



Creating opportunities for regional growth through the promotion of Cultural
HERitage of fISHing communities in Europe – CHERISH project

Action Plan for the region of Alto Minho

Final version

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1. INTERREG EUROPE PROGRAMME

Interreg Europe Programme helps regional and local governments across Europe to develop and deliver better policy. The aim is to make sure that government investment, innovation and implementation efforts all lead to integrated and sustainable impact for people and place, through the creation of an environment and opportunities for sharing solutions and policy learning.

By building on its forerunner, INTERREG IVC (2007-2013), Interreg Europe aims to get maximum return from the EUR 359 million financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) for 2014-2020. Knowing that better performance leads to better results, this time round, it's still about doing good, but doing it better!

Solutions exist that can help European regions become the best that they can be. Today, the EU's emphasis is very much on paving the way for regions to realize their full potential – by helping them to capitalize on their innate strengths while tapping into opportunities that offer possibilities for economic, social and environmental progress.

To achieve this goal, Interreg Europe offers opportunities for regional and local public authorities across Europe to share ideas and experience on public policy in practice, therefore improving strategies for their citizens and communities.

2. THE CHERISH PROJECT

The main objective of CHERISH is to improve regional development policies to protect and promote cultural heritage in fishing communities in order to boost attractiveness of these regions for businesses, citizens and tourists. Fishery communities in the EU share the same challenges with regard to climate change, tourism pressure and the transformation of the European fishing industry.

As a result of a combination of natural landscapes and human ingeniousness, including ethnic diversity, specific coastal cultural landscapes have emerged on the shores of Europe. This tangible heritage is directly linked with intangible heritage, from myths to daily practices, languages, traditions and crafts of local cultures of communities of sailors, fishermen, boat builders, merchants, etc.

The EU recognizes the valuable role of their cultural heritage for sustainable development and stimulates increased efforts to better position and profile the fishing communities, including its intangible heritage. Through the development and implementation of new strategies utilizing cultural assets of fishing communities' new jobs and new products or services are created as well.

Interregional cooperation and policy learning will allow exchange of experiences on the development of policy for the protection and promotion of cultural heritage in fishing communities via the integration of the lessons learnt into the regional policies.



The exchange of experience among the CHERISH partners is an interregional learning process that followed three sequential steps:

1. Identification and analysis of potential good practices;
2. Interregional Learning & Exchange of Experience Events, including site visits & study tours;
3. Development of Action Plans.

CHERISH involves 9 EU partners with a shared ambition to improve regional development policies to protect and promote cultural heritage in fishing communities in order to boost attractiveness of these regions for businesses, citizens and tourists.

Project partners:

Abruzzo Region - Rural Development and Fishery Policies Department (IT)

Development Co. Pafos Aphrodite Ltd (CY)

EUCC – The Coastal Union Germany (DE)

Intermunicipal Community of Alto Minho (PT)

Mallorca Island Council-Environment Department (ES)

Municipality of Kavala (EL)

Municipality of Middelburg (NL)

Riga Planning Region (LV)

Snowchange Cooperative (FI)

3. CULTURAL HERITAGE AND THE ROP NORTE 2020 POLICY INSTRUMENT

ROP NORTE 2020 is the instrument that supports the North region development, integrated into the PORTUGAL 2020 partnership agreement and in the current ERDF/ESF cycle. It establishes strategic priorities, and its policy instruments & investments, as well as promotes the competitiveness of the regional economy, and the region's sustainable development & internal cohesion through: TO 6 Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting efficient use of resources'; IP 6c. "Conservation, protection, promotion and development of natural and cultural heritage" and Specific Objective 4.1.1. "Promote the enhancement of the cultural and natural heritage excellence in the context of distinctive regional tourism development strategies".



Highlight for two key topics of the ROP that are focused on Sustainable growth, including environment, territory, cities and rural areas & Inclusive growth which includes employment, social and territorial inclusion.

In strategic terms it is important to address the investment needs in cultural heritage of fishing communities within the framework of this PI. In fact, actions need to be taken to ensure the involvement of all stakeholders in the definition of the regional strategies, in order to be sure that eligible projects correspond to regional needs.

CHERISH project addresses the challenge of transferring best practices of cultural heritage into the fishing communities, promoting quadruple helix collaborations, lifting this barrier in the Litoral Norte region. This region has an extensive cultural heritage, and this may be an important asset to attract tourism. In fact, before the pandemic there was an increase in overnight stays.

Exploring new market trends, in the segments of "cultural tourism", "city breaks", "nature tourism" and "health and wellness tourism", may be an essential element for the promotion and enhancement of heritage resources within the framework of a strategy of affirmation of the Northern Region and its sustainable development.

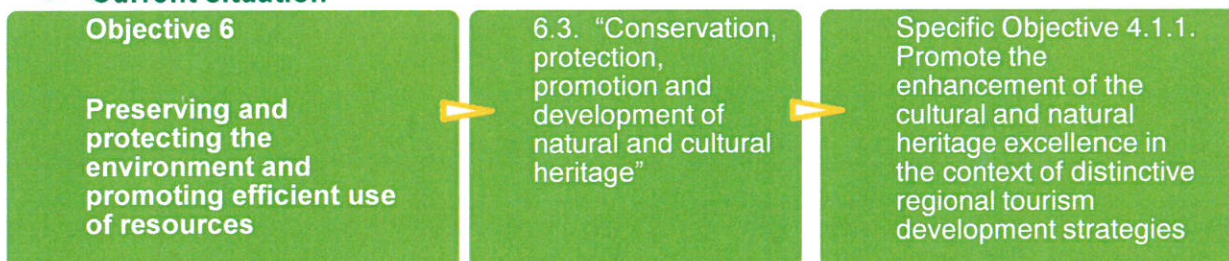
Alto Minho represents an area of excellence for the promotion of the development and sharing of knowledge in a perspective of improvement of policies associated with the cultural heritage, particularly through the mobilization of the European Structural and investment funds. Alto Minho is recognized as a tourism destination, being the cultural touring recognized as a tourist product of great importance level.

The CHERISH partners are cooperating to reinforce (the cohesion of) the fishing communities, their economic position and their competitiveness, focusing on old core qualities and values of the fisheries and fishing communities, and trying to make the maximum use of the available social, cultural and economic capital within these communities. While doing so, knowledge exchange between regions is taking place, enriching or maintaining local cultural settings.

Through the implementation of CHERISH CIM Alto Minho intends to improve Norte 2020 policy instrument through the opening of a call regarding cultural heritage as it is planned in the section regarding the actions envisaged.

Policies and Strategies in pictures:

- **Current situation**





- **Expected improvements**

1. Supporting new projects related to the "promotion and enhancement of the differentiating features of the territory, the environmental sustainability, **the heritage and the maritime culture**"

Through:

- call regarding fishing communities cultural heritage (included on 7th objective: social inclusion and poverty, through the CLLD - FLAG Litoral Norte);
- enhancement and promotion of cultural heritage in fishing communities.

2. Improved governance

Through:

- involvement of actors and improved the communication;
- integration of the CHERISH learning exchanges;
- use of the best practices to improve fishing communities quality of life and tourism;
- integrating environmental issues and cultural heritage when developing the region.

4. SYNTHESIS OF ALTO MINHO CULTURAL HERITAGE ANALYSIS

Located in the extreme north of Portugal, the Alto Minho Region, includes about sixty kilometres of coastline, which gives it a strong Atlantic component.

The Litoral Norte is composed by five coastal and riverside municipalities: Valença, Vila Nova de Cerveira, Caminha and Viana do Castelo (NUT III Alto Minho); and Esposende (NUT III Cávado).

This area has significant tourism potential, mainly due to the quality of the natural environment, the rivers Minho and Lima (Sites of Community Importance - Natura 2000), and the coastal zone that includes 17 Blue Flag beaches and the Litoral Norte Natural Park.

Along the coast, there are active fishing communities, which help to preserve the area's maritime identity and traditions. The quality of the fish caught here is well recognized, being the most popular species the octopus, sardines, and mackerel (as sea species), and the lamprey, sole and shad (as migratory species found in local rivers).



Some of these fishing communities are located on “Sea Villages”. This concept was developed in the 2007-2014 programming period and is also assuming an important role in the 2014-2020 Litoral Norte (North Coast) Strategy. CIM Alto Minho considers that a Sea Villages Network, may contribute to the sustainability of fishing communities and to the promotion of their endogenous entrepreneurship capacities.

Sea Villages (“Aldeias de Mar”) are characterized by the: existence of a fishing community recognized and active; location in a coastal or estuarine area, with relevant and singular expression of a fishing (and bathing) atmosphere, and of their activities and traditions; maintenance of the symbolic, architectural and material characteristics of the region and fishing (communities), ensuring unique and differentiating character; diversified activities and structures linked to fishing and water resources, as well as other offer, complementary products and services, that allow to highlight its own identity. The fishing communities identified are: Esposende, Castelo do Neiva, Ribeira de Viana, Vila Praia de Âncora, Vila Nova de Cerveira and São Pedro da Torre.

Regarding heritage, within CHERISH project, CIM Alto Minho analysed cultural heritage (tangible, intangible and “*forgotten*”) and some good practices were identified in Litoral Norte territory:

- AMAReMAR – Art and Community (Esposende): consists of social support and occupational activities for the fishing community, in order to enhance the ‘sense of place’ and to support the social inclusion. The project arose from the need to promote quality leisure time for the people living in the southern zone of Esposende, where social housing projects are located, as well as to foster the creation of informal networks to support and promote the integration, growth and appreciation of people, and foster opportunities for personal growth and social inclusion of these people.
- Gil Eannes Hospital Ship (Museum) (Viana do Castelo): the purpose of the Gil Eannes Foundation, which owns the ship, is to convert it into a pole of attraction of Viana do Castelo, and to develop initiatives for a wide range of public, based on the divulging of values and knowledge of maritime arts, as well as of the important support that this boat provided to the cod fleet in the seas of Newfoundland and Greenland.
- Aquamuseum of Minho River (Vila Nova de Cerveira): the Aquamuseum combines scientific research with environmental and cultural education about nature and artisanal fishing culture of the Minho basin aiming the divulgation of natural heritage of Minho basin; dissemination of ethnographic heritage associated with Minho River artisanal fishing; environmental education; and scientific research.
- Lugar do Real Platform – Aldeias de Mar project (Viana do Castelo): the main objective of the platform is to contribute to the improvement of the social image of fishing activity and its professionals, as well as other persons engaged in an activity linked to this sector. It allows to collect and preserve memories from the past of these communities.

CIM Alto Minho also learned from the experiences and good practices from the other partner regions during the ILEEEs - Interregional Learning and Exchange of Experience Events, that took place both in loco or, since 2020, virtually due to the pandemic crisis COVID-19. The actions proposed in this Action Plan gathers lessons learnt from Alto Minho studies and assessments, but also from the partners experiences and good-practices.



5. ACTION PLAN OVERVIEW

The Alto Minho Cultural heritage analysis, the interregional learning process and the assessment of the good practices led to the definition of the following strategic vision for the Sea Villages:

A Coastal territory with relevant natural, patrimonial, social and cultural value, where it is recognized the existence of an active fishing community, owning a maritime identity with strong expression in their traditions, activities and offer, and whose population is involved in an integrated and sustained project of preservation, valuing and promoting these values.

In line with this strategic vision, were defined the general objectives and actions of the Action Plan as follows:

GENERAL OBJETIVES	ACTIONS
GO1. To promote the Sea Villages Aldeias de Mar as a networked territorial offer, creating, organizing and promoting local offer and resources, enhancing the memory, the history and the heritage (tangible and intangible) related to the Sea Villages	A1. Creation of the “Aldeias de Mar Network”: governance and promotion model <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Development of a governance model•Promotion of the Sea Villages Network•Sea Villages route• Collection and recording of memories and stories of the Sea Villages.• Network of “Sea Villages memory spaces”
GO2. To promote the Sea Villages as living and working places, creating new economic opportunities based on local resources	A2. Protect and promote the fisheries resources aiming at strengthening and diversifying the economic base of fishing communities <ul style="list-style-type: none">•Protect and promote fisheries resources through the diversification of the economic base of the fisheries communities.

Besides these actions, the Action Plan includes an action regarding the improvement of the policy instrument, ROP NORTE 2020, that is the launch of a call for cultural heritage of the fishing communities to which the municipalities of the territory may apply.



6. ACTION PLAN

Part I – General information

Project: Creating opportunities for regional growth through the promotion of Cultural HEritage of fISHing communities in Europe – CHERISH

Partner organisation(s) concerned: Comunidade Intermunicipal do Alto Minho (CIM Alto Minho) - Inter-municipal Community of Alto Minho (partner 5)

Country: Portugal

NUTS2 region: Norte (North)

Contact person: Sandra Neiva Fernandes

Email address: sandra.fernandes@cim-altominho.pt

Phone number: 00 351 258 800 200

Part II – Policy context

The Action Plan aims to impact:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
<input type="checkbox"/>	European Territorial Cooperation programme
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other regional development policy instrument

Name of the policy instrument(s) addressed: ROP NORTE 2020 (Programa Operacional Regional NORTE 2020/Regional Operational Programme NORTE 2020).

Being the main objective of CHERISH to improve regional development policies to protect and promote cultural heritage in fishing communities in order to boost attractiveness of these regions for businesses, citizens and tourists, CIM Alto Minho considered that the most appropriate was to improve ROP NORTE 2020. ROP NORTE 2020 is an instrument that supports the North region development, and it is integrated into the PORTUGAL 2020 partnership agreement and in the current ERDF/ESF cycle. It establishes strategic priorities, and it is a policy instrument &



investments, as well as promotes the competitiveness of the regional economy, and the region's sustainable development & internal cohesion through: TO 6 Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting efficient use of resources'; IP 6c. "Conservation, protection, promotion and development of natural and cultural heritage" and Specific Objective 4.1.1. "Promote the enhancement of the cultural and natural heritage excellence in the context of distinctive regional tourism development strategies".

Highlight for two key topics of the ROP that are focused on Sustainable growth, including environment, territory, cities and rural areas & Inclusive growth which includes employment, social and territorial inclusion.

In strategic terms it is important to address the investment needs in cultural heritage of fishing communities within the framework of this PI as it only opened call for the natural heritage. This may enable the preservation of traditions, the improvement of the quality of life, as well as the creation of new business/job opportunities, especially in what regards tourism, always having the sustainability and inclusiveness as guiding principles.

Part III – Details of the actions envisaged

ACTION 1

Name of the action: **Creation of the "Aldeias de Mar Network": governance and promotion model**

1. Relevance to the project

This action was inspired by the lessons learnt from the following good practices:

- **Lamprey catching and cooking tradition in Riga: from a tradition to a recognised brand:** in what regards finding ways to attract tourists, creating business opportunities and building local identity by using unique local natural and cultural values and coastal fishing activities. Highlight also for the traditional ecological knowledge, specific fishing tools and skills, existing fishing community and culinary knowledge.

PARTNER: Riga Planning Region (Latvia)

- **Recording and documenting tangible and intangible fishery heritage, to preserve this knowledge and make it available for social and economic purposes:** The website www.zeeuwseankers.nl contains stories on heritage and landscape of Zeeland to inform and inspire inhabitants and tourists, and this may be implemented in Alto Minho region.

PARTNER: Middelburg (The Netherlands)

- **Zeeland Fishery Sweaters:** this good practice from the historical fishing community of Arnemuiden creates awareness for cultural heritage and the role of the fishing women (12 women all with a different social background in the community take economic benefit from a cultural asset and raise awareness among the all community) and Alto Minho intends to raise awareness regarding the cultural heritage of the fishing communities.

PARTNER: Middelburg (The Netherlands)



- **The consortium of Maritime Museum of Mallorca (participatory process to involve the maritime community in the design of the Museum):** a participatory process to validate the museum project and to create a social and territorial museum was the basis of the success of the museum. Besides, the process is helping to match the museum with the expectations of the maritime community and Mallorca society. This is a good example that aware for the need of cooperation/involvement of the maritime stakeholders and Alto Minho intends that involvement and bottom-up approaches for developing fishing communities becomes a reality.

PARTNER: Mallorca Island Council-Environment Department (Mallorca, Spain)

- **Coastal municipality runs Local History Museum** located in historic fisherman's family house. The museum keeps and promotes coastal fishing cultural heritage in Carnikava Municipality. The aim of the Centre is to keep and promote rich coastal fishing cultural heritage and traditions – historic trade of the local community. This good practice was chosen due to the preservation and promotion component, as well as the involvement of the fishermen.

PARTNER: Abbruzzo Region (Italy)

- **The Ecomuseum of the Sea and of Fishing** traces the history of fishing in Martinsicuro with photos and objects made available by older fishermen. Born thanks to the sensitivity of the Municipal Administration and the efforts of the Martinpescatori Association, represents what the territory is, and what its inhabitants are, starting from the living culture of the people, from their environment, from what they have inherited from the past, from what they love and that they want shown to their guests and pass on to their children.

PARTNER: Abbruzzo Region (Italy)

- **Interregional initiative among 18 Italian Regions to promote 1000 villages as places of slow tourism authenticity and quality of life.** This interregional initiative is based on the promotion of Italian villages with particular focus on an audience interested in sustainable and experiential tourism. The cultural heritage promoted refers to landscape aspects, cultural traditions, artistic and natural and also gastronomic heritage. And this action intends to create the Sea Villages network so that good practice may be one of the key elements to develop the network.

PARTNER: Abruzzo Region

- **“Costa dei Trabocchi”** is the brand that identifies the Trabocchi Coast making the territory more attractive for potential visitors and tourists. Furthermore, public-private initiatives have enhanced the brand “Costa dei Trabocchi” which now identifies a territory making it more attractive for potential visitors and tourists. Local people feel also identified and satisfied with their life quality and local economic operators feel engaged themselves in the promotion of this territorial identity. And this action intends to work this way.

PARTNER: Abbruzzo Region (Italy)

In summary, lessons learnt include the high importance of record the memories and stories of the fishing communities, using communication tools but also preserve and exhibit the cultural heritage in “modern” museums that tell a story and represent the living communities. An important aspect, is the role of women in fisheries communities and the importance to empower them as the leader of the communities, such as the community in Arnemuiden did with the sweaters, as, unfortunately, this sector is still regarded as a man one. We consider also important protecting the local resources linked to the local fisheries species (ex. lamprey, sole, sardines) to protect and promote the biodiversity and sustainability that benefits the coastal population. Finally, the importance of networks of museums to reinforce their visibility as a cultural asset, such as the Gil Eannes Hospital Ship (in Viana do Castelo).

We also retain the added-value of the creation of networks, the importance of the involvement of several stakeholders from “triple-helix”: private, public sector and scientific (research) sectors to promote and enhance



the cultural heritage as an asset for tourism. Thus, it is important to set up a governance model through the celebration of a protocol between the stakeholders, the creation of a “label” to facilitate the dissemination of activities and to prepare a communication plan.

The Cherish Photo Competition is an activity that will inspire CIM Alto Minho in the promotional initiatives as the power of photography may help raise awareness for the maintenance of the cultural heritage of fishing communities, to promote the beauty and the cultural characteristics of the region and to increase the public outreach of the project.

Although it is not part of this project one of the aspects, CIM Alto Minho would like to address is the creation of synergies with other national or international networks. The most important in the Alto Minho is the Saint James Way, namely the Coastal Way that crosses all the cost and obviously the Sea Villages.

2. Nature of the action

This action includes a series of activities (detailed below) which objective is to promote the *Sea Villages | Aldeias de Mar* as a networked territorial offer (product), creating, organizing and promoting local offer and resources, enhancing the memory, the history and the heritage (tangible and intangible) related to the Sea Villages.

Considering the nature of the Specific Objective 4.1.1. Promote the enhancement of the cultural and natural heritage excellence in the context of distinctive regional tourism development strategies of the ROP NORTE 2020 and that, despite this, there is no specific reference to the role or the importance of the fisheries communities or the coastal villages within this objective, there is an intention to demonstrate the need to include in the ROP specific thematic and budgetary lines regarding the fisheries communities' heritage.

Therefore, it is fundamental to create a model – governance and promotional – and implement related activities that can be seen by the MA as a pilot action whose activities may be added to the ROP as thematic and financial measures that contribute to the specific objective identified (or a similar one in the new communitarian framework). Still noteworthy to mention that the networking between stakeholders may raise awareness to public entities, like MA, for the importance of these communities and heritage, as well as bet in policies instruments that help to enhance their quality of life.

o Development of a governance model

This is an important initiative as it is intended to create the Sea Villages network, which should include different public management institutions and involving different stakeholders (public and private). It is essential to establish the capacity of governing and the decision-making guidelines, so a cooperation protocol between the main stakeholders of the Sea Villages is needed. The governance of the Sea Villages should also include the: design and main attributes of the label “Aldeias de Mar / Sea Villages”, as well as the guidelines for the good use of the label “Aldeias de Mar / Sea Villages”.

This governance model should also define the role of each stakeholder in the actions to be developed: promotional activities; Sea Villages Route; and Sea Villages memory spaces.

o Promotion of the Sea Villages Network

The first step of this action is the development of a marketing and communication plan, that will allow the promotion of the territorial offer to its target audiences. This plan should include the resources, the means and the actions to be carried out with regard to the guidelines set out therein.

In order to achieve these objectives, different dissemination channels will be used. In one hand the new technologies, due to their potential to exchange information in a quick, effective and updatable manner in a short period of time; but also, traditional forms of dissemination in order to guarantee proximity and universal



access to information: publications in Facebook and Instagram; short videos presenting the Sea Villages and its cultural assets (tangible and intangible).

- **Sea Villages route**

This action intends to boost a cycling/pedestrian path that links the six Sea Villages, near the coast, allowing that the existing or planned structures are organized in a product capable of attracting diverse publics (residents, tourists, visitors, etc.). So, this includes: implementation of divulgation actions for the route including web communication and inclusion of QR-Codes on tourist sites to access contents developed in the previous activity.

- **Collection and recording of memories and stories**

Once that fishing communities have many traditions it is important to collect them to preserve. Therefore, it is important to work these memories and stories, based on the Lugar do Real platform, to improve the social image of fishing activity and its professionals, as well as other persons engaged in an activity linked to this sector. This will allow to collect and preserve memories and stories of these communities. This collection and recording will be available in videos.

- **Network of “Sea Villages memory spaces”**

This activity consists of structuring a network of Memory Spaces in the Sea Villages (already existing), acting as places that bring together the culture and traditions of its fishing communities, through the implementation of a common programme, offering cultural experiences (museums, events, activities, etc.) based on the identity elements of local fishing communities. The stimulation of mechanisms of articulation and cooperation between those spaces will allow the structuring of a global offer, in network, with great value and potential. On the other hand, these spaces assume themselves as important attractions for tourists and visitors, contributing to the heightening of the global tourist offer of the Sea Villages, and enabling *cultural touring*. Meetings will be held with the stakeholders to enable their involvement and the creation of the network.

3. Stakeholders involved

	Role of stakeholder
CIM Alto Minho	Project promoter; main responsible for the implementation of the action and activities; development of the activities and articulation with other stakeholders; development of the governance model of the Sea Villages Network.
Municipalities (Caminha, Esposende, Viana do Castelo, Valença, Vila Nova de Cerveira)	Support the development of activities and articulation with other stakeholders at municipal level; participation in the governance model; support in the identification of local cultural assets to integrate in the Route.
Polytechnic Institute of Viana do Castelo	Provides input for the elaboration and implementation of the activities regarding Research, Innovation & Development;



	participation in the governance model of the Sea Villages Network.
Association AO NORTE	Support the implementation of the activities, in particular with regard to the <i>“Collection and recording of memories and stories”</i> .
Fisheries associations	Main beneficiaries of the activity <i>“Collection and recording of memories and stories”</i> . Identification of the main actors in the communities (fishermen, fisherwomen and their families ...) who can contribute to the videos with the stories and memories; participation in the governance model of the Sea Villages Network; support in the identification of local cultural assets to integrate in the Route.
Museums: Aquamuseu do Rio Minho - VN Cerveira (Aquamuseum); Núcleo Museológico de Valença (local museum); Museu Municipal de Esposende (local museum); Museu Marítimo de Esposende (local museum); Núcleo Museológico do Sargaço de Castelo de Neiva (seaweed museum); Fundação Gil Eannes (Foundation); Centro de Mar de Viana do Castelo – Gil Eannes (Sea Center); Grupo Etnográfico de Castelo de Neiva (Ethnographic group)	<p>Main beneficiaries of the activity <i>Network of “Sea Villages memory spaces”</i>. Participation in the network.</p> <p>Support in the identification of the main actors in the communities who can contribute to the videos with the stories and memories.</p>
Alto Minho Business Confederation (CEVAL)	Participation in the governance model of the Sea Villages Network; support in the identification of local cultural assets to integrate in the Route.
Local development associations	Participation in the governance model of the Sea Villages Network; support in the identification of local cultural assets to integrate in the Route.



4. Timeframe

	Start	End
1.1. Development of a governance model	June 2021	September 2022
1.2. Promotion of the Sea Villages Network	June 2021	September 2022
1.3. Sea Villages Route	June 2021	September 2022
1.4. Collection and recording of memories and stories	June 2021	September 2022
1.5. Network of "Sea Villages memory spaces"	June 2021	September 2022

5. Costs

	Estimated costs
1.1 Development of a governance model	Costs with staff
1.2 Promotion of the Sea Villages Network	3.000€
1.3 Sea Villages Route	
1.4 Collection and recording of memories and stories	10.000€
1.5 Network of "Sea Villages memory spaces"	n/a only costs related to the organisation of the meetings

6. Funding sources:

Own funds (CIM Alto Minho budget)



ACTION 2

Name of the action: **Protect and promote the fisheries resources aiming at strengthening and diversifying the economic base of fishing communities**

1. Relevance to the project

The inspiration for this action came from the lessons learnt from the following good practices.

- **Lamprey catching and cooking tradition in Riga - from a tradition to a recognised brand:** once again we consider that this good practice is important as through it they tried to find ways to attract tourists and create business opportunities and CIM Alto Minho would like to intends to contribute to this.
PARTNER: Riga Planning Region (Latvia)
- **Zeeland Fishery Sweaters:** Fishing sweater from the historical fishing community of Arnemuiden creates awareness for cultural heritage and creates an economic opportunity in the fishery community, facing a decline. And this action intends to look for business opportunities regarding the sea and if possible, involving women.
PARTNER: Middelburg municipality (The Netherlands)

In summary, the lessons learnt and that CIM Alto Minho intends to apply based in these good practices are linked to the importance of creating new economic opportunities for local people linked to the sea resources through:

- The protection and preservation of the fisheries resources, adding value in all the value chain. For example, the Riga Region created business opportunities by the unique fish "lamprey". This good practice plays an important role in the present Action Plan due to the similarity, not only of the fish "lamprey" (very typical and recognised), but mainly because several initiatives already take place in Alto Minho to preserve, enhance, promote and add value and new economic opportunities: festivals, new recipes (e.g. canned lamprey), and the work undertaken by Aquamuseu viewing the certification of the lamprey. And, not less important the "forgotten" pesqueiras do rio Minho).
- the support to new businesses based on cultural resources (the case of Arnemuiden sweaters);
- the possibility of attract tourists and visitors to local/regional festivals, adding value to the entire local economy.

2. Nature of the action

This action includes the following activity:

- **Protect and promote fisheries resources through the diversification of the economic base of the fisheries communities**

In order to support and enhance the existing economic activities in the Sea Villages, as well as to identify and create other economic activities with a high competitive index, which may constitute alternatives for the fishing communities and/or enhance the social and environmental components of the region, it seems relevant to develop initiatives aimed at encouraging, supporting and accompanying the creation of businesses that may contribute to economic development and to "Creating opportunities for regional growth through the promotion of Cultural HERitage of fISHing communities in Europe". This includes: collection and recording of the economic activities that use local resources in short promotional videos to promote those resources and the sector for the future generations and to boost the creation of new businesses.



This action is also in line with the ROP NORTE 2020, specifically with the “IP 8iii - Self-employment, entrepreneurship and business creation, including innovative micro, small and medium enterprises”, and through the identification and promotion of these resources, CIM Alto Minho intends to promote the introduction of specific lines of financing in the ROP for economic activities linked to fishing communities. Besides, the identification of resources and existing businesses may help local stakeholders, in particular fishing communities, to see opportunities to diversify the activities.

3. Stakeholders involved

	Role of stakeholder
CIM Alto Minho	Project promoter; main responsible for the implementation of the action and activities; development of activities and articulation with other stakeholders.
Municipalities (Caminha, Esposende, Viana do Castelo, Valença, Vila Nova de Cerveira)	Support the development of activities and articulation with other stakeholders at municipal level.
Polytechnic Institute of Viana do Castelo	Provides input for the elaboration and implementation of the activities regarding Research, Innovation & Development.
Local development associations	Support regarding the identification of fisheries resources and local businesses.
Fisheries associations	Support the identification of fisheries resources and local businesses.
Alto Minho Business Confederation (CEVAL)	Support the identification of fisheries resources and local businesses.

4. Timeframe

	Start	End
2.1 Protect and promote fisheries resources through the diversification of the economic base of the fisheries communities	June 2021	September 2022



5. Costs

	Estimated costs
2.1. Protect and promote fisheries resources through the diversification of the economic base of the fisheries communities	5.000€

6. Funding sources

Own funds (CIM Alto Minho budget)



ACTION 3

Name of the action: *Cultural heritage call (NORTE 2020)*

1. Relevance to the project

The project intends to improve the policy instruments of the partners regarding cultural heritage of the fishing communities. So, as defined in the application, CIM Alto Minho intends to ameliorate ROP NORTE 2020 by opening a call regarding cultural heritage as usually the calls that open are related to natural heritage. Although natural heritage is important, no one doubts that, the cultural heritage is also vital and the opening/publication of calls regarding this typology of heritage is a need. This may contribute to preserve the fishing (communities) traditions, improve the quality of life of the fishing communities, as well as develop the communities (always on a sustainable way) through activities such as tourism.

2. Nature of the action

This action regards the elaboration and publication of a call on ROP NORTE 2020 regarding cultural heritage. Consequently, it integrates the analysis of the applications that are submitted to the call and the implementation of the municipal projects in the Litoral Norte territory.

CIM Alto Minho as the manager of the FLAG Litoral Norte (and as it is possible in this communitarian framework as CCDR-N, the managing authority of the ROP, opens calls for the FLAGs come up with their own calls to the European Regional Development Fund - ERDF) decided to open a call on ROP NORTE 2020 regarding cultural heritage, as already made in previous years concerning the natural heritage.

Consequently, this action includes the design and development of a call for the municipalities of the FLAG territory for the IP 6.3 "Conservation, protection, promotion and development of natural and cultural heritage". The call opens and the municipalities present projects (one per municipality with an ERDF support around 100.000 euros) to conserve, protect, promote and/or develop the fishing communities' cultural heritage.

The municipalities may, for example, propose projects regarding the: protection, enhancement, conservation and promotion of historical and cultural heritage of high tourist interest; modernization and development of museums and other cultural facilities for the dissemination of the heritage; support of events associated with heritage, culture and cultural goods, with a high impact in terms of projecting the image of the region, through network programming; dissemination and territorial integration, through territorial and institutional cooperation initiatives that allow for instance the integration of cultural programming and guided tours; cultural heritage promotion programmes and creation of heritage asset management networks; and training of the agents that manage cultural assets.

After the submission of the projects by the municipalities, and the authorisation of CCDR-N, CIM Alto Minho analyses them and if approved will monitor their implementation.

So, the main steps are: application to ROP NORTE 2020 (managed by CCDR-N) with a call regarding fishing communities' cultural heritage; opening/launching of the cultural heritage call; the municipalities apply to CIM Alto Minho call regarding cultural heritage; CCDR-N authorises CIM Alto Minho to analyse the projects; the projects are analysed by CIM Alto Minho; if approved the municipalities develop their projects and CIM Alto Minho monitors the implementation.



In summary, CIM Alto Minho intends to improve the ROP NORTE 2020 and support new projects related to the promotion and enhancement of the differentiating features of the territory, and of the heritage and maritime culture, always bearing in mind the environmental sustainability, through this call regarding fishing communities' cultural heritage.

3. Stakeholders involved

	Role of stakeholder
CIM Alto Minho	In what regards the elaboration of the call (to one for CLLD - FLAGS open by the managing authority) and analysis of the municipalities' projects (cultural heritage call).
CCDR-N	Regarding its publication on ROP NORTE 2020 (as well as the managing authority that opens calls for the FLAGS, as the one that CIM Alto Minho manages, propose their own calls like this one concerning cultural heritage).
Municipalities (Caminha, Esposende, Viana do Castelo, Valença, Vila Nova de Cerveira)	In what concerns the presentation of applications to the call.

4. Timeframe

	Start	End
3. Cultural heritage call (ROP Norte 2020)	June 2021	September 2022

In implementation, CIM Alto Minho intends to analyse the projects as soon as possible to municipalities begin their projects after Summer (mid-September/October 2021).

5. Costs

	Estimated costs
3. Cultural heritage call (ROP Norte 2020)	<p>Costs with staff</p> <p>[costs regarding the publication of a call on NORTE 2020 - just a part of the technician salary regarding the time spent working on it].</p>



6. Funding sources:
Own funds (CIM Alto Minho budget).

Date: 31st August 2021

Name of the organisation(s):

CIM Alto Minho

Signatures of the relevant organisation(s):

Sandra Fernandes
CIM Alto Minho



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3. ROP NORTE 2020 Managing Authority
4. Interreg Europe Programme National Contact Point
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 - Associação de Pescadores da Ribeira Minho (fishermen association)
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 - IPVC - Instituto Politécnico de Viana do Castelo (Polytechnic Institute of Viana do Castelo - University and I&DT)
 - Associação AO Norte (cultural association)
 - Aquamuseu do Rio Minho - VN Cerveira (Aquamuseum)
 - Núcleo Museológico de Valença (local museum)
 - Museu Municipal de Esposende (local museum)
 - Museu Marítimo de Esposende (local museum)
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 - Junta de Freguesia de Castelo de Neiva (parish)



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- Associação AO Norte - Lugar do Real Platform
- Conservas da Néna (Caminha)



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