

# TOURISM AS A DRIVER OF ACCESSIBLE, REGENERATIVE AND NETWORKED RURAL TERRITORIES

Accessibility, Regeneration  
and Networked Governance in action



BIOSPHERE  
certified destination

# WHO WE ARE – A TERRITORIAL NETWORK FOR INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT

The Historical Villages of Portugal Association is a **network of 12 historical villages** spread across **10 low-density municipalities**, mainly located in rural inland and cross-border areas.

For more than 15 years, it has acted as a **territorial cooperation platform**, promoting an integrated approach that brings together heritage, communities, mobility, investment, and innovation, generating a direct impact on **territorial competitiveness** and on the **quality of life of local populations**.







# WHERE WE ARE



2H00 from Porto | 2H30 from Lisbon | 3H30 from Madrid  
 Access to highways | Access to railways | Access to national airports





# OUR WORK

## **Territorial and Seasonal Rebalancing** *Diversity and competitiveness*

- Valorisation of the Historical Villages of Portugal, strengthening their attractiveness, vitality, and competitiveness.
- Development of offerings associated with culture, heritage, local products, and mobility
- Creation of low-seasonality products (culture, nature, and experiences), promoting a more balanced use of the territory throughout the year

## **Mobility** *Connectivity, inclusion, and decarbonization*

### **Soft mobility**

- Pedestrian and cycling routes between the Historical Villages of Portugal
- Historical Villages | Cross-border connection Portugal-Spain, strengthening territorial connectivity and cross-border cooperation

### **Sustainable and inclusive local mobility**

- 100% electric fleets, charging stations, and energy-sharing communities with battery systems
- Facilitation of mobility, promoting social inclusion and access to services

**Mobility and accessibility as instruments for territorial development, with low-carbon solutions aligned with carbon neutrality.**





## Territorial Regeneration

### *Scaling sustainability*

- Strengthening local identity and enhancing cultural and natural heritage
- Activation of cultural and creative industries
- Promotion of sustainable agriculture and biodiversity
- Sustainable rehabilitation and construction, aligned with energy efficiency and climate adaptation

**A strategy aligned with the European Green Deal, the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans, and the principles of the New European Bauhaus.**

## Governance and Network Collaboration

**A model based on collaborative, multi-level governance involving:**

- Municipalities
- Local communities
- SMEs, entrepreneurs, and innovators
- Regional, national, and European entities
- The Scientific and Technological System

**The Association acts as:**

- A network coordination structure
- A facilitator of investment and innovation
- An interface between public entities and territories
- Capacity-building and skills development platform



# A TERRITORIAL STRATEGY ALIGNED WITH THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Network's Collective Efficiency Strategy is aligned with the 2030 Agenda and contributes to several SDGs through an integrated approach across the economic, social, environmental, and institutional dimensions.

	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Direct Contribution	Potential Direct Contribution	Not Applicable
1	1. No poverty		●	
2	2. Zero hunger		●	
3	3. Good health and well-being		●	
4	4. Quality education		●	
5	5. Gender equality		●	
6	6. Clean water and sanitation		●	
7	7. Affordable and clean energy	●		
8	8. Decent work and economic growth		●	
9	9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure	●		
10	10. Reduced inequalities		●	
11	11. Sustainable cities and communities	●		
12	12. Responsible consumption and production	●		
13	13. Climate action	●		
14	14. Life below water			●
15	15. Life on land	●		
16	16. Peace, justice and strong institutions		●	
17	17. Partnerships for the goals	●		





# ALDEIAS HISTÓRICAS DE PORTUGAL

*A networked territorial strategy  
rooted in history and oriented  
to the future*

The Historical Villages of Portugal Network operates locally with a significant territorial impact, integrating history, communities, and public policies into a long-term development strategy. We work as a network to transform historically significant territories into contemporary spaces of innovation, cooperation, and sustainability, aligned with European priorities for cohesion, climate transition, and competitiveness.

**A territory with history, building the future  
in partnership.**





ALDEIAS  
HISTÓRICAS  
DE PORTUGAL

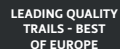
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### Projects Developed:



### Integration into international networks:



co-financing



## 1 destination that is in fact 12

ALMEIDA\_BELMONTE\_CASTELO MENDO\_CASTELO NOVO  
CASTELO RODRIGO\_IDANHA-A-VELHA\_LINHARES DA BEIRA  
MARIALVA\_MONSANTO\_PIÓDÃO\_SORTELHA\_TRANCOSO

