

PROMOTER



Junta de Freguesia de Buarcos
Portugal

NETWORK OF TOWNS

Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme

CERV PROGRAMME Project n° 101249580

EcoActive Citizens for a Sustainable Europe

Meeting 1

25-28 February 2026

BUARCOS - FIGUEIRA DA FOZ
• PORTUGAL •



Funded by
the European Union



Welcome to Portugal!

It is with great joy that we welcome participants from 16 countries visiting Buarcos, Figueira da Foz, for the first activity of the European project 'Eco-Active Citizens for a Sustainable Europe.'

Promoted by the Parish Council of Buarcos (Junta de Freguesia de Buarcos), this project reflects a deep pride in a land shaped by the Atlantic, its maritime roots, and the people who, generation after generation, have learned to live in balance with the sea. The ocean is part of the identity of Buarcos — a source of livelihood, culture, resilience, and inspiration — and today, it is also a symbol of our collective responsibility to protect our planet.

In this place where the sea unites people and stories, we welcome cultures, ideas, and experiences from across Europe with a common goal: to promote active citizenship, environmental awareness, and the building of a more sustainable future. May this gathering be a space for sharing, cooperation, and learning, guided by the values of community, solidarity, and respect for nature.

The Buarcos Parish Council expresses its profound gratitude to the European Union, within the framework of the CERV 2025 Programme - Citizens' Town - Network of Towns, for the approval of the project "Eco-Active Citizens for a Sustainable Europe", a recognition that reinforces the importance of civic participation, European cooperation, and commitment to environmental sustainability and the fundamental values of the European Union.

May the sea of Buarcos and the Atlantic Ocean inspire each participant to take home new ideas, new bonds, and the certainty that small local actions can generate great global changes.

Together, we are Eco-Active Citizens for a Sustainable Europe.

ROSA MARIA MARTINS FERREIRA BAPTISTA
President of Junta de Freguesia de Buarcos

Project Summary

The "EcoActive Citizens for a Sustainable Europe" Project is an initiative promoted by the Buarcos Parish Council, Portugal, which aims to place municipalities and local entities at the center of climate action, transforming climate and environmental challenges into opportunities.

In line with the priorities of the European Union and the European Commission's CERV programme, this Cities Network project has the general objective of encouraging citizens' participation in decision-making related to climate and environmental challenges and, consequently, the future of the EU, and as a priority, building a climate-neutral, green, fair and social Europe, investing in ecological initiatives aimed at improving air and water quality, promoting sustainable agriculture and preserving environmental systems and biodiversity.

At the same time, the aim is to create European networks of citizens who are aware and committed to environmental protection and sustainability and who can promote, in a domino effect, an environmental impact in the different European regions involved.

The project is intended to be developed over 18 months, in collaboration with 14 entities from 14 EU countries, and the organization of 6 thematic meetings, namely in Portugal, Italy, Spain, Malta, France and Hungary, with the participation of more than 4,000 citizens.

Through conferences, round tables, workshops, presentation/contact with good practices, visits to democratic and business institutions, data collection, advertising campaigns, debate and reflection sessions, we aim to reinforce Europe's commitment to environmental protection, raising awareness of priority issues related to environmental protection and sustainable economy, investing in the Circular Economy and sustainability models, as well as raising awareness in communities of the fundamental role of everyone in practices that benefit the environment, modifying our own behavior and encouraging change in others.

NETWORK OF TOWNS

What is CERV?

The Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme is an EU funding programme launched in 2021 with a duration of seven years. CERV funds projects aimed, among other things, at protecting diversity and civil rights, combating gender-based violence, strengthening citizens' democratic life, and valuing European history.

Its main objectives include protecting and promoting the rights and values enshrined in the EU Treaties, the Charter of Fundamental Rights, and various international human rights conventions. In practice, this means promoting and developing open, democratic, equal, inclusive societies based on rights and the rule of law. It also means fostering a dynamic and empowered civil society at local, regional, national, and transnational levels, encouraging democratic, civic, and social participation, and nurturing the rich diversity of European society in line with common values, European history, and collective memory.

- Promote exchanges between citizens of different countries, particularly through networks of towns, to give them practical experience of the wealth and diversity of the Union's shared heritage and raise awareness that this constitutes the foundation for a common future.
- Develop sustainable networks of towns, deepening and intensifying their cooperation, while outlining common activities to promote Union values and fundamental rights, as well as their long-term vision for the future of European integration.
- Inclusively support citizens' engagement and participation in democratic life and public policymaking at the local level.

Among other priorities, the programme will support:

- Encouraging citizen engagement and democratic participation at local, national, and EU levels, promoting European citizenship, shared values, and democratic standards.
- Supporting citizens' involvement, including children, in public life, and promoting democratic participation, gender equality, and representation in local decision-making.
- Promoting democratic participation through cultural activities, including projects inspired by or aligned with the New European Bauhaus initiative.

Activities may include, among others: workshops, seminars, conferences, training activities, coaching, expert meetings, webinars, awareness-raising activities, high-visibility events, data collection and consultations, development, exchanges, and dissemination of good practices among authorities and civil society organisations, development of communication tools, and the use of social media.

· CERV PROGRAMME ·

MEETING “Coastal Sustainability: the sea, the land and the community”

February 25 – Wednesday

- Arrival of participants at Porto Airport.
- Transfer to Buarcos and accommodation.
- Welcome speech.
- Dinner.

February 26 – Thursday

- 08:45** Departure from accommodation.
- 09:15** Welcome (University of Coimbra – Figueira da Foz Campus).
- 09:30** Presentation of the 7 participating countries (5 minutes per country).
- 10:15** Workshop/Conference: “Sustainable Fishing – Preservation of Marine Resources” (Ivan Viegas, researcher at the University of Coimbra).
- 10:45** Coffee break.
- 11:15** Presentation of the remaining 7 countries.
- 12:30** Reception by the Municipality of Figueira da Foz.
- 13:30** Lunch.
- 15:00** Visit to the Salt Museum / Presentation–Contribution of MARE-UC to the marine ecosystem in Figueira da Foz.
- 16:00** Visit to Docapesca/Formar.
- 17:30** Free time.
- 20:00** Dinner.

February 27 – Friday

- 09:15** Departure from the hotel.
- 09:45** Trindade Theatre – Buarcos;
Conference: Training in Blue Literacy for Sustainable Development. (Speakers: Ana Cristina Rocha and Irene Gutierrez, MARE, ARNET, University of Coimbra)
- 10:30** Coffee break.
- 11:00** Creation of the 1st e-book. Reading of texts by representatives of the countries about the work done for the creation of the book.
- 12:00** Signing of the Friendship Pact.
Group photo.
- 13:00** Lunch.
- 15:00** Visit to Buarcos / Marine Museum.
- 17:00** Free time.
- 20:00** Dinner.

February 28 – Saturday

- 10:00** Departure of participants.
Transfer to Porto.
Visit to Porto.



MEETING 1
Buarcos / Figueira da Foz
Portugal • 25 - 28 February 2026

MEETING 2
Santiago de Compostela
Spain • 1 - 4 March 2026



MEETING 3
Martinique / Fort de France
France • 5 - 9 May 2026

MEETING 4
Treviso / Venice
Italy • 28 Sep. - 1 Oct. 2026



MEETING 5
Safi - La Valletta
Malta • 15 - 18 December 2026

MEETING 6
Héhalom / Budapest
Hungary • 19 - 22 February 2027



PARTNERSHIP



1. FREGUESIA DE BUARCOS - Portugal
2. MUNICIPALITY OF KLANJEC - Croatia
3. MUNICIPALITY OF SAFI - Malta
4. MUNICIPALITY OF REZEKNE - Latvia
5. MUNICIPALITY OF SUHINDOL - Bulgaria
6. MUNICIPALITY OF CURTEA DE ARGES - Romania
7. MUNICIPALITY OF LWOWEK SLASKI - Poland
8. MUNICIPALITY OF HÉHALOM - Hungary
9. MUNICIPALITY OF BUSINCE - Slovakia
10. ASSOCIATION POUR LE SOUTIEN A LA CITOYENNETE EUROPEENNE - France
11. THE ORGANIZATION FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION & DEVELOPMENT - Finland
12. CENTRO EDUCATIVO DI PROGETTAZIONE E HOSTING INTERNAZIONALE - Italy
13. ONE TERRENE INTERNATIONAL GROUP - Cyprus
14. ASOCIACION XUVENIL VRENZA - Spain