

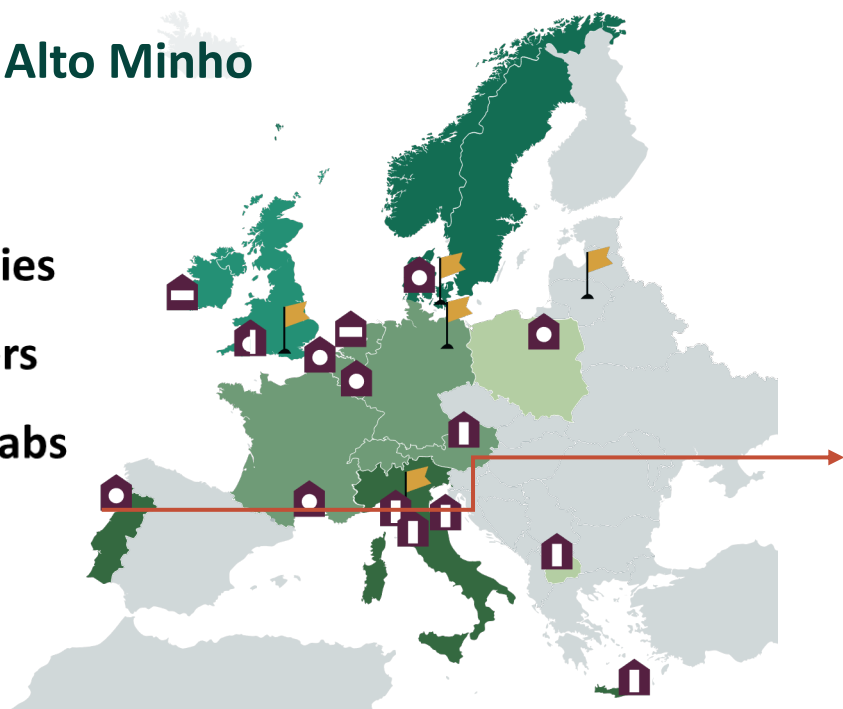
IPVC Inclusive School: a service-learning project as promoter of agroecological practices in higher education

Living Lab Alto Minho

15 countries

35 partners

13 living labs



Living Lab Alto Minho aims to drive a new kind of nature-based school transformation for sustainable and healthy diets. Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) can have an impact on food systems, through research, innovation, education, and community development. Social and Therapeutic Gardens developed at IPVC Inclusive School project improved relevant social-emotional, cognitive and behavioral skills, and thus increase interest in healthy eating and sustainable consumption.

The Living Lab Alto Minho aims to promote the co-creation of innovative solutions in real world scenarios and involve the participation of end users, bringing together their real world and local knowledge. It aims to build a new way of life, centered on the concept of community, an inclusive social model to help promote pro-social and individual behaviors with more sustainable living standards in relation to food and food systems, using a multisectoral approach, involving all actors in the value chain, taking advantage of their synergies to promote a healthy, local and sustainable standard of living and eating.

The Living Lab Alto Minho adopts agroecology as an approach to agriculture and food systems that is based as much as possible on the use of natural resources and ecological principles and the closure of biological cycles at the farm or local level (van der Ploeg et al, 2019). Social and Therapeutic Garden emerged under the Eco-Schools Program of Agrarian School (ESA) at Institute Polytechnique of Viana do Castelo – IPVC, in the scope of the IPVC's Inclusive School Project.



IPVC Inclusive School is a service learning project, developed by professors and students that are community oriented. In this project relevant community solutions are developed aimed at serving the academic community, and other publics, such as children, seniors, and people with disabilities. The garden is cultivated by students and professors, integrated in the courses curriculum and according to the principles of organic agriculture and service learning.

IPVC Social and Therapeutic Garden is a space for experimentation, an open-air laboratory, a tool to educate future generations about the importance of preserving the environment and, in particular, sustainable agricultural and food production (Dias, G., 2022). It also can have a relevant role in human development considering its potential working with people with less incomes and disabilities.

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