

ERAS – European Alliance for Volunteer Support

ENGAGEMENT OF VOLUNTEERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR INFORMAL LEARNING FOR YOUTH

Lousada, 20 – 22 October 2021

PROGRAMME

Public Library of Lousada

Location: <https://goo.gl/maps/PRhi1dzkcWakaDNc6>

20 OCTOBER, Wednesday

The Role of the Municipality in encouraging environmental volunteering

15h00 Welcome

15h10 Municipal Strategy for Sustainability

The councilor for the Environment, Manuel Nunes, will present the strategy implemented by the Municipality of Lousada in 2015, which guided a full award-winning green transformation of the territory, including the creation of opportunities for civic participation of volunteers.

16h00 Municipal Programme for Environmental Volunteering

The coordinator of the Sector of Nature Conservation and Environmental Education of the Municipality of Lousada, Milene Matos, will present the opportunities available for young volunteers, the value of volunteerism in Lousada in the last 6 years, and the projects and work developed with volunteers.

17h00 Discussion with participants

Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss environmental volunteering practices happening in Lousada.

19h30 Dinner

21 OCTOBER, Thursday

Presentation of good practices and discussion on environmental volunteering

09h30 Presentation of Project [BioSenior](#)

BioSenior is a programme that promotes active ageing and social inclusion of the elderly, through their participation in environmental volunteering activities. The programme includes senior volunteers that take action in nature conservation activities, but also young volunteers that guide and motivate the elderly. The young people participating in the programme gain both ecological and social skills. The programme is actually coordinated by a young biologist (Mariana Cardoso) who started as a volunteer for the Municipality of Lousada and its associated NGOs, who will share her experience in the acquisition of important professional skills while volunteering.

10h00 Presentation of Project [Lousada Guarda RIOS](#)

Lousada Guarda RIOS is a project that aims at the protection of the rivers of the Municipality of Lousada, using volunteer patrols for the monitoring and vigilance of water and aquatic ecosystems. The participation as a volunteer requires a previous technical training that provides many nature conservation and outdoors safety skills. The project is coordinated by a young biologist (Daniela Barbosa) who started as a volunteer for the Municipality of Lousada and its associated NGOs, who will share her experience in the acquisition of important professional skills while volunteering.

10h30 Presentation of Project [Plantar Lousada](#)

Plantar Lousada is a reforestation and ecological restoration programme that has already planted over 72.000 trees in Lousada, in the last five years. It has already engaged over 6.300 volunteers who acquire technical and ecological skills regarding ecology, nature conservation, identification of flora and fauna, among others. The project is coordinated by a young biologist (Rafael Marques) who started as a volunteer for the Municipality of Lousada and its associated NGOs, who will share his experience in the acquisition of important professional skills while volunteering.

11h00 Coffee break

11h15 Activity with BioSenior volunteers

Participants will have the chance to testify and take part in an active ageing environmental activity, contacting both with senior volunteers and the young volunteers organizing the tasks.

13h00 Lunch

14h30 Visit to [Mata de Vilar](#) and work done by volunteers

Mata de Vilar is a 14 hectares oak forest internationally classified as "Forest of High Conservation Value" by FSC®. With the help of dozens of volunteers from Lousada and abroad, the forest was ecologically restored and equipped with visitation and exploitation structures, currently also serving pedagogical and social inclusion purposes. The visit will show the work done and explain the technical and social skills gained by the volunteers in this transformative project that started in 2016.

19h30 Dinner

22 OCTOBER, Friday

Local governance and partnerships with NGOs to boost volunteerism.

09h00 Presentation of partner NGO [BioLiving](#)

BioLiving is an award-winning environmental NGO founded in 2016. In Lousada, the team has been key to promote local youth volunteering activities and international volunteer workcamps regarding nature conservation. The NGO is managed by a group of young people who started as volunteers in civic environmental projects and at field teams from the University of Aveiro, currently being highly regarded professionals with national relevance.

09h30 Presentation of partner NGO [VERDE](#)

VERDE (translates as 'green') is a very recent NGO founded in Lousada Ambiente with the aim of promoting volunteering opportunities, the protection of the natural capital of the territory and managing funding opportunities to support the protection of threatened habitats and heritage, such as monumental trees (project "Gigantes Verdes"). The NGO is managed by a young biologist (João Gonçalo Soutinho) who started as a volunteer for the Municipality of Lousada and its associated NGOs, who will share his experience in the acquisition of important professional skills while volunteering.

10h00 Discussion with participants

Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss environmental volunteering practices happening in Lousada with the support of local NGOs.

10h30 Coffee break

Importance of volunteers in the protection of natural and cultural heritage.

11h00 Visit to Monumental Trees of the city

Field presentation of several "Gigantes Verdes" (green giants) and explanation of the contribution of volunteers in the mapping, characterization, monitoring and preservation. Demonstration of the technical skills acquired by volunteers while participating in the project "Gigantes Verdes". Demonstration of the impact of volunteer Citizen Science in the protection of biodiversity.

13h00 Lunch

Departures