

Signal's Sweet Mission to Lisbon

How the Zorbs' message found a new language

It is the year 2026, and the Zorbs are worried.

Across the world, people are not always treating each other with kindness and fairness. Sometimes, adults argue with words. Sometimes, they fight with actions. Sometimes, they forget how important it is to listen, to respect one another, and to do the right thing.

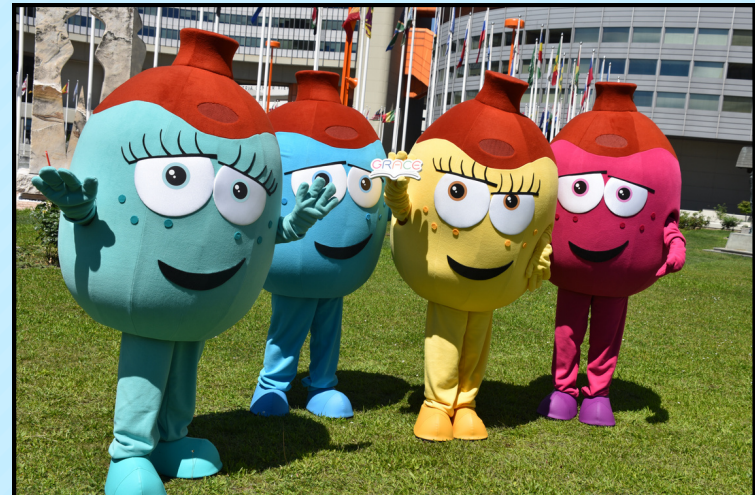
This reminds the Zorbs of their own home planet, a place they had to leave when trust, honesty and kindness began to disappear.

But even when things feel difficult, there is always hope.

Since they first arrived on planet Earth, **Sentimo**, **Scooter**, **Signal** and **Intella** have met children and young people from all around world who are becoming Guardians of Integrity. They stand up for fairness, kindness, honesty and justice in their schools, families and communities.

They inspire the Zorbs to believe that a better future is possible.

So, one day, the four Zorbs decide to visit their friends from the GRACE Initiative Team at the United Nations Headquarters in Vienna. The Grace Team helps children and young people learn why it matters to make fair choices and do the right thing, even when no one is watching.



Sentimo brings his special power of empathy. He can understand how others feel.

Scooter brings teamwork. She knows that big problems are easier to solve when people work together.

Signal brings his gift for resolving conflicts. He helps others listen, understand each other, and find peaceful solutions.

And **Intella** brings critical thinking. She asks good questions and helps everyone think carefully before making decisions.

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Together, they want to explore how children and young people can help build more peaceful and fair communities.

As they walk through the United Nations building, they are very excited. Representatives from many countries are waiting in a conference room to hear their ideas.

But then, something unexpected happens. In all the excitement, the others lose sight of **Signal**.

At first, the others are not too worried. Signal sometimes gets distracted. He loves discovering new places, new words, new ideas - and, most of all, new sweets.

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So **Sentimo**, **Scooter** and **Intella** continue to the meeting room.

Inside, the discussion begins. Countries share ideas. The GRACE team talks about education and how children and young people can become leaders of positive change.

Sentimo listens carefully to everyone's concerns.

Scooter helps connect different ideas.

Intella asks thoughtful questions.

But after some time, **Sentimo** looks around.

"Where is **Signal**?" he asks softly. "He should be here by now."

Scooter looks worried. "This is taking too long. We should go look for him."

Intella pauses and makes her serious thinking face.

"We need a plan," she says. "Let's organize a search... but we should not do it alone."

"Great thinking Intella", says **Scooter**. "Teamwork would help us find him faster!"



"But we should stay calm," adds **Sentimo**. "Knowing **Signal**, I am sure he is safe and simply found something important... or tasty..."

So the three Zorbs ask the GRACE team and the conference organizers to help them look for **Signal**.

Meanwhile, **Signal** is not far away at all.

He had wandered toward the coffee corner after smelling something delicious.

There were cakes, biscuits, fruit, chocolate,... and a small tray of golden pastries.

Signal's eyes opened wide.



“Ohhh,” he whispered. “What are those?”

Just then, he heard someone speaking in Portuguese.

“Estes pastéis de nata são deliciosos”, said a woman nearby. These pastéis de nata are wonderful.”

Signal loved learning new languages almost as much as he loved sweets. Curious, he asked kindly:

“Excuse me, what are pastéis de nata?”

The woman smiled.

“Hello, Signal,” she said warmly. “My name is Anna, and I work with the GRACE Initiative.” while showing him her United Nations badge.

“Pastéis de nata are a famous Portuguese pastry,” Anna explained. “They are sweet, creamy and very special in Portugal.”

Signal’s eyes sparkled.

“Portugal?” he asked. “That sounds exciting!”

Anna smiled again.

“It is very exciting, Signal. At the end of this month, there will be a special event in Lisbon, at the headquarters of the CPLP — the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries.”

“The CPLP?” asked Signal.

“Yes,” Anna explained. “The CPLP brings together countries and communities that share the Portuguese language. That means children and young people across this big family will be able to discover the UNODC tools in words that feel familiar to them.”

Signal’s eyes grew bigger and bigger.

“In Portuguese?” he asked.

Anna nodded.

“Yes. Many UNODC tools about integrity, ethics and justice have been translated into Portuguese - including the Zorbs videos.”

Signal gasped.

“The Zorbs videos? Our videos?”

“Exactly,” said Anna. “Now, more children will be able to watch the Zorbs in a language they understand. They will also learn about empathy, teamwork, critical thinking, peaceful solutions and doing the right thing, even when no one is watching.”

Signal placed one little hand over his heart.

“So children far away from here will be able to understand us?”

“Yes,” Anna said. “And that is why the CPLP has invited you to come to Lisbon and help present the Zorbs videos in Portuguese.”

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Signal could hardly stay still.

“What a fantastic coincidence!” he said. “I followed the smell of pastéis de nata... and found out that the Zorbs are going to speak Portuguese!”

Anna laughed gently. “It seems Portugal was calling you.”

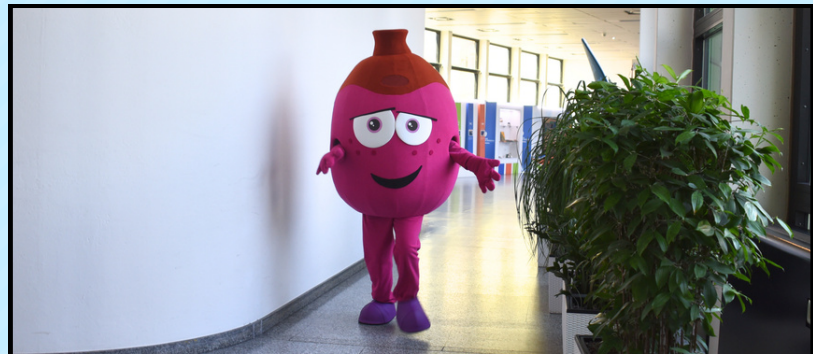
Signal stood tall, filled with excitement.

“Then I must go,” he said. “If children in so many places can now see the Zorbs, I want to help welcome them as new Guardians of Integrity.”

Then he paused. “But first, I need to tell [Sentimo](#), [Scooter](#) and [Intella](#)!”

Anna nodded. “That is exactly the right thing to do,” she said. “Being responsible also means making sure your friends know where you are.”

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Together, **Signal** and Anna wrote a clear message:

Dear Sentimo. Scooter and Intella.

I am safe at the coffee corner with Anna from the GRACE Initiative. I have received an invitation from the CPLP to participate in a special gathering in Lisbon to show the new Portuguese tools to everyone at the end of the month.

It is a wonderful opportunity to help children and young people discover the Zorbs in their own language.

I will stay here until we speak together.

Your friend.

Signal

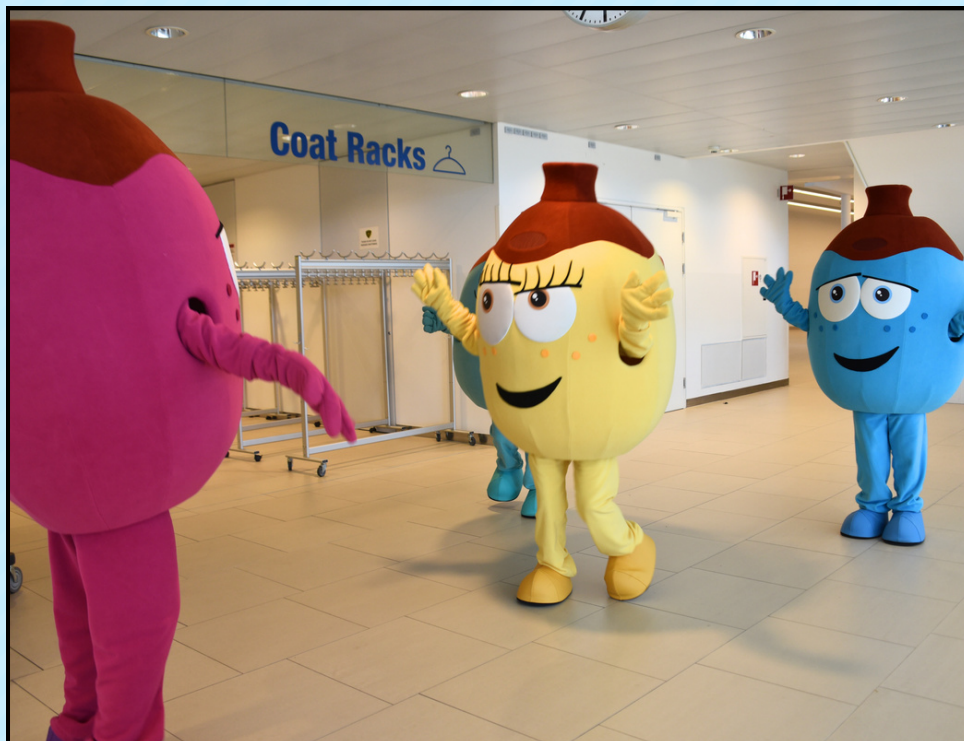
The message was quickly delivered to the conference organizers.

A few minutes later, **Sentimo**, **Scooter** and **Intella** arrived at the coffee corner with the GRACE team.

“Signal!” cried **Sentimo**. “We were worried!”

“I am sorry,” said **Signal**. “I followed the smell of sweets and got distracted with the pastéis de nata.”

Scooter crossed his arms, but smiled.



“Teamwork also means telling us where you are going.”

“You are right,” said **Signal**. “I should have told you sooner.”

Intella nodded.

“But you made a good decision by staying here, speaking with someone from the GRACE team, and sending us a message.”

Signal smiled.

“And now,” he said proudly, “I have been invited to Portugal!”

The Zorbs gathered around Anna as she explained the event in Lisbon.

Sentimo placed a gentle hand on Signal’s shoulder.

“This is important,” he said. “When children learn to listen and make fair choices, they can help create more peaceful communities.”

Scooter grinned. “And we can support them together.”

Intella added, “This will help more children discover how to solve problems with kindness, fairness and respect.”

Anna smiled.

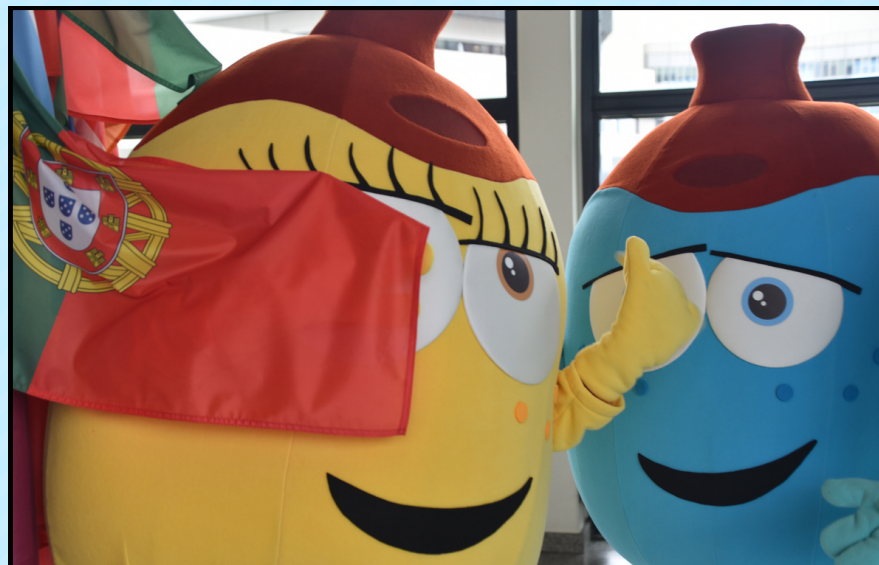
“Now, children who speak Portuguese will be able to hear you in their own language. And when children understand, they can participate. They can ask questions. They can share ideas. They can become Guardians of Integrity too.”

Signal held the invitation close to his heart.

“Then I will go to Lisbon,” he said softly. “Not just to speak, but to listen.”

His friends smiled.

“That sounds like you,” said **Sentimo**.



“And we will help you prepare,” said Scooter.

“With a good plan,” added Intella.

And so, what began as a search for a missing Zorb became the beginning of a new adventure.

Signal was going to Lisbon.

The Zorbs were going to speak Portuguese.

And children across the Portuguese-speaking world were about to become part of the journey.

Because hope can travel in many ways.

Sometimes by spaceship.

Sometimes by video.

Sometimes by language.

And sometimes, it begins with a very curious Zorb, a tray of pastéis de nata, and an invitation to do the right thing.

In the meantime..., not too far away, another invitation was already beginning to travel, with a new language to discover, new children to meet, and a delicious Ethiopian surprise waiting at the next coffee corner.

