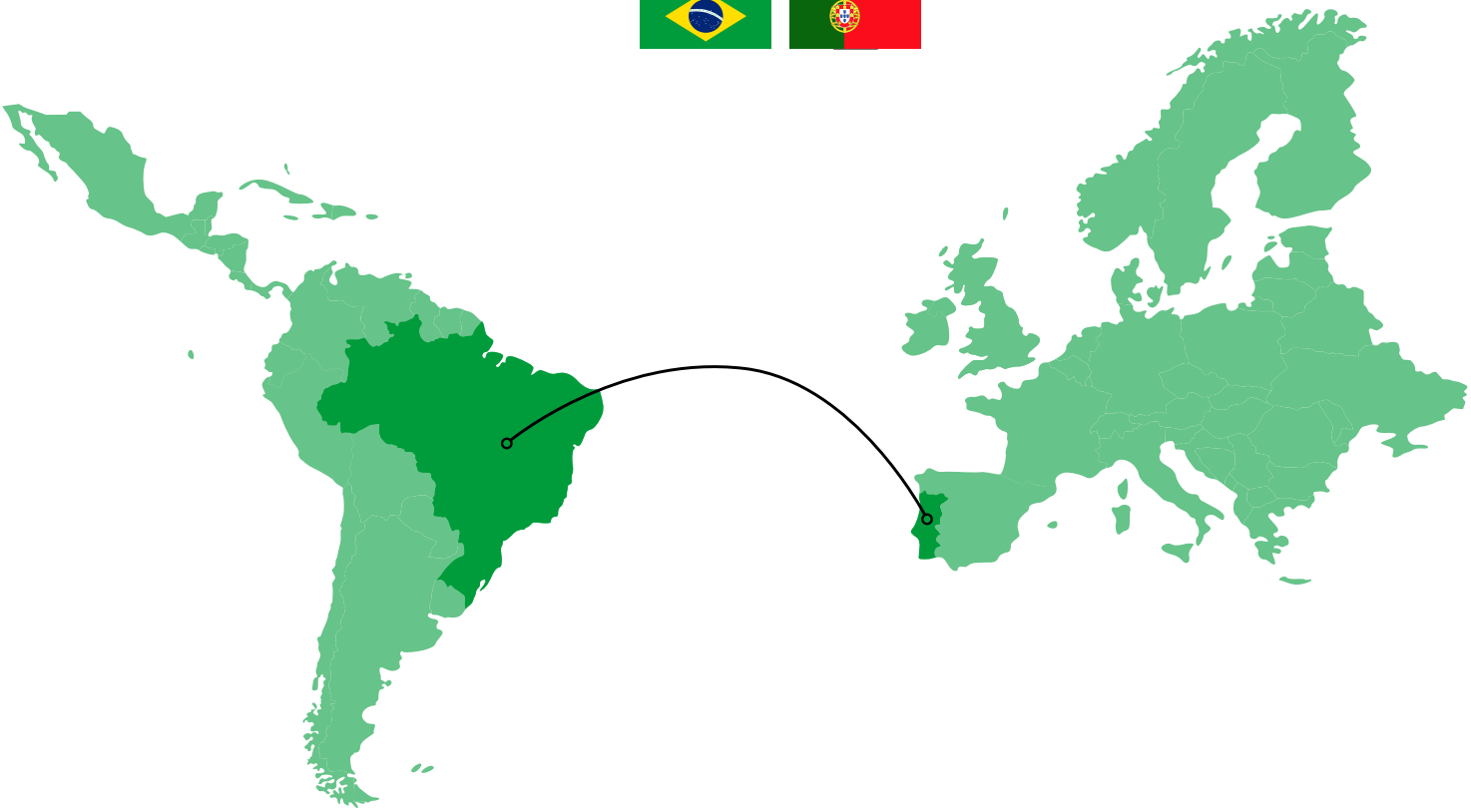
INSPIRATIONAL CASE

PAIRING REPORT:

SAO LEOPOLDO-VIANA



INTERNATIONAL URBAN COOPERATION
European Union-Latin America and the Caribbean

A European Union Programme

SAO LEOPOLDO-VIANA

AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THE EXCHANGE VISITS, SAO LEOPOLDO (BRAZIL) HAS BEEN ABLE TO IMPLEMENT A PLAN FOR THE CREATION OF ITS ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE, WITH THE ACTIVE SUPPORT PROVIDED BY VIANA DO CASTELO (PORTUGAL); AND TO PROMOTE LINKAGES BETWEEN THEIR TECHNOLOGICAL PARKS' COMPANIES

THE PAIRING AT A GLANCE

Sao Leopoldo is a Brazilian industrial city located in the south state of Rio Grande do Sul, with an important technology park focused on green innovation.

Viana do Castelo is a municipality and seat of the homonymous district in the Northern Region of Portugal and is positioned as the center of the oceanic renewable energy cluster. It is part of Eixo Atlántico, a network of municipalities in the Northern Portugal and Galicia participating as well in the program and providing an added value.

Keywords

#Green areas
#Waste
#Energy
#Business strategies
#Environmental Centre
#Sustainability

Thematic areas of cooperation

Urban Ecology: water waste management, energy efficiency

Objectives

1. Improvement of the management and efficiency of public services related to green areas, water, energy and waste (innovative public procurements), through the exchange of experiences;
2. Improvement of the management of environmental centers by including social aspect in the protection of natural parks and the public awareness;
3. Opening up of markets to local companies (linked to innovation and green economy) operating in their technology Parks.

Activities

The first technical face to face meeting took place in Sao Leopoldo during May 2018 and included a presentation led by the mayor and supported by the business and educational actors of the city with massive press coverage. Some technical meetings followed, and the second face to face meeting, organised in Viana do Castelo, allowed the design of the visits and the elaboration of a joint Action Plan with different cooperation activities:

Green Areas: The Socioenvironmental Center of the municipality of Sao Leopoldo was inspired by the monitoring of Viana's methodology.

Waste: Innovative public procurement, indicator system for quality management in urban waste, modeling of operational production service (ISO 9001: 2015), awareness raising for smart citizens.

Water: Exchange of experiences in projects of common interest in regulation, energy efficiency and loss reduction.

Energy Efficiency: development of a Local Energy Plan, energy efficiency in public buildings, energy efficiency in public lighting, renewable energy inspired and supported by Viana's experience.

Business Synergies: Viana do Castelo, in addition to the exchange of good practices in the identified areas, aims to open new market opportunities for the private sector and promote Viana as the gateway to Europe for Brazilian companies, to create commercial synergies and facilitate the internationalization of Viennese companies to markets like Mercosur. This activity, not initially contemplated, arose during the study visits, and it is emerging as one of the most sustainable and visible results after the cooperation is finished.

Stakeholders involved

Sao Leopoldo (LAC): Municipality of Sao Leopoldo (Serviço Municipal de Água e Esgoto, Secretaria de Mobilidade e Serviços Urbanos, Secretaria Municipal do Meio Ambiente, Secretaria Geral de Governo, Secretaria Municipal de Desenvolvimento Econômico, Turístico e Tecnológico). Private sector and citizens.

Viana do Castelo (EU): Câmara Municipal de Viana do Castelo and municipal Water and Basic Sanitation Services; Municipalities of CIM Alto Minho. Company of Valuation and Treatment of Solid Waste. Regional Energy and Environment Agency. Industrial companies and associations. Citizens. EIXO Atlántico.

MAIN INTERVENTION-PILOT PROJECT

Creation of the Socio-environmental Center in the Rua da Praia-Neustadt Park in Sao Leopoldo with the support of Viana do Castelo.

The objective of this Center-Museum is to improve the efficiency of public environmental services related to urban green areas, waste, water and energy efficiency, supported by commercial synergies between private technology companies in both cities. The Imperatriz Leopoldina Municipal Park, which was also worked on during the cooperation, has been selected as a success story within the Brazilian conservation units.

Last June 2019, the 1st International Seminar on Climate Change, Clean Energy and Innovation was organized as a result of the cooperation between the two cities, Eixo Atlántico and the companies of their technology parks led by Higra from TECNOSINOS in Sao Leopoldo.

The practical application of exchanges, the involvement of the private and associative sector, as well as their mayors, lay the foundations for the durability of relations once the cooperation has ended, placing this pairing as an inspiring case within the IUC.

MAIN IMPACTS AT LOCAL LEVEL

A continued exchange exists between the two cities regarding synergies in business development. Both cities are eager to support international exposure of local companies.

The Mayors of these two cities are very eagerly pursuing their partnership, and it is likely to transcend beyond the activities contemplated originally in the action plan.

Both cities have improved their international positioning through the IUC while opening doors to their companies both in Europe and in Mercosur, becoming examples to follow also for the cities around them.

LESSONS LEARNED AND ADDED-VALUE OF IUC

The Cooperation between local governments is important in solving urban challenges and improving the effectiveness of innovative ideas for a sustainable and socially just development model.

The capacity of mid and long-term planning and the continuity of actions is as important as the organization needed to make it happen.

- SAO LEOPOLDO

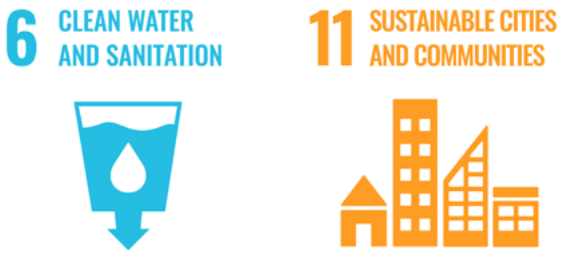
IUC is an opportunity for benchmarking and to improve the international positioning, especially of medium-sized cities.

The possibility of opening doors in Mercosur to our companies through Viana has a great added value.

- VIANA

CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS

Related **SDGs**:



Urban Agenda for the EU: Sustainable Land Use and Nature-Based Solutions

INTEREST IN FUTURE THEMATIC NETWORKS

Interest shown by **Sao Leopoldo** both in the Action Plan and in the survey conducted by the Program		Interest shown by **Viana** do Castelo both in the Action Plan and in the survey conducted by the Program	
NETWORK 1	Mobility, Connectivity and Transport	**NETWORK 1**	Mobility, Connectivity and Transport
NETWORK 2	Smart Cities & Digital Transition	**NETWORK 2**	Smart Cities & Digital Transition
NETWORK 3	Urban Poverty and Regeneration, Housing, Social Inclusion – Cohesion, Equity	**NETWORK 3**	Urban Poverty and Regeneration, Housing, Social Inclusion – Cohesion, Equity
NETWORK 4	Circular Economy, Waste and Sustainable Production / Consumption	**NETWORK 4**	Circular Economy, Waste and Sustainable Production / Consumption
NETWORK 5	Sustainable and Healthy Cities, Sustainable Land Use – Nature-Based Solutions	**NETWORK 5**	Sustainable and Healthy Cities, Sustainable Land Use – Nature-Based Solutions
NETWORK 6	Climate Action, Energy, Water and Air Quality	**NETWORK 6**	Climate Action, Energy, Water and Air Quality
NETWORK 7	Innovation and Economic Growth, Strategic Sectors, Jobs and Skills.	**NETWORK 7**	Innovation and Economic Growth, Strategic Sectors, Jobs and Skills

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Sao Leopoldo: Ary Vanazzi (Mayor), Daniel Sauer and city council staff.
Viana do Castelo: Jose Maria Costa (Mayor), Vitor Lemos (Deputy Mayor), Manuela Passos and city council staff.
Eixo Atlántico: Xoan Vázquez Mao (Secretary-General) y Marta Cabanas"