

The image features a high-contrast, black and white graphic of a leaf, possibly a maple leaf, with a yellow geometric outline. The leaf is rendered in a stylized, almost abstract manner, with the veins and edges clearly defined. The yellow outline is a simple, irregular polygon that follows the general shape of the leaf. The background is white, and the overall aesthetic is modern and graphic.

# minante

PROTOTIPAR UMA  
EXPERIÊNCIA  
NATURAL E  
CULTURAL

**Vision for the future and  
funding options**

## ABOUT THE 'MINANTE' PROJECT

'Minante' was a local-scale project with the objective of experimenting and testing new ways of celebrating, contemplating and enjoying the public space in the Minante area, on the Neiva river, in Northern coastal Portugal, namely along the existing trails and public paths found on both banks.

The project was based on a set of interventions co-created with, by and for the local community, valuing a diversity of perspectives that result in different experiences, material or immaterial.

The project also intended to trigger reflections and deliver lessons learned about the future of this public space, anchored in the existing natural and cultural heritage, enriched by the former river watermills providing the name to this location, and which intersects with the experiences and memories of the community.

As a project supported within the scope of the New European Bauhaus, it is rooted in the values of Sustainability, Inclusion and Aesthetics, and follows a Participatory, Transdisciplinary, and Multi-level approach.

It is, therefore, a project strongly anchored in participation and co-creation, having its origins in a previous project called 'Stories from both sides' ([www.rioneiva.com/estorias](http://www.rioneiva.com/estorias)), where it was noted not only a great affection from the community for Minante, as well as aspirations for its preservation.

The various outcomes of the Minante project can be found on the website [www.rioneiva.com/minante](http://www.rioneiva.com/minante), including this book, as well as the video documentary, the photographic exhibition, the scientific article, or the interventions.

Some key indicators:

> 500 persons involved

14 public events and workshops

13 interventions

## VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Considering the diverse possibilities for setting a coherent vision for the Minante project and, most especially, for the Minante public space, as the target-area of the project, we have devised a concept that encapsulates the aspirations of the local community regarding the future of this public place.

We depart from the concept arising from the project implementation process, namely **'Minante: a living gallery'**, which ties the several loose ends we have encountered, together with the many perspectives and discussions by the local community for this area.

A concept grounded in the following aspects:

**Minante:** as the project's intervention area, namely the public space around the watermills that give this place its name.

**Living:** as a way of highlighting the connection between the local community and this space as well as the transformative force of the surrounding nature.

**Gallery:** as a way of representing the natural, heritage and community beauty of this space, as an art gallery.





In a certain sense, it is not a ‘classical’ vision proposition, as we avoided formulations that would point to a need to ‘do something’ in a certain direction. We have therefore opted to formulate a vision that is more in tune and sensible to the local community aspirations and concerns.

Moreover, it is a vision that follows the same participatory and co-creation principles followed throughout the Minante project implementation. That is, it is not only resulting from those same processes, but it also imprints that same spirit. Indeed, the keywords ‘living gallery’ are a way to portray how the community has seen the Minante area since they can remember, and also how they expect to continue to see it in the future. Even as the existing water mill heritage fades away, as part of a natural process.

Which is to say we expect to respond to the local community's ‘requirements’, namely its preservation, with no constructions or destructions, but through ways that can enrich this public space and allow the creation of new memories, and the opportunity to pass along older generation memories to younger generations.

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PROTOTYPING A  
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In this perspective, it is also a vision in tune with New European Bauhaus principles - Sustainability, Inclusion, and Aesthetics, as these have followed the project throughout its entire implementation, and which can be translated to this context as follows:

**Sustainability:** focus on a biodiversity-rich area, requiring proper conservation and engagement for long-term results.

**Inclusion:** engages the local population to ensure the emergence of an equally accessible, sustainable and valuable location.

**Aesthetics:** improves the quality of this public space, and the local people's experience of it, regarding its natural and cultural heritage.



It is then within the above-mentioned vision concept that we have devised possible pathways to continue pursuing this vision. A set of pathways that can interlace or work independently and are solely based on the Minante project process and final reflections.

They also have different levels of complexity, depending on how far and/or how fast we can progress, depending on available resources.

- > **Celebration events:** through community get togethers, incorporating cultural/artistic dimensions, as well as food, in what is the most straightforward and immediate response to the local community aspirations.
- > **Expand the reach:** namely by connecting with the over 100 Neiva river mills that, even though are not as cherished as is the Minante, they can open up the door for a wider ecosystem and community mobilization through heritage, nature and participation.
- > **Learning opportunities:** deepen the connection with local schools by promoting the Minante public space as a unique area to enrich curricular activities, by continuing site visits and school projects.
- > **Knowledge exchanges:** promote regional, national, and international opportunities of cooperation by departing from this project and public space to discuss and test new ways of community engagement, most especially the ones related to public space governance.



## FUNDING OPTIONS

Considering the project future vision and possible pathways for its implementation, the following funding options list, put together by project mentor Eileen Crowley, provides possible opportunities to take the project further.

> [New European Bauhaus Prizes](#)

> [Interreg Atlantic Area](#)

> [EEA & Norway Grants](#)

> [Culture Moves Europe - Call for Residency Hosts](#)

> [HORIZON-CL2-2024-DEMOCRACY-01-08: Culture, the arts and cultural spaces for democratic participation and political expression, online and offline](#)

> [HORIZON-CL2-2024-HERITAGE-01-01: New European Bauhaus – Innovative solutions for greener and fairer ways of life through arts and culture, architecture and design for all](#)

> [HORIZON-CL6-2024-BIODIV-02-1-two-stage. Demonstrating Nature-based Solutions for the sustainable management of water resources in a changing climate, with special attention to reducing the impacts of extreme weather](#)

> [HORIZON-CL6-2024-BIODIV-02-2-two-stage: Demonstrating the potential of Naturebased Solutions and the New European Bauhaus to contribute to sustainable, inclusive and resilient living spaces and communities](#)

> [ProBleu: Promoting Ocean and water literacy in school communities](#)



[www.rioneiva.com/minante](http://www.rioneiva.com/minante)

Photos by Ana Clara Roberti

2023



Funded by the  
European Union



New European Bauhaus  
beautiful | sustainable | together

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**PROTOTIPAR UMA EXPERIÊNCIA NATURAL E CULTURAL** PROTOTYPING A NATURAL AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCE