

## Almargem Newsletter



✉ Praceta Julião Quintinha, Bloco A, r/c esq. – 8100-545 Loulé – Portugal  
☎ Tel.: 289412959 📞 Tlm.: 925481986  
✉ almargem@mail.telepac.pt 🌐 www.almargem.org 📘 facebook.com/associacaoalmargem

### INCULTUM Project

In this edition of Almargem Newsletter - Special Edition Water, we get to know the INCULTUM project, which aims to demonstrate the high potential of marginal and peripheral places, cultural heritage and resources when managed by local communities and stakeholders. The INCULTUM project, implemented in 10 countries, has selected Campina de Faro as a pilot case in Portugal. Here, water is of fundamental importance, so the interventions for this area will be oriented towards the survey, diagnosis and architectural and hydraulic rehabilitation of a group of norias, aqueducts and tanks, in order to contribute to the preservation of the memory of the landscape and to the (re)activation of its identity. In addition, cultural routes will be created for the hydro-agricultural heritage and the organization of small markets for the sale of vegetables and fruit in the villages, bringing tourism closer to polyculture and the Mediterranean diet, with an impact on the local economy.

### Water saving starts at home

The arrival of spring can be the ideal time to make small changes in our homes, with considerable savings on the environment and on our wallet.

- 💧 Make sure you don't have any **leaks** from your faucets and toilet flushes, and fix them if they are dripping. Drop by drop, you can waste up to 50 liters per day, or 1500 liters per month.
- 💧 Install **flow reducers** on your kitchen and bathroom faucets. You can save up to 60% of your water consumption.
- 💧 **Clean the shower outlet holes** regularly, limescale clogs cause unnecessary energy consumption.

See even more tips in the [Digital Guide - Savings Tips and Environmental Policy Decoder](#).



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## Faro Campina: Water heritage as a basis for community-based cultural tourism, within the framework of the European project INCULTUM

The project **INCULTUM - Visiting the Margins: INnovative CULTural TourisM in European peripheries**, with Reference n° 101004552 (2021-2024), is funded by European Union funds, under the H2020 Program ([www.incultum.eu](http://www.incultum.eu)).

The consortium responsible for developing the project, which began in May 2021, is made up of **fifteen partners** (universities, municipalities, non-governmental organizations and small and medium-sized companies) from **ten countries**, predominantly from the Atlantic-Mediterranean arc, including Portugal. In our country, the **University of the Algarve (UAlg)** is the **institution responsible**, with the collaboration of **IN LOCO as an associate partner**, for the development of **innovative ideas and solutions** related to **cultural tourism applied to the coastal agricultural plain between the cities of Faro, Olhão and Loulé**, whose municipalities joined the project.

The portuguese pilot case on Campina (<https://incultum.eu/pilots/2-agrarian-coastal-plain-campina-de-faro/>), seeks to achieve the **main objective of INCULTUM** which is to **implement collaborative-participatory approaches** with the intention of transforming local communities and stakeholders (municipalities, small and medium-sized companies, associations of local producers, etc.) into protagonists and dynamic agents in the **promotion and use of good practices in the management of existing natural and cultural assets**, which can be translated into new urban and regional development strategies and policies based on cultural tourism.

From this perspective, within the scope of our pilot, **actions have been developed with the direct involvement** of **stakeholders, local farmers and producers** in the identification and characterization of the traditional irrigation system and practices and techniques of cultivation and irrigation, whose presence in Campina is associated with its natural and cultural history.

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In the **study of the water heritage of Campina** (water wheel, aqueducts, tanks and water channels), which we are developing, **municipal technicians** have collaborated in field work and research in the historical archives, and the **oldest farmers**, authentic “guardians of the memory”, whose interviews have proved to be fundamental in the **collection of oral information on the evolution of the functioning of the waterwheels** (first moved by animals, later from pumps and motors) and the management of irrigation water, sometimes shared, as well as in the identification of the main agricultural products once cultivated.



Fig. 1: Different expressions of Campina's water heritage

Historically, the local fruit and vegetable production has always played a major role in supplying regional and national markets, with a high weight in the socio-economics of the region and strong expression in the identity and quality of the landscape of Campina. Despite the **disuse of traditional practices and techniques of irrigation and cultivation**, and the **abandonment and degradation of hydraulic structures** (replaced from the 1980s by the opening of boreholes), their presence continues to be a reference in the **identification and landscape characterization of Campina**. Indeed, the heritage and identity dimension of the old hydraulic structures is associated with the history of the place and the collective memory, linked to the management and efficient and intelligent use of water for the irrigation of vegetable gardens and orchards (until the 1970s). For this reason, **traditional irrigation systems**, such as the Campina, have proven to be **excellent tools for adapting to climate change**, and their reactivation has been implemented in different countries of the Mediterranean Basin.

In view of the above, in the framework of the **different INCULTUM pilot cases**, it was considered essential to **network** the pilots from **Spain** (Granada Altiplano), **Southern Italy** (Monti Trapani, Sicily) and **Portugal** (Campina de Faro, Algarve) under a cross-border and international action that based on a **common and shared history**, associated with the Arab-Muslim heritage regarding the water culture, aims to relate them to the Andalusí Legacy Route (<https://www.legadoandalusi.es/las-rutas/>).

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The key idea of considering the **water landscape and heritage** as the **basis for cultural tourism in Campina** is based on a proposal of cultural tourism routes that will give visibility to that heritage, allowing its rediscovery as a hydroagricultural legacy with historical interest and sociocultural and environmental value. The **definition and design of the water heritage routes** presupposed knowing the **perception of residents and visitors about the future role and importance of cultural routes in Campina**, through online questionnaires answered by more than a hundred respondents through social networks.

Simultaneously, other actions have been developed with the participation-collaboration of the **local community**. The **mapping** (collaborative map) and **survey of historic hydraulic structures**, and the development of **rehabilitation projects of this heritage** has counted on the active participation of residents and farmers in order to recover it and, subsequently, integrate it into business ideas, associated with rural tourism and agro-tourism, within the cultural water routes. This participatory approach will allow them to become the **protagonists in the promotion and management of the water heritage routes** (catchment structures/nurseries, conduction/ pipelines, storage/tanks, and distribution/raising), but also in the **production, transformation, and marketing of the goods** they grow on their (small) farms or in local open-air markets, whose organization in the villages of Campina will rely on the collaboration of stakeholders and the local community. Both, play a direct and important role in the implementation of the planned pilot actions, the reason behind their involvement is to promote a positive impact of participatory models and to avoid the negative effects of tourism on social relations, local cultural heritage and the agrarian landscape.

In this sense, the **local economy will benefit from the involvement and active participation of producers**, small associations and the local community as the main players not only as producers-traders, but also as managers and guides of the visits within the water heritage routes associated with agrotourism and cultural tourism. This **new segment of tourism**, which is intended to be sustainable, will have an **important contribution in combating seasonality** and will provide new and different experiences to visitors and tourists whose immersion in the local rural culture will certainly be remarkable.

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Community-based tourism assumes the **active participation of local communities**, which being an integral part of the tourism product itself, allow visitors to get to know them in their own local environment, culture, habits and natural and cultural heritage (tangible and intangible), generating benefits for themselves. In this sense, **community-based tourism** in addition to ensuring **direct benefits for host communities**, contributes to strengthening the capacity of rural communities to manage tourism resources, diversify the local economy, preserve local culture and habits, conserve heritage, and offer tourists and visitors educational and learning opportunities.

It is in the perspective of the importance of the community as the main actor and decision-maker in the planning, development and management of resources to serve the purposes of the tourism industry that the **key role of the hydroagricultural heritage of Campina** and the **active participation of local communities** is recognized as a potential basis for the development of sustainable tourism. This model allows the integration into the tourism economy of **traditional socio-economies**, more or less family-based, exploring tourism niches focused on the **rural environment and the hydraulic heritage**, alternative or complementary to sun, beach and golf tourism, predominant in the Algarve.

It is from the recognition of the role of culture, cultural heritage and cultural participation in the attractiveness of tourist destinations, that the Portuguese pilot will present a proposal for **cultural tourism routes for Campina** (storymap), rooted in the most identity expressions of the water landscape and heritage, and in the participation-collaboration of local farmers and producers promoting their empowerment and capacity building. The Portuguese INCULTUM pilot is thus based on the key idea that the **future of Campina depends on solutions based on the agrarian landscape** (traditional vegetable gardens and orchards, Mediterranean polyculture), on the **cultural heritage** (historical irrigation, Mediterranean diet, vernacular architecture, etc.) and on **community-based cultural tourism**.

### Author:

Desidério Batista. Professor and researcher.