

## Portugal hosts the 1<sup>st</sup> Level 2 Academy for Acrobatic Gymnastics

For the fifth time this year, a FIG Academy was hosted by Portugal. The Portugal Gymnastics Federation had hosted academies for Aerobic- and Rhythmic Gymnastics during the summer and The Portugal Trampoline and Acrobatics Federation hosted the first Level 1 Acrobatic- and the first Level 2 Trampoline- and Acrobatic Academies during this year. It is remarkable evidence of Portugal's commitment to coach education.

This Level 2 Acrobatics Academy was hosted in the wonderful facilities of the Ginásio Clube Português in central Lisbon. It was the 73<sup>rd</sup> academy organized by the FIG Academy Program.



This Academy was attended by 12 coaches from 5 different federations: Belgium, Canada, Ireland, Portugal, and Russia. Gratifying to see was the participation by the Portuguese member of the FIG Technical Committee and Executive Director of the PTAF, Raul Correia. The FIG also invited Rosy Taeymans of the Technical Committee and Dmitry Vinnikov of Russia to participate fully in this academy in order to be able to serve as experts at future academies.

This Acrobatics Academy was taught by the Academy Working Group for Acrobatic Gymnastics. The course leader was Hardy Fink, the Director of FIG



Keith Russell, Toshko Pavlov, Irina Nikitina, Karl Wharton, Hardy Fink

Education & Academy Programs accompanied by a series of expert instructors including Irina Nikitina of Russia and Karl Wharton of Great Britain who are also both members of the FIG Technical Committee. Other Working Group members were Keith Russell of

Canada who was recently appointed as the President of the FIG Scientific Commission and Toshko Pavlov of Great Britain.

The highest results on the three part examination were achieved by Vanda Videira of Portugal followed closely by Ana Cardoso of Portugal and Róisín Kavanagh of Ireland. The examinations involve a theory examinations and then two practical examinations that require the presentation and teaching of an individual element and a group element.

Special thanks must go to Nuno Parnahos, the President of the Portugal Trampoline and Acrobatic Federation as well as Manuel Cavaleiro, the President of the Ginásio Clube Português for their willingness to host three FIG academies in 2009. We know already that they will also host the first Level 3 for Acrobatic Gymnastics in the last week of August in 2010. And even greater thanks goes to Technical Director, Rui Vinagre, who was present constantly and worked tirelessly to assure that all administrative needs were instantly provided during 30 days of the 2009 FIG academies. It was also gratifying to have as many as 18 different gymnasts available for the technical sessions. Truly a wonderful effort and a very successful series of academies.

The busy 2009 year will end one day later with the 74<sup>th</sup> Academy – a Trampoline Gymnastics Academy in Thailand. Less than one month later the first 2010 Academy will begin in Cairo, Egypt – also for trampoline.