



## Rota Vicentina

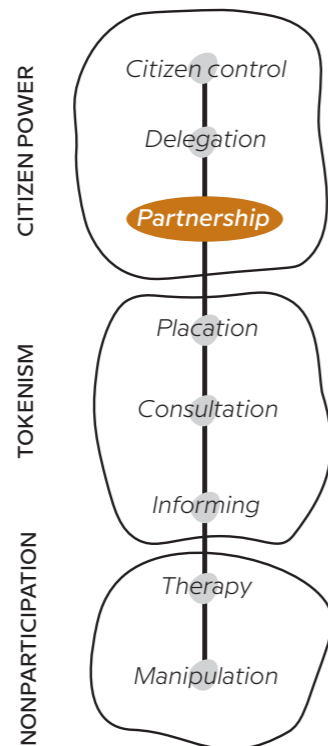
Rota Vicentina

LOCATION

**Southwest Alentejo and  
Vicentine Coast Natural Park**

TIME PERIOD

**Since 2012**



### THE PROJECT

Rota Vicentina is a project that has been implemented in the Southwest Alentejo and Vicentine Coast Natural Park (PNSACV). It is not located in one place, but rather entails several villages across the coast. In fact, it is composed of walking/hiking and cycling paths associated with local commerce, touristic activities and accommodation as well as cultural and natural activities. The project's aim is to promote economic growth and appreciation of the remote areas in the southern coastal and interior areas of Portugal.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE SPACE

The park where the project takes place was created on 7th July 1987. Inside this area, the villages that are part of Rota Vicentina can be defined as remote due to several factors: **low-density** (the villages have in general no more than 700 inhabitants), geographic isolation reinforced by a **lack of public transportation, low incomes** of the population and sometimes the low level of education. Obviously, natural landscapes are prevalent and **most public spaces that can be found here are directly linked with nature** (watersides, meadows, parks, ...).

### INITIATION AND ACTORS

In the frame of that project, a **variety of actors** have been involved. They are either **public**, such as counties, firefighters, police or **private**, such

as locals businesses, touristics operators of the local communities themselves.

### ROLE OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY & METHODS USED

The project consists of the use of a network of already existing paths that were mapped and further enhanced to promote the passage through these regions of the country. In order to keep up with the mission to protect nature, support the local economy, promote the culture and quality of life of the local communities, they created several touristic products related to walking (historical way, fishermen's trail, circular routes) and cycling. The local community has been involved in this project through local business that fulfil the needs of bikers/hikers and through some who allow a passage in their property. This **integration of the**

**local communities** in the several aspects that entail the project make them not only feel appreciated but **promotes their social, cultural and economical growth.**

### RESULT

The targeted impact was and is still being achieved. It is an **ongoing process that requires constant action and initiative from the local communities, the partners and the project itself.** Here, the main beneficiaries remain the local community, local businesses, the project partners and the territory that supports all these activities. Considering the positive impact on the communities and the growing interest in the project by either the Portuguese population or the foreign population as well, it is safe to conclude the **reactions of the general public were not only positive, but were indeed very satisfactory.**



Forest guards  
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Pedestrian Trail  
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Bikers  
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Agriculture  
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