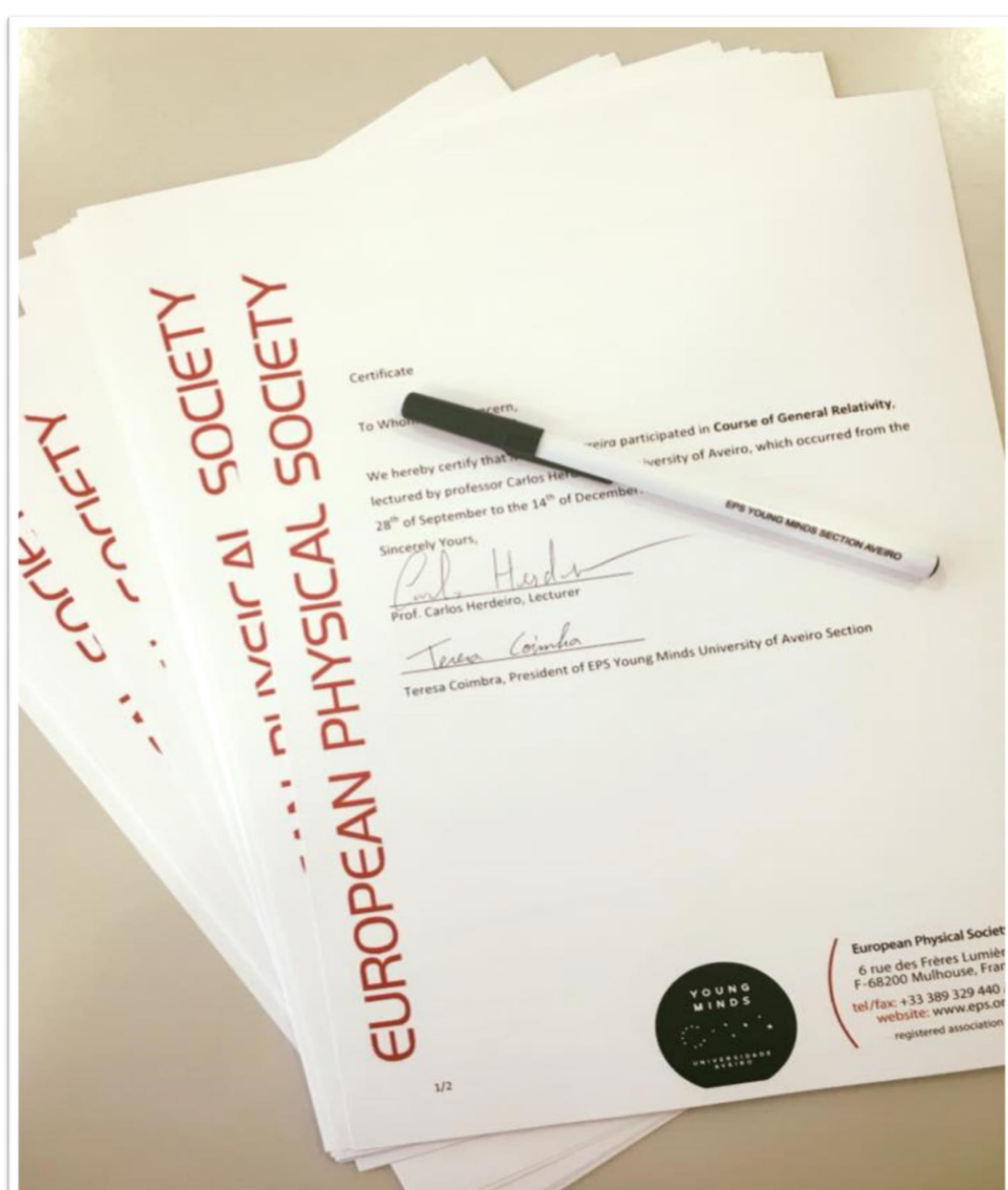


## GENERAL RELATIVITY COURSE

In our section we are particularly interested in the academic development of our colleagues who are enrolled in physics-related areas.

It was known that some curiosity in Theoretical Physics (mainly Astrophysics) was present in our Physics Department. However, most of the Physics courses are associated with Applied Physics, and the only ones related with this area are optional for the pure Physics students, not being available for the rest of the community. Taking this into consideration, our section talked with Gr@v, a group of researchers, working on Gravitational Physics in the context of Astrophysics, Cosmology and High Energy Physics.

Kindly, Professor Carlos Herdeiro agreed in giving a series of lectures about General Relativity. Taking advantage of his already made notes - "General Relativity notes" and his always wonderful mood, the course started on the 28<sup>th</sup> of September and continued until the 14<sup>th</sup> of December.



As expected, the attendance was not mandatory, but that did not stop our motivated students! In the first session an extraordinary number of 36 students was registered. These were allocated in different years of studies, from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> year. We even had the presence of a Professor from other department tremendously interested in the course – **It is never late to learn more and more about the beauty of Physics !!!**

The class met every Thursday for 2 hours, normally even more due to the questions by the students. As expected, the number of students decreased with the growing difficulty of the lectures. However, a steady number of 15 students was always present, pleasing our section and the Lecturer.

In the end of the course a certificate (with a template given by EPS) was delivered to the students. Each one had the handwritten signatures of the Lecturer, Carlos Herdeiro, to whom we are thankful for sharing his knowledge with the students.

The feedback of the course was strong and positive. The number of students motivated to enrol in more of our courses is high and growing quickly, which is making our section delighted.

In an anonymous feedback to the question – Did this course match your expectations? – a curious response was obtained:

- "Yes! It was a pleasuring course., lectured by an exceptional professor. Even though I didn't understand most of the concepts, I am now familiarized with the mathematical structure I will encounter in case I want to go deeper into this subject."

In an informal encounter, Pedro Alves told us:

- "In addition to the presentation of concise formalisms and theoretical concepts, these were taught in a coherent way."

We expect Pedro Alves and his colleagues in our future course, now related with Cosmology, which will have, for sure, new faces !