok/?&displayitem=135&module=news>

Past awards:

<http://www.fremmedspraksenteret.no/nor/fremmedspraksenteret/internasjonali--sering-i-skulen/framandsprakambassador>