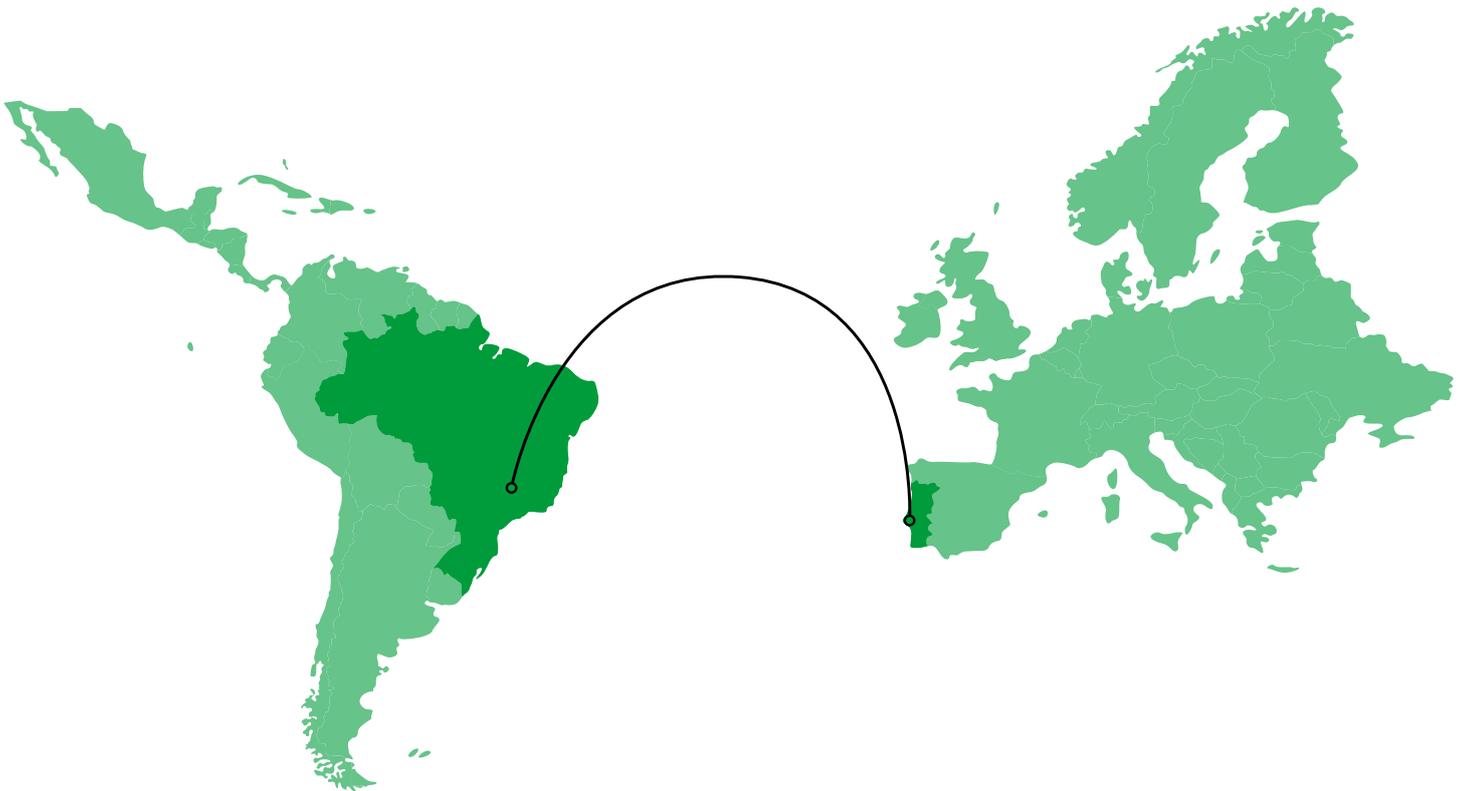


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# PAIRING REPORT:

## BELO HORIZONTE-ALMADA

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INTERNATIONAL URBAN COOPERATION  
European Union-Latin America and the Caribbean



A European Union  
Programme

# BELO HORIZONTE-ALMADA

## THE PAIRING AT A GLANCE

Located on the south bank of the Tagus River, in front of Lisbon, Almada is one of the 18 municipalities in the metropolitan area of Lisbon. Almada's vision is based on its Local Development Strategy, in force the last three decades.

Belo Horizonte is a Brazilian municipality and the capital of the state of Minas Gerais. The city has already been nominated by the United Nations Population Crisis Committee as the metropolis with the best quality of life in Latin America.

### Keywords

#Climate change  
#Sustainable energy

### Thematic areas of cooperation

**Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans**

### Objective

**1**

Exchange of experiences related to the climate change agenda, especially to the reduction of the greenhouse gases.

## Activities

**During the two study visits, both cities had the opportunity of identifying common areas of interest for the action plan:**

**In the first mission to Belo Horizonte**, in which four representatives from the city of Almada took part, the agenda included visits to Smart City Development projects, such as Integrated Operations Centre of Belo Horizonte and a Public-Private Partnership working to modernize public lighting in the city. In the area of environment, the group visited a Consortium created to recover the Pampulha Lagoon; urban parks; a project of urban agriculture; a space to create ladybugs to control pests among urban farms; and the renovation of Mineirão Football Stadium including efficient and sustainable technologies. They also visited the social housing project "Vila Viva", where they could learn more about how they integrate social, urbanistic and legal aspects into a large project to provide adequate housing to low-income communities.

## Stakeholders involved

**Municipalities of Belo Horizonte and Almada;** and public management bodies, civil society organizations and educational institutions in both cities.



## MAIN INTERVENTION-PILOT PROJECT

**The city of Belo Horizonte has been highly inspired by the experience developed by the Living Laboratory for the decarbonisation of Almada**, which has been implementing an organized, optimized, inclusive and connected, low-carbon, resilient and more accessible urban space. Based on this experience, **Belo Horizonte is interested in creating a similar participatory inter-institutional Climate Action Local Platform** in the city in order to reduce the emission of greenhouse effect gases; and also in creating urban Centralities polarizing qualified neighbourhood units with a variety of trade and services provision, quality urban design, and access to the mobility system. These Centralities also aim to promote coexistence in the public space and new habits for the reduction of greenhouse gases' emission.

Complementarily, **the Municipality of Almada will develop a pilot system for "More efficiency – less Carbon"**. In this pilot action, the Almada City Council will evaluate the adoption of a system of internal procedures that entail contracting annual goals and creating a set of execution indicators to support the physical execution of its annual action plan. As a basis for this exercise, the goal and performance contracts that are already successfully applied in Belo Horizonte will be used. The introduction of these contracts will have a special focus on creating a system of indicators that integrate metrics related to energy saving and reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, but also indicators that assess the municipality's progress in relation with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In addition to the Belo Horizonte experience, Almada will also capitalize on its own experience as the first municipality to be awarded with EMAS (EU Eco-Management and Audit Scheme) certification.

## MAIN IMPACTS AT LOCAL LEVEL

The new Belo Horizonte Master Plan proposes to articulate sustainability and economic development to build a better city for present and future generations. In this way, **a compact city model is drawn, which brings together housing, commerce, education, work and leisure.** In the case of the Centralities (accessible urban areas with a diversified concentration of jobs, retail, public and private services, habitation, and leisure and cultural equipments), which are already foreseen in the regulation of the New Master Plan of Belo Horizonte, the city is interested in studying and accessing disruptive and green technologies to be applied in its design, as well as the local governance and economic models already developed by Laboratorio Vivo in Almada.

**The introduction of these innovative modalities in Belo Horizonte is expected to have wider implications since Belo Horizonte is a leading city in Brazil's Global Covenant of Mayors work.**

On its part, the pilot system for "More efficiency – less Carbon" to be implemented in Almada will provide criteria and indicators for the assessment on the municipal departments plans' implementation linked with their impact on the sustainability of the organization and the municipality. There is no similar experience in Portugal, which raises interesting challenges for the city from an institutional point of view.



## LESSONS LEARNED AND ADDED-VALUE OF IUC

"The experience of the peer city gave us the possibility of seeing a pilot of new urban Centralities guided by the principles of sustainability, resilience, energy efficiency and mitigation of climate change"

- City of Belo Horizonte

"We can highlight three main learnings: 1) the physical and on-site cooperation extended over time allows for more effective sharing; 2) learning in a program that initially might appear to have a knowledge flow approach more towards the EU city to LAC city, proved to be true mutual learning. The mechanism of the program in itself ended up providing this direct exchange and in that sense, it was very effective and went beyond our expectations. 3) In connection with the previous two points, we cannot stress enough the way in which the program has made it possible to enhance the human relations allowing the production of technical documentation and to the development of joint, coherent and true learning actions".

- Almada

## CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS

Related **SDGs** and **Urban Agenda for the EU** topics:

**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



**12** RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



**Urban Agenda for the EU:** Adaptation to Climate Change; Energy Transition.

## INTEREST IN FUTURE THEMATIC NETWORKS

Interest shown by **Belo Horizonte** both in the Action Plan and in the survey conducted by the Program

Interest shown by **Almada** both in the Action Plan and in the survey conducted by the Program

<b>NETWORK 1</b>	Mobility, Connectivity and Transport	<b>NETWORK 1</b>	Mobility, Connectivity and Transport
<b>NETWORK 2</b>	Smart Cities & Digital Transition	<b>NETWORK 2</b>	Smart Cities & Digital Transition
<b>NETWORK 3</b>	Urban Poverty and Regeneration, Housing, Social Inclusion – Cohesion, Equity	<b>NETWORK 3</b>	Urban Poverty and Regeneration, Housing, Social Inclusion – Cohesion, Equity
<b>NETWORK 4</b>	Circular Economy, Waste and Sustainable Production / Consumption	<b>NETWORK 4</b>	Circular Economy, Waste and Sustainable Production / Consumption
<b>NETWORK 5</b>	Sustainable and Healthy Cities, Sustainable Land Use – Nature-Based Solutions	<b>NETWORK 5</b>	Sustainable and Healthy Cities, Sustainable Land Use – Nature-Based Solutions
<b>NETWORK 6</b>	Climate Action, Energy, Water and Air Quality	<b>NETWORK 6</b>	Climate Action, Energy, Water and Air Quality
<b>NETWORK 7</b>	Innovation and Economic Growth, Strategic Sectors, Jobs and Skills.	<b>NETWORK 7</b>	Innovation and Economic Growth, Strategic Sectors, Jobs and Skills

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**IUC Pairing Manager:** Tatiane de Jesus

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