



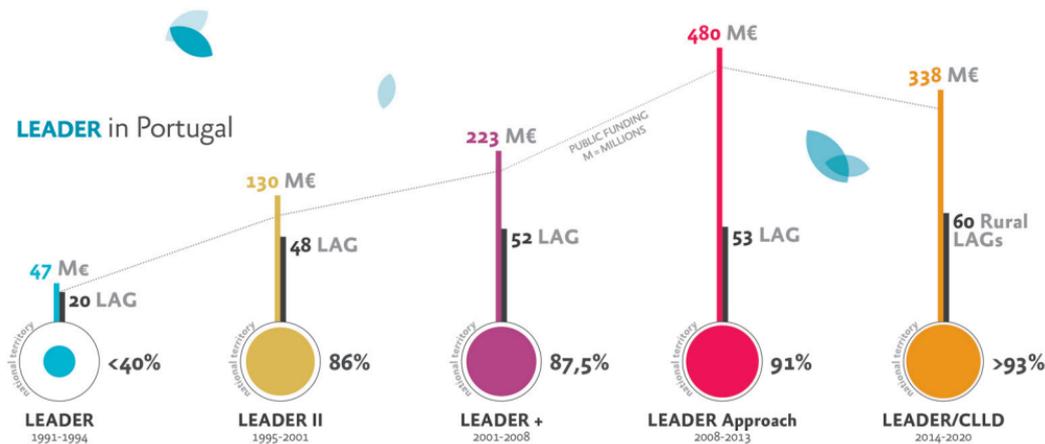
Visit of Estonian Delegation to Portugal

October 2nd to 4th 2023

INTRODUCTION

LEADER in Portugal

Portugal started implementing the LEADER approach in 1991, with 20 LAGs. In the following programming period (1995-2001) the number of LAGs increased to 48, covering 86% of the territory. Public revenue almost tripled, reaching 130 million euros. In the 2001-2008 programming period, the number of LAGs was already 52, with public investment reaching 223 million euros. With the LEADER approach included in the Rural Development Programmes, in 2008-2013, the number of LAGs increased to 53, with investment soaring to 480 million euros of public expenditure. In the 2014-2020 programming period, the number of LAGs increased to 60, with investment reaching 338 million euros.

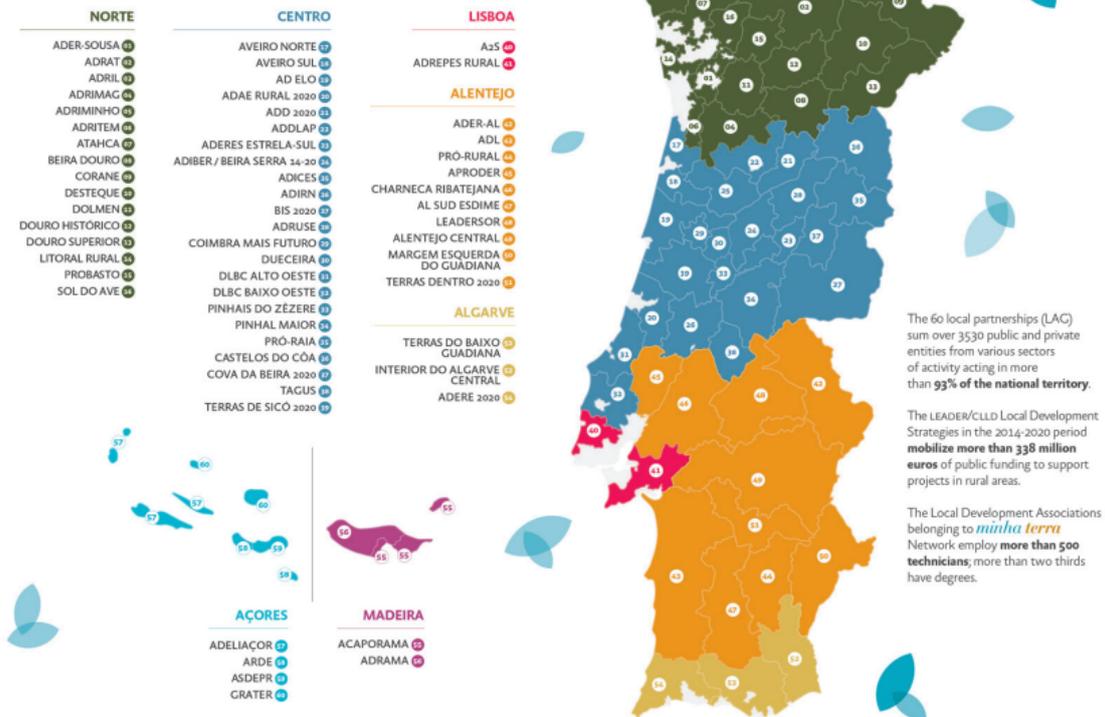


Currently, 60 LAGs are recognized, 54 on the Mainland, 4 in the Autonomous Region of the Azores and 2 in the Autonomous Region of Madeira. The intervention territories, where LAGs operate, cover more than 93% of the national territory, including the entire rural territory of the country.

Portugal adopted a multifunded CLLD in the Partnership Agreement, but only for the Mainland. The local development strategy for rural areas can be funded, in this territory, in addition to the EAFRD (Measure 10 of the RDP) through the ESF and ERDF, under the Regional Operational Programs.

Projects supported by the EAFRD include small farm investments, small investments in processing and marketing, on-farm diversification, creation and development of short supply chains and local markets, promotion of local quality products and preservation, restoration and promotion of local heritage (village renewal). The projects supported by the ERDF and ESF focused on job creation and the promotion of entrepreneurship (S12E and +CO3SO measures). In some regions, projects related to natural heritage and social inclusion were also supported.

The Local Action Groups



Minha Terra Federation



Minha Terra - Portuguese Federation of Local Development Associations was created in 2000 aiming to unite the various Local Development Associations responsible for the implementation of rural development strategies under the LEADER approach in Portugal.

The Federation represents the Associations in talks/negotiations with the various governing bodies responsible for the rural development policies, developing advocacy work in defense of the continuation and improvement of rural development through locally based initiatives. It takes part in several working and consulting groups.

The Federation currently joins all the 58 Associations (that include more than 3500 entities) responsible for the 60 Portuguese rural LAGs recognized in the current programming period.

**PRELIMINARY PROGRAM**

DAY 1 –Monday, October 2nd - A2S LAG	
10:00 am	Meeting at A2S office - Mafra Business Factory • Presentation of the LAG A2S
11:00 am	Visit to Ivo Silva – farmer (Supported by CLLD)
12:00 am	Visit to Moinho Sobral da Abelheira – windmill (Supported by CLLD)
1:00 pm	Lunch in Azueira (place to be defined)
3:00 pm	Visit to Frutoeste – producer group (Supported by CLLD)
4:00 pm	Visit to Adega da Azueira – wine producer (Supported by CLLD)
5:00 pm	Visit to Quinta da Murnalha – tourism project (Supported by CLLD)

DAY 2 –Tuesday, October 3rd – MONTE/ALENTEJO CENTRAL LAG	
09:30 am	Reception at the Municipality of Arraiolos <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation of the LAG MONTE <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation of the Municipality by the Mayor
11:00 am	Visit to Herdade do Freixo do Meio (sustainable farming – circular economy)
1:00 pm	Lunch at Herdade do Freixo do Meio
3:30 pm	Visit to the Business Center of the Alentejo Region (examples of services provided to local entrepreneurs)
5:00 pm	Free time
7:00 pm	Dinner in Évora (place to be defined)

DAY 3 –Wednesday, October 4th – TERRAS DENTRO LAG	
10:00 am	Meeting at TERRAS DENTRO • Presentation of TERRAS DENTRO, the territory and the Local Development Strategy
11:00 am	Visit to Chocalhos Pardalinho, Lda
1:30 pm	Lunch at Restaurante País das Uvas
3:00 pm	Visit to Adega-Museu Cella Vinaria Antiqua Honrado Vineyards
4:00 pm	Visit to Melaria Malmequer (Innovation in the production of bee products)
5:00 pm	End of visits

Host: A2S – Association for the Sustainable Development of the Saloia Region



Territory: Saloia Region
Area: 551 km ²
Population: 126 032
Population density: 228 inhab./km ²



A2S is the managing entity of the Local Action Group responsible for the Rural Community-Based Local Development Strategy for the municipalities of Loures, Mafra and Sintra (Saloia Region). A2S is a non-profit, private legal entity, headquartered in Mafra, whose mission is to promote and encourage community-based local development in rural areas in the northern region of the Lisbon Metropolitan Area, contributing to the improvement of quality of life in its different dimensions.

The association's main objectives are to manage the funds allocated to the territory locally, in a participatory and proximity logic; attract and drive new investments; encourage job creation; diversify local economies; qualify and value people, organizations and the intervention territory; promote partnerships and cooperation activities; publicize the region's brand and its endogenous products and resources; stimulate leadership and participation mechanisms at the local level; and to value and disseminate good practices.

Projects/Visits

- Visit to A2S – Mafra Business Factory
- Visit to Ivo Silva – farmer (Supported by CLLD)
- Visit to Moinho Sobral da Abelheira – windmill (Supported by CLLD)



- Lunch with typical food
- Visit to Frutoeste – producer group (Supported by CLLD)
- Visit to Adega da Azueira – wine producer (Supported by CLLD)
- Visit to Quinta da Murnalha – tourism project (Supported by CLLD)

Host: MONTE – Development Central Alentejo



Territory: Central Alentejo
Area: 5 279,4 km ²
Population: 104 693
Population density: 20 inhab./km ²



Central Alentejo is a territory of great amplitudes and extensions, characterized by immense fields of cork oak forests dominated by holm oaks, cork oaks and olive groves. Isolated rural settlements stand out in the landscape, generally small in size and dominated by the white color of the houses. The people of this region live (still) very much turned inwards in their houses and villages, protecting themselves from the high temperatures. Accustomed to a certain isolation and decades of poverty, the region became deeply creative in gastronomy, culture, poetry and singing.

In recent years, it has become a region of choice for its wine, black pig meat, olive oil and olive pastes, and bread, but also for the peace (calm) of its villages and the natural resources it offers, today strongly influenced by the great lake of Alqueva.

With an altitude of 653m, Serra de Ossa is the most important mountain system in the territory. Reguengos de Monsaraz is a municipality especially rich in megalithic remains and Montemor-o-Novo stands out in terms of archaeological heritage, with the site of Escoural.



Tartumaa Arendusselts



Part of the LAG's intervention territory belongs to the Natura 2000 Network, including Special Protection Areas, Special Conservation Areas and Important Areas for Birds.

In terms of handicrafts, the famous rugs from Arraiolos, blankets from Reguengos, ceramics from Redondo and São Pedro do Corval, traditional figures from Estremoz and the color of typical Alentejo furniture stand out.

Projects/Visits

- Visit/reception at the Municipality of Arraiolos
- Visit and lunch at Herdade do Freixo do Meio (local farm)
- Visit to the Business Center of the Alentejo Region

Host: **TERRAS DENTRO - Association for Integrated Development**



Territory: Alentejo
Area: 1 752,9 km ²
Population: 20 058
Population density: 11,4 inhab./km ²

An intervention territory with 6 municipalities, Alvito, Cuba, Montemor-o-Novo, Portel, Viana do Alentejo and Vidigueira. An extension of 1 752,9 km² of a horizon of plains that is divided by two main hills: Monfurado and Portel. It is one of the most preserved regions of Europe that combines environmental conservation, landscape, architectonic patrimony, history and cultural identity.

Another peculiarity of this territory are the cork oak and holm oak



forests, with high economic potential, complemented by extensive cultivation, followed by fallow land used for livestock. Agriculture continues to be a deep mark in the region's identity, especially viticulture, where the excellence of the wines from the wine region of Vidigueira, which covers all the municipalities of Vidigueira, Cuba and Alvito, stands out.

With an important water reserve, the largest artificial lake in Europe (Alqueva), the territory not only has excellent conditions for agricultural practice as a huge tourist potential. The sector has been experiencing increasing development, with an increasingly diversified offer in terms of accommodation, namely rural tourism and agrotourism, and catering, focusing on typical dishes of Alentejo cuisine, based on bread.

The territory is also especially rich in traces left by the Arabs and Romans, such as the ruins of São Cucufate in Vidigueira, and an immense variety of churches, chapels and hermitages, covered with murals called “frescos” that are at the base of the Route of the Fresco, in Alentejo.

Projects/Visits

- Visit to TERRAS DENTRO
- Visit to Chocalhos Pardalinho, Lda (handicraft/rattles – UNESCO heritage)
- Lunch at Restaurante País das Uvas
- Visit to Adega-Museu Cella Vinaria Antiqua (wine production)
- Visit to Melaria Malmequer (bee/honey products)

		<p>Terras Dentro</p>
		<p>Chocalhos Pardalinho</p>
		<p>Restaurante País das Uvas</p>
		<p>Adega-Museu Cella Vinaria Antiqua</p>

		<p>Melaria Malmequer</p>
---	---	--------------------------