

Appendix 2: Executive Summary

Project: "Inhabiting Heritage: The Implementation of the Local Housing Strategy in the Historic Center of Elvas"

A. Context and Objectives

Elvas, designated in 2012 by UNESCO as the "Frontier Town of Elvas and its Fortifications," faces challenges of residential abandonment, urban decay, and demographic aging within its historic center. To address this situation, the City Council developed the Municipal Housing Charter and the Local Housing Strategy, with the aim of rehabilitating and repopulating the Historic Center by promoting affordable housing, energy efficiency, and the attraction of new residents.

B. Monitoring Panel

The Municipal Housing Strategy included the identification of vacant and dilapidated properties, with the City Council having acquired 45 properties in the Historic Center. A monitoring panel was created based on technical audits, energy certifications, and lease agreements.

Of the 45 properties acquired, 20 have already been fully rehabilitated, 1 is in the final phase of construction, 1 is in the bidding process for construction, 20 are in the project development phase, 3 are in the initial project phase, and 25 properties remain to be rehabilitated. It is worth noting that the 20 properties already renovated have resulted in 35 new homes and the settlement of 35 new families in the Historic Center of Elvas.

C. Results and Progress

The strategy has made it possible to increase the housing supply, attract new residents, and revitalize the Historic Center of Elvas. The restoration of dilapidated buildings and the removal of ruins have also contributed to improving safety, enhancing the urban environment, and strengthening territorial cohesion.

D. Participating Entities

The Elvas City Council coordinates the Municipal Housing Strategy, with financial support from the Institute for Housing and Urban Regeneration (IHRU), under the Recovery and Resilience Plan (PRR). Residents also play an essential role, contributing to the social and urban revitalization of the Historic Center.

E. Financial Structure

The strategy is based on a diversified financial structure, combining funding from the Recovery and Resilience Plan (PRR) with the City Council's own resources. This approach has ensured the viability, continuity, and sustainability of urban and housing rehabilitation interventions in the Historic Center of Elvas.