

Iceland  
Liechtenstein  
Norway grants

# FUTURE PLANNING

ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE, SOCIALLY JUST

E-BOOK



HØGSKULEN  
FOR GRØN  
UTVIKLING



# EEA GRANTS

Through the European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement, signed in the city of Porto in May 1992, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway are partners in the internal market with the Member States of the European Union.

As a way of promoting a continuous and balanced strengthening of economic and trade relations, the parties to the European Economic Area Agreement established a multi-annual Financial Mechanism, known as EEA Grants, through which Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway provide financial support to member states of the European Union with the greatest deviations from the European average of GDP per capita, which includes Portugal.

The two main goals of the EEA Grants are:

**Reducing economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area**  
**Strengthen bilateral relations between beneficiary and donor countries.**



---

# CHANGES

**Policy changes are needed to avoid negative policy impacts.**

**Mechanisms to ensure policy coherence for sustainable development should be used more systematically and efficiently by all political power.**



# CHAIRMAN´S ASPEA

*Dr. Joaquim Pinto*

In Portugal, in general, the use of environmental sustainability indicators in local territorial planning is weak. Although the use of environmental discourse in planning and in the preparation of strategic documents is evident, the effective expression of environmental and social participation indicators is much lower in comparison to social or economic indicators. Territorial planning practices thus tend to favour the dimensions that induce the perception of a more immediate "return", often neglecting participatory processes understood as educational processes, as they condition these more immediate responses, despite being more consolidated and committed to responses to the climate crisis, biodiversity loss and peace.

As mentioned by Ramos Pinto, J., Meira Cartea, P. (2004), in local sustainability strategies, the whole participatory process should be understood as a socio-educational process. It is another way of educating for a new paradigm of social participation and democratic decision-making.

It was based on this paradigm that this programme established the sharing of experiences and practices regarding the environmentally responsible and socially fair management of the territory and fostered dialogue between educators and professionals of the environment and territory in their work of training citizens aware of environmental issues with territorial expression.



# COUNCILLOR MUNICIPALITY OF LOUSADA

*Dr. Manuel Nunes*

The sharing of experiences, besides broadening horizons that allow the debate of opinions and the healthy confrontation of ideas, puts into perspective acquired realities, concepts and processes that are often not properly reflected.

The Future Planning project and the coming to Lousada of a Norwegian delegation, not only allowed to achieve these objectives, but also to strengthen partnerships and explore new models in terms of management and planning of the territory and community projects.



# RECTOR DA HØGSKULEN FOR GRØN UTVIKLING

*Prof. Dag Jørund Lønning*

All over Europe communities are tasked with contributing to planning and local development. And all over Europe, municipalities as well as local communities are searching for means and tools to make this happen.

*Høgskulen for grøn utvikling* aims to strengthen local communities and to improve the process of co-creation between communities and municipalities, to train communities' representatives to become more aware of their own resources and their community's possibilities.

In this project we have had the opportunity to work together with the Municipality of Lousada, and to study how Portuguese communities and municipalities collaborate. We have seen and learned much that we will bring home to our work in Norway, and we sincerely hope our own experience also will be of value to our Portuguese colleagues in their forthcoming efforts.



# FRAMEWORK

## *Land Planning and Good Practices*

In Portugal, in general, the use of environmental sustainability indicators in local territorial planning is weak. Although the use of environmental discourse is evident in the planning processes and in the preparation of documents, the effective expression of environmental indicators is much smaller when compared to social or economic indicators. Territorial planning practices thus tend to favour the dimensions that induce the perception of a more immediate "return", i.e. in direct economic terms or in social valences. It is important to involve educators and local policy makers promoting the debate on good and effective territorial management, encouraging action, narrowing the gap observed between environmental discourse and its translation into Good Practices.

While numerous processes challenge the sustainability of our common European future, sustainable territorial development policies have to achieve a number of objectives, such as reducing disparities, supporting balanced polycentric development, creating measures for the revitalisation of declining agglomerations, increasing the efficiency of transport and energy networks, preventing and reducing potential damage from natural hazards the protection and improvement of the natural and built environment, the promotion of environmentally friendly agricultural and forestry practices, striking a balance between preserving the existing cultural heritage, attracting new investment and supporting resident and working communities in urban and rural areas, and increasing public participation in territorial development processes (Ljubljana Declaration on the Territorial Dimension of Sustainable Development, CEMAT, 2003).





---

# GOOD PRACTICES

A good practice is a real-world example (case study) in which a method or technique has been applied that has consistently demonstrated superior results to those achieved by other means. The case study and related approach are therefore used as a benchmark against which other activities can be measured. Best practice is closely related to the term 'state of the art', which is sometimes also used to refer to a collection of examples of Good Practice.

It is beneficial for educators and local policy makers to look at examples of good practice to see what other municipalities have been able to achieve. Different places across Europe have achieved good practice in different aspects of land management, including Portugal. This guide will provide a useful collection of these good environmental practices. Different perspectives have been obtained through the participation of representatives from various local/institutional/political authorities.

An open guide for all who want to participate, share and implement good practices.



## SCHOOL LUNCH SUSTAINABILITY: RESPECT FOOD, REDUCE WASTE



Tudo made in Benavente. 2019. maio. 2021

Ana Palmar  
C.M. Benavente

### BACKGROUND

Food waste has an economic, social and environmental impact, so its reduction has received increasing attention at the international, national and regional level, as part of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In school cafeterias, the quantification of food waste is an important step in its reduction, since it allows understanding the magnitude of the problem, helps to define prevention strategies and allows the assessment of waste reduction over time.

### GOALS

Evaluate food waste in the school lunch of students from public primary schools, its relationship with satisfaction and the effect of intervention strategies in reducing food waste.

### DESCRIPTION

At school lunch, food waste reveals that students do not obtain all the nutrients from the meal, which, combined with the economic, environmental, social and moral impacts of food waste, makes it essential to reduce it in schools.

This study was carried out in two primary schools in the Municipality of Benavente, involving 366 students, and was divided into three phases: in Phase I, satisfaction with meals was assessed and food waste was quantified; in Phase II, different intervention strategies were implemented; and in Phase III, the impact of the intervention on food waste was evaluated.

### CONTEXT

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 2015  
European Green Deal 2019  
National Program for the Promotion of Healthy Eating (PNPAS) of the Minister of Health 2017

National Strategy and Action Plan to Combat Food Waste 2018

### TYPE OF ACTION

Educação Ambiental e Alimentar.

### STAKEHOLDERS

Students, teachers and parents.

### FUNDING / FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND/OR THE HUMAN RESOURCES

Municipality's Budget.

### MAIN RESULTS

Before the intervention, 36,7% of the food served was wasted and, after the intervention, it decreased to 33,1%.

In both Phases, due to the high value of food waste, stood out the fish dishes (42,2%) and vegetables (68,5%).

In general, there was an inverse relationship between satisfaction and food waste.

### SPECIFIC IMPACTS OF THE PRACTICE

Statistical significant reduction of food waste.

### DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED / LESSONS LEARNED

Resistance to change.

### FUTURE ACTIONS

Implementation of a long-term intervention addressing this problem in all schools from the Municipality of Benavente.

### POTENTIAL FOR LEARNING

To reduce food waste it is necessary to quantify it several times a year, in order to implement the adequate interventions strategies.

RESPONSIBLE  
Rute Alexandra Giga Espanhol  
rute.espanhol@cm-benavente.pt

<https://www.cm-benavente.pt/>



## ADAPTATION OF MUNICIPAL MASTER PLAN OF BENAVENTE TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES



C.M. Benavente

### BACKGROUND

Mandatory adaptation of the Municipal Master Plan of Benavente to the new legal Regime of Territorial Management Instruments was seen as the opportunity to address environmental and sustainable development issues, such as climate change adaptation and water cycle.

### GOALS

Promote sustainable development by establishing principles and guidelines that: increase ecosystem resilience; encourage climate action, environmental efficiency and circular economy; raise awareness of the interdependency between healthy ecosystems and human well-being, stimulating the integration of communities into environmental preservation plans.

### DESCRIPTION

The implementation of the new rural land use subcategory Green Infrastructure enhances the municipal ecological structure, aims at an ecological continuum with a vocation for climate regulation, infiltration of rainwater, human well-being, enriching the landscape, and embodies the municipal climate action strategy.

The rural Green Infrastructure, being a transition zone between the rural and urban areas, establishes the connection to the Green Spaces of the urban soil, reinforcing the protection and enhancement of ecological corridors, such as rivers and streams, their banks and riparian buffer strips.

The general guidelines established for Green Infrastructure on rural land aim to protect, restore and enhance natural resources and improve the ecosystem services, like cultural services since outdoor recreation and cultural activities are encouraged..

### CONTEXT

Regime Jurídico dos Instrumentos de Gestão Territorial 2015 .  
Estratégia Municipal de Adaptação às Alterações Climáticas de Benavente.

### TYPE OF ACTION

Adaptation of the Municipal Master Plan of Benavente.

### STAKEHOLDERS

Local community, government (central and regional), associations, companies.

### FUNDING / FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND/OR THE HUMAN RESOURCES

Municipality's Budget.

### MAIN RESULTS

Increase the territorial resistance to climate change and benefit the quality of life of citizens and visitors;  
Attract new investments, guided by principles of environmental responsibility and social justice;  
Harmonize the needs of the local population (leisure, sports, culture, education, economy, and health) with the protection, recovery, and enhancement of natural assets.

### SPECIFIC IMPACTS OF THE PRACTICE EXPECTED

Establish guidelines and principles to municipal norms and regulations;  
Reinforce public awareness to environmental issues; Upgrade the development model to the present demands.

### DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED / LESSONS LEARNED

Non-existence of a Municipal Environmental and Urban Sustainability Fund  
Resistance to change and adaptation of public policies to current knowledge and circumstances

### FUTURE ACTIONS

Adapt municipal norms and regulations to guidelines and principles of the adapted Master Plan.

### POTENTIAL FOR LEARNING

Apply national and global principles and guidelines to the local reality (biophysical, social, economic and political).

### RESPONSIBLE

João Pedro Leitão

joao.leitao@cm-benavente.pt

<https://www.cm-benavente.pt/>



**Natura com Vida\* - Canoeing and Trekking**  
**\*literally means 'nature with life' but in Portuguese it sounds like "nature invites you"**



Ana Palmar  
 C.M. Benavente

**BACKGROUND**

Need to stimulate outdoor exercise and interest in promoting the municipality's countryside and natural assets.

**GOALS**

Disseminate, enhance and protect the municipality's natural heritage. Increase awareness of the interdependence between healthy ecosystems and human well-being, encouraging community participation in environmental preservation plans. Promote outdoor sports and exercise as a source of health and well-being. Provide socialization among participants.

**DESCRIPTION**

These outdoor activities in natural surroundings are a practice with a few years and a seasonal and regular calendar. Canoeing events at Vala Nova are open to general audience and included in school breaks activities.

Besides the known routes mentioned earlier, at the environmental context, the team aims to show new and diverse trails in order to take the trekkers closer to natural and cultural heritage.

**CONTEXTO**

Trekking and other outdoor activities in nature, are popular in our community and a strong bet of tourism in Municipality of Benavente.

**TYPE OF ACTION**

Canoeing at Vala Nova and trekking in nature and countryside.

**STAKEHOLDERS**

Other municipal sectors, like tourism, local's authorities, local trade, land owners.

**FUNDING / FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND /OR THE HUMAN RESOURCES**

Municipal's budget and human resources.

**MAIN RESULTS**

Number of participants increased. Promoted the county's natural heritage to residents and visitors, who are already looking for this product in the municipal tourism sector.

**SPECIFIC IMPACTS OF THE PRACTICE**

Increased awareness about the human impacts on nature and the importance and need to preserve our natural environment. Improved individual and community health care.

**DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED / LESSONS LEARNED**

New comers that are not familiar with walking at natural trails. Decrease of paths open to public passage and fear of landowners to give general access, due to security issues.

**FUTURE ACTIONS**

Continue to promote outdoor activities in nature and in the countryside to improve health and communicate the importance of protecting ecosystems.

**POTENTIAL FOR LEARNING**

Finding new ways and partnerships to bring people closer to nature.

**RESPONSIBLE**  
 Ana Luis Pereira  
[ana.l.pereira@cm-benavente.pt](mailto:ana.l.pereira@cm-benavente.pt)

<https://www.cm-benavente.pt/>





## "BROOK-COUNCILS" DE JÆREN



### BACKGROUND

Water quality improvement has, as stated, been a general policy for a long period. From 2013-2015, HGUT was engaged as evaluator to find out how/if the process was successful.

### GOALS

Goal was to enable land-owners to take action for water quality improvement.

Their main responsibility was towards run-off from agricultural activities. The sources of pollution were identified, thus the main task was to get the owners to understand that it was their duty to participate and that the only way to success was that they themselves actively worked for the improvement.

### DESCRIPTION

In this project, a novel approach was introduced. It was clear that it would be impossible to gather all land-owners to cooperate for solutions, as they were too many and spread out over too large an area.

Thus a structure based upon the smaller river tributaries was established – called the Brook-councils. Thus the large number of owners was reduced into groups of 4-8 owners.

Further, two persons (facilitators) were employed to work with the brook-councils and help them in their work.

The two persons practiced a methodology of being out in the field constantly, discussing with the farmers and the brook-councils and showing them that their local/situated knowledge was of importance and could be important for developing solutions.

The need was strong to build trust between the owners and the authorities. In order to succeed this was crucial.

### CONTEXT

Political : Since Norway through the EEA-agreement with EU is committed to enhancing and improving water quality at all levels and locations, there has for a long time been worked systematically to reduce run-off from fields, habituated areas and infrastructure into our waterways.

Norwegian municipalities are the responsible entity for planning and introducing solutions to poor water quality. But as waterways, rivers etc generally are not limited within single municipalities, a system of watershed-management areas has been imposed.

Social: Land in Norway is privately owned. Thus, to improve quality of water in rivers, you need to work through the owners. They are generally farmers.

Thus, for municipalities to succeed, they need policies and plans that ensure the participation of the owners e.g. the farmers.

Farmers in Norway are generally well educated and with high skills, but often they are overworked and not in an economic position to take up large activities for improvement. Thus, there is need to develop good communication with the farmers and means that will enable them to implement necessary solutions.

Environmental: Run-off from agriculture, industries, roads and other man-made installations are a serious threat to the water quality and the life in the water in Norway.

Studies have been done to determine the water quality and the needs for actions to be taken to all water in Norway.

### TYPE OF ACTION

During the period here described, this region – named "The Jæren Water management Area" was established.

Further, a system of communication /dialogue with the land-owners (farmers) was established.

This was meant to build contact and enable land-owners to do what was necessary to improve the water quality.

Since properties are rather small and many, and the rivers are winding through the landscape and thus connecting to a multitude of properties, it was understood that finding solutions has to be a concerted and participatory activity.

### STAKEHOLDERS

There was a national dimension, but not of high importance. The facilitators represented the County level, and there was municipal participation through the board of Jæren Vannområde.

The main stakeholders were the land-owners (the farmers), structured around the Brook-councils.

### FUNDING / FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND/OR THE HUMAN RESOURCES

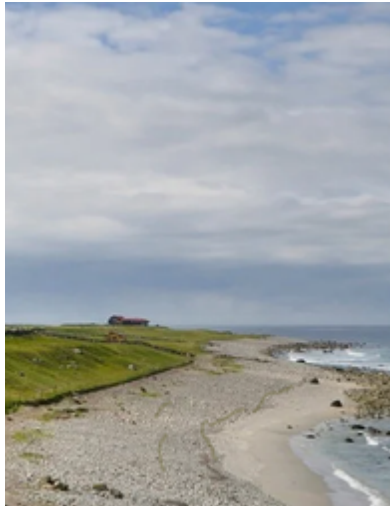
Funded by the Directorate for environment through Jæren Vannområde

HGUT was funded with NOK 450.000 to do the evaluation (2013-2015)





## "BROOK-COUNCILS" DE JÆREN (continued)



### MAIN RESULTS

#### Environmental:

- There was a constant monitoring of the water quality and how it developed;
- It turned out the measures did not show and rapid improvements even if measures were taken;
- This was explained by deposits of previous run-off in the river sand;
- This showed a need for better monitoring. Not only in the rivers but also in the riparian areas for to measure the new influx.

#### Social

- The Brook-councils ensured that the land-owners became actively involved and took an interest in the challenge;
- Working closely with the Brook-councils and gaining their trust, the facilitators were able to detect any problems at an early stage and work directly with the owners to find viable solutions;
- It increased land-owners knowledge of how natural processes worked and thus made it possible for them to identify and implement local based solutions;
- Enabling a local milieu for participation.

#### Economic:

- The main economic result was that owners were enabled to find local based solutions that could be implemented at low to no cost.

### SPECIFIC IMPACTS OF THE PRACTICE

#### Social:

- Trust-building. Where former used to be mistrust, there now was a positive spirit of cooperation.

#### Economic:

- Saving money through using tacit knowledge to build solutions ;

- Ensuring farmers could continue farming their land;

Watershed improvement was a way of restoring and improving local fresh-water fishing as a recreational activity

### DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED / LESSONS LEARNED

- Had to conquer many long years of distrust between farmers and authorities;
- Not getting immediate results because of large river-deposits of pollution;
- The system was pivoting on the efforts of the two facilitators;
- When they left (project funding ended) it was hard to keep the Brook-councils active anymore;
- The long time needed for participation to take hold.
- This project showed all participatory efforts are and must be seen as a continuous activity.

### FUTURE ACTIONS

- Reinstate the intensity of the Brook-councils ( that takes large effort to empower the participants (land-owners) and have them trust in the authorities)

Because this project showed they learned to trust the facilitators – not the process or the system

When the facilitators disappeared, the structure had not been integrated into the participants practice

### POTENTIAL FOR LEARNING

Main point here is to ensure that capacities are transformed into capabilities. The facilitators built capacity through introducing and actively promoting the Brook-councils.

But it turned out this capacity had not been turned into a local capability – i.e., into a tool that had become for the participants themselves to wield.

RESPONSIBLE  
Johan Barstad  
johan@hgut.no

<https://www.hgut.no>



## REQUALIFICATION OF MATA DE VILAR



### BACKGROUND

Mata de Vilar is one of the most emblematic green spaces of the town of Lousada. Located in the parish of Vilar do Torno and Alentém, it covers an area of 14 hectares, being the largest patch of native forest in the municipality. Its richness, uniqueness and management have earned it the international certificate of High Conservation Value Forest by the FSC®. This forest is also a unique place for all the memories that link it to the community, already exceeding a century of history.

In 2018, the project "Vilar Integra" was created, aiming at the integrated requalification of the Vilar Forest: "from tourism to sustainability", promoted by the Municipality of Lousada and with the support of Turismo de Portugal. The project covers innovative interventions, with a view to enhancing the natural cultural heritage of the region, diversifying and complementing the tourism offer, raising public awareness and information on nature conservation and sustainability issues, and enhancing the local social landscape by linking tourism promotion to local communities.

### OBJECTIVES

Promotion and demonstration of nature conservation techniques; Promoting public ecological literacy; Disseminating environmental education; Creating green jobs; Helping the local economy; Promoting ecological and scientific tourism; Contributing to the valorisation and sustainable development of local communities.

### CONTEXT

Political: Lousada is implementing an innovative way of

educating for sustainability. Environmental education is being informally incorporated into many different actions across society, so that good environmental practices become natural and necessary, without necessarily titling the initiatives "green propaganda". We are working with schools, private businesses and landowners, cultural groups, sports teams, parishes, the elderly, and many other groups to transform the socio-cultural and economic paradigm in this strikingly rural community. We are inspiring and supporting alternative ways of creating conservation areas and employment opportunities, engaging the community to do so while caring for its natural resources. The Municipality is fully committed to Green Agendas, such as the European Green Deal and SDGs, and is therefore investing in a number of demonstration projects, such as Mata de Vilar, to pilot sustainability pathways.

Social : Mata de Vilar is a forest linked to the history and culture of the Municipality. However, in recent decades, it had degraded and was not ecologically functional. The requalification project aimed to exploit the full potential of the forest for nature, but also to benefit people and the local economy. Due to the transformative actions that the Municipality has implemented since 2016, the community is more environmentally aware and participative. The requalification of the forest has also provided environmental and cultural opportunities for everyone.

Environmental : Mata de Vilar is a 14-hectare oak forest that was degraded until 2016. It had no undergrowth, was severely infested with invasive species, had no ponds or waterways for wildlife and no structures for visitation.



## REQUALIFICATION OF MATA DE VILAR (continued)



Diego Alves - Município de Lousada

### ACTION TYPE

Ecological and social rehabilitation of a forest.

### STAKEHOLDERS

Lousada municipality; Upper Sousa Local Protected Area; parishes; schools; local companies; NGOs.

### FUNDING / HUMAN RESOURCES

180,000 euros from the Tourism of Portugal for the main requalification works ; 100,000 euros self-financed by the Municipality of Lousada, Human resources, machinery and equipment.

### MAIN RESULTS

Environmental: Total restoration of 14 hectares of degraded forest; Creation of 4 ponds for wildlife; Restoration of a water course; Planting of more than 2,000 trees and shrubs; Removal of 7 hectares of invasive species and conversion to native forest; Installation of more than 50 shelters for fauna (nest-boxes, bat-boxes, etc.); Creation of more than 200m of dead wood fences (wildlife habitats); Preparation of 4 footpaths with appropriate signposting.

Social: Creation of an educational service; Provision of conditions for the enjoyment of nature; Provision of environmental education and cultural activities; Promotion of volunteering and social involvement; Training of technicians in environmental restoration and sustainable forest management.

Economic: Creation of three green jobs (and more planned soon); Attracting the public to local museums and other services; Supporting local small businesses.

### SPECIFIC IMPACTS OF THE PRACTICE

Environmental: Benefit biodiversity and ecosystem services; Protection of locally relevant species; Creation of a seed bank and plant nursery; Demonstration of best practice in forest management.

Social: Provision of an educational service; Participation in environmental and cultural activities; Enjoyment of a natural area for walking, relaxing, etc.; Inclusion of elderly and disabled people.

Economic: Job creation; Boosting the local economy.

### DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED/LESSONS LEARNT

Funding; Timely completion of planned works due to bureaucracy and Covid-19.

### FUTURE ACTIONS

Investment on the inclusive nature of the forest: creation of inclusive paths and equipment; Restore the built cultural heritage.

### LEARNING POTENTIAL

Ecological restoration of degraded areas as a social and economic asset; External educational potential.

### RESPONSIBLE

Milene Matos e Ana Maria Pereira  
lousada.ambiente@cm-lousada.pt

<https://www.cm-lousada.pt>





## PIAS MOLLINOLOGICAL AND FORESTRY PARK



### BACKGROUND

Pias presents a set of several degraded water mills and a traditional hydraulic saw which in the past represented an important social and economic centre for the population of Pias and Lousada. The Pias water-mills complex is located along the Sousa river, in an area that was ecologically degraded due to an abusive use of the land for intensive agriculture that led to the artificialisation of the river banks. The consequent squeezing of the river caused regular local flooding and constant erosion of the banks. This intervention has restored the natural profile of the river, and created sustainable ways of regulating the flow of water that are benefiting both the community and biodiversity. The built heritage will be redeveloped as an environmental education centre focused on enhancing and promoting traditional agriculture, cereal farming and associated knowledge, traditional engineering and water-powered energy systems, and ecological awareness in relation to rivers.

### OBJECTIVES

Promote and value traditional farming and engineering systems; Demonstrate sustainable water management and ecological engineering techniques; Promote biodiversity; Promote the public's ecological literacy; Disseminate environmental education; Contribute to improving the quality of life of local communities.

### CONTEXT

Policy: The Municipality of Lousada is implementing an innovative way to educate for sustainability. Environmental education is being informally incorporated into many different actions across municipal policies, so that good environmental practices become natural and necessary, without necessarily titling the initiatives as "green advertise".

Working with various stakeholders to transform the socio-cultural and economic paradigm in this strikingly rural community. Inspires and supports alternative ways of creating

conservation areas and employment opportunities, engaging the community to do so while caring for their natural resources. Fully committed to Green Agendas such as the Green Ecological Pact and SDG's, and is thus investing in various demonstration projects, such as this one, to pilot sustainability pathways. The Municipality has created the "Local Protected Landscape of the Upper Sousa", a protected area that aims to protect and promote the local natural and cultural heritage. This Park is one of the most important visiting and educational areas in the protected area.

Social : The Sousa River has dozens of watermills that used to be central to the local economy. With the industrialisation of the cereal and bread-making sectors, these important cultural landmarks have been abandoned, and many are now in ruins. These water mills and other artefacts were important centres of social and economic commerce until about 40 years ago. The redevelopment of this complex will bring important educational and cultural significance to this heritage site. In addition, the ecological restoration will reconcile human activities and the conservation of biodiversity within a sustainable land-use planning scheme.

Environmental : The watermill complex is located along the banks of the river Sousa. In this area, in periods of heavy rainfall, water would often rise and flow rapidly over the surrounding fields, eroding them. In order to mitigate these impacts and regulate the flow of water, especially in the context of climate change, where more episodes of heavy rainfall and also periods of drought are predicted, three ecological interventions were made. 1) Construction of a large pond that will provide water in drier periods. The pond is also a hotspot for wildlife. 2) The banks have been renaturalised by removing walls and softening the river banks, recreating the natural profile of the river. 3) Forestation of the riparian gallery and surrounding area to control infiltration and water flow.



**PIAS MOLLINOLOGICAL AND  
FORESTRY PARK  
(continued)**



**ACTION TYPE**

Ecological restoration and requalification of a riverside area.

**STAKEHOLDERS**

Municipality of Lousada; Local Protected Area of Sousa Superior; Parishes; Schools; Local Companies; NGO's.

**FUNDING / HUMAN RESOURCES**

200,000 euros self-financed by the Municipality of Lousada - human resources, machinery and forestry equipment and construction of the lagoon; 1,000,000 euros foreseen for the restoration of the built heritage.

**MAIN RESULTS**

Environmental: Mitigation of climate change impacts at local level; Total restoration of 7 hectares of a degraded ecological area; Creation of a 2000 m2 pond for wildlife; Removal of invasive species; Renaturalisation of a river section; Regulation of water flow; Promotion of biodiversity, both aquatic and forest; Planting of over 500 trees and shrubs; Creation of a large deadwood "amphitheatre" for biodiversity; Preparation of a walking track with appropriate signposting; Supply of ecological Energy for the environmental centre (hydro energy).

Social : Creation of an educational centre; Promotion and enhancement of local heritage with regard to agriculture, cereal crops and the water mill universe; Provision of environmental education and cultural activities; Promotion of volunteering and social involvement; Training of technicians in environmental restoration, sustainable forest and water management.

Economic: Job creation; Attracting the public to local services; Supporting local small businesses.

**SPECIFIC IMPACTS OF THE PRACTICE**

Environmental: Benefit biodiversity and ecosystem services; Mitigation of climate change impacts; Protection of aquatic and forest biodiversity; Demonstration of nature-based engineering solutions for water management; Restoration of a riparian zone.

Social: Provision of an education centre; Participation in environmental and cultural activities; Promotion of local cultural and natural heritage; Valorisation of traditional techniques and rural heritage.

Economic: Job creation; Boosting the local economy.

**DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED/LESSONS LEARNT**

Financing.

**FUTURE ACTIONS**

Investment in the requalification of the built heritage; Production of pedagogical contents.

**LEARNING POTENTIAL**

Ecological restoration of degraded areas as a social, environmental and economic asset; Protection of cultural heritage; Local climate change mitigation; Water management through natural engineering techniques (nature-based solutions); Outdoor education potential.

**RESPONSIBLE**  
Milene Matos / Daniela Barbosa  
lousada.ambiente@cm-lousada.pt

<https://www.cm-lousada.pt>



## MUNICIPAL NETWORK OF PROTECTED AREAS



### CONTEXT

**Policy:** The Municipality of Lousada is implementing a transformative Strategy for Sustainability since 2015. The Strategy is structured in five main axes: 1) Nature conservation and research; 2) Environmental education and scientific literacy; 3) Social engagement; 4) Infrastructure; 5) Internal green ecological pact.

One of the main objectives of this local government strategy is to improve biodiversity and associated ecosystem services through restoration and rebuilding campaigns. The Municipality is fully committed to international and national green agendas, such as the European Green Pact and the SDGs, and is thus investing in several demonstration projects, such as this one, to pilot sustainability pathways.

**Economic:** After six years of implementing the Sustainability Strategy, the social context has changed, and allowed us to introduce more complex and ambitious projects. This has required an in-depth environmental education agenda, with the City Council asserting and reaffirming green objectives in all its actions and communications over time. The implementation of the Municipal Network of Protected Areas was only possible after the community understood the general direction of sustainability planned for the territory and its people, and after a relationship of trust was built. The PPLSS, in particular, was created after a thorough participatory process involving more than 600 people living in the area to be classified. The community was listened to and had the opportunity to share their views and concerns, and to make proposals that will be inserted in the official Management Plan. The network of micro-reserves was created in partnership with private landowners, with whom the municipality has been working since the early days of the

green agenda.

**Environmental :** Lousada is a much altered territory, whose natural resources face tremendous human pressure. Land is being occupied/constructed at an average rate of 7 hectares per year. Thus, the protection of nature and ecosystems was established as a top priority. In this context, the improvement of the county's network of green and blue infrastructure is crucial. Following in-depth research into the region's fauna, flora and also cultural values, priority areas for conservation and protection have been defined. The objectives are to protect existing and relevant biodiversity assets, improve the overall ecological condition, promote ecological connectivity and restore where necessary. In relation to spatial planning and nature conservation, the creation of a network of protected areas has been identified as a methodology of excellence. The "Local Protected Area of the Superior Sousa" (PPLSS) was then created - a protected area that aims to protect and promote the local natural and cultural heritage in 1609 hectares along the Sousa River. This large protected area, and nature conservation in general, is supported by a network of micro-reserves for nature conservation scattered throughout the territory in biodiversity hotspots. This is a network of 25 small areas (ranging from 0.5 to 15 hectares each), which in total occupy about 100 hectares on both public and private properties.

### ACTION TYPE

Creation of a network of small protected areas to protect biodiversity and increase ecological connectivity.

### STAKEHOLDERS

Lousada municipality; landowners; local companies; NGOs.



## MUNICIPAL NETWORK OF PROTECTED AREAS (continued)



### FINANCING / HUMAN RESOURCES

Self-financed by the Municipality of Lousada: 30,000 euros - Creation of the PPLSS, 60,000 euros/year - Basic maintenance of the PPLSS, 40,000 euros/year - Maintenance of the micro-reserve network.

External funding for specific actions:

- Water, energy and waste management, Field work and interventions, Ecological restoration actions (plantations, control of invasive species, cleaning of beds, etc.), International cooperation, Staff training, Awareness raising.

### MAIN RESULTS

Specific impacts of Environmental practice:

- Benefit of biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- Restoration of ecosystems
- Mitigation of climate change impacts
- Protection of ecosystems and biodiversity from urban sprawl and over-pressure from human activities
- Demonstrating nature-based solutions for territorial development
- Promoting ecological connectivity
- Sustainable spatial planning

Social

- Provision of a better environment and quality of life
- Participation in environmental and cultural activities
- Promotion/enhancement of local cultural and natural heritage

Economic:

- Job creation

- Boosting the local economy
- Encouraging rural tourism

### SPECIFIC IMPACTS OF THE PRACTICE

Environmental: Benefit biodiversity and ecosystem services; Mitigation of climate change impacts; Protection of aquatic and forest biodiversity; Demonstration of nature-based engineering solutions for water management; Restoration of a riparian zone.

Social: Provision of an education centre; Participation in environmental and cultural activities; Promotion of local cultural and natural heritage; Valorisation of traditional techniques and rural heritage.

Economic: Job creation; Boosting the local economy.

### DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED / LESSONS LEARNED

Lack of funding opportunities, Bureaucracy, Management of certain less aware key players.

### FUTURE ACTIONS

Search for funding opportunities, Production of educational content, Implementation of signage, Easier communication.

### LEARNING POTENTIAL

Protected areas as a pathway to sustainable spatial planning, Ecological restoration techniques, Biodiversity conservation and ecological connectivity, Nature-based solutions for territorial development, Protection of natural and cultural heritage, Climate change mitigation at local level, Outdoor education potential.

RESPONSIBLE  
Milene Matos  
lousada.ambiente@cm-lousada.pt

<https://www.cm-lousada.pt>



It is a Portuguese parish in the municipality of Lisbon, belonging to the Eastern Zone of the capital. It has an area of 809 hectares and 32107 inhabitants, being one of the most populous parishes of the city of Lisbon.

A large part of the western territory of the parish is occupied by Lisbon Airport:

1. Olive Orchard
2. Social Inclusion and Environmental

Environmental Education

3. Olivais on Bicycle



Vanessa Madeira  
Junta de Freguesia dos Olivais



Vanessa Madeira - Junta de Freguesia dos Olivais



RESPONSIBLE  
Vanessa Madeira  
[vanessa.madeira@jf-olivais.pt](mailto:vanessa.madeira@jf-olivais.pt)  
<https://www.jf-olivais.pt/>



## PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ROGALAND COUNTY



### BACKGROUND

This has, as stated, been a general policy for more than 30 years. Here we will refer to an effort initiated in 2015 by the Directorate for Healthcare to improve the municipalities capacities and capabilities to use different methods and tools to enhance participation. HGUt was involved as an advisor and mentor for the municipalities and Rogaland County. From 2019, HGUt has been engaged as a mentor for Tysvær municipality directly.

### GOALS

Goal was to help municipalities develop practical knowledge of how to use various techniques for citizens involvement:

- Training in the use of citizens science methodology
- Using local involvement as a tool to enhance quality and diversity in public planning

### DESCRIPTION

HGUts has been actively consulting with municipalities and training them to understand and engage. We have been training in approaches like the communicative planning method, dialogue based methodologies, asset-based rather than deficit-based methodologies (e.g. Asset based rural community planning – ABRCD) and other inclusive and capability-building methods.

### CONTEXT

Political : Norwegian Municipalities and Counties are obliged to involve citizens in public planning activities (The Norwegian Planning Act). This is an ongoing and developing endeavour, that has been a cornerstone in Municipal planning ever since the 1080s. Over the last decade several attempts have been made by political authorities from National and regional (County) level to improve this work, and to develop competence at local level. From a Norwegian Political background, the local level is the primary level for involvement, as all planning is implemented at this level, and the Municipalities thus are the core entity for mobilization, participation and involvement. This makes it imperative to involve the citizens directly into the planning process for two reasons

- To build and extend the sense of democracy and representativity
- To ensure as many alternatives and ideas as possible are introduced

to the responsible bodies. Best way to do so is to ensure there is a broad and active participation

Social: Municipal planning comprises all aspects of citizens lives, from landscape planning, via various public services planning, via school structural planning and healthcare planning, to planning for integration of refugees, planning for equality and citizens' rights. Active participation is seen as a way of empowering weak and vulnerable groups, and ensure their voice is heard and taken seriously in the planning process. It further seeks to ensure that the various parts of the Municipalities – that may be isolated and not easily accessible – thus are helped to a better social development.

Environmental : Land use and environmental planning are two aspects central in municipal planning in Norway. So is also to ensure environmental considerations are being integrated into all aspects of the broader public planning. It further goes that, through broad and active participation from people who reside in the different communities, the possibilities both for identifying the most important issues and for finding the best suited solutions. Thus, active citizens involvement is seen as crucial.

### TYPE OF ACTION

During the period here described, municipalities in Rogaland have engaged in several projects aimed at increasing citizens possibilities and abilities to participate, and the municipal employees knowledge about how to improve the possibilities for people to participate.

### STAKEHOLDERS

Norwegian Directorate for health, Rogaland County, Tysvær municipality, local NGOs and community representatives

### FUNDING / FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND/OR THE HUMAN RESOURCES

Funded by the Directorate for health through Rogaland County

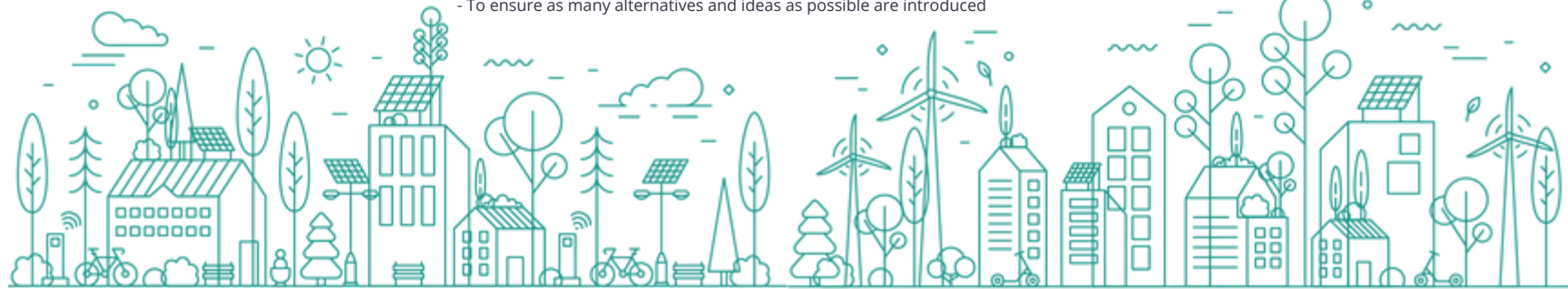
- 45000 € in the period from 2015 - 2019

Self-funded by the Municipality of Tysvær:

- 24000 € in the period of 2019 – 2022
- About a 50% position per year, 2015 – 2022

Self-funded by HGUt:

- About a 50% position per year, 2015 – 2022



**PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
ROGALAND COUNTY  
(continued)**



**MAIN RESULTS**

**Environmental:**

- Increased awareness of environmental issues and their role in municipal and local community planning;
- Identified areas of special environmental importance;
- Stronger focus on the need to integrate environmental planning with all forms of municipal planning (Environment into all Plans!).

**Social**

- Increased citizens knowledge of how to engage and get involved in planning activities;
- Enabling a local milieu for participation.

**Economic:**

- Improving the quality of local, municipal planning through better identification of areas of conflicts;
- Reducing the costs through higher quality and better suitability to plans.

**SPECIFIC IMPACTS OF THE PRACTICE**

**Social:**

- Knowledge of the planning process;
- Skills in facilitating planning processes at local (sub-municipal)

**level;**

- Training politicians and not only municipal employees.

**Economic:**

- Saving money through better practices;
- Increasing the willingness to live in local communities, ensuring the local infrastructure is kept in quality;
- Better possibilities for local-based tourism.

**DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED / LESSONS LEARNED**

- Difficulties for people to take time to engage
- Low level of national/regional funding
- Experiencing that things take time. The long time needed for participation to take hold.

**FUTURE ACTIONS**

- Searching for funding opportunities;
- Training politicians and employees in participatory methods;
- Developing a municipal participatory manual.

**POTENTIAL FOR LEARNING**

At all levels there are still large potentials for building new knowledge and how to find better local adapted solutions.

**RESPONSIBLE**

Ann-Kristin Berge Dahle  
ann-kristin-berge.dahle@tysver.kommune.no

<https://www.tysver.kommune.no>



The integration in the Future Planning project allowed the exchange of experiences and very relevant approaches, not only by the professional paths and training of the members of the different entities, ASPEA and Norwegian University College of Green Development, which enriched the analysis of the different projects and shared good practices, but for all the comments and suggestions for improvement of the projects that are being implemented in Lousada. The inclusion of the community, in an intergenerational way, in the decision making of projects that aim to intervene in the landscape and in the management of the territory, the importance of "repurposing" and of knowing how to give a new dressing to old practices, techniques and even landscapes, their observation and analysis from a practical and current point of view, making them sustainable and attractive nowadays were some of the most significant good practices shared during the project's co-learning moments.

*Ana Maria Pereira*

The possibility to discuss sustainable management of the territory with people who study this subject and with evidence and practical examples of the success of some strategies was inspiring. From the way we think about forestry and agricultural management, to the planning strategy of our urban fabric, a deep analysis is crucial to be increasingly sustainable in the methodologies we adopt. This meeting was inspiring by showing the various practical examples that are already taking place in other contexts and how we can adapt them to the reality of the territory where we work.

*Rafael Marques*

# STATEMENTS

One of the most important parts of our job is to be able to communicate our environmental message to other people. Making them able to understand and transmit that message to other people as well. Sharing good practice and experience in sustainable land planning, and helping us to improve our own knowledge and practice by giving real life examples from other parts of the world. But also sharing our own experience, which will inspire change in other countries. We should embrace differences, and promote these kinds of international experiences that enrich our own work and country.

*Pedro Sá*

The Portugal - Norway cooperation proved to be fruitful, allowing the demonstration of sustainable land management methods and practices. The Local Protected Landscape of the Sousa Superior raised continuous interest during the project, and the most common comment and congratulation was the ability to articulate and communicate with various political and social actors, and directly with the community. The conservative and dictatorial vision of the management of a protected area with constraints and formalisms, in the reality of Lousada, also a result of the administrative organization of Portugal with the active participation of the parish councils, does not occur in this case, having the learning from the exchange also focused, directly and indirectly, on the common sharing that there is no other alternative but to walk together, mediate conflicts and collectively build the territory without a too formal hierarchization of actions.

*Ricardo Noqueira Martins*

The opportunity to share the efforts made in Lousada regarding sustainable territorial planning was of great interest to me, as the participants of the event could not only learn about the work done, but also share their own experience regarding the various topics. The continuous exchange and conversations will also help us to improve our work and increase our international and cross-sectoral network, something we value highly in our field of work. As for my particular focus on the preservation of large trees, the possibility to understand how our work could be replicated in other European countries is very rewarding and inspiring, so that we can aspire to bigger and better things in the future.

*João Gonçalo Soutinho*

As a representative of a regional protected area, which involves three partner municipalities and faces major challenges in terms of sustainable planning and management, the opportunity to travel to Norway and meet people with great knowledge and experience in this field was undoubtedly very enriching. The Norwegians have a community spirit and a culture of civic participation that are truly inspiring. This exchange was extremely important, given the technical training, sharing and reflection, and has already had positive effects on the work we are developing. I am very grateful to all those involved for this opportunity of learning and personal and professional growth.

*Raquel Viterbo*





# FUTURE PLAN CHALLENGE

*An open guide for all who want to participate, share and implement Good Practices.*

Educators, policy makers, researchers send us your good practices.

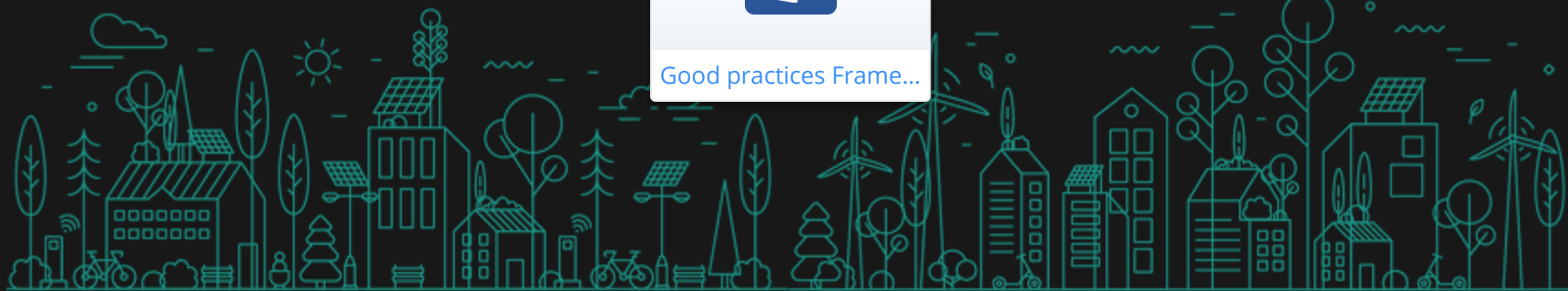
If you are not doing it yet, it is time to start thinking about one and put it into practice.

Fill in the word that you find on this page and send it to [del.lisboa@aspea.org](mailto:del.lisboa@aspea.org). In the subject write Good Practice Future Planning.

We want this e-book to grow every day, so that we can move towards a planet with less negative environmental impacts, and that the quality of environmental life improves.



Good practices Frame...



# PARTNERS



**PORTUGUESE ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

<https://aspea.org/index.php/pt/>



**município de lousada**

**MUNICIPALITY OF LOUSADA**

<https://www.cm-lousada.pt/>



**HØGSKULEN FOR GRØN UTVIKLING**

**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

<https://hgut.no/en/home/>

# GUESTS



Iceland   
Liechtenstein  
Norway grants



**FUTURE  
PLANNING**

Working together for a **green competitive** and **inclusive** Europe

[eeagrants.gov.pt](http://eeagrants.gov.pt) [eeagrants.org](http://eeagrants.org)



HØGSKULEN  
FOR ØRN  
UTVIKLING