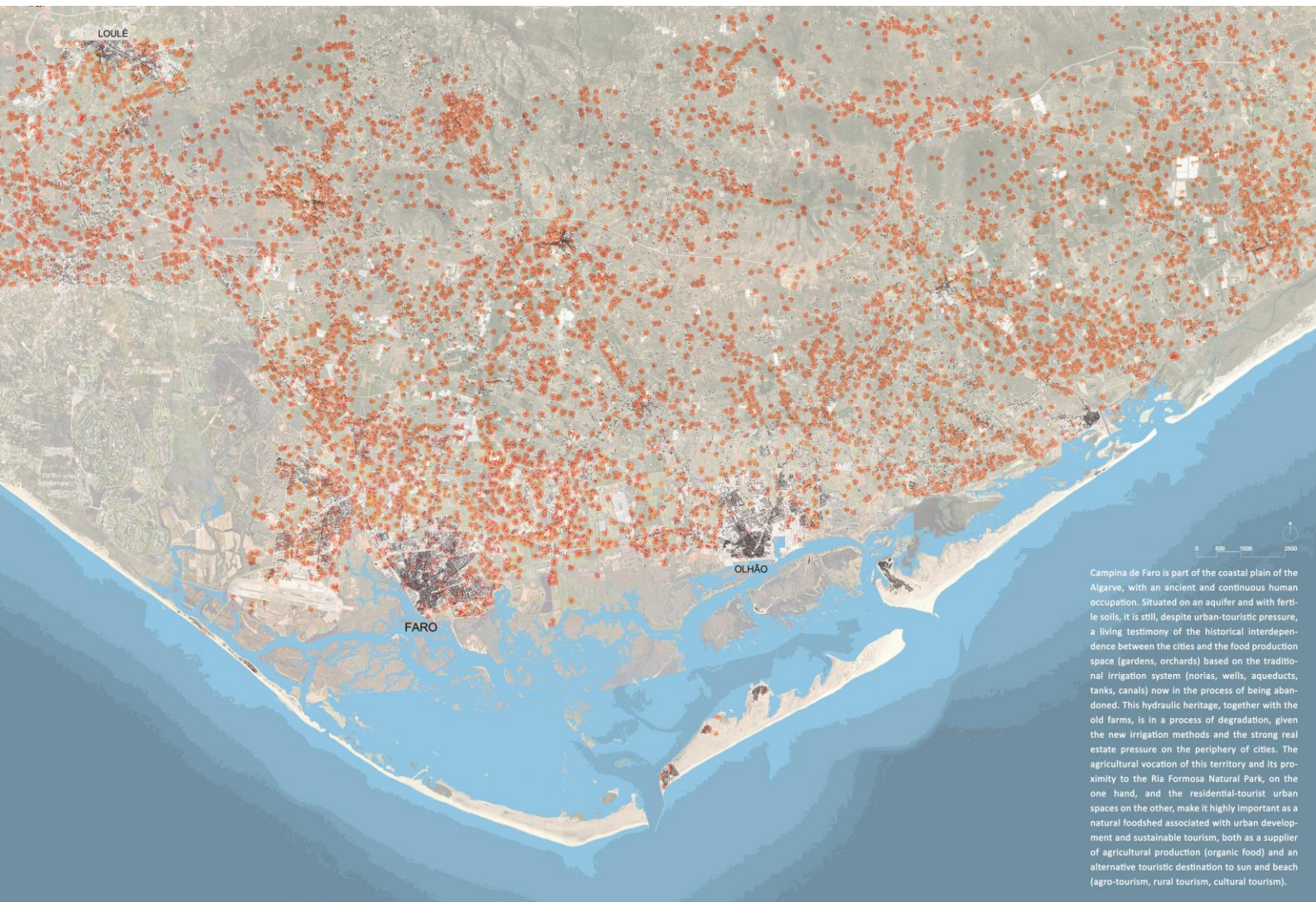


# INCULTUM Pilot #2 [PT] Agrarian Coastal Plain - Campina de Faro [Algarve]

Landscape and Water Heritage  
as a basis for community-based Cultural Tourism

**INNOVATION FACTSHEET**  
**April 2023/April 2024**



Campina de Faro is part of the coastal plain of the Algarve, with an ancient and continuous human occupation. Situated on an aquifer and with fertile soils, it is still, despite urban-touristic pressure, a living testimony of the historical interdependence between the cities and the food production space (gardens, orchards) based on the traditional irrigation system (norias, wells, aqueducts, tanks, canals) now in the process of being abandoned. This hydraulic heritage, together with the old farms, is in a process of degradation, given the new irrigation methods and the strong real estate pressure on the periphery of cities. The agricultural vocation of this territory and its proximity to the Ria Formosa Natural Park, on the one hand, and the residential-tourist urban spaces on the other, make it highly important as a natural foodshed associated with urban development and sustainable tourism, both as a supplier of agricultural production (organic food) and an alternative touristic destination to sun and beach (agro-tourism, rural tourism, cultural tourism).

This factsheet identifies the main innovations developed in the Portuguese pilot during INCULTUM's final year, corresponding to the period between 1 April 2023 and 30 April 2024.

We have followed the table of contents of the previous factsheet (March 2023) to relate the information to show the progress made, considering the innovative activities and actions carried out in the meantime.

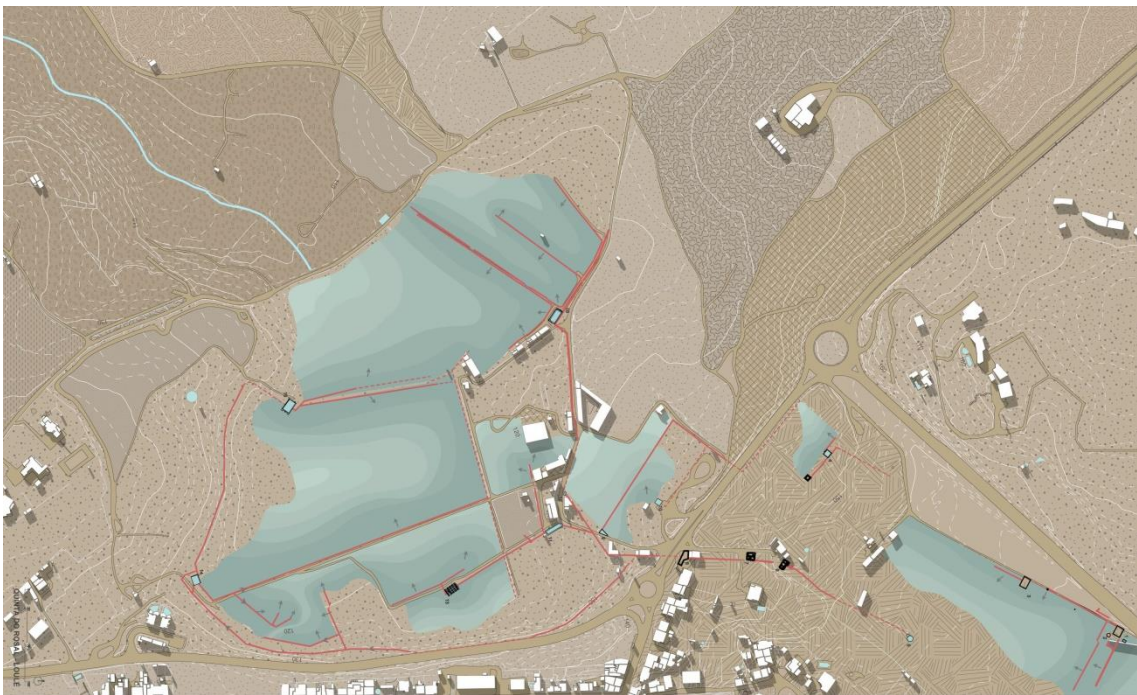
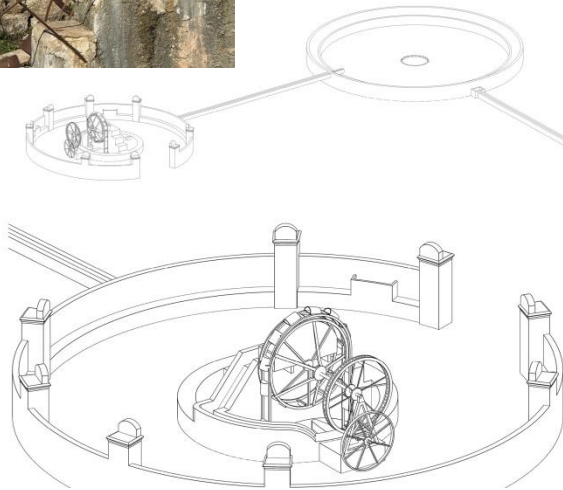
## 1. REACTIVATING COLLECTIVE MEMORY FOR A FUTURE WITH A PAST

The future of Campina de Faro depends on the agrarian landscape and water heritage based-solutions to support community-based cultural tourism. To design and define these solutions based on hydro-agricultural heritage and sustainable tourism, the participation-collaboration of residents in the co-creation of cultural itineraries and tourism products that create benefits for the whole community has been fundamental.

In this sense, fieldwork played a key role. Fieldwork was time-consuming because the hydraulic heritage is private property. Access to the old farms required the authorization of their owners, who were not always easy to contact. This collaborative fieldwork had two objectives: (i) the survey of valuable water heritage sites: the historic farms with exceptional historical interest and cultural and environmental value; (ii) the collection of oral information on the intangible dimension of this heritage; which was considered fundamental for narrating the natural and cultural history of the Campina landscape; these narrative forms part of the participatory Story Map on the cultural routes of the water heritage.

The collaborative fieldwork carried out during this period consisted of surveying the historical irrigation system (norias, aqueducts, reservoirs, and canals) of four 18th and 19th century farms: *Amendoal* and *Carreiros do Meio*, in Faro; *Rosal*, in Loulé and *Bela Mandil*, in Olhão (in the three municipalities of the study area). It also made it possible to gather oral information through interviews with the owners and tenant farmers.









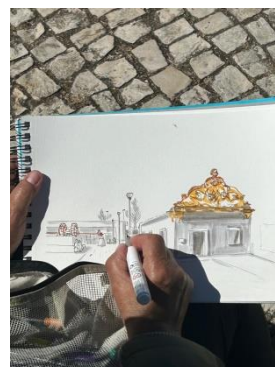
The two workshops aimed to train and inspire the local community and stakeholders in the efficient management of natural and cultural resources, as a premise for community-based cultural tourism.

The first workshop aimed to empower the local community and stakeholders to create a tourism offer focused on the landscape and water heritage, and to develop business ideas to enhance cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, exploring the link to the agrarian landscape, water heritage and cultural tourism, rural tourism, slow tourism, and smart tourism.

The second workshop provided training on how to develop agroecology and food sovereignty, revitalizing cultural and hydraulic heritage as a basis for sustainable tourism.

Aimed at stakeholders, local agents and actors, local farmers and producers, tourism entrepreneurs, university students, and citizens in general, the two workshops were attended by various dozens of people.

Two participatory-collaborative heritage education activities were held around the role of water heritage in the construction of the cultural landscape of Campina and in the local socio-economy. One of the actions addressed the importance of observation and drawing as a tool for educational innovation and raising awareness of the contribution and relevance of water heritage to local identity and immersion in the place. Participants: university students.



The other innovative activity linked teaching and research, bringing them together in the Final Exhibition of INCULTUM's pilot 2 on the Campina de Faro. The exhibition, about the various activities carried out during the three years of the project, features academic posters by master's students and scientific posters by researchers from the pilot team. It's a travelling poster/panel exhibition that will be open to the public at the University Library until 30 May, and will then travel to various public facilities in the city of Faro: the museum, the municipal market, etc.

The aim of this action is to raise awareness of the water heritage of the pilot area and to arouse the interest of students, researchers, heritage managers and the public in traditional irrigation, which was recently recognized (2023) by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.



### 3. PROMOTING HOLISTIC THINKING AND AN INCLUSIVE AND INTEGRATIVE APPROACH

The development of the Campina integrated tourism and socio-territorial project is based on a set of innovative pilot actions that adopt holistic and systemic thinking that connects society, the environment, culture/ heritage, and the economy. This comprehensive and inclusive approach is fundamental for promoting human well-being and environmental quality, and for building and offering a distinctive and sustainable tourism product and destination.

In this context, a collaboration agreement was recently signed with AIPAR - Associação de Protecção à Rapariga e à Família (Faro) [Association for the Protection of Girls and Families] for the development of a recovery project to restore Quinta do

Meloal, located in the heart of Campina. The rehabilitation project aims to turn the Quinta into a socio-educational Centre for young people who have fallen out of society, reconciling it with fruit and vegetable production. This innovative rehabilitation project is underway and is perhaps the biggest challenge for the pilot.

As well as restoring the Farm's landscape and heritage, the project aims to create a teaching and learning space for children and teenagers who are vulnerable to social exclusion, discrimination, and stigma. The intervention proposal therefore considers the rehabilitation of the food production areas (vegetable gardens and orchards) and the old irrigation system, but also the creation of pedagogical gardens and interactive and educational playgrounds that promote mental health. The aim is to co-create spaces for personal and social development based on the acquisition of new skills and cognitive and psychophysical capacities.

After its restoration, *Quinta do Meloal* will become an agroecology hotspot and a site-therapy that will become part of Campina's cultural routes, at the express wish of the management of this private social solidarity institution (AIPAR).

