

Portugal inside and outside: good examples and bad examples

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I was involved in the design of the Portuguese Secondary School (10th grade to 12th grade) Curriculum for Mathematics from 1995 to 2004 and consulting for the national secondary school examinations (12th grade) since 1996.

What is the importance of the teaching of Mathematics in a small country? I think the problems are as big as in any other country. We are trying out our solutions, for example, with three very different courses for Mathematics in Secondary School.

Are they working? We have not been ranked well in international comparisons and we look at other countries to try to understand what we can do. In particular we read attentively studies like the 13th ICMI Study "Mathematics Education in Different Cultural Traditions: A Comparative Study of East Asia and the West".

How do we see our situation in comparison (or contrast) with others in the West (Spain, France, England, USA, Canada,) or the East (Hong Kong, Singapore, Korea, Japan, India,)?