



PERICLES Project no. 770504



PrEseRving and sustainably governing Cultural heritage and Landscapes in European coastal and maritime regions

Workshop "Managing the coastal and maritime cultural heritage: threats and opportunities"
University of Aveiro, 24 September 2019

The participatory workshop with stakeholders from the Ria de Aveiro region aimed at presenting and discussing the threats to the coastal and maritime cultural heritage (CMCH) in the Ria de Aveiro region and the potentialities associated with it, based on the results of the interviews developed within the scope of Task 4.2 "Identify and analyze gaps between expert knowledge and social representations of CH at risk".

Recognising that CMCH in the Ria de Aveiro region is exposed to several threats with a high level of risk, the participants were asked to agree/disagree on the previously identified threats and to identify possible gaps. The following main threats emerged from the discussion:

- weak governance, namely the lack of a single authority to manage Ria de Aveiro;
- bureaucratic processes, old and inadequate legislation;
- the overlapping of territorial management instruments and responsibilities in Ria de Aveiro;
- diverse ownership of the area, since it is in the Maritime Public Domain;
- multiple uses of Ria de Aveiro, with different and sometimes conflicting interests;
- environmental threats (e.g. climate change) and a reactive approach to them.

The analysis of the interviews revealed small differences between stakeholders' perceptions about the risk level of threats. This issue was discussed among stakeholders, as well as ways and advantages in reducing this discrepancy.

Participants were invited to discuss the ideal situation in the near future (about 10 years) for CMCH in the Ria de Aveiro region, pointing out the main actions to achieve the ideal situation, to overcome obstacles and to mitigate the identified threats. The following actions were proposed:

- the creation of a single management entity for Ria de Aveiro;
- mapping and inventorying CMCH, creating a public database;
- the definition of priorities (and their criteria) for the inventory of the cultural heritage;
- the development of a simple action plan, co-created in a participatory process;
- the creation of cooperatives and joint actions;
- the planning of uses of Ria de Aveiro, and safeguarding space for new uses;
- the valorisation of Ria de Aveiro and "região de Aveiro" brand, based on differentiation and authenticity.



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Finally, the participants were invited to discuss the potentialities of CMCH in Ria de Aveiro region and to identify actions to implement them. In this exercise participants identified the need to:

- create itineraries to connect CMCH in the various municipalities;
- create interpretative centres of cultural heritage as well as platforms for its dissemination and promotion, and in this way contribute to the preservation and dynamization of the cultural heritage, bringing added value to the local economy;
- defining a vision for the Ria de Aveiro;
- making the different uses of the Ria de Aveiro compatible.

This workshop was attended by 18 stakeholders, including local policy makers, tourism management bodies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), civic movements, museums, associations linked to the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage, trade associations and researchers.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 770504. Further information is available at www.pericles-heritage.eu.



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