

## SOCIAL INCLUSION OPPORTUNITIES

# NATURAL HERITAGE

### *collection of ideas*

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## MINHO RIVER INSIDE AND OUTSIDE DOORS

The Rio Minho Aquamuseum is a singularly important structure promoted by the Municipality of Vila Nova de Cerveira. Its mission is to preserve and promote, at the same time, the natural and cultural heritage of the river. The aquariums provide visitors a trip along the Minho River, from its source located in Spain, in the Cantabrian Mountains, in the hills of Meira, near to Lugo, to its mouth on Caminha.



The nine aquariums, each representing an area of the river, are exposed the most emblematic biotopes - in aquariums representing the high zone, can be seen, among other fish, trout and bogue; in representing the middle zone, where there is a barrage and a tributary, migratory fish such as salmon and lamprey; already in the downtown area, there are carp and black bass; in aquariums that portray the estuary of the Minho River, gray mullet, plaice and pejerrey fish; Finally, on the last tank, can be seen a representation of a tide pool after the mouth of the Minho river, with bass, bream, mussels and anemones. The lontrário also highlighted can be observed otters, mammals that inhabit this river and are very important to preserve.

The Aquamuseum is a guardian of the collective memory of the people of the Minho River. Here its known the history of the relationship of the population with the waters. On permanent display, tools and utensils of artisanal fisheries are found, since needles for nets, fishing rods, fishing traps and candles to various types of boats, from different years. In the collection, a series of documents related to artisanal fishing are observed, as ballots maritime inscription and records of ownership of boats, some of the 19th century.

## Opportunities

The Aquamuseum of Minho River organizes educational activities for schools and groups of citizens, and even has a research component. In collaboration with various institutions, national and international, has been conducting studies in several areas, over the Minho River. More than a simple international watercourse, Minho river presents itself as a vast secular heritage common to two sister peoples - Portugal and Spain - and an unparalleled potential for identity, history, economics, culture, environment and tourism.



Over the years, the Aquamuseum has developed several activities that directly or indirectly promote opportunities for social inclusion.



Among the various initiatives, the Aquamuseum is a partner entity within a project that aims to classify the *pesqueiras* (artisanal fishing) of Minho River, maintaining the emphasis on preserving knowledge, in order to guarantee its passage to the future generations. This is a living heritage, in danger of extinction, so in addition to the dynamics from an economic point of view, making fishing a reference for the tourism sector, this application presents itself as an opportunity to value this practice and simultaneously promote intergenerational inclusion among fishermen and young people, making it a unique moment for different generations to look back and enjoy the river.