



## DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

### 1. Project Title

"Hiking with the Devils"

### 2. Programme

Erasmus+

### 3. Type

Key Action 1

2022-1-PT02-KA151-YOU-000059688

### 4. Project dates (dd/mm/yyyy)

APV – 13/01/2022 until 16/01/2022 (*can be negotiated*)

Two days of meetings plus two travelling days.

EXCHANGE – 17/02/2023 until 23/02/2023

Five days of activities plus two travelling days.

### 5. Summary

#### *Vinhais – A Devil town!*

In the municipality of Vinhais some dates associated with the festive rites of the Winter Cycle are still celebrated, with the genuineness that characterised its primitive genesis, through a set of pagan festivities assimilated by Christianity over time.

In the Celtic calendar, the night of 31 October indicated the end of the Old Year, the beginning of the New Year or the dark season, with the Samhain festival. The party of Cabra e do Canhoto, in Cidões, probably marks the beginning of masquerades in Portugal. On this date, at midnight on the dot, the Devil appears menacingly, on top of an ox cart pulled by boys, angry because humans have gathered around the "lefty" to eat his wife, the "machorra" goat, spreading terror and chaos on Earth.

The winter solstice festivities continue on Christmas Day in Ousilhão, Rebordelo and Travanca and on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day in Vale das Fontes, taking us back to the Roman Saturnal celebrations. Although they all have their own specific aspects of each locality, either in the costumes and masks, or in the rituals, they all maintain a common patron: Saint Stephen, the protomartyr of Christianity.



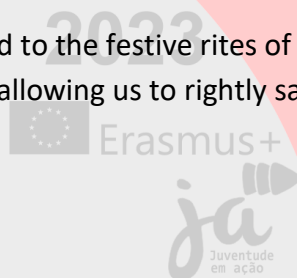
After "Entrudo" (Carnival), the masquerades take place with special incidence in the village of Vila Boa and in Vinhais, characterized, essentially, by the excesses allowed at this time.

All the carnival excitement culminates on the first day of Lent, giving way to penance and reflection, with Ash Wednesday. In Vinhais, the date is marked with the figures of Death and the Devil roaming the streets.

Shrouded in great mysticism, the Devils, wearing a red flannel overalls from which a mask hangs over the hood, roam the streets of the village in search of sinful souls. After sharp cleansing belts, the girls are taken "to the Stone" and presented before Death, who wears a black tarpaulin with a skeleton drawn on it, keeps his face covered by a black lace cloth and wears a crown on which a skull can be seen. Wielding a threatening scythe, he forces humans to recite, on their knees, semi-pagan litanies imposing fear and reminding them that he may come at any time, taking their lives at his will. On the Saturday immediately following, the tradition is repeated, but this time in a procession ...With a Thousand Devils! in which anyone can dress up as the devil and accompany a Giant Death into the flames that will consume it, leaving it in ashes.

This day marks the end of a set of festivities, associated to the festive rites of the Winter Cycle, which begin on the 31st October and end on Ash Wednesday, allowing us to rightly say that Vinhais is indeed "a Land of the Devils!"

enzonas





During five days, participants will visit and admire all the natural surroundings of Vinhais, through two hiking activities. They will participate in masked work shops as well as in the local festivities. The conviviality with the elderly people of the area, as well as the drinking of their popular wisdom, will be present in the project.

## 6. Objectives

- Valuing participation in erasmus+ activities;
- Combining hiking activities with intercultural dialogue;
- Promote respect for natural landscapes, history and ethnographic and artistic heritage;
- Raise awareness about the efficient use of resources, environmental protection and climate change;
- Educate in values, critical thinking and encourage/facilitate change of attitudes;
- Raise awareness about the touristic potential of heritage resources, and its use as a way to achieve social inclusion and an inclusive and sustainable economic growth;
- Mutual understanding between cultures;
- To promote non-formal education as a learning tool among young people;
- To make new friends and discover new cultures together;
- To strengthen ties between organizations for future projects.

## 7. Venue

The exchange will take place in the locality of Vinhais (North of Portugal) and in nearby villages: Ousilhão, Vila Boa

## 8. Working language

Working language will be in English, but we try to respect and use the languages from partner countries.

## 9. Organizations

We will be 7 organizations involved in this project from “EU Member states and third countries associated to the Programme”.

“Enzonas – Associação de Caminheiros de Bragança” will be coordinating this project.





## **10. Participants**

### **10.1. Number of participants**

Each partner should select 5 participants and 1 youth leader for the Exchange.

For the APV there will be only 1 participant - the youth leader who will participate compulsorily in the exchange.

### **10.2. Participant's profile**

About the number of participants from each partner, **three** must be young people with fewer opportunities.

Young people between 15 and 25 years old

Highly motivated to participate and learn about culture, heritage, nature, sustainability. It is not necessary to be an expert on the subject, but it would be desirable to show any interest on those subjects because they should work together addressing these matters and it would enhance inclusion and participation.

Interested on learning about European projects and willing to participate, but afraid to do it.

Some activities may require some physical attitudes (walking mainly). If a participant is not suitable but is impaired, we will find the way to adapt the activity. It will be necessary though that you indicates us any special condition in advance before applying.

### **10.3. Youth leaders**

Each partner will be in charge of Youth Leaders selection. They should:

- Be older than 18 years old and experience in working with groups of young people;
- Have previous experience in, at least, one of those subjects: volunteering, youth work and/or non-formal education;
- Good level of English;
- Promote active participation, team work and discipline;
- Keep a positive attitude.

## **11. Youthpass**

A Youthpass will be issued after the YE, to certificate the assistance and the learning outcomes. We will have time during the project to reflect about the learning and also one/two sessions about youthpass.

## **12. Activities – Youth Exchange**

This Youth Exchange will join together 43 people (35 participants, 7 youth leaders and one facilitator) from “EU Member States and third countries associated to the programme” in Vinhais – Portugal for 5 days (plus 2 travelling days).

### **Activities:**

- Ice-breaking activities: to break the ice among participants and to create the optimal environment;
- Informative activities: to communicate the knowledge needed to participate in Europe, mainly about the Erasmus+ Programme;



- Hiking activities through natural áreas of Vinhais, will allow participants to be aware of their value and they will learn through the experience and sensations. 2 of this days of the Exchange will be dedicated to the hiking activities;
- Cultural activities: Participants will meet with local elders to learn about all the ancestral knowledge and culture of our region. There will be workshops on the theme of winter festivities. They will take an active part in the festivities;
- Nature and outsider activities: we will make activities during the hiking activities on the outsider as a way to appreciate the value of nature, working on sustainability;
- Leisure activities: to release tensions and stress;
- Evaluation Activities.

### **13. Expected results and impact**

Our main focus is to promote a positive attitude change on our participants about:

- How to act and behave while being on natural environments;
- Having a more sustainable way of life being respectful to nature;
- Raising awareness about the cultural heritage and its potential as an educational and economic resource.

### **14. Travel costs**

The programme will cover transport costs to and from Vinhais (Portugal).

Airline tickets will be acquired by the participants, subject to a budget sent by our organisation. The destination airport will be "Aeroporto Dr. Francisco Sá Carneiro, in Oporto". After the exchange and upon delivery of all documents (invoices, boarding passes and others) payment will be made to all participants, as soon as possible.

### **15. Accommodation during the Youth Exchange**

We will stay in a little village near Vinhais (Rio de Fornos) in a Hospedary in shared rooms.

### **16. Food and special needs**

Meals will be covered from the breakfast of the first day of activities until breakfast the departure day (We will try to insert also the dinner of the arrival day, but it is uncertain because we do not know the arrival time of the various countries). The rest will be at the exclusive account of the participant.

For any special needs or food restrictions (health problems, special diet, etc) please, tell us in advance. Otherwise, we won't be able to take into account any special need.

### **17. Insurance**

We will take out a specific insurance policy for the exchange activities, but general health insurance as well as travel insurance are your responsibility.

Participants should obtain the European Insurance Card or a Health Insurance, in case you are not entitled to obtain it.

## 18. Contact and social media

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