

WHV – Porto in the path of cultural heritage sustainability

Historic Centre of Oporto, Luiz I Bridge and Monastery of Serra do Pilar, Portugal

Cultural property inscribed on the List of World Heritage since 1996

14/05/2021 - 25/05/2021



The city of Oporto, built along the hillsides overlooking the mouth of the Douro river, is an outstanding urban landscape with a 2,000-year history. Its continuous growth, linked to the sea, can be seen in the many and varied monuments, from the cathedral with its Romanesque choir, to the neoclassical Stock Exchange and the typically Portuguese Manueline-style Church of Santa Clara.

Project objectives:

The project aims to promote good practices of conservation and maintenance for the property. Its primary objective will be to record and monitor the transformations and extensive substitutions that have taken place in the emblematic elements of the historic centre, including timber windows and interior partitions (tabique) built with traditional techniques, and carry out restoration works to revive the authenticity of the historic centre.

Project activities:

The hands-on activities of the project will be focused on repairing the historic windows and the historic 'tabique' walls. Volunteers will receive educational inputs through workshops and will be guided by experts, as they carry out the restoration works. They will identify the different types of traditional timber windows and learn how to maintain, repair and paint them in the authentic way. Similarly, they will identify the anomalies in the walls, learn how to work with soil and lime, and make earthen and lime plasters. The project will also involve the local community in the work of documentation and valorisation of heritage elements at the site, as well as in all the hands-on activities being carried out by the volunteers.



Partners:

Ana Perdigão Antunes – Architect and expert on earthen architecture and construction, sustainable design and heritage architectural projects; Critical Concrete; Associação Centro da terra; Escola Superior Gallaecia; University of Aveiro – Master course of Rehabilitation of building heritage.

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