



## INT-HERIT – IMPLEMENTATION NETWORK

HERITAGE STRATEGIES IN SMALL AND MEDIUM- SIZED EUROPEAN CITIES

# OPERATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

ESPINHO, PORTUGAL

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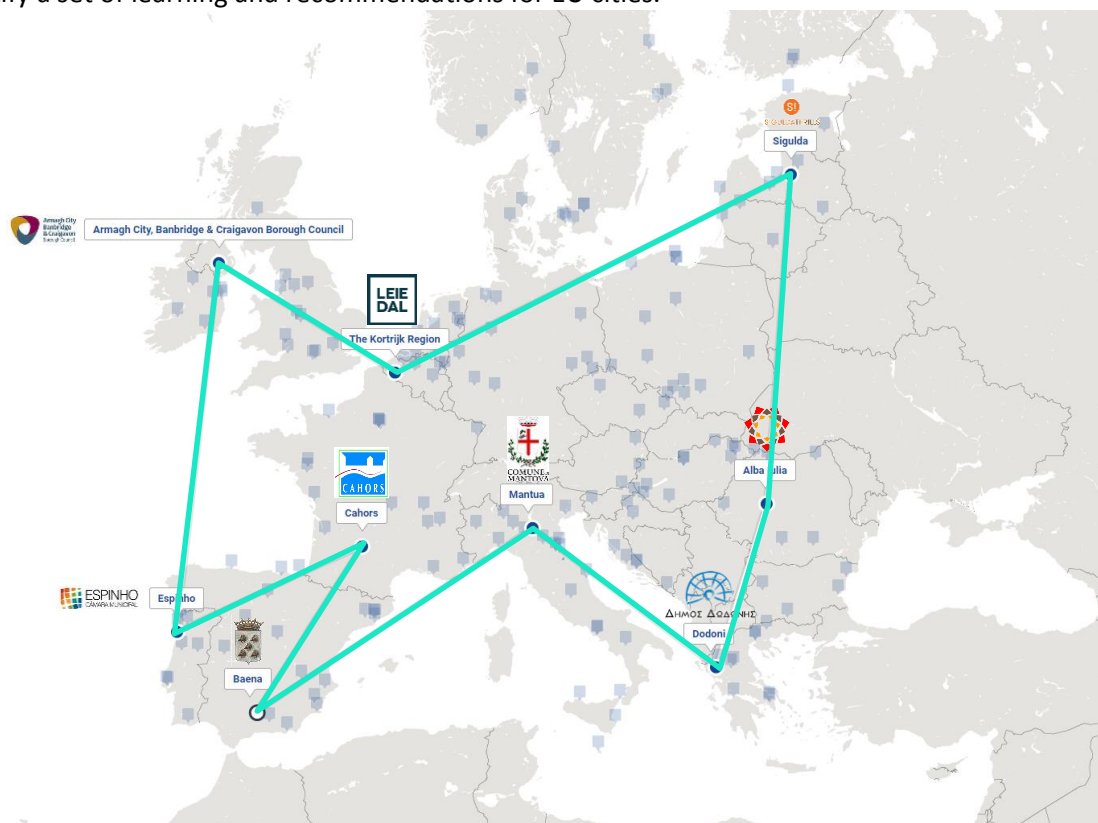


## INTRODUCTION

The INT-HERIT implementation network brings together a set of 9 small and medium-sized European cities around the common goal of revitalizing the local cultural heritage.

Through the INT-HERIT project it was intended to implement an innovative model in the field of heritage management in small and medium-sized European cities. Through the participation of 9 cities with integrated strategies and urban plans of action in implementation and with secured financing, it was intended:

- Strengthen the implementation of integrated strategies / action plans for sustainable urban development (monitoring of actions, etc.);
- Identify a set of learning and recommendations for EU cities.



**Figure 1 -Network**

In this way, the Municipality chose as the object of study within the scope of the INT - HERIT project the Espinho City Urban Rehabilitation project, which integrates within the scope of the Urban Rehabilitation Action Plan (PARU), the Strategic Development Plan PEDU), with approved funding for public space to be implemented by 2023 under Community funds from the European Union, specifically the NORTE 2020 program and Turismo de Portugal. In addition to the rehabilitation of the building, the support granted by the Financial Instrument - IFRU 2020, in the form of loans to private individuals.

It is an integrated urban rehabilitation project that aims to implement a set of actions of urban regeneration and improvement of the urban environment. It includes, in addition to a public space requalification project (with a 10.5 ha area), resulting from the burial of the Northern Railway Line, structurally in the city and lacking a new use, rehabilitation of the building public and private) with more than 30 years and / or in bad conditions, within a delimited area, called the Urban Rehabilitation Area of the Coast of the City of Espinho (ARULCE), which the Municipality decided to initiate the rehabilitation process in its various dimensions: physical, economic and social.

Specifically, it is part of the project for the Rehabilitation of Espinho's Railway Channel Space and Underground Underground Carrier (ReCaFE) and the rehabilitation of public and private buildings, which include commercial spaces and other spaces without restrictions of use, including the architectural patrimony of the city, represented by some collective use equipment and some buildings with historical county interest, representative of the history of the city. Finally, in the scope of economic and cultural rehabilitation, we highlight the Valuation Project of Historic Stores and the Valuation Project of the Archaeological Ruins of Castro de Ovil.

More in detail, the Valor de Sitio de Castro de Ovil represents a Valuation Project of a cultural space, specifically the Castro de Ovil, inserted in a natural area and in the past associated with an important paper industry of the eighteenth century, which in intends to value as an evocative or propitiating place of memories and local history, associated with another natural space of usufruct and leisure in the county.

It is in this context that the INTRIER project is inserted and intends to analyze the problems / challenges arising from the implementation of the said urban rehabilitation process, with a focus on the heritage area, and with the help of the methodologies and tools promoted by the program, a more sustainable, integrated and participatory process.

It was with the help of the methodologies and tools promoted by the program, namely through meetings with the ULG group, which gave rise to more participatory interventions and greater involvement and commitment of the various agents involved in the territory.

As the public investment, namely the ReCaFE project, already underway, a catalyst for the urban rehabilitation process, one of the objectives of the INT - HERIT project, is to promote actions that foster the rehabilitation of buildings, promoted by owners and economic agents, now to take the first steps, in order to make the process more participatory.

Another highlight is the Castro de Ovil Valuation project, whose local action group can follow its phased implementation, suggest suggestions and thus change the visibility of a place and motivate the interest of the citizens for it.

## 1.1. Baseline position

Espinho is located in the Northern Region of Portugal, on the Atlantic coast on the North of Portugal just 15 km south of Porto, Portugal's second city. With the area of 21.42 km<sup>2</sup>, Espinho inserted simultaneously in two areas of strong dynamism and territorial competitiveness: the Porto Metropolitan Area, the main development area of the north of the country, and the Region of Aveiro, a reference in research and industrial development, center region.

It is endowed with an excellent accessibility both road (A1 and A29), rail (Line of the North and Line of the Vouga), or pedestrian and cyclical (coastal bicycle path of Gaia and with the counties to the south). With the number of residents in 2011 of 31,786, Espinho, it is formed by 4 parishes: grouping Anta - Guetim, Espinho, Paramos and Silvalde. Is endowed with good accessibility, both road and rail, as a result of its excellent strategic position.

Already in times of the Roman dominion in the region, concretely in the parish of Paramos, it is verified the existence of a Castro, called Castro de Ovil. It is a village referenced for the first time in a document of 1013, which was based on a small hill, surrounded by a moat to the North and East and by a river to the South and West.

As a settlement, Espinho will have its origin from the mid-18th century. What is today the city of Espinho, in that century was just a beach. From early on a strong relation of the population with the Sea has developed, which remains today an important part of the culture of the city and in the region.

Mixing agriculture with fishing has always been a distinct feature of the region, but since the early twentieth century, both activities have begun to lose importance as an economic activity. The city and region have developed a manufacturing industry, which, however, has given way to a city of services, commerce and tourism. For this, it was important the climate factor and the natural and cultural attractions (beach, landscape, heritage, cultural and sporting events), but also the proximity of Porto and Francisco Sá Carneiro Airport and the fact that it has become a game.

Today, Espinho is a tourist city, modern, attractive for living and working, sought after by families seeking a better quality of life.

Nevertheless, Espinho constitutes a recent municipality, presents a great historical and territorial wealth, translated into the existence of very strong identity references, which has allowed it, in proximity to large urban centers, to maintain a certain singularity.

Among these references are:

- **the sea**, as a territory generator of activities (artisanal fishing, surfing and beach tourism) and landscape modeler;
- **the train**, in the past factor of development and element of structuring of the city, like privileged means of transport;
- **the mesh**, with a unique distinctive character at national level; the equipment, constituting an offer of excellence, mainly in the fields of culture, leisure and sports;
- **the natural landscape to the south**, that establishes the transition between the urban sea front of Espinho and the "Lagoa de Paramos", in the past called "Lagoa de Ovil".

Currently, the city is marked by the orthogonality of its central area, particularly noticeable for its plant.

This singularity of the urban fabric is largely related to the presence of the railroad in the urban structure, which resulted in a mesh layout aligned with the sea and with the Railroad Channel where the streets parallel to the Coast Line are identified by even numbers and the perpendicular, by odd numbers. It is visible the occupation of the blocks by buildings of different volumetries and architectural styles, which translate memories of the golden age of bathing tourism, among which the buildings of Arte Nova stand out.



Figure 2 - Espinho, Orthogonal grid

The city built on the orthogonal grid corresponds to the oldest and most consolidated part of the city, which is also the most qualified and structured. Marked at the level of the building, due to a mixture of styles and volumetry and an important public space offer, it faces a certain degradation, namely at the level of the building, including loss of some economic, social and cultural dynamics. With many vacant lodges, the city practices the highest housing price at national level, a reason that has been the basis for the loss of population and its ageing over the years

The presence of the train in Espinho since 1870, still at a very early stage of the evolution of the city, represents an identity element and a factor of development in the city, determining for its dynamization. In addition to increasing the attractiveness of the city, as a center of economic development, it strengthened attractiveness as a leisure and recreational area, widening the area of origin of visitors, thus also boosting commercial activity and services.

Thus, the passage of the train by Espinho became part of the routines of the city and its inhabitants, as well as the passengers, for whom the perception of the proximity of the sea and the city center, began to create a brand in the city inseparable of the territory.



Figure 3 - Railroad

However, the Train Line represented a physical barrier that divided the city to the east and west of the railroad. In this way the burial of said North Line initiated in 2004, had as objective the elimination of said barrier. Thus, it gave rise to an expansion of public space and an improvement of internal mobility, but it created a void in the space, which urged to give a new use and a qualification of the public space.

In the cultural sphere, stands out in the county, the presence of some archaeological ruins - "**archaeological Site of the Castro de Ovil**", located on a hill, in the parish of stop that represents an area with strong potential, which lacked a Valuation.

The archaeological work carried out resulted in the discovery of about two dozen circular habitational structures, typical of the horizon of the Castro culture of the Northwest Peninsular.



Figure 4 - Castro de Ovil (aerial view)

It represents a settlement of the Iron Age, integrated in the denominated culture of the northwestern peninsula, where the human occupation from at least the 3rd century BC to the contemporaneity has been documented. It integrates an industrial mill, constituted by the ruins of a Paper Factory Castle, installed there since the 2nd quarter of the century.



Figure 5 - Castro de Ovil (Ruins)

All this inserted in a natural space, marginal to the river «Rio Maior», where it has constituted the concern of the Municipality to precede the gradual elimination of the monoculture forest, in favor of species, such as, Oak, cork oaks, strawberry Tree, Aleiro, laurel, Ash and Cherry.

From the point of view of the defensive structures, Ovil also stands out the deep moat that isolates the village, a characteristic that is not unique in this case has a particularly significant expression. But the human occupation of the place is not exhausted in the Iron Age. The medieval documentation, the eighteenth-century ruins of the paper mill, the rural house, and the rotating hydraulic mill summon us to different realities and times, distinguishing it positively from other museum sites.

It is in this context that the Valuation Project of the Archaeological Site of Castro de Ovil appears as a new natural and cultural object, which includes a program of valuation of the castreja village, the industrial engenho and the fauna and flora of an almost native forest, as natural space and leisure. It is a project to valorise a natural, cultural and leisure area of Espinho county, important for the increase of its offer and consequent increase of its attractiveness of the territory, based on its potentialities and vocations.



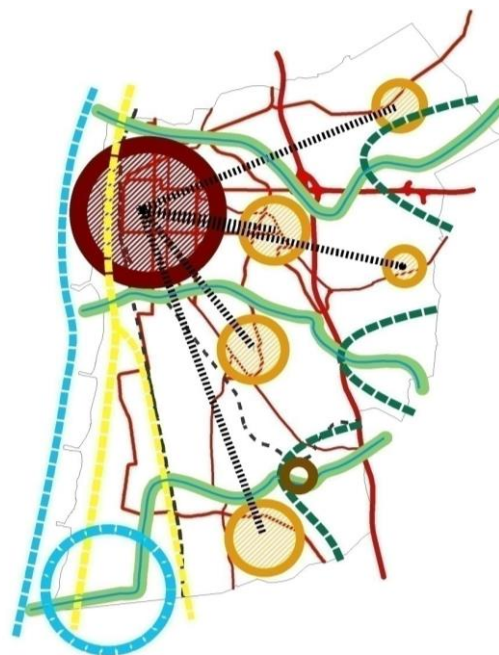
Figure 6 - Ruins of a Paper Factory Castle

The Municipality was inserted in a set of urban axes of the North Coast, it became necessary to consolidate its structuring with the reinforcement of a strong inter-urban mobility and strategic agreement of the public policies, passing through the development of urban functions more qualified and differentiating and sustainable.

It was in this context that at the level of the Review of the Espinho Municipal Master Plan – PDME approved in 2016, a planning document that defines the medium- and long-term vision for the municipality, the following set of strategic objectives for the territory was defined.

**Strategic objectives of the Municipality are to materialize a sustainable model and territorial cohesion based on the following objectives:**

1. Rehabilitation of the urban center of the city and degraded areas;
2. profitability of the infrastructure and the rationalization of public equipment;
3. promote the articulation between the various modes of transport and pedestrian and cycling routes;
4. strengthening the relationship with the sea, ensuring safeguarding with natural values;
5. Promotion of the city's grid as patrimonial identity value;
6. Integration of Ovil Castro in the green and cultural network;



With reference to the Europe 2020 strategy, in the area of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, the following plans are underway by the municipality:

Strategic Plan for Urban Development [PEDU] contractualized the amount of 9.500.000 € in 2016, it defines interventions, investments, needs and funding priorities to promote smart, sustainable and inclusive growth still integrated:

- PAMUS – Action Plan for Sustainable Urban Mobility – It integrates the construction of a Network of Cycles and Intermodal Platforms;



- PAICD – Integrated Action Plan for Deprived Communities
- PARU – Action Plan for Urban Regeneration.

**The Urban Rehabilitation Action Plan** is designed to improve the urban environment and revitalize the city. It is centered in the oldest part of Espinho and of greater centrality, chosen by the Municipality of Espinho to initiate a process of urban rehabilitation, in its multiple aspects: physical, economic and social.

Approved and published in Journal of the Republic (2nd series, nº 79, April 21, 2017), the Urban Rehabilitation Area of Espinho - **ARULE**, with about 45,000 m<sup>2</sup> / 45 ha, is located in the area west of the center of Espinho, from the sea front to the blocks that limit the public space resulting from the burial of the Northern Railway Line., as the attached plan illustrates.



Figure 7 - ARULE

The area under study is endowed with a strong housing, trade and services component, characterized by high density and signs of regeneration, albeit timid, both in terms of buildings and small-scale trade. Trade is most prevalent in Streets 19 and 2, and in functional terms, the ground floors of buildings in the most central areas of the city have commercial and service functions that tend to decrease from the center to the periphery.

The Sea Front of Espinho that accompanies the edge of beaches is par excellence, the most tourist zone of the county.



Figure 8 - Tourist Zone

For this area (ARULE) an urban integrated urban rehabilitation operation (ORU) is planned which systematizes a set of integrated interventions and investments, aimed at ensuring the safeguarding of built heritage and the promotion of sustainable development.

It integrates the rehabilitation of the building, the qualification of the infrastructures, the equipment and the green and urban spaces of collective use. In short; comprises the requalification and revitalization of the urban fabric, associated with a public investment program.

It aims to boost urban rehabilitation, promote and boost the economy strengthening social and territorial cohesion. It is a question of enhancing the historical, cultural and landscape heritage, through a requalification strategy that favors the relationship between the sea front and the center of the city, absorbing the uncharacterized platform on the burial of the northern railway line, which contributes to the fractionation of the city.

With the delimitation of the ARU and consequent approval of ORU - Urban Rehabilitation Operation, the Municipality will have the necessary instruments for the dynamization of urban regeneration and rehabilitation processes, public and private initiative, for the next 10-15 years.

The following are the general objectives of ARU:

- Enhance the rehabilitation of buildings that are physically degraded or functionally inadequate;
- To qualify the public space and the urban environment;
- Unify the urban network linking the nascent zone of the platform of the Railroad channel with the zone to the west, potentiating the tourist and leisure character in the city;
- Increase the animation of the urban area by reinforcing the cultural and socio-economic dynamics;
- To promote the valuation of cultural heritage;
- To value the sea front.



Figure 9 - Public space

It comprises about 694 buildings, home to about 950 families and 2159 families.

Within the boundaries of the ARU, 58 degraded buildings were identified, whose conservation status was evaluated between medium and poor. Almost half of these buildings are empty, which contributes to the deterioration of the state of conservation.



Figure 10 - Degraded buildings

The establishment of the ARU definitely opens up in terms of access to financing instruments, particularly within the framework of the new Community framework (Portugal 2020), for public and private agents, among many advantages and resources, a set of administrative support and incentives, financial and fiscal, applicable to urban buildings subject to rehabilitation actions.

Considering the ongoing implementation of the Strategic Plan for Urban Development (PEDU), which integrates a set of projects in the context of rehabilitation/regeneration and sustainable urban mobility, the municipality has decided to apply to the INT network – HERIT, URBACT program. Its main objective was to share experiences and best practices with other cities, facilitating the creation of solutions for the various challenges associated with the process of project implementation. I wanted together with the 9 partners, to apprehend new methodologies/tools, facilitators of the integration of various projects and the involvement of the various stakeholders, with a view to building a sustainable, cohesive and participatory city.

## 1.2. Outline Implementation Plan

The actions planned were focused on urban rehabilitation and on Protecting, Promoting and Developing Cultural Heritage, all this building a network aimed to attract companies, facilitating the exploration of new ideas and stimulating the creation of new companies and the development of new models.



As already mentioned for Espinho's urban rehabilitation area, the municipality has prepared an Urban Rehabilitation Action Plan (PARU), which includes a set of actions and measures aimed at improving the urban environment and revitalizing the economic and social area.

The delimitation of the "ARULCE" has become essential to ensure the pursuit of the municipality's strategic objectives, among which the following stand out:

- Promote the establishment of people, valuing the cultural heritage and the rehabilitation of degraded and functionally inadequate buildings;
- To qualify the commercial offer and the service levels, to the population and the visitors, promoting the socioeconomic development;
- To qualify the public space and the urban environment, closing the urban grid (mesh) of the zone to the source of the platform of the railroad channel with the zone to the west;
- Increase residential supply through the recovery and reoccupation of existing properties, further promoting their occupation with innovative and competitive functions;
- To value the sea front, and requalify the green spaces and collective use as well as the equipment;
- Increase the animation of the urban area, by reinforcing the cultural and sociability dynamics, publicizing the tourist values and strengthening the identity of the county;
- Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility, by eliminating obstacles on footpaths and increasing the capacity of car parking on the periphery;
- Reducing noise and carbon emissions, improving air quality.

### Urban rehabilitation of Espinho – (ARULE)

**In addition to the rehabilitation of the building (private and public, more than 30 years old and / or in poor condition), the project "Re-qualification of the Railroad Channel Space (ReCaFE)", a public space resulting from the burial of the Railway line with the area of 10.5 ha, structuring in the city and that needs a reallocation to new uses. It also integrates the project "Valuing Historic Stores", as well as the integration of a natural and archaeological-historical route in the city, associated with the "Valorization and Musealization of Castro de Ovil".**

It includes the rehabilitation of the building, which composes the "inheritance" of the city, includes some equipment of historical - cultural value without restrictions on the use and architectural patrimony, as well as the rehabilitation of cultural heritage.

- a) Requalification of Canal Railway Space (ReCaFE);
- b) Rehabilitation of buildings with more than 30 years or / and in bad state of conservation within the perimeter of the "ARULE";



- c) Valuation of Historic Stores;
- d) Valorization and Musealization of the Archaeological Ruins of “Castro de Ovílí;
- e) Management and animation of the urban area;
- f) Action promoting economic activity.

#### ■ Requalification of Canal Railway Space (ReCaFE);

The Requalification of the Espinho City Railroad Space (ReCaFE) - is part of the Strategic Urban Development Plan (PEDU), as part of the Strategic Action Plan for Urban Rehabilitation (PARU). It aims to qualify the public space, transforming it into a space of excellence in the city.

Its objectives are:

1. Homogenize the space, interlinking the rehabilitations already executed in the city core, with the interventions to be carried out;
2. To promote the valuation of the canal space, reinforcing the urban orthogonal mesh, characteristic of the city, and promoting the connection of the central area of the city with the zone by the sea;
3. To promote the rehabilitation of the building, in order to create new dynamics of economic development and tourism of the county and to reinforce the urban attractiveness;
4. To promote an improvement in the environmental, urban and landscape quality of the central area of the city of Espinho, as a factor of territorial structure, social welfare, competitiveness of the local and regional economy, as well as of the resident population.

With an area of 113,000.00 m<sup>2</sup>, the project is to the north by the boundary of the city and the county, to the south, on the east side of the Canal, on the 43rd street and the west side, on the Golf Course, on the east by 8th Street and the west by Av. 8.



Figure 11 - Recafe

On the whole, the project represents an integrated project, which comprises a set of actions aimed at requalifying the public space left over by burial of the railway line, including the urban area, surrounding the social housing buildings inserted in the underprivileged area (Bairro Piscatório | Marinha de Silvalde). It integrates in the scope of sustainable mobility, the construction of a parking and bus stop zone and a Kiss & Ride zone, to be located next to the Railway Station, which intends to function as an interface facilitating the use of public transport. It also includes the construction of a multimodal corridor, i.e. a bicycle lane, designed to encourage cycling, improve the urban environment and air quality.



Figure 12 - Recafe

The aim of the project is to transform the platform into a multipurpose public space in the open air, with squares, wooded and playful spaces, equipped with urban furniture and kiosks, etc., dedicated to the enjoyment by people - in a spirit of fun and exchange, in order to strengthen the centrality of the area and foster the traditional surrounding trade.

With regard to the proposed solutions, the project consists of three structural elements that give the place, as the descriptive report of the project refers to "a new contemporaneity and an innovative character." These are a pedestrian bridge located at the north end of the Alameda, "to establish itself as a gateway into the city", a building parallel to the train station, which should "host Espinho's tourist office", and a "Pala", built at the southern end of the zone, with a multipurpose character and innovative to function as "open or covered stage for shows, fairs and other events."

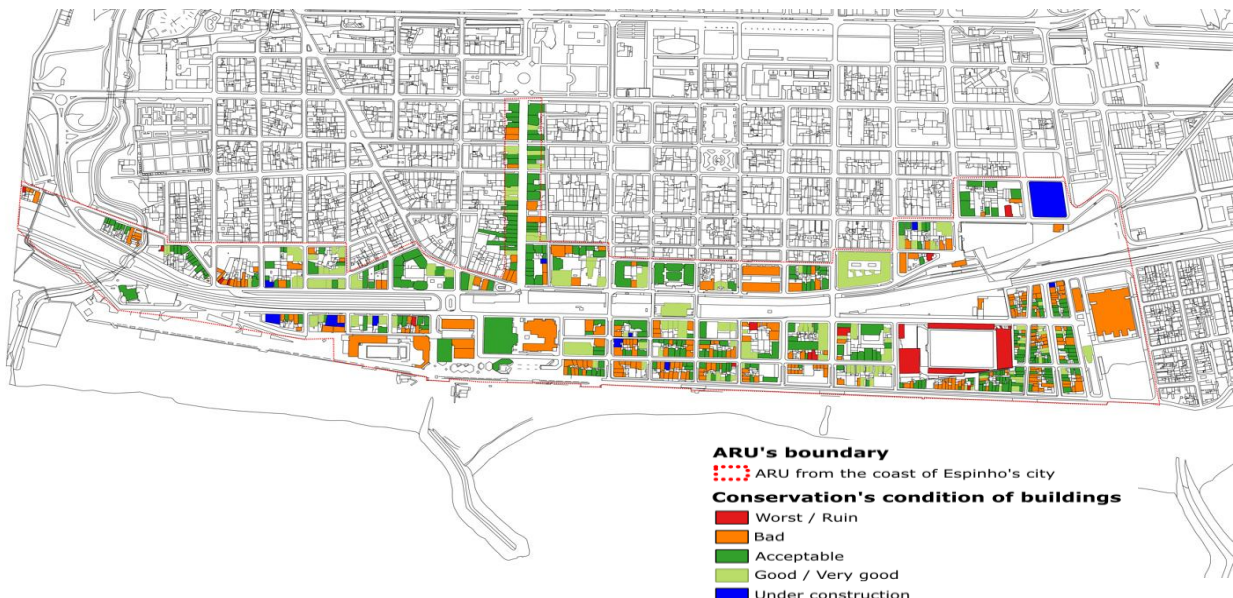


Figure 13 - Recafe

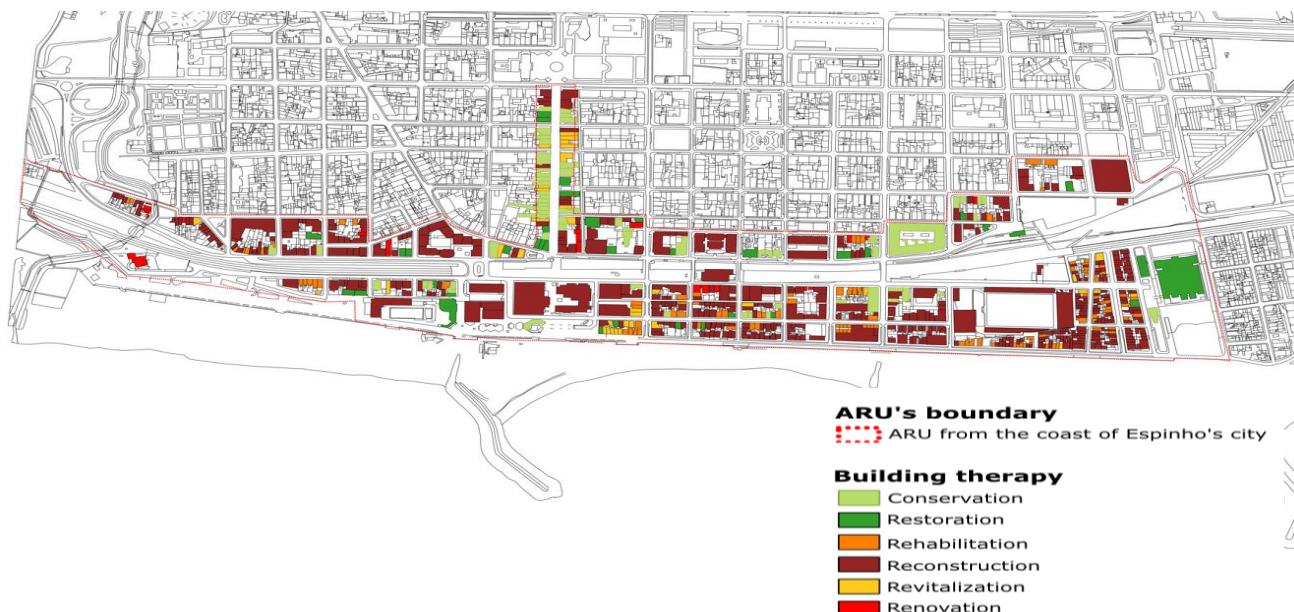
- Rehabilitation of buildings with more than 30 years or / and in bad state of conservation within the perimeter of the "ARULE";

#### Elaboration of the Diagnosis of the State of Conservation

A diagnosis was made of the state of conservation of all the buildings of ARU Littoral Centro of Espinho, whose results are shown on map 1.



After classification of the conservation status, a proposal of therapy for the edified one, according to map 2.



Following the clarification sessions, at the request of the residents / owners of the buildings, regardless of their use, several surveys were carried out to analyze the state of conservation of the building, based on the completion of a characterization form with the parameters to be evaluated. This evaluation resulted in the attribution of an index of conservation status, which ranges from 1 - very poor to 5 - very good and that allows to assess the eligibility in terms of tax benefits.

So far in ARULCE, 24 surveys were carried out, most of which resulted in index 2 (bad conservation status), and 33 location certificates were issued.

Subsequently, this assignment will be confronted with a final survey, to be carried out after the completion of the works, with a view to assigning a new index, and consequently to assess the said eligibility, regarding the allocation of tax benefits.

#### Awareness actions and clarification:

Regarding the rehabilitation of buildings inside the ARU, several awareness and clarification sessions were held by the municipality in partnership with the banking entities, aimed at technicians, entrepreneurs, associations and civil society. They aimed to encourage and clarify the various local agents and the population, the available mechanisms and their economic and urban benefits, with a view to the rehabilitation of the building inserted in the ARU.



Figure 14 - Rehabilitation Buildings

In order to extend the urban rehabilitation to the whole county, with all the administrative and financial benefits it has given, 10 Urban Areas of Rehabilitation (ARUs) were delimited, which focused in particular on the central centers of the parishes of the county.

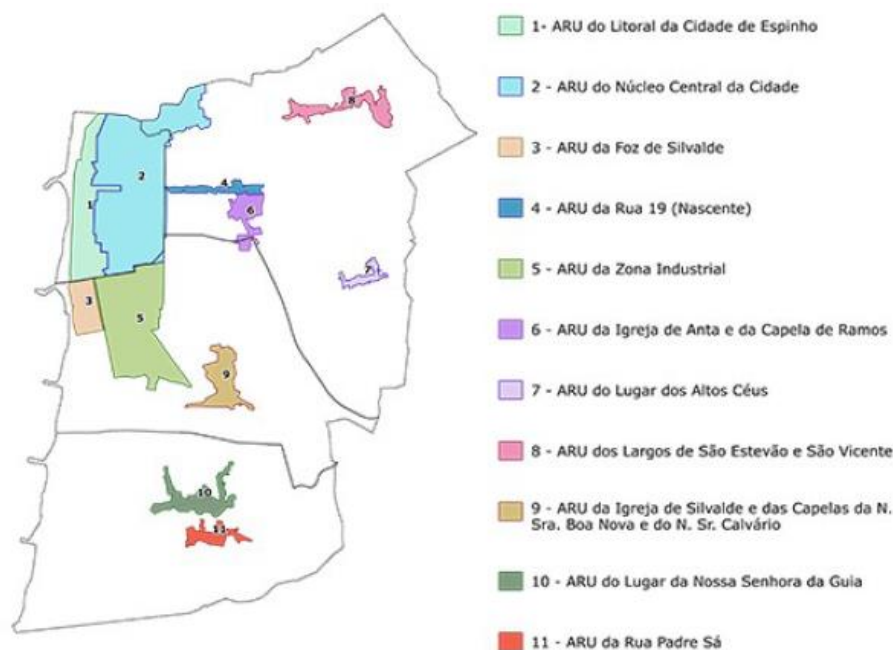


Figure 15 - Areas of Rehabilitation

With regard to the ARU's created, there is a high dynamism in the ARU created for the central area of the city, since, although it was created very recently, it already reveals the number of request of survey that is beginning to approach the ARU approved for the coastal area of the city.

So far in ARUNCC, 9 surveys were carried out, and 21 location certificates were issued.



**Promotion of Natural and equity values of the Municipality**, essential for improving environmental quality and territorial identity and Enhancers of Attractiveness of Espinho. "Castro de Ovil" integration in green and cultural network in the county.

In 2006, the Municipality presented an application for community funds in connection with a project for the Valorization of the Castro de Ovil, budgeted at around 5,000,000.00 €, which provided for the construction of an Interpretive Center, with various capacities. In view of its non-approval, the Municipality opted for a phased implementation of a (simplified) project consisting of small interventions in the area (costs approximately 300,000). Its objective was to return the "site" to the citizens' usufruct and to involve them in the decision-making process throughout the execution of the same, to promote the use of space in the leisure side, through a cycle path, connecting to the sea.

Through the improvement of access to the site and the construction of routes and signage, accompanied by a work to promote the site, it was possible to increase the notoriety of the site and the interest of the citizens in the cultural and playful aspect of the use of space. The introduction of the Castro in the natural route of the county, aroused the interest by the place and an increase of visitors.



Figure 16 - Castro de Ovil (new signage)



The archaeological ruins of the iron age discovered in the course of excavation and investigation were almost abandoned, which prevented their cultural enjoyment. The same can be said of traces of industrial archeology that threaten ruin. The archaeological remains resulting from these investigations are stored in a deposit, inaccessible to the public, which also prevents the knowledge and disclosure of the associated patrimonial values. On the other hand, it was important to continue the valorization program that allowed the eradication of forest monocultures such as eucalyptus, acacia / australia and common pine, as well as the Project of 100,000 trees in the Metropolitan Area of Porto'iniciativa CRE.PORTO, led by AMP and the Catholic University, which resulted in the planting of 721 carefully selected trees for the creation of a native forest of excellence. In this context, the present project intends to value all the scenic, landscape and patrimonial environment associated with the Archaeological Station of castro de Ovil. The heritage valorization program that presents itself thus constitutes an effort towards the diversification and promotion of the cultural and leisure offer of the county of Espinho, fundamental axis for the increase of its attractiveness and notoriety. In this sense, this program must be positioned in a development strategy geared towards the promotion of the territory, based on its potential and vocations and strategic planning that provides the instruments for attracting tourist flows.



Figure 17 - Castro de Ovil (new signage)

The Valorization and Musealization of the Archaeological Ruins of Castro de Ovil - constitutes a project of valuing Ovil and promoting a new cultural (patrimonial) and natural object, as an evocative or propitiating place of memories (recovered / recreated), but also a space of revelation, enjoyment and leisure, with open and alternative routes. It includes the visit of the village castreja, the industrial mill, the rural complex, but also the discovery of the fauna and flora of a native forest.

The Valorization program includes the signaling and definition of a route of Visit to the Archaeological Station, the implementation of visitor support areas (lighting, parking, sanitary facilities), a technical area to support the maintenance of the Station.

This is a phased implementation project:

- **The first phase** (already carried out) had the objective of improving accessibility to the site and consisted in improving access roads to Castro and creating signs to mark the entrance to the Castro de Ovil Museum.
- **The second phase**, which has also been carried out, aimed to improve the security conditions of Castro de Ovil, both for visitors and for the site itself. It includes the definition of a visit circuit and the creation of signage, as well as the construction of some support services.



Figure 18 - Castro de Ovil



### 1.3. Response to the Implementation Challenges

#### ■ INTEGRATED APPROACH

There are some challenges arising from the implementation of the urban development strategic plan (PEDU) and in particular the urban rehabilitation process in progress in the city, which the municipality intends to overcome / minimize, using some of the tools / methodologies seized with participation in project INT-HERIT.

This requires concerted action in the implementation of its different components: in the urban rehabilitation, mobility and regeneration component of disadvantaged communities and therefore, among the different planning instruments: PARU; PAMUS and PAICD. Specifically, as regards the process of urban rehabilitation, it requires an integrated approach in its various dimensions: physical, with the requalification of public space and rehabilitation of the building; economic and social, with the revitalization of trade and other economic activities, as well as the attraction of investment.

The sustainability of the Urban Rehabilitation process depends on the integration of these two projects: the reclassification of the public space resulting from the burial of the Northern Railway Line - ReCaFE and the requalification of the building that has been in existence for more than 30 years or in a poor state of repair, independently of its use.

The rehabilitation of the public space is a catalyst for the rehabilitation of the building, the revitalization of local commerce and therefore the attraction of greater investment. Given the structural and fundamental character of this area, which is so central to the city, which involves a number of stakeholders (public and private), it is fundamental to have a public-private investment integration, in order to constitute an exemplary case of Sustainability and integration.

To this end, the municipality has delineated the ARU for the coastal area of the city of Espinho - ARULCE, which represents an area dominated by the degradation of buildings, infrastructures, and some equipment for collective use, as well as urban and greens for collective use, particularly as regards their conditions of use, strength, safety, aesthetics or health. And following the definition of an integrated intervention, through an urban rehabilitation operation approved in its own instrument - ORU. It systematizes a set of integrated interventions and investments, aimed at ensuring the safeguarding of built heritage and the promotion of sustainable development.

It is in this context that the INT-HERIT project emerges, which aims to make the urban rehabilitation process of the city of Espinho more integrated: on the one hand, public investment already under way and, on the other hand, private investment through the rehabilitation of buildings, promoted by residents and economic agents.

The success of the integrated urban rehabilitation process also requires an articulation and involvement of the stakeholders that intervene in the territory.

In the case in question, it involved the involvement of public entities, such as the municipality and REFER (currently known as Infraestruturas Portugal) in relation to the requalification of ReCaFE and private entities by residents, investors, rehabilitation of the building.

In order to encourage the private in the rehabilitation of the building, there were several awareness actions and clarification, by the Municipality in partnership with the banking entities, aimed at technicians, businessmen, associations, civil society. They aimed to encourage and clarify the various local agents and the population, the available mechanisms and their economic and urban benefits, with a view to the rehabilitation of the building inserted in the ARU.

In this sequence, a set of Administrative, Financial and Tax Incentives were defined, applicable to urban buildings subject to rehabilitation actions that fit, cumulatively, in the concepts of urban rehabilitation and rehabilitation of buildings, that is, interventions that aim at the territorial and environmental, as well as, the improvement of the security conditions, habitability and comfort of the real estate. These, however, will only be granted after the completion of the works and, provided that they work to rehabilitate the building and / or fraction in accordance with the municipality's strategy for the ARU, as well as to promote the quality of the intervention (attested by services of the City Council).

Urban rehabilitation now plays a central role in the revitalization of cities and, in this case, in the city of Espinho, contributing to the improvement of the urban environment, strengthening its cohesion and competitiveness. As an integrated process, it implies an approach that focuses not only on the physical rehabilitation of the building and the public space, but also on economic and cultural revitalization, based on social and sustainability principles. Urban rehabilitation is thus a complex urban development process, involving involvement in decision-making and the commitment of the different actors that interfere in the territory, so that the focus of interventions is not limited to the physical dimension of the urban space, but also embrace other designs such as economic development, inclusion and active participation.

In this sense, the creation of the ULG, within the scope of INT - HERIT composed of about 20 elements, among several actors, mainly local, but also regional and national, who directly or indirectly interfere with the process of urban rehabilitation in its multiple dimensions. Also, in the cultural and tourist area, is an added value to the process. It is thus very important in the attempt to find new life-enhancing solutions in the rehabilitated areas of the city, in order to guarantee the sustainability of interventions in a constantly evolving society. They represent an example of a collaborative approach between public administration, private entities, local actors and citizens in response to the increasing challenges facing cities and which directly affect their social and economic life.

They represent a vehicle for the development of integrated and participatory approaches to urban policies, which periodically meet to discuss issues related to urban development. They aim to boost shared ownership of the urban planning process, as well as strengthen the capacities of local actors. In its constitution, stand out the Town Councils of Espinho and Paramos, partner of fundamental proximity in the intermediation with the residents and agents, in the dynamization of the urban center and especially in Castro de Ovíl. Within the scope of the economic dynamism of the urban center, the commercial and industrial associations of Espinho stand out, with an important role in the promotion of economic activities, the investors of the county, including those who develop, their activity in the area of urban rehabilitation.

With an equally important role, it is worth mentioning the representatives of the designers in the rehabilitation area, of the real estate agencies, who can talk about the problems of implementing a rehabilitation process.

In addition, representatives of the Historic Stores, which are important for the preservation of the city's memory, as well as other important partners in cultural and economic dynamism, such as the Espinho Music Academy, the Nascente Cultural Cooperative and the Puppet Group, for holding events in the city and attracting visitors.

To these are added the groupings of the schools of the county, important for the involvement of the educational community, as actors and scientific and cultural users, especially the students of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle, secondary and university.

With this group, it has been possible to create moments of debate and spaces for public discussion, within the scope of the ReCaFE project, the urban rehabilitation process of the building, the project to valorise the Archaeological Ruins of Castro de Ovil and other issues pertinent to urban Development.

#### ■ INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

Urban rehabilitation currently has a central role in revitalising cities, contributing beyond the improvement of the urban environment, to strengthening its cohesion and competitiveness. It implies an integrated approach, centered not only on the physical rehabilitation of the building and the public space, but also on economic and cultural revitalization, based on social principles and sustainability.

It constitutes a complex urban development process, which often frame several dimensions and a range of diverse actors requiring intervention programs, development formats that overflow purely technical arenas and Political and scientific, extending its spectrum to civil society and to the various agents of the territory.

It implies a new governance assumed by the different levels of public administration, but also by other actors and citizens, through the adoption of participatory and collaborative policies, which may favor the finding of innovative solutions for the Urban development.

In this context, the urban rehabilitation process of the city implies the involvement and commitment of the different local actors that interfere in the territory, so that the focus of interventions is not limited only to the physical dimension of urban space, but Embrace other designs such as economic development, inclusion and active participation.

To this end, the creation of the ULG within the scope of INT – HERIT, formed by about 20 members, among several essentially local actors, more also regional and national, which directly or indirectly interfere in the process of urban rehabilitation in its multiple Dimensions, including the cultural and touristic area, represents an important part of the success of the intervention. It is thus important in the attempt to find innovative solutions and potentiating new life in the rehabilitated areas of the city, in order to ensure the sustainability of interventions in the local society, constantly evolving.

This is a new response to new concerns, a different solution, through less hierarchized and more formalized forms, of which greater legitimacy is expected, but also greater accountability, sharing and coherence. Aims boosting the shared ownership of the urban planning process, as well as strengthening the capacities of local actors.

It represents a group that has periodically gathered to discuss issues related to the city and, with the ongoing rehabilitation process in the city.

In its Constitution, we highlight the representatives of the parish of Espinho and stop, partner of fundamental proximity in the intermediation with the citizens and agents, in the dynamization of the urban center and in the Castro of Ovil. As part of the economic dynamism of the urban center, we highlight the commercial and Industrial associations of Espinho, with an important role in the promotion of economic activities, the investors of the county, including those who develop, their activity in the area of Urban rehabilitation.

With an equally important role, we emphasize the representatives of designers in the area of rehabilitation, of the real estate agencies, that we can give their experience related to the rehabilitation of the building.

Additionally, the representative of one of the historical stores, which is important for preserving the city's memory, as well as other key partners in the cultural and economic dynamism, such as: The Academy of Music of Espinho, the Nascente Cultural Cooperative and the Marionetas Group, responsible for conducting events in the city.

These are added to the groups of the municipality, which are important for the involvement of the educational community, such as scientific and cultural actors and users, with students in the 2nd and 3rd cycle.

With this group it has been possible to create moments of debate and public discussion spaces, in the context of the implementation of the ReCaFE project, the process of urban rehabilitation of the building, the project of Valorization of the archaeological ruins of the Castro de Ovil and other Issues pertaining to urban development. However, this process of involvement and Collective learning implies some changes in the level of behavior and attitudes of citizens, "empowering", in order to make them active agents, with a view to a more sustainable society.



Figure 19 - ULG meeting

#### ■ SETTING UP PPP'S

Another challenge is the success of the formation of public-private partnerships, fundamental during the process of rehabilitation of space and later in the dynamization of rehabilitated space. Particularly noteworthy is the partnership created during the burial phase of the Northern Railway Line between the Municipality and REFER (currently called *Infraestruturas Portugal*) and Turismo de Portugal, as a financing entity. Already during the rehabilitation phase of the space, the creation of a set of informal partnerships stands out.

Later in the occupation of the rehabilitated space, the creation of other partnerships will be fundamental. namely in the buildings under construction under the ReCaFE and in the creation of economic activities that promote the local and the local economic development. The economic dynamism will also involve the creation of other partnerships with private, cultural and social agents in order to guarantee their success and to encourage the individual or collective appropriation of these same spaces, contributing to increase

the cultural and economic diversity of the different areas of the county and promote social cohesion and inclusion.

■ FROM STRATEGY TO OPERATIONAL ACTION PLAN

Also important is an implementation of an urban policy that integrates the windows of the city, with attention to collective objectives and resources, seeking to promote economic development, improve the attractiveness of the municipality and a notoriety of different spaces.

It is in this context that a valuation of the Archaeological Ruins of the Castro de Ovil is inserted, whose mission was the valorization of all the scenic, landscape and patrimonial environment associated with the Castro de Ovil Archaeological Station, until then underutilized, without any sense of diversification, expansion The promotion of cultural and natural spaces and leisure of the county.

The mission of the wired the inexistent the economic maintenance and environmental attenuation the same, the urban expansion the wired and the construction year and maintenance. In addition, given the natural and scenic value of the fauna and flora of the place where the Castro is inserted, it is fundamental to carry out interventions, without major impacts on the landscape, the use of a primordial of natural materials that do not imply future, costs maintenance.

To this end, a development program has been developed capable of promoting the territory, based on its potentialities and vocations, which could be an implementation of said program.

The execution of the project, in addition to making space possible, allowed the project to be more complete and closer to the community, in particular, by the members of the Local Action Group, created within the scope of this INT-HERTIT project. At the end of each phase, it was possible to spread the news through the media without knowing the state of the art and the steps, as well as a visit to the site and consequently a collection of feedback, especially from the Local Action Group. Thus, a request for quotation and an introduction to its next step are allowed, if necessary, a reorientation of the planned strategy.

This is a small example of how, through an approach to the valorization of an "Archaeological Site", in an integrated, complementary and sustainable perspective, executed by the Municipality and participated by other entities and with the involvement of citizens, increase their reputation and motivate their citizens' interest in it.

In conclusion, the implementation of the project requires an urban policy that promotes an integrated urban rehabilitation process of the different spaces, including the building, the public space and the collective equipment. Among the challenges, we highlight the improvement of the urban environment, the dynamization of the economic and social fabric, in order to encourage the individual or collective appropriation of these same spaces. promote cultural diversity, to improve the living conditions of citizens.

It also requires an articulation between the various stakeholders that intervene in the territory (public, private and citizens) with a view to urban rehabilitation, physical, social and economic regeneration of the urban network.

## 1.4. Learning Journey

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Given the importance of cultural heritage as a factor of socio-economic development in Europe, today the various cities seek knowledge and tools that allow the consolidation and rehabilitation of this heritage. In this context, the participation of cities in projects such as INT-HERIT, represents an innovative heritage management platform that has allowed the intervening cities to exchange knowledge and build a participatory process around their Strategies/plans in order to monitor/evaluate their implementation through the creation of appropriate indicators.

With the integration of the municipality in this network of THE implementation OF INT-Herit- *Heritage Strategies in small and medium- sized European cities*, it has been possible to integrate a management platform European cultural heritage with a special focus on the rehabilitation of cultural heritage.

The great value of the project INT-HERIT, comes in a first instance, of the mission of the URBACT program itself, **which attaches itself to the integrated approach to Urban development projects, in order to make them more Sustainable practices.** This is a project that has **enabled the training of the technicians and the decision-makers involved and in a more indirect way, the various stakeholder** that represent sector-related interests.

We refer in concrete to the methodology used based on two types of approach: in **integrated urban development and in the planning of participative actions.** Based on a holistic approach, these two actions are based on the physical, economic and social dimensions of the city's urban development, from a sustainable perspective. On the other hand, it has promoted a participatory approach, based on the development of partnerships between the municipality, the private sector and civil society (including citizens and inhabitants), recognized as important in the implementation of policies of Urban development through the creation of a Local action Group (ULG).

With the participation of the municipality in the project INT-Herit, it has been possible, fostersr the exchange of experiences and good practices between the 9 cities of Redand. Proceed to Transfer of *know-how* between the parties involved, through transnational meetings, meetings with the Secretariat, and with the on- site visits made to Projects.

It was possible to know the strategies and action plans of the 9 cities that integrate the network and follow the implementation of these projects. It was possible to know the main challenges of the city (many of which are common) and in conjunction with the other cities find integrated solutions, with a view to distinguishing a set of good practices/methodologies, passible to replicate in future projects of the city.

Another positive aspect of adherence to this network is related to the knowledge on various themes and the techniques/methodologies seized, transmitted by the specialists, who accompanied the various teams of the project along the work of partnership, From the beginning to the end elaboration of the operational Implementation Framework (OIF).

The participation in international meetings has been possible to collect contributions from the different partners, namely through the completion of the **Pee Review**. This is a common method between URBACT projects, which allows the various cities involved to benefit from the experience of the project partners, thus auditing their action page Local.

The Pee Review held at the various transnational meetings held, which allowed to group 3 cities (from different geographic areas) with common challenges, after the realization of an on-site visit to the project, share their experience and suggest/collect Suggestions to resolve or minimize these challenges.



It has **allowed the integration of apprenticeships in the process of local policies and the process of learning at the network level.**

With the holding of meetings with the Local Action Group (ULG), considered one of the vehicles for the development of an integrated and participatory approach of urban policies in the city, Allowed to boost the shared ownership of the urban rehabilitation process; train, albeit indirectly, to empower its members by transmitting the techniques and methodologies seized by the team throughout the various meetings of the project. It has allowed the fostering of civic participation, as well as the active monitoring and cooperation of the various local agents represented.



**Figure 20 - ULG meeting**

With this group it has been possible to analyze some local problems, creating moments of debate and spaces of public discussion, around the strategy of the municipality regarding and the ongoing projects in the city , with a view to seeking concerted solutions that serve the interests of the different parties involved. It has been possible, to listen to the various local agents, to perceive their various constraints in each Sector of Intervention which represent and jointly discuss solutions for the resolve or Minimize.

**The adoption of this methodology of public involvement, has allowed us to monitor and monitor the projects in the city,** and in concrete with regard to the project of Recafe, It will be very useful to its continuity in Future to discuss the choices of use to give the space rehabilitated and the form of dynamization of this space, in a phase after the completion of the work.



**Figure 21 - 5ª MEETING ESPINHO**

In short: the PROJECT INT-HERIT has the municipality of a set of tools/methodologies, planning and Urban Development, making the approach to projects more integrated and participatory, in order to Build more sustainable Projects.

The INT-HERIT project has focused on making the discussion of several issues of urban development, given and integrated in the urban rehabilitation process of the city more participated. In addition, with the methodologies and techniques seized, the municipality as promoter of the Recafe project, has sought to leverage the process of rehabilitation of the building, the initiative of the private (residents and economic agents) to give the First Steps.



## 1.5. Synthesis

The methodology used has become the starting point for future actions and strategies, both for the Municipality and the stakeholders.

The first major effort that was carried out by the municipality is directly linked to the creation **Integrated projects with the involvement of other entities / institutions and partnerships with citizens can be effective and more accepted by the resident community.**

In view of the urban rehabilitation process underway in the city that involved the rehabilitation of the public space, promoted by the municipality and the rehabilitation of the building, the initiative of the private (owners and investors), to the appreciation of the Castro de Ovil, which represented an area with a vast cultural and natural heritage to explore, the great challenge of the city consisted in integrating these projects.

Constituting the rehabilitation of the public space, in concrete the rehabilitation of the railway channel space left to the surface by the burial of the Northern Railroad Line (ReCaFE) a lever for the rehabilitation of the building surrounding and Consequently for the economic and social rehabilitation of the county, the integration of the various individual projects, as well as the involvement of stakeholders representing the sectors considered the most representative of the city, becomes fundamental.

The implementation of the Castro recovery project also involves an integrated implementation network that includes, in addition to the municipality, other institutions / entities, specifically Cré.Porto, an institution led by AMP and the Catholic University responsible for planting trees of traditional forest, in order to return native species to the site. It also includes the Municipal Museum of Espinho, guardian of the collection collected in Castro's research, which is equally important in the appreciation, promotion and promotion of the Archaeological Station and its estate.



**Figure 22 - 5ª MEETING ESPINHO**

Through the improvement of access to the site and the construction of routes and signage, accompanied by a work to promote the site, it was possible to increase the notoriety of the place and the interest of the citizens in the cultural and playful aspect of the use of space. The introduction of the Castro in the

natural route of the county, aroused the interest by the place and an increase of visitors.

**Example of a sustainable (economic and environmental) and integrated approach.**

On the other hand, it is intended to **promote a higher environmental, urban and landscape quality of the central area of the city** of Espinho, as a factor of territorial structure, social welfare, competitiveness of the local and regional economy, as well as the establishment of the resident population.

In short, the process of **urban rehabilitation** is expected to promote a higher environmental, urban and landscape quality of the central area of the city of Espinho, as a factor of territorial structure, social welfare, competitiveness of the local and regional economy, as well as the establishment of the resident population. Once again, this process also mirrored an integrated and participatory project approach, since its execution involves several stakeholders (public and private). As far as urban rehabilitation is concerned, private

individuals, such as residents, merchants and service providers, are involved as promoters of the building rehabilitation process, regardless of their function. In the context of economic rehabilitation and the occupation and dynamization of the rehabilitated space, it involves investors and other economic agents.



In the area of the city there is a new dynamic in the urban rehabilitation process: there is a growing number of requests for rehabilitation of buildings under the IFRU; of request for inspection to obtain the level of conservation of the building and ongoing rehabilitation processes. There is also a growing number of requests to change the use of the building, specifically spaces for local accommodation.



In conclusion, it is necessary to reflect that the development of management strategies is a fundamental task in public policies. Particularly in the field of cultural heritage management, it has the double meaning of guaranteeing the preservation of resources and facilitating their sustainable use through a management process.

In this context, the participation of the municipality in the Urbact - INT-Herit - Heritage Strategies in small and medium-sized European Cities Project represented an added value, to the extent that it came Enhance the work of integrating projects and the involvement and participation of the various stakeholders in the process. In concrete the methodologies and tools provided by the project have come to minimize some challenges identified along the OIF, such as the dependence of the private sector for urban rehabilitation and stakeholder engagement in the discussions Strategic priorities of the municipality.