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# 16<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL METROPOLIS CONFERENCE



Governo dos Açores



CEG



CENTRO DE ESTUDOS SOCIAIS

Ponta Delgada - Azores Islands  
12 - 16 September 2011

## THE INTERNATIONAL METROPOLIS PROJECT

The International Metropolis Project is a forum that bridges research, policy and practice on migration and diversity. The project aims to enhance academic research capacity, encourage policy-relevant research on migration and diversity issues, and facilitate the use of that research by governments and non-government organizations. Through our efforts, we encourage the production and effective communication of policy-relevant knowledge amongst key academic researchers, decision-makers, opinion leaders, and practitioners. Since its inception, our network has grown to include partners from across North America and Europe as well as a growing presence in Africa, Latin America and much of the Asia-Pacific region.

The 16th International Metropolis Conference, which will take place in the city of Ponta Delgada, São Miguel Island, will be organized by the Regional Government of the Azores, the University of Lisbon's Centre for Geographical Studies (CEG) and the University of the Azores' Centre for Social Studies (CES).

## THE 16<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL METROPOLIS CONFERENCE WILL FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

- Migration in the context of islands, including island-to-island migration;
- The effects of historic large-scale emigration on homelands;
- Maintaining relations within the diaspora, including government interventions abroad, and transnational political activities;
- The fostering of transnational identities through the internet and social networking websites;
- Migration and development;
- Migration and environmental transformations;
- Language and identity.

# AZORES

Located in the middle of the North Atlantic Ocean at approximately 1500km from the European coast, the Portuguese archipelago of the Azores is made up of nine volcanic islands with a total area of 2,333km<sup>2</sup> and about 237.000 inhabitants.

The exact date of the archipelago's discovery is unknown. Nevertheless, it is believed that the Portuguese navigator Diogo de Silves disembarked on the islands of Santa Maria and São Miguel circa 1427. Historic accounts indicate that Azorean emigration goes back to the beginning of the islands' settlement, in the 15th century. However, regular emigration began only two centuries later. And the main destinations were Brazil, Uruguay, the United States, Hawaii, Bermuda and Canada. After 1998, and due to several natural, economical and social factors, the Azores became no longer a region of emigration but mainly a region of immigration and witnessed the arrival of Brazilians, Cape-Verdeans, Angolans, Ukrainians, among others, in the archipelago.

Nowadays, immigrants living in the Azores correspond to approximately 2% of the region's total population. During the Metropolis 2011 Conference, you will have the opportunity to visit the beautiful and unique landscapes of São Miguel Island, learn about Azorean history through the island's museums and monuments, enjoy the quiet of its gardens and parks and contact with the hospitality of the islanders. We are waiting for you!

