



# STEPS FOR A BETTER SOCIETY

## SUMMARY (approx. 100-200 words)

In Portugal, 21 students of the first year of the graduate study of Basic Education from Higher School of Education – Polytechnic Institute of Viana do Castelo (ESE-IPVC) went to the rural area – Deão (about 15km from the city centre of Viana do Castelo) to participate in a Service-Learning (SL) project *Steps for a Better Society* supervised by the local action group Youth Association of Deão (AJD) with the help of 18 children from the Primary School of Deão. The aim of this SL project was to paint the walls of the facilities of AJD depicting the traditions, history and cultural heritage of Deão and the beneficiaries of the service were 18 children attending AJD.

## LINKS

**Link of the course of the academic module designed for RURASL:**

<http://learn.rural.ffzg.hr:8080/course/view.php?id=10>

**Link of videos and testimonials:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TySy8MAEy5E>

*This project is part of the RURASL Knowledge Alliances project (<https://rural.ffzg.unizg.hr/>) funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.*

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## PROJECT DATA

### Country

Portugal

### Name of the course of the academic module designed for RURASL

Building bridges & transforming realities in rural community

### ECTS credits assigned to the course

5 ECTS

### Duration of the Course

135 total hours of the course: 64 hours of direct contact with beneficiaries; 71 hours of autonomous work

### Distribution of contact hours of the Course

24 hours of the theoretical part of the course; 40 hours of the on-site implementation of the service-learning part of the course

### Name of Higher Education Institution

Polytechnic Institute of Viana do Castelo – Higher School of Education

### Person responsible for the project at the Higher Education Institution and email address

Linda Saraiva ([lindasaraiva@ese.ipvc.pt](mailto:lindasaraiva@ese.ipvc.pt)); Joana Padrão Almeida ([joanapadrao@hotmail.com](mailto:joanapadrao@hotmail.com)); Anabela Moura ([amoura@ese.ipvc.pt](mailto:amoura@ese.ipvc.pt))

### Name of rural organization

Youth Association of Deão (AJD)  
Primary School EB1 de Deão

### Person responsible for the project at the rural organization and email address

AJD – Ana Paula Dias ([associjuvenildeao@gmail.com](mailto:associjuvenildeao@gmail.com))  
EB1 of Deão – José Manuel Leme ([eb23s.lanheses@gmail.com](mailto:eb23s.lanheses@gmail.com))

### Number of participating Higher Education students

21

### Degrees of the participating Higher Education students and course (1<sup>st</sup> year, 2<sup>nd</sup> year,...)

1<sup>st</sup> year of the Degree on Basic Education

### Number of beneficiaries of the service

18 Children attending AJD  
18 Children from school EB1 of Deão who have participated in the project

### Modality of the project (face-to-face, virtual, mixed and/or international)

Face-to-face

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### Background of the project

Within the scope of the RURASL project (*Rural 3.0: service-learning for the rural development*), students from Basic Education course at ESE-IPVC developed a SL project aimed at solving a concrete problem in the community of Deão. This is an old portuguese parish in the municipality of Viana do Castelo with low demographic density, characterized by an aging population, marked by emigration and a rich landscape, cultural and artisanal heritage. The main economic activity is still agriculture, to which is added commerce and small industry, such as construction. In addition to the aforementioned characteristics, the focus group carried out with the leaders of AJD and various social and cultural organizations of Deão, showed that young people do not have a strong identity with the local history and culture, jeopardizing the preservation and continuity of this heritage capital. Based on this concrete problem, ESE-IPVC students together with AJD developed a SL project that aimed to rescue the cultural and historical heritage of the region of Deão through Art as an instrument of social transformation and sustainable development.

### General social needs addressed by the project

Enhancement of the cultural and historical heritage of the community of Deão, which is at risk of being lost in the younger generations.

### Service objectives

To conduct a historical research of the traditions and festivities of the community of Deão.

To build a mural on the walls of AJD with images of the traditions, crafts and festivities of Deão.

To strengthen the cultural identity of the rural community with the youth population through art.

### Learning objectives

To reflect on the importance of culture and the arts in approaching the concepts of citizenship and critical pedagogy, with ethical concerns.

To develop an approach to cultural heritage, through activities of appreciation and artistic production, as a tool of social transformation and promotion of identity.

To develop his/her artistic projects, using interdisciplinary and different media.

To develop methods and techniques for the implementation of plastic expression activities.

To develop transversal competences, such as, pedagogical skills; critical and innovative thinking; inter-personal and intra-personal skills; active citizenship; self-confidence and social skills; creativity; problem solving skills.

### Linkage with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its targets

**SDG 4.** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all:

**Goal 4.7.** By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

**SDG 11.** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable:

**Goal 11.4.** Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.

### Other organizations that participated in the project

- Pedagogic team of the school cluster ADLima

- Parents' association

- Union of the Parishes of Geraz do Lima (Santa Maria, Santa Leocádia e Moreira) e Deão

### Reflection activities

Oral reflections with the community

Group reflections, and with teachers

Written reflections

### Evaluation

Self-assessment of students

Participatory assessment with AJD and teachers

### Dissemination activities of the project

Video, facebook

### Human resources and materials needed

- Teachers

- Students

- Resources: paints, brushes with several sizes, paper, pencil, rubber, cutter, colour pencils, tape

### Celebration

The celebration of the project was restricted to the presentation of the final work at the RURASL hackaton, due to the constraints of the covid-19 pandemic.

### Solutions given through the service to the identified rural needs

To paint the walls of the facilities of AJD depicting the traditions, history and cultural heritage of Deão

## ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT TO ACHIEVE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

### TRANSFER OF THE SOLUTIONS USED IN YOUR PROJECT TO OTHER RURAL COMMUNITIES

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1. Theoretical and practical approach to the concepts of service- learning methodology: active engagement within local community and work on a real-world problem
2. Knowledge about the community of Deão and needs identification (seminar with Ana Paula Dias from AJD)
3. Research about traditions, history and cultural heritage of Deão
4. To idealize drawings related to their groups' team (3 groups' themes: Deão legend, Carçoas, and Village feasts) - validation with minor corrections of drawings against real image by Ana Paula Dias from AJD
5. To learn to transpose the drawings to a larger scale (lesson with an artist Vasco Pimenta de Castro)
7. To plan the materials and quantities of inks to be used (by group) and construction of paper molds for the "palmitos" by the Village feasts group (meeting with Ana Paula Dias from AJD)
8. Intervention at the community: painting the walls of the facilities of AJD with children of Primary School of Deão. At the beginning of the intervention, Angélica Neves (socio-cultural animation technique from AJD) performed concentration and relaxation exercises with the higher education students in which they had to envision what would be expected and, at the end of the intervention, Angélica Neves performed with them reflection exercises on what they have achieved and if it corresponded to what it was expected.
9. Reflection on the SL project as a whole (testimonials, videos, participatory reflection with the community)
10. Final report of project was presented (written work).