influence of several other factors of great importance, and teachers are just one part amongst many. Educators are forced to work in conditions that do not favour educational work, namely, the lack of resources in schools, the number of students in the classrooms, the excessive teaching load and most discouragingly of all, the fact that an increasing number of disrespectful students are disrupting our schools.

Continuous training is, in my humble opinion, utterly relevant for teaching quality. This being, according to The White Paper one of the aspects teachers might be assessed on. However, it is also of the utmost importance the way students are educated at home, as well as the resources the government assigns to schools. Unless more resources are set aside for education, the best teacher ever, will not be able to shine.

(Source: Intef image database. Photographer: Luana Fischer Ferreira)

Another suggested measure in the former document envisages observing teachers in action in the classroom. At this point I can only express my total abhorrence of this announcement, unless it is also applied to other public professionals in their place of work: surgeons, secretaries,… In a fair and just society, everyone should try to improve their professional performance. As far as I am concerned, it is unrealistic to try to improve the quality of education, only by assessing teachers’ abilities. The centre of attention should be primarily on the type of society we want to build, so that we all should urge politicians to take reasonable steps that benefit us all.

Bibliografía