In 2013, Fundação Gonçalo da Silveira (FGS) and the Centro de Estudos Africanos da Universidade do Porto (CEAUP) initiated the project “Sinergias ED: Getting to Know so as to Act better – promoting research on Development Education (DE) practices in Portugal”. This project arose from the necessity to promote research on DE in Portugal, to register reflection upon DE activities, and to strengthen the institutional collaboration between different entities that work on DE. The two partner organizations promoted a set of relevant activities that aimed to answer to these problems, especially regarding the creation and development of knowledge about DE, the link between research and action in this field, and the connection between DE agents and strong conceptual grounds.

Hence, reinforced the desire to deepen the work already done and counting with Centro de Intervenção para o Desenvolvimento Amilcar Cabral (CIDAC) as a new partner, emerged, in 2016, a new project’s edition named “Sinergias ED: strengthening the link between research and action in Development Education in Portugal”. This new edition continued with the ambition of contributing to the settlement of these problems, always focused on a bigger goal: to promote the quality of DE intervention in Portugal.

The first two editions of the project, in addition to the good achievements, had an unexpected national and international recognition. However, due to the challenges still to face, it is well recognised that only small steps were given towards these purposes, since the core problems, first identified, are still ongoing and in need of resolution.

In this context, CEAUP and FGS embraced once again the challenge to pursue a new project edition. In August 2018, “Sinergias ED: consolidating the dialogue between research and action in Development Education in Portugal” started its activities, under the main purpose of strengthening the quality of the DE intervention in Portugal. As a more specific purpose, this third edition aims to consolidate the dialogue between action and research in DE, researchers and agents of intervention in the field, and Higher Education Institutions (HEI) and Civil Society Organizations (CSO), starting from the numerous connections that have already been established and reinforced on previous editions.
So that this may be possible, the project proposes to:

1) strengthen the DE community, involving actors of Higher Education Institutions and Civil Society Organizations, through joint reflection, capacity building and action, as well as through the creation of the necessary means to deepen the collaborative community between HEIs and SCOs already initiated and consolidated in the previous editions of the project;

2) reflect, shape and disclose knowledge within the scope of Development Education, through different tools and dissemination platforms, created during the various editions of the project.

The project’s main activities are:

a) dynamisation of a Development Education community, involving actors of HEIs and CSOs;

b) creation of a Sinergias ED School, destined to representatives of HEIs and CSOs, under the intention of being a reference moment concerning deepening and (re)construction of conceptual, epistemological, methodological and practical routes in this sector;

c) promotion of collaborative work between HEIs and SCOs within the DE field;

d) reinforcement of the dynamics created around the digital journal “Synergies – Educational dialogues for social change”;

e) dynamisation of the website Sinergias ED;

f) development of a research about the processes of the Development Education community;

g) organisation of the III International Meeting Sinergias ED.

The project will have a 2-year length (from August 2018 to July 2020) and is promoted by the Centro de Estudos Africanos da Universidade do Porto (CEAUP) and Fundação Gonçalo da Silveira (FGS). It is co-financed by Camões – Instituto da Cooperação e da Língua (CICL) and sponsored by the University of Porto.