



Action Plan for the region of Alentejo



General information

Project: CityZen - Enhancing scalable innovations and new business models based on urban farming ecosystem values

Partner organisations concerned: Beja Municipality and Intermunicipal Community of Baixo Alentejo

Country: Portugal

NUTS2 region: Alentejo

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Policy context

The Action Plan aims to impact:

- Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
- European Territorial Cooperation programme
- Other regional development policy instrument

Name of the policy instrument addressed: **Baixo Alentejo Strategic Development Plan (PEDBA)**

PEDBA is a policy instrument for strategic planning of Baixo Alentejo region that defines the main guidelines for regional development. It supports integration of regional strategy and EU levels to the sub regional (intermunicipal) strategic framework.

Managed by CIMBAL, PEDBA actively incorporates contributions of the main stakeholders in the region and the respective institutional matrix. The Plan has also validation rounds through participatory processes to reflect trajectories for future development.

Main regional challenges and opportunities are related to fostering of eco-innovation processes, launching new urban farming opportunities, sustaining city resources and transferring knowledge into new green infrastructures, products, services and business models.

ACTION: Inclusion of urban farming policies in PEDBA

1. Relevance to the project

This action was inspired by the CityZen good practices (GPs) that showcase collaborations of public authorities with local stakeholders to open up new urban farming initiatives:

- **Kipos³, Greece** - Kipos³ started as an academic project, to introduce the community engagement in green public space. The initiative was presented to the Municipality's Department of Urban Environment (Green Space Conservation Service) and gained the Mayor's trust and support to develop, in a city with no previous experience in urban agriculture, limited community building practices and citizens' participation in public space design.
- **Digital map of city areas suitable for urban agriculture, Bulgaria** - A digital map was produced to support urban gardening initiatives and decision-making in Sofia. This digital map is a cooperation between the municipal administration and a civic initiative. The civil groups interested in urban gardening obtained a very clear idea about the scope and location of potential community gardens.

2. Nature of the action

This action spells out in integrating urban farming (UF) among the policy goals of PEDBA to provide more sustainable use of urban resources and new entrepreneurial and social opportunities in the 13 municipalities covered by the policy instrument.

The action affects two PEDBA priorities where UF can bring value to the existing policy objectives:

- **Priority 02: Economic promotion of the endogenous potential** that aims to expand capacity to generate value from territorial resources and assets of Baixo Alentejo through integrated initiatives of key players in the region;
- **Priority 06: Infrastructure and Environmental Services Network** of PEDBA that directly contributes to the implementation of green economy and resource efficiency initiatives for more sustainable urban systems. It foresees interventions for urban rehabilitation, innovative solutions and pilot actions for sustainable urban development and resource efficiency, monitoring of environmental parameters.



CIMBAL will launch and coordinate a Mechanism for participation and dialogue with local municipalities and key stakeholders to streamline PEDBA UF objectives towards resource efficiency and socio-economic impacts. The Mechanism is to define, enhance and facilitate UF policy goals and potential support measures on municipal and intermunicipal level. A public consultation round will be held with wider group of stakeholders for PEDBA validation.

Final approval of the amendment PEDBA will be done by CIMBAL which will provide formal recognition of UF activities and structural support to future municipal initiatives in line with funding opportunities.

The efficiency of the Mechanism implementation will be monitored by the number of developed UF support measures in PEDBA.

The approval of PEDBA will be done a general assembly that will gather 13 municipalities of CIMBAL.

3. Stakeholders involved

The region's organisations that will be involved in the development and implementation of this action are:

1. CIMBAL:
 - i. Launch and overall management of this action.
 - ii. Steering the Mechanism for participation and dialogue to ensure policy co-creation process and stakeholders engagement.
 - iii. PEDBA formal approval as managing authority.
2. 13 Municipalities that are members of CIMBAL:
 - i. Active participation in the Mechanism and its UF discussions for PEDBA together with potential UF support measures.
3. Comissão de Coordenação e Desenvolvimento Regional do Alentejo - CCDR Alentejo (Alentejo Coordination and Regional Development Commission):
 - i. Support to the UF debates and creation of potential measures to be included in PEDBA.
4. Autoridade de gestão do Alentejo 2020/2030 (to be nominated – Managing authority of Alentejo) -
 - i. Support to the UF debates and creation of potential measures to be included in PEDBA
5. ImproveConsult – A company responsible for PEDBA revision:
 - i. Inclusion of the amended text and potential support measures for UF in PEDBA;
 - ii. Conclusion and dissemination of the final version of PEDBA.

4. Timeframe

The action duration is 1 year (01.08.2022 – 31.07.2023).

Activities / Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Mechanism for participation and dialogue – discussion events/panels launched with 13 municipalities on UF policy goals and potential support measures for PEDBA												
Public consultations with stakeholders on amended PEDBA												
Formal approval of UF policies in PEDBA												
Finalization and publishing of PEDBA												



5. **Costs**

The costs include a consultancy service provided by ImproveConsult for a total of 42.000,00 €. This service was awarded to this company by CIMBAL, that is the coordinating entity of the overall work.

6. **Funding sources**

CIMBAL's own resources

Date:

Name of the organisation: CIMBAL – Comunidade Intermunicipal do Baixo Alentejo

Signatures of the relevant organisation: Primeiro Secretário