

A close-up photograph of a hand gently touching the surface of clear, rippling water. The water is a vibrant greenish-blue, and the hand is a warm, natural skin tone. A large, bold, yellow number '26' is superimposed over the top half of the image, enclosed in large yellow parentheses. The overall composition is clean and evokes a sense of nature and sustainability.

# (26)

**Guimarães 26**

Volume 3  
Sep/Dec '26

**European Green Capital**



# Guimarães 26

## European Green Capital

### Sep/ Dec '26

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#### September

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|                                                |                                        |              |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------|
| Contextile                                     | Contemporary Textile Art Biennial 2026 | sat 5–29 nov |
| National Urban Cleaning Meeting (ENLU 2026)    |                                        | tue 8–9      |
| European Mobility Week                         |                                        | wed 16–22    |
| Towards COP31                                  |                                        | fri 18       |
| National Electric Vehicles Meeting (ENVE 2026) |                                        | sat 19–20    |
| Blue City Conference                           |                                        | fri 25       |

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#### October

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|                                          |                                                     |           |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Awards Ceremony                          | European Green Capital and European Green Leaf 2028 | wed 7–9   |
| National Wastewater Seminar (SENAG 2026) |                                                     | wed 14–15 |
| Planetiers World Gathering 2026          |                                                     | wed 21–23 |

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#### November

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|                                                         |                                                             |           |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Eurocities Environment Forum 2026                       |                                                             | tue 3 – 6 |
| “Uncertain Landscapes 2: Beyond the Resources” Congress |                                                             | tue 24–26 |
| One Health in Action                                    | Physical Health, Mental Health and Environmental Indicators | fri 27–29 |

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#### December

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|                               |  |         |
|-------------------------------|--|---------|
| Bionomia Conference 2026      |  | wed 2–4 |
| Guimarães 26 Closing Ceremony |  | tue 8   |
| CNN Summit                    |  | thu 10  |

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**Community events  
on the following pages**

# Community Proposals Programme

## Sep/ Dec '26

### September

|                                                                   |                                  |             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Participatory Mural with Natural Paints                           | Guardizela                       | sat 12      |
| Unlikely Hikers                                                   | Airão/Vermil                     | sun 13      |
| Free Community Library                                            | Santa Eufémia Parish Council     | wed 16      |
| Giving Voice to the Stones and Water                              | CAAA                             | fri 18      |
| Green Voices                                                      | Alberto Sampaio Museum           | sat 19 & 22 |
| Green Wheels <small>Skating Championship</small>                  | Inatel and Alam. Alfredo Pimenta | sat 19      |
| Pilgrimage to the Waters                                          | Laboratório da Paisagem          | sat 19      |
| Vegan Ave                                                         | Oliveira Square                  | sat 26      |
| Field Trip <small>Invasive Plants</small>                         | Caldas das Taipas Leisure Park   | sat 26      |
| Energy Training <small>Community Green Training Programme</small> | Mesão Frio                       | tue 29      |

### October

|                                                                   |                                       |        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------|
| ARCA Project – From City to Countryside                           | Arosa/Castelões                       | sun 4  |
| Energy Training <small>Community Green Training Programme</small> | Mataduchos                            | thu 8  |
| Plogging <small>From Jogueiros to Guimarães City Centre</small>   | Calvos                                | sat 10 |
| Eco Mountain Biking – Ave Route                                   | Guimarães, P. Lanhoso, V. Minho, Fafe | sat 10 |
| Mission: Living Creek <small>Selho S. Cristóvão Green B.</small>  | S. Bentinho de Cardido Creek          | sat 10 |
| Unlikely Hikers                                                   | Gonça                                 | sun 11 |
| Corvite Ecological Trail                                          | Corvite                               | sun 11 |
| Energy Training <small>Community Green Training Programme</small> | Urgezes                               | thu 15 |
| Plogging                                                          | St. Cristina de Longos                | sat 17 |
| Green Brigade <small>Guardizela – Guarda River Clean-up</small>   | Guarda River                          | sat 17 |
| RefleCtion Walks                                                  | Alberto Sampaio Museum                | sat 24 |
| Energy Training <small>Community Green Training Programme</small> | Creixomil                             | tue 27 |

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## November

|                              |                                    |                                |               |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Energy Training</b>       | Community Green Training Programme | Coradeiras                     | <b>tue 3</b>  |
| <b>Autumn Sounds Concert</b> |                                    | Univ. of Minho Main Auditorium | <b>sat 7</b>  |
| <b>Unlikely Hikers</b>       |                                    | Candoso S Martinho             | <b>sun 8</b>  |
| <b>Green Voices</b>          |                                    | Venue to be confirmed          | <b>sat 22</b> |

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## December

|                          |                           |                     |                  |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| <b>Vegan Ave</b>         |                           | Institute of Design | <b>sat 12–13</b> |
| <b>Creative Workshop</b> | Upcycling Christmas Gifts | Caldelas            | <b>sat 19</b>    |
| <b>Unlikely Hikers</b>   |                           | Moreira de Cónegos  | <b>mon 28</b>    |



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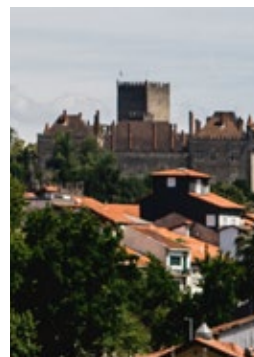
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Rudd Schuthof









# **A City Made by Everyone**

**Editorial**

**Some cities simply fulfil the requirements of a title. Others turn it into a method. Throughout 2026, Guimarães has chosen the second path: making the European Green Capital title not just a destination, but a daily exercise in collective construction, visible in the decisions it makes, the spaces it transforms and, above all, the people it succeeds in mobilising.**

This third edition of Guimarães 26 magazine looks back at that journey – at the projects that have taken shape, the gatherings that have placed the city at the heart of the European debate, and the legacy that is already becoming rooted in the territory. In recent months, the European Green Capital has increasingly moved out into the streets: it has reached the parishes, engaged communities, hosted major national and international gatherings, and brought renewed visibility to interventions that improve quality of life, biodiversity, sustainable mobility, environmental education and adaptation to climate change.

Being European Green Capital means celebrating distinction, but above all, turning it into action. In Guimarães, that action is built every day with schools, associations, companies, institutions and citizens who are making the municipality better prepared, more aware and more resilient. Sustainability gains strength when it stops being an abstract idea and becomes part of the spaces we use, the events we organise, the journeys we make and the decisions we take as a community.

This edition brings together projects that embody that transformation: from science applied to the territory to community mobilisa-

tion, from green spaces to innovative solutions, and from major international forums to the most local proposals. Each initiative reveals a different dimension of the same commitment: making Guimarães a greener, fairer city that is better prepared for the future.

A year as European Green Capital is a milestone. Its true value, however, is measured by what remains: new spaces for people to enjoy, new practices, new cooperation networks, new working tools, and a collective awareness that is more alert to the challenges of our time. Above all, it leaves us with the certainty that a territory can only be transformed when everyone helps to build that transformation.

Guimarães 26 is therefore much more than a programme of events or a year of celebration. It is an opportunity to consolidate a journey, accelerate change and lay strong foundations for future generations. A greener city is not built through major projects alone. It is also built through participation, proximity, knowledge and a shared sense of responsibility.

Let us continue this journey together. The future of Guimarães begins with the choices we make today, and a city made by everyone will always be a city with a better quality of life for all.







BEING EUROPEAN GREEN CAPITAL

AQUI  
NASCEU  
PORTUGAL

[26]



# **From Commitment to the Territory**

**Sustainability in action, transforming  
the territory and its people**

**Guimarães being distinguished as European Green Capital recognizes a journey based on an integrated vision of sustainable development. More than a title, it is a commitment to public policies that place people's quality of life at the heart of action.**

Throughout the year, that commitment has taken tangible form across the territory through new projects and investment in sustainable mobility, energy efficiency, adaptation to climate change, biodiversity and community participation. These initiatives bring material benefits to everyone who lives, works, studies in or visits the municipality, while consolidating a strategy that extends far beyond the European Green Capital year.

Data confirms this progress. Today, 97% of the population lives in areas where air quality is classified as “good” or “very good”, reflecting sustained investment in mobility, environmental management and the improvement of public space. The municipality also remains committed to achieving climate neutrality by 2030, as part of the group of European cities leading the climate transition.

In mobility, the launch of the European Green Capital year was marked by the signing of a protocol between the Municipality of Guimarães, the European Investment Bank and the European Commission. It supports the new Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan and the Bus Rapid Transit system, tools designed to reduce emissions, improve public transport provision and make journeys more efficient and accessible.

Environmental education and community involvement remain pillars of this transformation. The PEGADAS programme, running since 2015, has mobilised thousands of children, young people and families to adopt more sustainable behaviours. Guimarães also plays a pioneering role in waste management, particularly through the PAYT (Pay-As-You-Throw) system, which encourages more efficient use of resources and promotes the principles of the circular economy.





# **What Changes for People Living in Guimarães**

**A healthier,  
more resilient city**



**Being European Green Capital means making sustainability a priority in the decisions that shape the city's present and future. More than international recognition, the title represents commitment to quality of life, the efficient use of resources and balanced development across the territory.**

**For residents, the effects can be felt in different aspects of daily life: better public spaces, enhanced green areas, more sustainable mobility, improved waste management, environmental education and a city better prepared for the effects of climate change.**

**The European distinction also strengthens Guimarães' capacity to attract investment, join international networks, develop innovative projects and establish partnerships that accelerate solutions in energy, mobility, the circular economy, biodiversity and climate adaptation. At the same time, it has engaged schools, associations, companies, institutions and citizens in initiatives that bring the community closer to environmental challenges and encourage more sustainable behaviour.**

**The true legacy of the title, however, is measured by its ability to turn commitments into real change, creating the conditions for today's decisions to produce a healthier, more resilient city that is better prepared for current and future generations.**







# **New Urban Features Improve Air Quality and Public Space**

**A greener city is also built at street level, through small gestures that transform public space into places offering a better quality of life. With this purpose, Guimarães 26 European Green Capital has been installing new urban features at different locations across the municipality, bringing nature more visibly into the daily lives of those who live, work in and visit the city.**

One thing to highlight is the installation of nine billboards fitted with PVC canvases using Pureti technology, an innovative solution that uses natural light to help purify the air. The structures were placed in areas with high levels of pedestrian and road traffic, where their impact is greatest, both in improving air quality and in raising public awareness of innovative environmental solutions.

Planters with integrated seating were also installed near Vimágua, at Misericórdia Square, Toural Square and Centro Cultural Vila Flor. These create new places to stop and relax while bringing trees and nature back into the city centre. More than decorative features, these interventions invite the community to pause, breathe and rediscover public space as a meeting place.

These actions form part of the legacy of Guimarães 26 European Green Capital and represent another step towards building a healthier, more sustainable and people-centred city, because more nature also means cleaner air and a better quality of life.







# Art While You Wait for the Bus

**Art can also transform the way we see the city. As part of Guimarães 26 European Green Capital, several bus stops across the municipality now feature original illustrations by different artists, bringing creativity into public space and making culture part of citizens' daily lives.**

**Inspired by themes such as nature, biodiversity, sustainable mobility, circular economy, water, air quality, noise and the relationship between people and the environment, these interventions invite reflection during ordinary moments of the day. More than simply enhancing the urban landscape, they use art to raise awareness of sustainability challenges, showing that a bus stop can also be a place of discovery, thought and care for the territory.**

**By transforming spaces people pass through into meeting points between creativity, the environment and citizenship, the initiative strengthens the presence of the European Green Capital in the daily lives of everyone who lives, works, studies in, or visits Guimarães.**

# Mantraste

## Climate Change – Mitigation

Mantraste (Bruno Reis Santos) is an illustrator and lecturer born in Caldas da Rainha in 1988. He studied Graphic Design and Illustration at ESAD.CR, where he currently teaches illustration. His work combines illustration with community projects such as “My Neighbourhood in the Future” and “Together We Rise”.

With a strong visual identity shaped by popular culture and nature, he regularly collaborates with national and international publications and organisations, ranging from Apple and The New York Times to Casa da Música and the Portuguese Parliament.

[www.instagram.com/mantraste](https://www.instagram.com/mantraste)







# Soraia Oliveira

## Noise

Soraia Oliveira was born in Maia in 1992. She holds a degree in Graphic Design and a master's degree in Illustration and Animation from IPCA. She has worked as an illustrator since 2016, mainly for children and young people, and has illustrated 14 published books. She was a finalist at the São João da Madeira International Illustration Meeting in 2016, 2018 and 2020, received recognition from 3x3 in 2019, won the Trofa Portuguese-Speaking Illustration Competition in 2021, and was recognised in the Art Locky, Arriscar and RespirArte competitions in 2024 and 2025. Her visual world is defined by colour.

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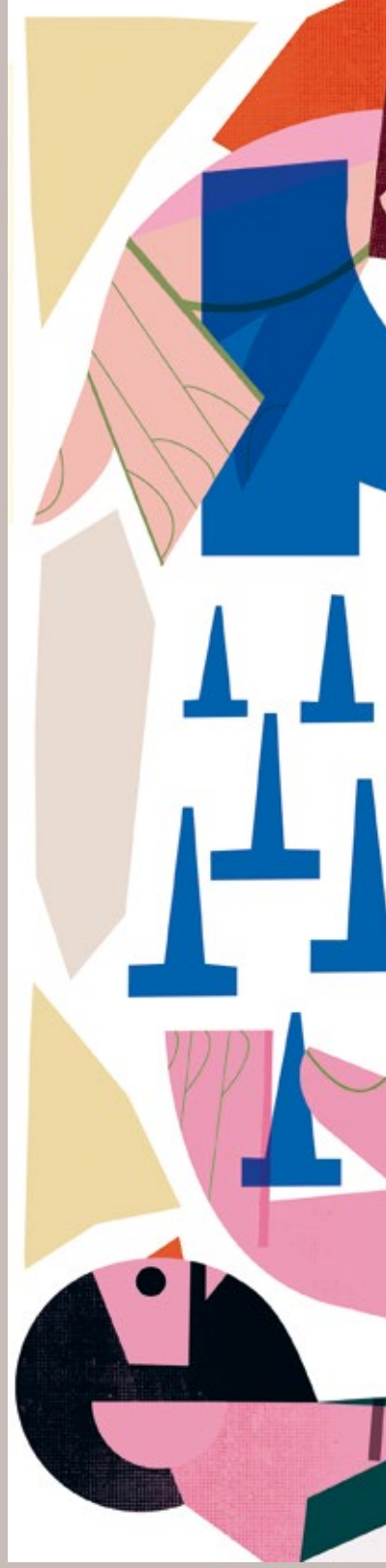
# Tiago Galo

## Waste and the Circular Economy

Tiago Galo began his creative journey through independent fanzines and group exhibitions before completing a degree in Architecture at the Technical University of Lisbon. In 2011, he received the Best Comic Book award at the Amadora BD Festival, a turning point that confirmed the direction of his career.

His work was selected for the Illustrators Exhibition at the Bologna Children's Book Fair in 2021, and in 2026 he won the Indie Authors Children and YA Book Jacket Award at the same event. He now works as a freelance illustrator and animator for international brands, magazines and advertising campaigns, while also creating murals and animated pieces.

[www.tiagogalo.com](http://www.tiagogalo.com) • [www.instagram.com/tiago.galo](https://www.instagram.com/tiago.galo)







# **Eduarda Lima**

## **Climate Change – Adaptation**

Eduarda Lima studied Architecture at UCL in London, Motion Design at the London College of Communication, and Illustration at Ar.Co in Lisbon. Her work spans illustration and 2D animation. In May 2020, she published her first illustrated children's book, "O Protesto" ("The Protest"), with Orfeu Negro as part of its Orfeu Mini collection. The book received a Special Mention in the 2021 National Illustration Award presented by DGLAB. In May 2022, she published her second illustrated book with Orfeu Negro, "Que Planeta é Este?" ("What Planet Is This?").

[www.eduardalima.com](http://www.eduardalima.com) • [www.instagram.com/edlima78](https://www.instagram.com/edlima78)





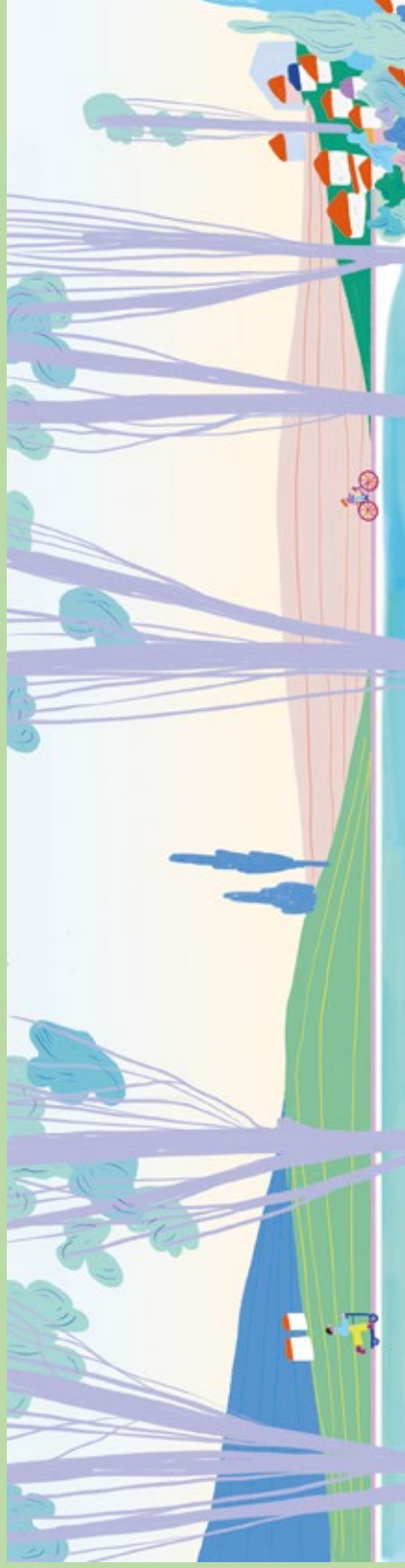


# Carolina Celas

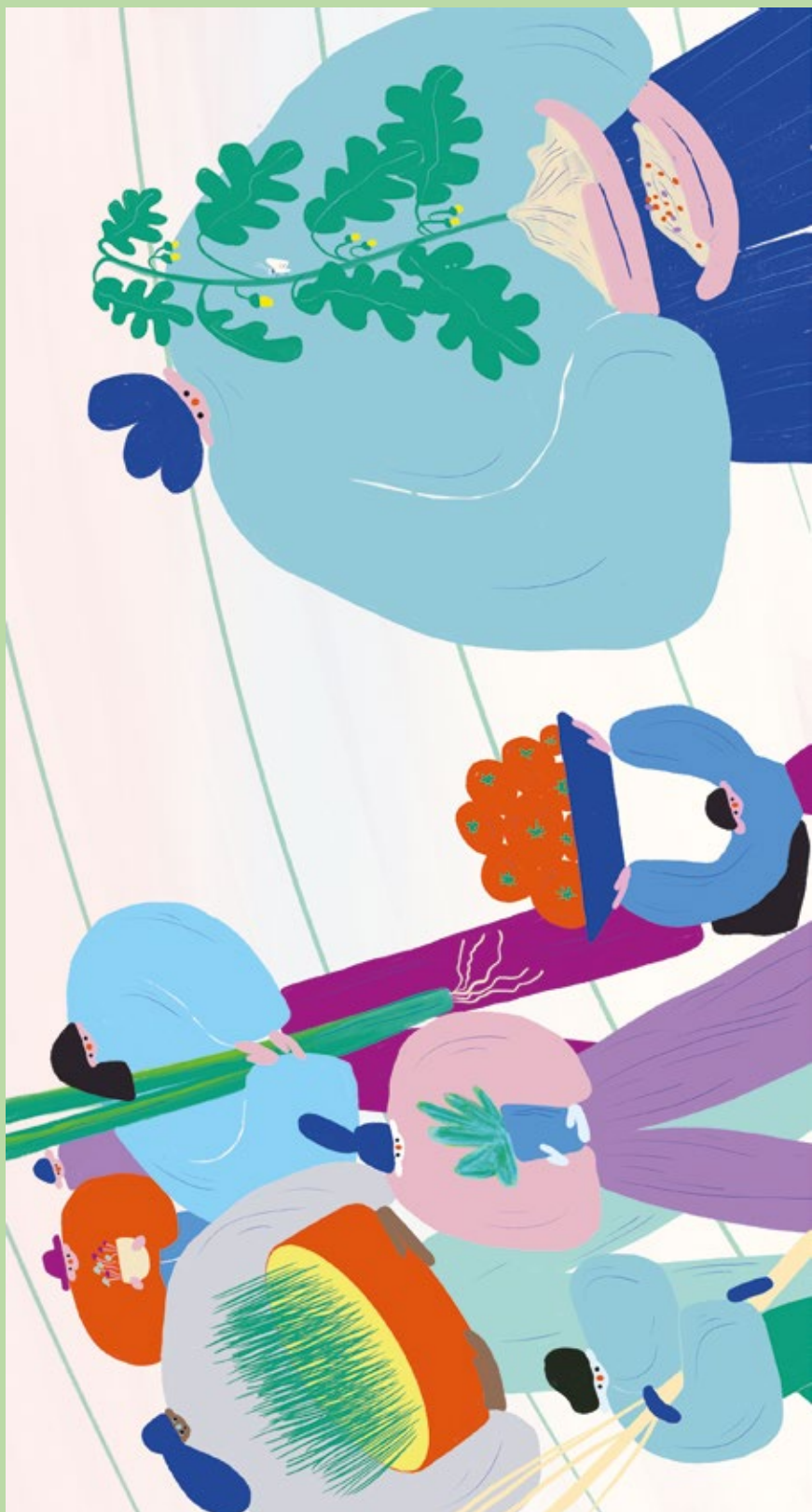
## Biodiversity, Green Spaces and Land Use

Carolina Celas lives and works in Lisbon. She holds a degree in Design and later completed a master's degree in Visual Communication in London. Since then, she has worked as a freelance illustrator across different media. The poetry and harmony of her work invite children and adults to imagine places without boundaries, exploring detail, humour and the surreal through natural and spatial elements.

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# Tiago Albuquerque Water

Tiago Albuquerque was born in Lisbon in 1982. He divides his time between illustration, design, animation, music and comics. He studied Fine Arts and Comics at Ar.Co Lisboa. He currently collaborates with several Portuguese newspapers and magazines and illustrates books and album covers. As a graphic designer, he creates posters for theatre and film, as well as CDs and book covers.

[www.instagram.com/tiago.albuquerque insta](http://www.instagram.com/tiago.albuquerque insta)





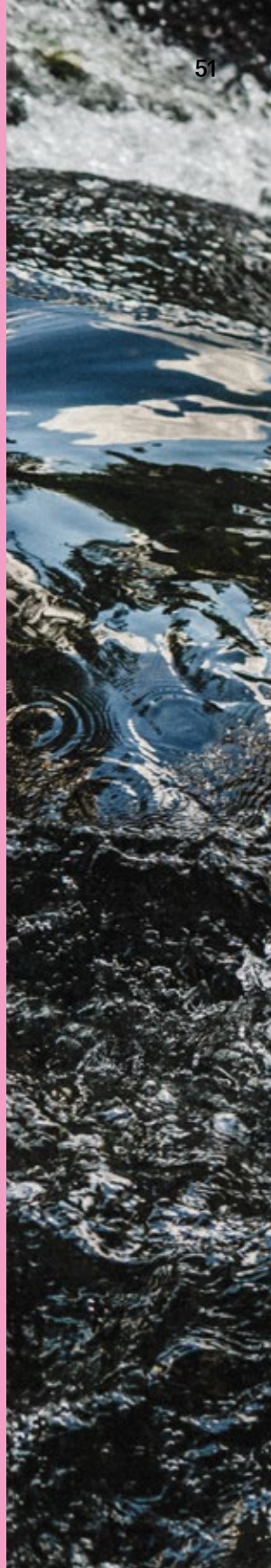


# Jaime Ferraz Air Quality

Jaime Ferraz was born in Lisbon in 1986. He graduated in Communication Design from the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Lisbon, but before that, he skateboarded, played football and climbed trees. "Máquina", his first book, is part of Pato Lógico's "Telling Images" collection and received a distinction at the 22nd National Illustration Award.

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# **More Sustainable Events**

**From planning to legacy**

Events have an impact on the environment, the economy and the community. To support the organisation of more responsible initiatives, Guimarães 26 European Green Capital developed the Sustainable Events Handbook, a practical tool for public bodies, associations, businesses, and cultural, sporting and social event organisers.

More than a set of recommendations, the manual helps embed sustainability throughout every stage of an event, from planning to final evaluation. It provides simple, practical guidance on water, energy, waste, food, mobility, accessibility, communication, community involvement and the monitoring of results. Highlighted good practices include using reusable cups, reducing disposable materials, prioritising local and seasonal products, promoting public transport and active mobility, adopting energy-efficient solutions, and communicating implemented measures transparently. The document also encourages the measuring of indicators such as water and energy consumption, waste generation and carbon footprint, promoting a culture of continuous improvement.

Through this initiative, Guimarães is leaving behind a support tool designed to endure beyond 2026, so that every event can also become an opportunity to reduce impacts, engage the community and establish strong environmental and social practices across the territory.



# Guia Sust em E

## Introdução

### Passo Zero: Planeam

- 2.1 Análise inicial
- 2.2 Estratégia e com
- 2.3 Medidas estrutu
- 2.4 Parcerias e forne
- 2.5 Monitorização e
- 2.6 Educação e com

# da Sustentabilidade Eventos

## Evento Sustentável

promissos  
rais iniciais  
cedores  
indicadores  
comunicação interna

### O Guia: Passo a Passo

- 3.1 Estruturas
- 3.2 Alimentação
- 3.3 Mobilidade
- 3.4 Comunidade local
- 3.5 Comunicação e divulgação
- 3.6 Liderança e monitorização

### Lista de Verificação



# Careers for a Greener City

**Sustainability also creates jobs**

**In Guimarães, the transition to a greener city has created new job opportunities in research, environmental management, innovation, education, mobility, energy, biodiversity and the enhancement of natural resources.**

By transforming the territory, sustainability is also transforming work, creating new employment opportunities and professional skills. In Guimarães, the transition to a greener city opens up opportunities in fields connected to health, artificial intelligence and data management, education, and integrated resource management.

Solutions to climate and environmental challenges require knowledge to become increasingly cross-disciplinary, regardless of each person's original field of training. More than a set of new occupations, green employment represents a new way of thinking about the integration of economic and social development.

In Guimarães, this path shows that sustainability can generate knowledge, qualifica-

tions and opportunities, combining innovation, growth and environmental responsibility. This work also takes place on the ground every day.

Operational staff, engineers, biologists, landscape architects, environmental technicians, researchers, educators, project managers, energy specialists, data analysts, circular economy professionals and environmental communication specialists all contribute to more efficient water and waste management, the maintenance of green spaces, the restoration of waterways, energy efficiency, sustainable mobility and the management of public facilities. These fields mobilise multidisciplinary teams and ensure services that are essential to people's quality of life and the protection of natural resources.



# **Guimarães**

## **A National and International Stage for Climate Debate**

**When the world comes together  
to think about the future**

Being European Green Capital also means creating platforms for exchange, where cities, institutions, researchers, businesses and citizens can reflect together on the great challenges of our time. Over recent months, Guimarães has established itself as one of Europe's leading stages for discussion on sustainability, resilience, climate action and urban transformation.

International conferences, scientific forums, city gatherings, educational projects and opportunities to share knowledge have brought thousands of participants from different countries to the municipality, consolidating Guimarães as a true living laboratory of knowledge and innovation. In a particularly symbolic year, the city welcomed experts, policymakers and representatives of European and international institutions, who found here a concrete example of sustainability in practice.

Each of these gatherings reinforced a common idea: climate challenges require solutions built together. Through dialogue between science, public policy, education, sport, business and the community, Guimarães continues to advance its vision of becoming a One Planet City, showing that transformation always begins at local level but can inspire cities around the world.



# Design Commit 2026

**Learning from nature to  
design the future**



When we talk about sustainability, we often think of energy, mobility or biodiversity. Yet the way we design objects, services, buildings and cities plays an equally decisive role in building a more balanced future. This was the vision at the heart of the second edition of Design Commit 2026, a leading international gathering on the relationship between design, industry and sustainability. It took place from 25 to 27 March at Centro Cultural Vila Flor and Teatro Jordão in Guimarães.

Part of the Guimarães 26 European Green Capital programme, the conference was organised by the University of Minho's School of Architecture, Art and Design, ESAD IDEA, the Lab2PT/IN2PAST laboratory and the Institute of Design. It brought together 286 participants from several countries, including Portugal, China, Switzerland, Finland and Morocco, among them researchers, designers, businesses, institutions and students.

Under the theme "Design for Different Futures/Learning with Nature", the gathering proposed a new way of thinking about how we design products, territories and development models, drawing inspiration from nature's principles to create more regenerative, resilient and inclusive solutions. Over three days, participants discussed biomimicry, new materials, the circular economy, artificial intelligence, industrial innovation and systems thinking, demonstrating that design can play a decisive role in responding to the environmental challenges of the 21st century. This edition also featured the first Guimarães 26 European Green Capital Climate Residency.

The conference's international dimension was marked by the presence of some of the world's most recognised specialists in these fields: Anna Heringer, architect and UNESCO honorary professor, internationally acclaimed for sustainable architecture; Mary Reynolds, landscape designer and founder of the We Are The ARK movement; Fernando Laposse, a Mexican designer known for developing regenerative materials from natural resources; and Rui Coutinho, Chief Innovation Officer and executive board member at Mota-Engil Next, who brought the perspective of innovation applied to industry. The programme also included dozens of scientific presentations, exhibitions, thematic sessions and opportunities for dialogue between academia, businesses and public decision-makers.

More than hosting a scientific conference, Guimarães became a genuine living laboratory for discussing how design can accelerate the green transition. The inclusion of Design Commit in the Guimarães 26 programme demonstrated that creativity, knowledge and innovation are fundamental pillars for responding to contemporary environmental challenges and building smarter, more inclusive and resilient cities.

The message was clear: designing the future increasingly means learning from nature. This vision lies at the heart of the Guimarães 26 strategy and continues to position the city as an international reference in developing sustainable solutions for future generations.

# Energy Cities Annual Forum

**Guimarães welcomed the cities designing  
the Europe of the future**



Cities are on the front line of the response to climate change. They are where policies on mobility, energy, housing, food, circular economy and citizen participation are decided, and where the transition towards a more sustainable future can be accelerated. To discuss this transformative role, Guimarães hosted the Energy Cities Annual Forum from 28 to 30 April 2026. The event was organised by Energy Cities in partnership with the Municipality of Guimarães and Laboratório da Paisagem as part of Guimarães 26 European Green Capital.

The Annual Forum is a meeting place for cities, European institutions, experts, businesses and organisations working every day to accelerate climate neutrality. The 2026 edition was held under the theme "Nurturing the Roots", as part of the Grafting Cities initiative, which uses the metaphor of tree growth to show that resilient cities depend on strong roots: participatory governance, engaged communities, clean energy, robust local economies and public policies capable of responding to today's environmental and social challenges.

Over three days, Guimarães brought together 305 participants of 35 nationalities, from Portugal to Ukraine and from Ireland to Georgia, as well as Spain, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Austria, Poland, Hungary and many other European countries. They took part in plenary sessions, debates, working sessions and technical visits across the territory. Participants saw first-hand some of the projects that make Guimarães a European reference in climate action, including energy communities, sustainable housing, circular economy initiatives, solutions for decarbonising public facilities, community gardens and examples of

urban regeneration. Together, these projects demonstrated how the city's strategy is being translated into initiatives with a direct impact on people's quality of life.

The programme also included several side events dedicated to urban resilience: SPARKLE – Sustainable Planning and Resilience Knowledge Learning Environment; SGA2 NZC – Better Funding Dialogues; SHAPE II – Affordable Housing Initiative; and ASCEND/CoM. Mayors, elected local representatives and representatives of European institutions also attended, reinforcing the role of local governments as leaders of the climate transition. Alongside the technical sessions, private meetings for municipal leaders and the Energy Cities General Assembly consolidated Guimarães as a key setting for cooperation between European cities.

One of the most memorable moments took place on the evening of 29 April, when Oliveira Square became a stage for light, sound and technology. The public was invited on a sensory journey where nature, innovation and sustainability came together in a visual narrative inspired by the One Planet City vision. Above all, the moment symbolised Guimarães' ability to unite culture, creativity and climate action in the same space.

By hosting one of Europe's most important gatherings on the energy transition and urban sustainability, Guimarães strengthened its international position as a city where public policy is supported by knowledge, innovation and co-operation. More than a host, it established itself as an example of how cities can lead the green transformation, inspiring other territories to build more resilient, inclusive communities that are better prepared for the future.

# Landscape Forum

**A territory where the landscape is considered,  
experienced and transformed**



The landscape is far more than the backdrop to our lives. It is a shared heritage, shaped by the relationship between communities, nature and territory, and it plays a decisive role in responding to the challenges of climate change, biodiversity and quality of life. To reflect on this vision, Guimarães hosted another edition of the Landscape Forum from 6 to 9 May 2026, an international gathering included in the Guimarães 26 programme.

The event took place at Laboratório da Paisagem, with activities held at several locations around the city, and was organised by Laboratório da Paisagem in partnership with the LE Institute, the University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro, Commonsense and KultúrAktív Egyesület.

Recognised as one of the leading international gatherings devoted to landscape architecture, spatial planning and the sustainable transformation of landscapes, the Forum brought together researchers, landscape architects, urban planners, students and professionals from several countries to share knowledge, methods and experiences related to building more resilient and inclusive cities. The 2026 edition placed the democratic transformation

of the landscape at the heart of the debate, reflecting on how territories should be designed with and for their communities.

Over four days, the programme combined conferences, international working groups, field visits and public participation, allowing participants to learn about the reality of Guimarães and work on concrete challenges across the territory. One of the event's defining features was this practical component, which took working groups into the city's urban and natural spaces and involved the local community in identifying opportunities for a more sustainable landscape. The results were then presented and discussed with policymakers and specialists, strengthening the connection between research, citizen participation and public policy.

By hosting the Landscape Forum, Guimarães once again established itself as a territory of experimentation, innovation and international cooperation. More than welcoming a scientific gathering, the city reinforced its role as a living laboratory for sustainability, where knowledge produced by academia engages with the territory and is transformed into concrete solutions to environmental challenges.

# Eco Parliament 2026

**Giving young people a voice to  
transform the territory**



Building a more sustainable city means involving those who will live in it over the coming decades. Eco Parliament is an initiative of the Municipality of Guimarães and Laboratório da Paisagem, included in PEGADAS – Guimarães Environmental Education Programme. For eleven editions, it has mobilised the school community to think and act on the territory's environmental challenges. In 2026, as part of Guimarães 26, the project once again established itself as one of the municipality's most important examples of youth civic participation.

Throughout the school year, pupils from Guimarães school clusters worked closely with their local communities to identify environmental problems and develop concrete solutions. Parish councils, associations, municipal companies and local businesses took part in many of the projects, using a collaborative approach that brings schools closer to the community and turns pupils into genuine agents of change. The proposals covered biodiversity, the circular economy, the enhancement of natural resources,

sustainable mobility, green spaces and environmental citizenship.

The final session of the 11th edition was held on 15 May in the University of Minho's Main Auditorium, bringing together the finalist projects for a public presentation and exchange of experiences. One of the most memorable moments was the debate between the young parliamentarians and the Mayor of Guimarães, Ricardo Araújo, who responded directly to the students' questions and listened to their proposals for the city's future. This exercise in active citizenship showed how sustainability is built through dialogue, participation and the ability to turn ideas into concrete action.

The 2026 edition concluded with awards for the winning projects, which now move into the implementation phase with support from the Municipality. More than a competition, Eco Parliament continues to establish itself as a genuine school of citizenship, where young people learn that a sustainable future depends on everyone's involvement.

# International Conference on Sustainability in Sport

**When sport steps up for  
the environment**



Sport is one of the most powerful tools for social mobilisation. Its ability to influence behaviour, promote healthy lifestyles and engage millions of people makes it a natural ally in addressing environmental challenges. This conviction inspired the International Conference on Sustainability in Sport, promoted by Guimarães 26 and held at Teatro Jordão on 14 May 2026. The event brought together experts, leaders, researchers and representatives from the sports sector to reflect on sport's contribution to building more sustainable societies.

Over a full day, the conference discussed the decarbonisation of sports infrastructure, the sustainable organisation of events, reducing the environmental footprint of competitions, applying the circular economy to sport, and the role of clubs in promoting environmental citizenship. Among the participants was the Secretary of State for Sport, as well as representatives of the Portuguese Olympic Committee, national federations, sports associations, clubs, municipalities and higher education institutions, creating a space for dialogue between sectors that rarely come together in the same discussion.

Beyond strategic reflection, the conference gave a voice to organisations that presented concrete examples of good practices already implemented in Portugal. These showed that sustainability is no longer simply an environmental concern, but has become part of the day-to-day management of clubs, facilities and major sporting events. The exchange of experiences highlighted sport's role not only in reducing environmental impact, but also in raising awareness among communities of more sustainable lifestyles.

The conference represented another step in diversifying the Guimarães 26 programme, extending the sustainability debate to a sector with enormous social influence. By bringing together policymakers, sports leaders, researchers and athletes around a shared agenda, Guimarães once again established itself as a territory that encourages dialogue between different fields of knowledge, demonstrating that the climate transition is built with contributions from every part of society.

# European Urban Resilience Forum (EURESFO)

**Guimarães brought Europe together to consider the future of urban resilience**



European cities are now on the front line of climate change. Increasingly intense heatwaves, forest fires, prolonged droughts and extreme weather events have made adaptation and resilience unavoidable priorities for local governments. Against this background, Guimarães hosted the 13th European Urban Resilience Forum (EURESFO), Europe's leading conference on urban resilience and climate adaptation, from 17 to 19 June at Multiusos de Guimarães.

Organised by ICLEI Europe, the European Environment Agency and the Municipality of Guimarães as part of Guimarães 26, the event brought together 420 participants from 42 countries, turning the city into one of Europe's leading centres for debate on the future of climate action. Those attending included representatives of local governments, European institutions, universities, research centres, non-governmental organisations and international experts: 83 representatives of municipalities and local authorities, 48 researchers, 95 civil society organisations and 16 European and international organisations.

Under the theme "Moving Beyond Adaptation: Integrated Approaches to Resilience", EURESFO 2026 sought to demonstrate that responding to climate change requires far more than isolated adaptation measures. Over three days, participants considered new ways of embedding resilience in public policy by connecting spatial planning, biodiversity protection, health, risk management, innovation and citizen participation.

The programme featured more than 140 speakers across four plenary sessions, eight parallel sessions and 12 workshops. It was complemented by a marketplace with 25 exhibitors, where European cities and organisations presented innovative projects in climate action, nature-based solutions, governance and adaptation. At the same time, 120 participants explored the territory through four technical visits to some of Guimarães' most emblematic projects, including the Biocultural Corridor, the regeneration of Monte Latito, Laboratório da Paisagem's sustainable soil initiatives and the natural landscape of Penha Mountain.

Throughout the conference, Guimarães was more than a host: it became an example. The "One Planet City" vision guiding the European Green Capital year was presented as a governance model that brings citizens, academia, businesses and public administration together to build a more sustainable and resilient territory. This vision featured throughout the programme and inspired many of the participating cities.

By hosting one of the world's most important forums devoted to resilient cities, Guimarães strengthened its position as a European reference in sustainability and urban innovation. More than a space for debate, EURESFO 2026 confirmed the city's ability to bring knowledge together, promote international cooperation and establish itself as a territory where solutions to climate challenges move beyond discussion and begin to be implemented.

# CIVITAS Summer Course 2026

**Guimarães placed real challenges at the heart of European urban mobility**



Urban mobility lies at the heart of the transformation of European cities. Reducing emissions, encouraging more sustainable forms of transport, and ensuring accessible, safe and efficient journeys require new solutions, as well as the ability to involve citizens, institutions and decision-makers in shaping more effective public policy. Building cities that are closer to people's needs depends on this combination of knowledge, innovation and participation.

Against this backdrop, Guimarães hosted the CIVITAS Summer Course 2026 from 29 June to 2 July. This international initiative by the European Commission's CIVITAS network brought together experts, municipal officers, researchers and mobility professionals from several European countries. For four days, Laboratório da Paisagem became a space for learning, cooperation and the development of responses to some of the main challenges facing sustainable urban mobility.

Under the theme "Lobbying and Advocacy", the 2026 edition highlighted the importance of communication, influence and the mobilisation of different stakeholders in implementing mobility policies. The programme combined training sessions, technical visits and collaborative work using an action-learning methodology. This connected European reflection with concrete problems and encouraged participants to build solutions together that could be applied in different territories.

Guimarães played a pivotal role by presenting three real challenges facing the municipality: improving connections between the Bus Terminal and Railway Station; promoting safer, more inclusive and independent school mobility for children and young people; and identifying solutions for more efficient urban logistics in the historic centre, balancing economic activity with the protection of UNESCO-listed heritage. Working in multidisciplinary teams, participants analysed these cases and developed proposals that were presented to the Municipality at the end of the course.

By hosting the CIVITAS Summer Course, Guimarães reinforced the international recognition of the progress it has made in sustainable mobility. As European Green Capital 2026, the city once again established itself as a living laboratory, able to open the territory to experimentation, learn from other cities and transform local challenges into opportunities for European cooperation.

More than a training programme, the gathering demonstrated that future mobility cannot be built in isolation. It is built through sharing knowledge, involving communities and cities working together, with a vision that places people at the heart of decisions and contributes to a more sustainable, accessible and inclusive territory.

# Extremo Festival

**From sunrise to nightfall, art moved through the Falperra landscape**



Some places cannot be defined by administrative boundaries. Falperra, a territory shared by Guimarães and Braga, is one of them: a landscape shaped by its natural heritage, religious buildings and an identity built on both sides of the mountain. It was in this setting that Festival Extremo once again brought music, art and landscape together as part of the Guimarães 26 European Green Capital programme.

Held on 18 July, Extremo maintained the format that makes it distinctive: a day-long route, resembling a short pilgrimage, which began at sunrise and continued into the night. Rather than gathering the audience around a single stage, the festival invited people to move through the territory, listen to its places and discover artistic creation in constant dialogue with Falperra's natural and cultural surroundings.

The programme brought together exploratory and electronic music concerts, sound journeys, performances and installations by artists including Alessandro Cortini, Shane Parish, Calcutá, Joana de Sá, Molero, Valentina Magaletti, Debit, Adriana Sá and Pedro Augusto. The artistic programme was complemented by a walk, workshops, a study circle, a guided visit exploring local fauna and flora, and conversations.

These expanded the experience beyond music and brought audiences closer to the landscape's different dimensions.

The territory itself became part of the creative work. Chapels, paths, clearings and meeting places were no longer merely a backdrop, but played an active role in the festival experience. By blurring boundaries between municipalities, artistic genres, heritage and nature, Extremo showed how culture can awaken new ways of observing, feeling and interpreting a place.

The festival's inclusion in the European Green Capital programme strengthened this relationship between contemporary creation and sustainability. Protecting a landscape also means getting to know it, travelling through it and forming bonds with it. By offering a free, open artistic experience, Extremo brought different audiences closer to a shared territory and valued the landscape as a place of encounter, reflection and belonging.

More than hosting a festival, Guimarães once again established culture as part of the green transition: a culture that does not exist apart from the territory, but listens to it, reveals it and helps build a more conscious relationship between people and nature.

# 11<sup>th</sup> Casa das Ciências Meeting

**Sustainability is also learned  
and transformed in the classroom**



Preparing more sustainable cities requires citizens who can understand the complexity of environmental challenges, question existing models and help develop new solutions. Schools play a decisive role in this process. Through scientific knowledge, curiosity and critical thinking, new generations acquire the tools they need to act on the world around them.

With this vision, Guimarães hosted the 11th Casa das Ciências Meeting from 7 to 9 July, one of Portugal's most important events devoted to teacher training in the sciences. Included in the Guimarães 26 European Green Capital programme, the gathering took place at Centro Cultural Vila Flor and Martins Sarmento Secondary School, bringing together hundreds of teachers, researchers and specialists from different fields of knowledge.

Under the theme "For One Planet Cities: Mobility, Sustainability, Resources and Governance in an Educational Context", the programme connected education with the major challenges facing cities. Over three days, it included conferences, debates, round tables, collaborative planning sessions, project presentations and more than 40 accredited training workshops, creating a space for learning, experimentation and exchange between professionals from across the country.

Guimarães was also presented as a case study of a city seeking to turn knowledge into action. Laboratório da Paisagem specialists took part in a panel devoted to sustainable cities, while the conference "Guimarães 26 – A One Planet City" presented the city's journey towards the European Green Capital title, together with projects and policies that are transforming the municipality into a living laboratory for sustainability. Climate action, mobility, natural resources, biodiversity, digital technologies and artificial intelligence were among the themes explored during the meeting.

Organised by Casa das Ciências, Martins Sarmento Secondary School and the Martins Sarmento Training Centre, the initiative strengthened collaborative networks between schools, universities and institutions. By involving teachers from different regions, it allowed the knowledge and methods shared in Guimarães to reach many other educational communities, multiplying the impact of the European Green Capital beyond the territory.

More than hosting a national gathering, Guimarães reaffirmed education as one of the driving forces of the climate transition. Building a One Planet City also begins in the classroom, through teachers and pupils who are better informed, more engaged and prepared to turn knowledge into change.

# Memories of the Landscape Exhibition

**The images from the past help us understand the landscape we want for the future**



A landscape is not a fixed reality. It changes over time, follows changes in society and retains the marks of the relationship between communities and territory. Looking at its different forms over the decades allows us to understand the history of a place, recognise what has been lost, value what remains and reflect on what we want to preserve for the future.

This perspective inspired the “Memories of the Landscape” exhibition, included in the Guimarães 26 European Green Capital programme and on display in the Gardens of Palácio Vila Flor until the end of September. The exhibition brings together photographs from the Muralha Association collection that document the evolution of the Guimarães landscape and reveal different moments in the municipality’s recent history.

Each image bears witness to the territory. Urban spaces, fields, paths, natural features and patterns of land use reveal how Guimarães has changed and how human activity has shaped the landscape. More than presenting a chronological record, the exhibition invites visitors to compare different eras, identify continuities and changes, and reflect on the shared responsibility to protect natural and cultural heritage.

The opening featured a performance by the Guimarães Orchestra, which presented “Echoes of the Seasons” in a dialogue between music and nature. The serenity of Sibelius, Vivaldi’s descriptive power, Britten’s energy and Mozart’s lightness created a soundscape in harmony with the garden, giving a new sensory dimension to the exhibition’s visual memories. The meeting of photography, music and nature transformed the opening into a celebration of culture and territory, open to the whole community.

Promoted by Guimarães 26, the Muralha Association, Laboratório da Paisagem and A Oficina, with the support of the Municipality of Guimarães, the initiative brought heritage, artistic creation and sustainability together. By placing the exhibition in public space, it made these memories accessible to the community and invited every visitor to recognise the landscape as part of their own identity.

More than revisiting the past, “Memories of the Landscape” offered a more attentive look at the present. Understanding how a territory has changed is also a way of accepting responsibility for its future and recognising that the landscape is a shared heritage, built by many generations and entrusted to those that follow.

# Rock no Rio Febras

**When music mobilises  
an entire community**



Music festivals are, nowadays, much more than entertainment. They are also opportunities to promote good environmental practices, raise public awareness of sustainability and engage the community in creating events with a lower environmental impact. Rock no Rio Febras has established itself as an example of this evolution, making environmental responsibility part of its identity.

Included in the Guimarães 26 European Green Capital programme, the festival once again brought thousands of people together in an environment where music, culture and sustainability came together naturally. In addition to the musical line-up, the event included measures encouraging more responsible behaviour by promoting waste reduction, recycling, the reuse of materials and respect for the place where it was held.

Over the years, Rock no Rio Febras has shown that a large-scale festival can combine entertainment, community involvement and environmental concern. Its commitment to more sustainable practices extended to the

organisation of the venue, resource management and public awareness, reinforcing the importance of every participant in reducing the event's environmental footprint.

The festival's inclusion in the European Green Capital programme strengthened this journey, demonstrating that culture can play an active role in the transition towards more sustainable development models. Through music and community participation, Rock no Rio Febras also became a space for environmental education, bringing new audiences closer to the values of sustainability in an accessible, informal way.

More than a festival, Rock no Rio Febras represents the dynamism of local associations and the community's capacity to create initiatives with a positive impact on the territory. By combining culture, citizenship and environmental responsibility, it continues to establish itself as a reference in the municipality's cultural landscape and as an example of how major events can contribute to a more sustainable future.

# OpenFOAM®

**The science that makes it possible to simulate complex problems and accelerate new solutions**

SUPPORTERS

Laboratório  
da Paisagem

[26] Guimarães 26  
European Green Capital



Understanding the behaviour of air, water, heat and other fluids is essential to responding to challenges in fields such as energy, industry, mobility, construction, health and the environment. Computational fluid dynamics makes it possible to reproduce these phenomena digitally, test scenarios and refine solutions before applying them in the real world, reducing the time, resources and uncertainty involved in research and development.

Against this background, Guimarães hosted the 21st OpenFOAM® Workshop from 29 June to 3 July, one of the world's leading gatherings devoted to OpenFOAM® technology and computational fluid dynamics. Organised by the University of Minho's Institute for Polymers and Composites, the event brought users, developers, researchers, engineers and students from academia and industry together at Centro Cultural Vila Flor.

Created in 2006, the workshop has become a meeting place for an international community that uses and develops this open-source software. The Guimarães edition included plenary sessions, scientific presentations, posters, high-performance computing challenges and training courses for beginners, experienced users and developers, strengthening the open exchange of knowledge and the collective evolution of the technology.

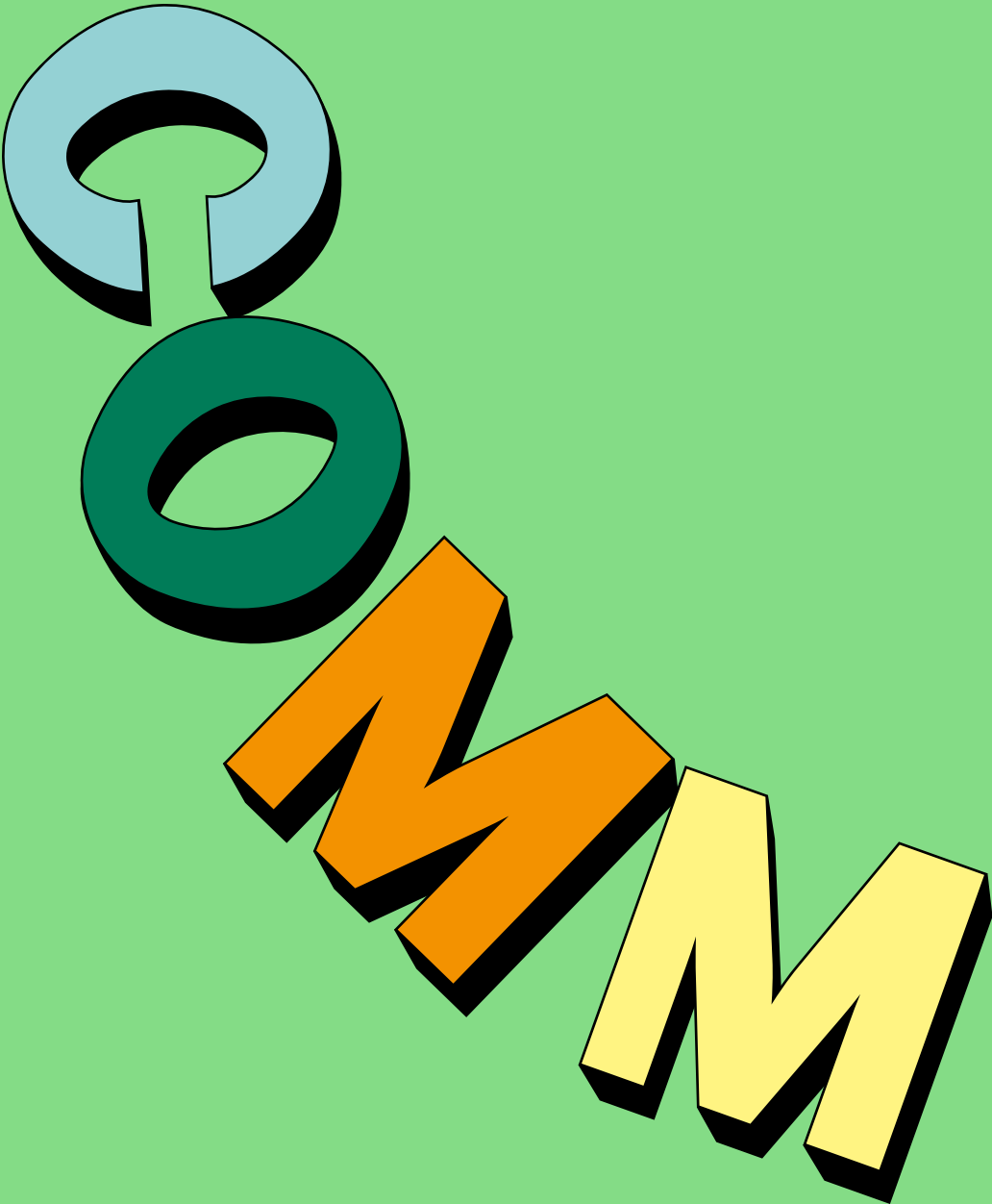
The programme covered topics as varied as heat and mass transfer, aerodynamics, multiphase flows, combustion, civil engineering, wind energy, coastal and offshore applications, high-performance computing, data-driven modelling, additive manufacturing and biomedical applications. This diversity demonstrated the breadth of computational simulation and its capacity to support process optimisation, energy efficiency, the development of renewable energy and more responsible use of resources.

Hosting the gathering in Guimarães also strengthened the connection between the city and the University of Minho, valuing knowledge produced locally and connecting research with international scientific and industrial networks. As European Green Capital 2026, Guimarães demonstrated that the transition to a more sustainable future also depends on science, the capacity to experiment and cooperation between universities, businesses and institutions.

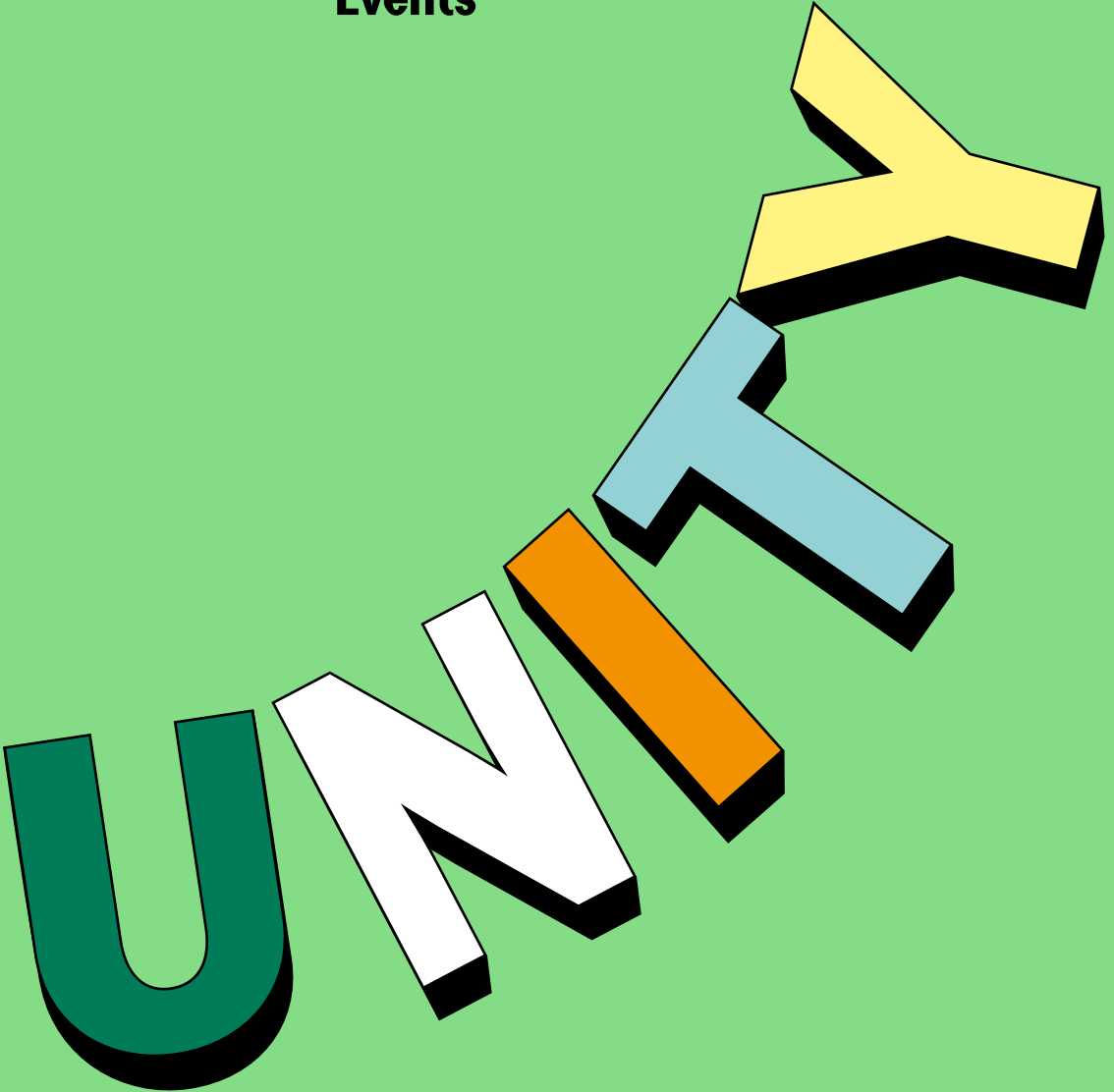
More than welcoming a specialised scientific community, the city created space for sharing tools that help turn complex problems into concrete solutions. The gathering strengthened Guimarães' position as a territory of knowledge and innovation, where research helps imagine, test and build more efficient responses to the challenges of the future.







## Community Events



Sustainability takes on a real meaning when it becomes action. In Guimarães, the European Green Capital year has been the starting point for new community-led initiatives, reflecting creativity, commitment and a desire to contribute to a more sustainable territory.

Over recent months, the municipality has hosted a diverse range of events that brought people, institutions and associations together around shared goals. Each activity provided an opportunity to exchange knowledge, create new partnerships and demonstrate that building a greener city depends on everyone's involvement.





## ENTRE

Some projects are created to return a space to the community. ENTRE – Community Gathering, a decentralised Guimarães 26 proposal promoted by the Movita association, transformed Caldas das Taipas Leisure Park and its surroundings into a place for meeting, participation and collective creation. It invited the community to rediscover the territory through a programme combining culture, sport, nature and citizenship. Over three days, ENTRE featured concerts, creative sessions, workshops, debates, sporting activities, yoga, canoeing, capoeira, show cooking and environmental awareness activities for different audiences. With the participation of associations, artists, institutions and local projects, the event reinforced the importance of collaboration in building a more sustainable, inclusive and participatory territory.



## **Plantasia**

A living greenhouse in the heart of the city: this was how Plantasia – Living Pavilion, promoted by the CAV collective, transformed Trovador Square into a meeting place between the community and nature. Designed as an art installation, the project brought together a variety of plant species and invited visitors to discover the importance of biodiversity and the relationship between people and plants. One of the initiative's most memorable features was the opportunity for community members to adopt a plant and follow its development over several weeks. The programme also included environmental education activities led by Curtir Ciência, musical moments and biodiversity monitoring, allowing participants to observe how the space evolved over time. More than a temporary installation, Plantasia established itself as a participatory project that encouraged care for nature and appreciation of biodiversity in urban space.



## **EcoPatas**

Dedicated to animal welfare, sustainability and more conscious lifestyles, EcoPatas brought families, associations, professionals and animal lovers together over two days in an atmosphere of exchange, learning and socialising. It was another community proposal included in the Guimarães 26 programme.

The programme included talks by veterinary surgeons, trainers and animal behaviour specialists; sessions on conscious eating; animals presented for adoption; a charity dog walk; storytelling for children; magic shows; live music; and awareness activities promoting animal protection and respect. Visits to the Municipal Animal Shelter (CRO) also brought the community closer to the reality of responsible adoption.

More than a festival, EcoPatas established itself as a place for meeting and reflection, demonstrating that animal welfare forms part of a broader vision of sustainability in which care for animals, people and the environment go hand in hand.



WEEK 2026



Comité régional de la Loire-Atlantique

re.st

Les produits locaux

LAME

Ri

2.50€

20.00€

6.50€

Reergue

Reergue

Reergue

## Re-Erguer

Sustainability can also drive social inclusion. This is the principle behind Re-Erguer, a community project developed at Guimarães Prison. It currently involves ten prisoners in designing and producing unique bags and aprons made by repurposing textile waste donated by companies in the region. Based on circular economy principles, Re-Erguer gives new purpose to materials that would otherwise be discarded while helping participants acquire technical and professional skills. Alongside its environmental dimension, the initiative helps prepare prisoners for social and professional reintegration, proving that sustainability is also built by creating opportunities and valuing people.



## **Verde Vento, Verde Lento**

Dance, organic movement and sensory awareness came together in Verde Vento, Verde Lento, a community project that created an inclusive artistic experience. Developed over three months with participants from CERCIGUI – CACI and the Alecrim CACI/Residential Home of Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Guimarães, the initiative explored the relationship between the body, nature and artistic expression, drawing inspiration from wind, natural rhythms and the landscape. Under the artistic direction of Rosana Pereira, the project created opportunities for listening, creativity and discovery, valuing the participation of people with disabilities through art. The process culminated in a collective performance presented during Green Week, demonstrating how culture can be a powerful tool for inclusion, participation and sustainability awareness.



## **VeganAve**

At Oliveira Square, Vegan Ave has become a meeting place devoted to plant-based food, sustainability and conscious consumption. The cooperative market brings producers, cooks, local projects and visitors together, encouraging reflection on the relationship between food, territory and the Ave Valley ecosystem.

Following the success of its first editions, Vegan Ave continues to form part of the Guimarães 26 programme and has consolidated its role in promoting more sustainable lifestyles. Alongside its range of plant-based products, the market includes tastings, show cooking, conversations and activities open to the community, creating a space for sharing knowledge and valuing more responsible, conscious food choices.



## **Cadernos Vivos**

Cadernos Vivos invited the community to rediscover the nature of Guimarães through drawing, observation and artistic expression. Throughout the six-month period, the project held outdoor workshops in different natural spaces across the municipality, encouraging participants of all ages to explore the landscape and record its elements on paper. Using an approach that combines art, education and environmental awareness, the project sought to strengthen the connection between people and the territory, demonstrating that careful observation of nature can be a form of knowledge, creativity and appreciation of natural heritage. Each workshop was an invitation to slow down, look more closely at our surroundings and collectively build a true “Living Notebook” of Guimarães.

# Green Brigades



**An increasingly mobilised  
community**

The Green Brigades continue to establish themselves as one of Guimarães' most widely supported projects promoting sustainability and active citizenship. Made up of volunteers, associations and parish councils, these teams carry out environmental awareness activities, clean-ups, tree planting, improvements to natural spaces and biodiversity protection, strengthening the relationship between the community and the territory.

Over recent months, the project gained new momentum with the creation of five new Green Brigades: Airão São João; Sande São Clemente; Selho São Lourenço and Gominhães; Azurém; and Santa Eufémia de Prazins. Guimarães being named European Green Capital 2026 also encouraged several parishes to reactivate brigades that had become less active, taking on a more dynamic role in implementing environmental initiatives and mobilising residents.

This growth shows that sustainability is built through the involvement of local communities. By embracing new challenges and promoting activities to protect the environment, parish councils strengthen the shared commitment to a greener, more resilient and participatory territory.

Today, the Green Brigades are much more than volunteer groups. They are a network of citizens committed to caring for their territory and one of the main legacies of European Green Capital 2026.







# Green Week 2026

GREEN WEEK 2026

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**Four days breathing  
sustainability**



**From 4 to 7 June, Guimarães hosted another edition of Green Week, one of the landmark moments in the European Green Capital 2026 programme.**



**For four days, Alameda de S. Dâmaso became a meeting place devoted to sustainability, bringing thousands of participants together around a programme that combined knowledge, culture, leisure and participation.**

**Conferences, debates, environmental education workshops, a sustainable market, a food area, activities for children and families, and an immersive show demonstrated that sustainability can be experienced in a practical, accessible and participatory way.**

GREEN WEEK 2026

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**The programme also included concerts by João Pedro Pais, Rita Rocha and Ana Bacalhau, bringing culture closer to environmental issues and attracting audiences of all ages.**





**Sustainable mobility was another highlight, with free public transport during the event encouraging more environmentally friendly ways of travelling.**



**Throughout the four days, the initiative also promoted the exchange of good practices and dialogue between citizens, specialists, companies and institutions, reinforcing Guimarães' role as a territory of innovation and environmental commitment.**

**More than an event, the Green Week established itself as a celebration of sustainability and civic participation. In a year when Guimarães holds the European Green Capital title, it served as a reminder that change is achieved through collective action and everyone's commitment.**

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# Human

# Logo

**More than 400 municipal employees and staff from municipal companies and associated organisations came together to form the human logo of Guimarães 26 European Green Capital, in a moment that symbolised a spirit of unity and shared commitment to sustainability.**

**The initiative was attended by the Mayor of Guimarães, Ricardo Araújo, and the councillors responsible for the relevant portfolios, reinforcing the involvement of the entire municipal structure in a project that extends far beyond a European title. The human logo represented the strength of a community working every day to build a more sustainable, inclusive city that is better prepared for the future.**

**More than a striking image, the action reflected the values guiding the European Green Capital: participation, cooperation and shared responsibility.**

**Each participant helped shape a symbol representing a shared vision and a commitment embraced by all, proving that Guimarães 26 is, above all, a project made by people and for people.**

**Building a more sustainable future is a collective challenge, and change takes shape through each person's contribution.**





Respira.  
(Inspira)

# **Green Spaces, Greenways, Gardens and Parks**

The territory is one of the pillars of Guimarães' sustainable transformation. The creation and redevelopment of greenways, parks, gardens and green spaces has brought the city closer to nature, promoting a better quality of life and new ways of enjoying public space.

These interventions strengthen active mobility, enhance the environment and contribute to a more balanced, accessible and healthy city. At the same time, investment in tree management and new technologies makes it possible to care more effectively for the municipality's natural heritage. Taken together, these projects are helping to build a greener Guimarães that is better prepared for the future.

# Ave River Greenway

Parishes of Silvares and Brito

The development of the Ave River Greenway is contributing to the strategy for enhancing the municipality's river corridors and forms part of a larger project that continues to expand along the Ave River. The intervention restored and improved the riverbanks, creating a continuous green corridor for walking and cycling while restoring native vegetation, improving the riparian corridor and strengthening ecological connectivity between habitats. In addition to its environmental benefits, including ecosystem protection, increased biodiversity, improved water and soil quality, and greater resilience to climate change, the greenway is now an important space for recreation, leisure and sustainable mobility that brings people closer to the river. It represents a significant step in consolidating the municipality's green infrastructure, whose continued expansion is strengthening the ecological network and publicly accessible green spaces.





## Selho River Greenway

Parishes of Selho de S. Lourenço and Fermentões

In the parishes of Selho de S. Lourenço and Fermentões, the development of the Selho River Greenway also forms part of a larger strategy to enhance the municipality's ecological corridors, as one phase of a project that continues to be developed along the Selho River. The intervention restored and improved the riverbanks by rehabilitating riparian vegetation, planting native species and applying nature-based engineering solutions that help stabilise the banks and improve the ecosystem's ecological functions. A continuous walking and cycling route was also created, promoting active mobility and bringing residents into closer contact with nature. The results include greater biodiversity, stronger ecological connectivity, protection of water resources and the creation of a green space of significant environmental and social value, integrated into a network of greenways that continues to grow and consolidate the municipality's green infrastructure.

# Levadas Park

The development of Parque das Levadas restored and enhanced an unused plot beside the Ave River, transforming approximately 4,300 square metres into a new multifunctional green space. The project's main objective was to rehabilitate abandoned land and strengthen urban green infrastructure through recreational areas, walking routes, spaces for contemplation and opportunities for contact with nature. The intervention prioritised native species, permeable surfaces and low-impact environmental solutions, contributing to increased biodiversity, improved rainwater infiltration, stronger ecological connectivity and climate change mitigation. For residents, the park is now an important space for leisure, recreation and environmental education, promoting healthy lifestyles and a closer relationship between the community and the territory's natural values.





## Pencelo Leisure Park

The development of Pencelo Leisure Park transformed a former agricultural area into a new green space of approximately 2,000 square metres. Integrated into the River Selho Greenway, it was designed to provide an accessible, sustainable space of high landscape quality. The intervention prioritised the ecological restoration of the site through the planting of native species, the creation of meadows and shrub areas, and the planting of new trees, promoting greater biodiversity and carbon capture. The park now offers recreational areas, places to rest, walking routes and spaces overlooking the river. It provides residents with new opportunities for leisure, social interaction and contact with nature, while strengthening ecosystem services, soil protection and the environmental quality of the Selho River corridor.

# Quinta de Ponte Forest Park

The development of Quinta de Ponte Forest Park formed part of a strategy to renaturalise the Agrela Creek and Febras River, promoting the ecological restoration of riverbanks and enhancing the municipality's green infrastructure. The intervention created a new green area connected to existing ecological corridors and included within a project covering approximately nine kilometres of renaturalised waterways. The restoration of riparian vegetation, control of invasive species, planting of native species and rehabilitation of degraded areas significantly improved the ecological quality of the ecosystems, increasing connectivity between habitats and improving resilience to climate change and flooding. For residents, the park is now an outstanding space for recreation, enjoying nature, environmental education and appreciation of natural and cultural heritage.







# **Urban Tree Management**

**Science in the service of trees**

Urban trees are essential to the environmental quality of cities. In addition to enhancing public space, trees improve air quality, help reduce temperatures on the hottest days, support biodiversity and make urban spaces more comfortable and pleasant for residents.

In Guimarães, tree management has taken on an increasingly strategic role through an approach that combines technical knowledge, continuous monitoring and new technologies. It aims to preserve this natural heritage more efficiently and sustainably, while adapting to the challenges of climate change.

Management is coordinated by the Urban Tree Management Office at Laboratório da Paisagem, with the support of a specialised multidisciplinary team.



**Tree monitoring is based on scientific knowledge and advanced diagnostic techniques, allowing the municipality to manage its tree heritage more rigorously, preventively and sustainably.**

#### **Diagnosis without damage**

Non-destructive diagnostic equipment is used to assess tree health and stability. Sonic tomography analyses the inside of a trunk through the propagation of sound waves, identifying cavities, decay or areas of rot that are not visible to the naked eye. When a more detailed analysis is required, a resistograph measures the resistance of the wood through a very small, low-impact drilling process, providing precise information about the tree's internal structure and supporting decisions on maintenance and safety.

#### **Aerial monitoring**

Technological innovation also makes continuous monitoring of the municipality's tree heritage possible. Using unmanned aerial systems and multispectral sensors, the municipality can assess canopy vitality and detect potential disease or water stress at an early stage, providing a faster and more rigorous analysis of the entire area of vegetation.

#### **Intelligent management of the territory**

The information collected is integrated into Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and complemented by satellite imagery, allowing changes in the municipality's tree cover to be monitored over time. These tools support the planning of interventions, help identify areas that are more vulnerable to urban heat and contribute to more efficient management of tree heritage.

#### **Technology and knowledge**

The convergence of digital tools and specialised technical expertise equips the municipality for strategic management, protecting a living legacy that is vital to the territory's resilience and the balance of its communities. In this way, Guimarães is consolidating its commitment to climate adaptation and sustainable development.





# **Hospitality Industry Best Practices**

**Sustainability applied to Guimarães  
hospitality and food service**

**The Hospitality sector plays a strategically important role in developing more resilient territories. New approaches to resource management, combined with reducing waste and encouraging conscious consumption patterns, bring direct benefits to the ecosystem and collective wellbeing.**

**In the context of Guimarães 26, the European distinction invites hospitality and food service establishments to strengthen their role as agents of change by integrating water-efficiency, decarbonisation and circular economy solutions into their daily operations. This section brings together good practices demonstrating how environmental commitment adds value to tourism operations and reinforces the municipality's sustainability strategy.**

**A city's transformation is achieved through the decisions and shared sense of responsibility of every stakeholder.**



## **Paraíso Villas Spa**

**Paraíso Villas Spa has strengthened its commitment to sustainability through concrete measures. With the seasonal opening of the pool bar, it began using reusable cups, reducing plastic and paper consumption, and now ensures that organic waste is collected through the service provided by the Municipality. To improve energy efficiency, Micro-Switch controllers were installed on the doors and windows of the villas. These automatically switch off the climate-control system whenever they are opened. A new charging point for electric vehicles was also installed, promoting more sustainable mobility.**



## **Eurostars Santa Luzia**

For Eurostars Santa Luzia, being part of Guimarães 26 means making a commitment to sustainability. The hotel has prioritised local suppliers, promoting the circular economy and helping reduce the carbon footprint associated with transporting goods. At the same time, it is implementing water and energy-efficiency practices, seeking to optimise resource use and minimise the environmental impact of its operations.



## **Hotel da Oliveira**

As part of its sustainability strategy, Hotel da Oliveira has been working closely with its suppliers, recognising the importance of the supply chain in reducing environmental impact. To promote more efficient use of resources and minimise waste at source, the hotel began monitoring and assessing the packaging associated with supplier deliveries, identifying opportunities for improvement throughout the supply chain.



## **Alameda Park**

**Alameda Park has implemented several measures to reduce its environmental impact. These include reducing the use of disposable materials and favouring reusable glass bottles over single-use packaging. The property also separates waste rigorously and uses water filtered by reverse osmosis, significantly reducing the use of plastic bottles. The installation of solar panels is also planned for this year, strengthening its investment in energy efficiency and the objectives of Guimarães 26 European Green Capital.**



## **Hotel de Guimarães & Hotel Fundador**

Hotel de Guimarães and Hotel Fundador have made sustainability a central pillar of their daily operations, proudly embracing this commitment as part of Guimarães 26. Both hotels already have photovoltaic panels, which provide 10% of their annual energy consumption. In waste management and plastic reduction, they have eliminated single-use packaging by implementing refill systems throughout the hotels. They also promote water savings and raise guest awareness through signage in guest rooms encouraging the responsible reuse of towels, complemented by flow restrictors on taps and smart toilet cisterns. These concrete actions demonstrate the active role of Hotel de Guimarães and Hotel Fundador in Guimarães' green transition.





# **From climate extremes to integrated resilience: Why cities like Guimarães make a difference**



**Rudd Schuthof**

**Deputy Regional Director, ICLEI Europe and Member of  
the Honorary Committee of the European Green Capital 2026**

As Europe experiences another intense heatwave, climate change is no longer a distant threat. Record temperatures, pressure on public health, water scarcity and increasing wildfire risks are becoming part of everyday life across the continent. Cities are called upon to respond not only to climate extremes, but also to housing pressures, ageing infrastructure, economic uncertainty and growing social inequalities. Increasingly, these challenges are interconnected, making it clear that isolated solutions are no longer enough and system change is needed.

It was against this backdrop that I travelled to Guimarães for the 13th edition of the European Urban Resilience Forum (EURESFO), ICLEI Europe's flagship event on urban resilience and climate adaptation. Over the past thirteen editions, the Forum has become Europe's leading platform for cities, experts and decision makers to exchange knowledge and develop practical solutions to the growing challenges facing local governments. This year's edition demonstrated once more how a host city itself can enrich those conversations. Guimarães did not simply provide the setting for the Forum; its own journey that resulted in becoming the 2026 European Green Capital offered a valuable perspective in the discussions.

Guimarães is widely recognised as the birthplace of Portugal, with a historic centre that has earned UNESCO World Heritage status. Like many European cities, it has also had to reinvent itself in response to industrial decline, environmental pressures, and changing economic realities. More than a decade ago, the city made a political commitment to place sustainability at the heart of its development. That decision evolved into the One Planet City vision: an ambition to become climate neutral by 2030 by integrating sustainability into every aspect of urban life, from mobility and biodiversity to education, innovation, culture and economic development.

What makes Guimarães particularly interesting is how it has approached the transition. Today's challenges rarely fit neatly into administrative structures and therefore require a systemic approach. Extreme heat affects public health, public spaces and energy demand. Flooding influences housing, mobility, and local economies. Biodiversity, meanwhile, underpins water management, air quality, and wellbeing.

One of the central messages emerging from EURESFO in Guimarães was that moving beyond adaptation does not mean adapting less, but it means recognising that adaptation is most effective when embedded within broader urban planning, social policy, nature restoration and economic development. Climate neutrality cannot be achieved through a single flagship project, but it needs to be integrated into decision-making across urban policies and projects.

The city's journey also demonstrates that lasting transformation begins with people. Before investing in physical infrastructure, Guimarães invested in building awareness and strengthening citizens' connection with sustainability. As Carlos Ribeiro from the Landscape Lab explains in a recent episode of ICLEI Europe's Local Voices for Sustainability podcast, the city's approach has developed through three complementary stages: first creating awareness and a shared sense of ownership, then transforming the territory through initiatives such as riverbank rehabilitation and nature restoration, and finally replicating

successful solutions across the municipality. This people-centred approach has helped create a strong local identity around sustainability, recognising that meaningful change depends as much on public engagement as it does on engineering or technology.

Guimarães's approach is furthermore built on multi-level governance and partnerships to support community investment. Universities, researchers, businesses and government work together to shape and deliver solutions, while the private sector has become an active investor in nature restoration and urban forests.

The city has also strengthened its preparedness for future risks in close cooperation between scientists, emergency services, land managers, and public authorities. This collaboration supports measures such as improved forest management and real-time environmental monitoring, helping Guimarães anticipate risks and respond more effectively.

Hosting EURESFO in this context felt like a natural continuation of the city's journey. The Forum has always been more than a conference. It is a place where cities exchange experience, challenge established thinking and adapt successful ideas to their own circumstances. The discussions held in Guimarães reflected a broader shift from sharing experiences towards building permanent structures for cooperation, exemplified by the recent operationalization of 27 National Adaptation Hubs across Europe, which are helping cities and governments coordinate climate adaptation across governance levels.

As Europe continues to experience more frequent extreme weather events, cities need to get prepared as they are on the frontline as first and last responders. Guimarães reminds us that meaningful progress begins with a long term vision, political continuity and the willingness to work across sectors and institutions. A medium-sized city, Guimarães shows that true transformation happens from the ground up and does not require a minimum city size nor a centralised steering. Its experience demonstrates that resilience grows through collaboration, long-term commitment and continuous learning—exactly the kind of exchange fostered through EURESFO, AdaptationHubs and the wider network of cities working together towards a more climate-resilient Europe.







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