

Community Museums and (G)Local Development – English Translation

COMMUNITY MUSEUMS help create or strengthen local identities, promote social cohesion, increase the visibility of territories and their populations, and attract travelers and tourists to varying degrees. Museums in small towns and rural regions also actively contribute to recovering local memories that enrich historical knowledge and culture, fostering the self-esteem of populations that sometimes feel isolated or ignored. Their agents often act as cultural mediators who, through multiple initiatives, consolidate community values, promote integration, social cohesion, and environmental sustainability.

In addition, they play an important role in attracting investment for the rehabilitation of abandoned buildings and degraded landscapes, giving them new functions, enhancing the value of the territory, and generating employment in aging and economically depressed regions. Educational initiatives and cultural activities frequently accompany the work of community museums (agricultural, mining, or industrial) located in small urban centers, on the outskirts of large cities, or in rural areas.

In recent decades, as a result of deindustrialization, the re-industrialization of rural landscapes, the growing importance of tourism and services, and improvements in income and well-being, Portugal has experienced a surge in the creation of museums and museum projects, particularly in small urban centers and rural regions. From 64 museums at the beginning of the millennium, Portugal reached 165 museums integrated into the Portuguese Museum Network in 2022 and 475 museums open to the public in 2024.

Recognizing the cultural, economic, social, and political importance of this (g)local movement, the Centre for Research in Political Science, in partnership with the Fábrica Catalã Cultural Association, will hold the symposium “Community Museums and (G)Local Development” in Azaruja on July 3–4, 2026.

THEMATIC AREAS:

1. Community Museums, Public Policies, and Powers (local, national, transnational)
2. Museums, Economy, and Communities

3. Heritage Strategies and Collections
4. Communication and Marketing Actions and Strategies
5. Community Museums: Democracy, Citizenship, and (Un)Sustainability

The Organizing Committee welcomes proposals for papers and posters until April 15, 2026. Submissions must include a title and an abstract of up to 400 words, a brief biographical note of the author(s), and be sent to: simposiomcdgl@uevora.pt. Working languages: Portuguese, Spanish, French, and English.

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

Maria Antónia Pires de Almeida; Maria do Carmo Duque; Paulo E. Guimarães.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE:

Graça Filipe; Ignacio García Pereda; João Brigola; José Manuel Lopes Cordeiro; José Manuel Brandão; Mário Magalhães Moutinho; Paulo A. Neves Martinho Neto; Sílvia Alemany Nadal.

SECRETARIAT:

Information: secretariado.cicp@uevora.pt

Paper proposals (until April 15): simposiomcdgl@uevora.pt

Registrations (until June 15): info@fabricacatala.com

SCHEDULE:

Call for papers: February 1, 2026

Website launch: February 15, 2026

Submission deadline: April 15, 2026

Registration opens: March 1, 2026

Notification of acceptance: May 15, 2026

Final program and abstract book: June 15, 2026

Symposium: July 3–4, 2026

REGISTRATION FEES:

Presenters: Free

Non-presenters: €30

After May 30: €60

SIMPÓSIO INTERNACIONAL

3 / 4 JULHO
2026

MUSEUS COMUNITÁRIOS E DESENVOLVIMENTO (G)LOCAL

FÁBRICA CATALÁ, AZARUJA

ACCOMMODATION IN AZARUJA:
Contact: info@fabricacatala.com

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