ABSTRACT: This paper investigates the meanings and discourse functions of the adverbial expression enfim in European contemporary Portuguese. It is a synchronic study, within a cognitive-functional framework, and the empirical data were collected from a written newspaper on-line corpus, CETEMPúblico and Natura/Público.

This paper is organised in the following way: firstly, different examples are listed and the syntactic, semantic and pragmatic properties of the item enfim, in each of the contexts, are described. Throughout this description, the possibility of substituting enfim with other adverbial Portuguese expressions such as: finalmente (finally), por fim (in the end/at last) and por último, (in the end/lastly) is tested, in order to see whether they are functionally equivalent expressions in contemporary European Portuguese. Secondly, an integrated explanation of the discursive polyfunctionality of enfim is sought, by relating the different meanings described as “family resemblances.”