



Torres Vedras

Local Action Plan for a Cluster of Social and Ecological Innovation

PARI Webinar – Building resilient social and ecological innovation ecosystems across Europe

Territorial approaches and Local Plans | 31 August 2026, 11:20–11:50 CEST

Nicolle Santos | Municipality of Torres Vedras



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TORRES VEDRAS

■ Torres Vedras: Territorial Context

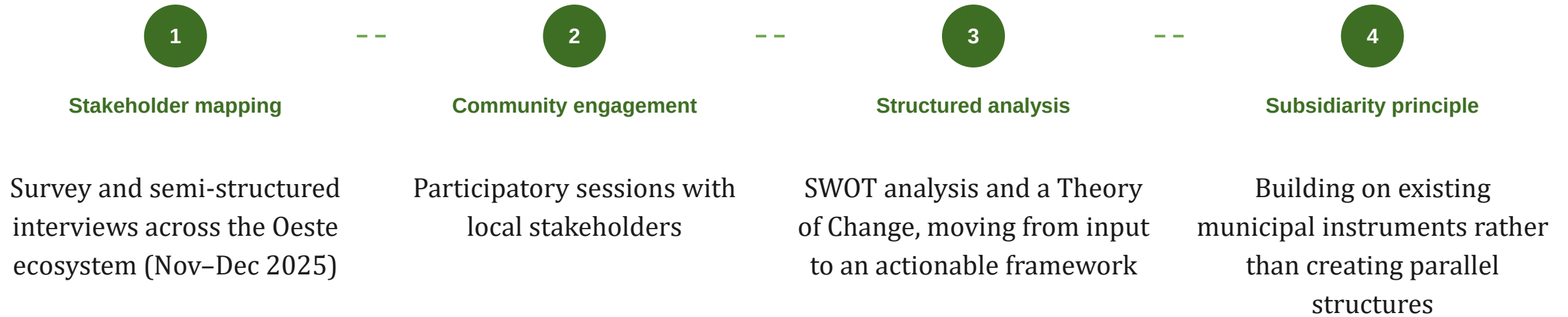
- Municipality of 89,526 inhabitants, Oeste Region, Lisbon District – close to Lisbon yet strongly rural in character
- A mosaic landscape of vineyards, orchards, vegetable plots, forests and pastureland: both its defining identity and its principal strategic asset
- A CSEI conceived within a genuinely rural landscape, sitting at the edge of a major metropolitan area

87.6%

of the municipal territory is agriculture and
forestry

18,334 ha agriculture + 17,342 ha forestry

■ Building the Local Action Plan: Methodology



Torres Vedras: Territorial Context

STRENGTHS

- Dense collaboration network: 79 collaborative relationships documented among 9 organisations, with an average of 8.8 partners per organisation
- Presence of high-centrality hub actors (CAC, Live With Earth, AREPO, Smart Farm Colab) anchoring the ecosystem
- Diversity of resource-exchange modalities — transactional, non-remunerated and knowledge-based — with non-remunerated and knowledge exchange playing a central role
- Three identifiable sub-ecosystems (cultural, rural innovation and social innovation) with overlapping nodes around knowledge and systemic approaches
- Strong convergence around shared priorities: reducing urban-rural territorial imbalances, promoting social inclusion, and adopting ecosystem and systemic thinking as a common reference framework

WEAKNESSES

- Over-reliance on the Municipality of Torres Vedras as the central pillar of the ecosystem, creating structural fragility
- Significant disparities in organisational capacity among actors, limiting the depth of meaningful participation
- Highly heterogeneous impact-measurement practices, ranging from theory-of-change frameworks to basic activity counts
- Gaps in representation: direct community voice, migrants, private sector, farmers, and gender-disaggregated data are largely absent from the mapped network
- Environmental sustainability remains peripheral in a significant share of cultural programming, creating a gap vis-à-vis PARI's ecological objectives
- Public procurement rules and legal constraints create structural barriers for small producers and emergent governance forms

OPPORTUNITIES

- Knowledge is increasingly recognised as a strategic asset by multiple actors, providing a foundation for deepening inter-organisational collaboration
- Ecosystem and systemic thinking is emerging as a shared reference framework, opening space for structured territorial coordination beyond individual programmes
- Complementarity between the three sub-ecosystems (cultural, rural innovation, social innovation) remains largely untapped and represents a significant potential for integration
- Alignment between stakeholder priorities and PARI focus areas creates favourable conditions for co-designed territorial action
- Existing network density and hub actors provide a ready infrastructure for scaling collaborative initiatives

THREATS

- Funding discontinuity risks undermining the long-term relational commitments that underpin the ecosystem
- Weak private-sector and farmer engagement leaves key territorial actors outside the collaboration network
- Risk of mismatch between PARI's monitoring and evaluation framework and the diverse organisational realities of network members
- Bureaucratic burden associated with EU and national co-financed programmes may discourage smaller or less resourced organisations
- Marginalisation of environmental objectives within parts of the network may compromise the ecological dimension of the CSEI

■ Six Strategic Pillars (2026–2030)

1

**Territorial Balance & Rural-
Maritime Vitality**

2

**Decarbonized Soft Mobility &
Connected Infrastructure**

3

**Active Human Equity &
Psychosocial Inclusion**

4

**Affordable, Regenerative &
Sustainable Housing**

5

**Circular Economy &
Environmental Sustainability**

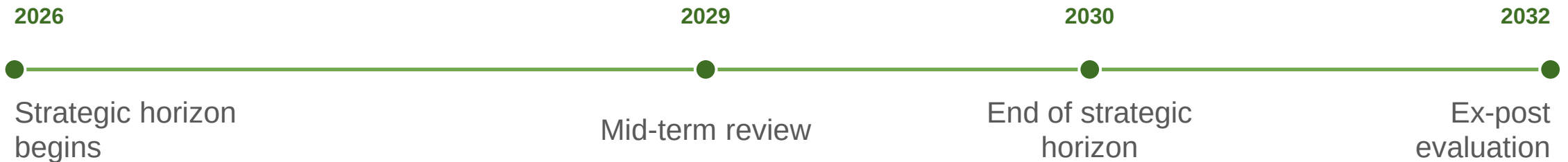
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**Decentralized Governance & Data
Transparency**

Sequenced with governance and financial resilience first, followed by thematic clusters — food systems, knowledge and capacity, and culture–ecology integration.

■ Status: Pending Formal Validation

- Local Action Plan v0.6 sets out recommended strategic actions, framed in non-binding language
- Pending formal validation by the Municipal Executive
- To be followed by a public presentation event, ahead of full dissemination



■ Multi-Actor Governance & Community Ownership

- Municipality of Torres Vedras and Valor Partilhado as co-leads across all six action lines
- Civil society organisations positioned as active co-creators, reflecting current local capacity
- A dedicated Citizens' Observatory proposed as the CSEI governance body
- A community-owned communication ecosystem supporting participatory decision-making

“Transnational learning from Navarra and Östergötland shows that CSEIs without genuine community ownership struggle to sustain their social and ecological objectives over time.”

■ Lessons Learned: Resilience & Rural-Urban Linkages

- Torres Vedras' challenge is connecting rural vitality and urban dynamism — not choosing between them
- The Plan is anchored in existing municipal instruments (PEDU, PAMUS, PARU, PAICD, PAESC 2050), avoiding duplication and reinforcing what already works
- Formal Executive validation, pursued now, is how durability is built beyond any single funding cycle or political mandate

“It's not urban dynamism versus rural vitality — it's the infrastructure, physical, digital and institutional, that connects the two.”



Thank you

A participatory, six-pillar strategy that reinforces – rather than replaces – Torres Vedras' existing local capacities, currently pending formal political validation.

Nicolle Santos

Municipality of Torres Vedras

nicollesantos@cm-tvedras.pt | diid@cm-tvedras.pt



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