

Study Visits and Final Seminar

25th. - 29th. October 2006

Vale do Lima (North Portugal) - Santiago de Compostela (Galiza-Spain) Final Report



An important milestone in the development of a European network of family-owned houses of character and historic interest for rural tourism was reached in October 2006 with the launch of an inspired project called Eurotrad “Europe of Traditions – a Bridge Between Euro Regions”.

The main objective of Eurotrad is the co-operation between the two regions of Portugal/Galicia and the Alps/Adriatic, its

rural tourism associations and house owners to strengthen and extend the concept of family accommodation in privately owned houses and at the same time help to preserve the precious national patrimony and cultural heritage.

The project stems from an initiative by ADRIL, the Association for Integrated Rural Development in the Lima Valley region of northern Portugal, in conjunction with the Xunta de Galicia, in Galicia, northern Spain, the three provinces of Udine, Belluno and Venezia in Italy, the regions of Niederosterreiche and ECO Plus in Austria, the city council of Lubjiana in Slovenia and the region of Vas County in Hungary.

These regions have helped to establish associations that will become members of the Europe of Traditions established 15 years ago and inspired by the concept of TURIHAB – Solares de Portugal.

A group of just over 30 members from the above mentioned regions and the respective rural tourism associations along with representatives from existing





partners of Europe of Traditions attended a three day event between October 25 and 29 in Portugal and Spain to herald the project.

It consisted of study visits in Galicia to three examples of the fine pazos, manor houses and mansions in the collection of

Casas Grandes de Hispania and similar visits to privately owned noble manor houses within the Solares de Portugal portfolio that reflect distinct chapters in the history of the country.

Many of the houses in the Europe of Traditions network are located on the ancient pilgrims routes throughout Europe that follow the 'Caminho de Santiago de Compostela' leading to the holy shrine in the Cathedral of Santiago in Galicia.



It was appropriate, therefore, that at the outset of the visit to Galicia the group participated in the midday Mass in the cathedral during which the incumbent priest gave his blessing to Eurotrad. Europe of Traditions, a gesture that was reciprocated by Francisco Calheiros, President of ADRIL.



After completing their tour of the houses in the Casas Grandes de Hispania the group attended a dinner in the city of Vigo hosted by the Mayor of the city and the President of the Banc Caixa Nova before returning to Ponte de Lima.



The itinerary on the second day included a visit to the equestrian centre in Ponte de Lima and visits to four solares – Casa do Outeiro, Casa do Baganheiro where lunch was served, Casa do Anquião and Casa das Torres. The group was welcomed by the owners of the respective houses.

The final day saw the group visit the Festival Gardens in Ponte de Lima plus a

tour of the TURIHAB – Solares de Portugal centre in the town.



(15) Spain (35) Slovenia (11) and
www.euopetraditions.eu was presented.

The final seminar took place in the afternoon at the Villa Moraes palace in Ponte de Lima attended by the partners of Eurotrad and the founders of Europe of Traditions.

Also in attendance was Dr. Francisco Nunes Correia the Portuguese Minister for the Environment, Regional Planning and Development.

During the seminar, chaired by Francisco de Calheiros, President of ADRIL and President of Solares de Portugal, the new brochure of the project EUROTRAD which contains all of the houses associated with TURIHAB (95) Austria (14) Italy (15) Spain (35) Slovenia (11) and Hungary (7) and the new website



A video highlighting the houses, cultural heritage, environmental attractions and patrimony of the new regions involved in Eurotrad: Europe of Traditions, a Bridge Between Euro Regions” was shown and received enthusiastic applause from the audience.

The representatives in attendance who

addressed the seminar were Francisco de Calheiros (ADRIL and Solares de Portugal) Elena Gutierrez (Xunta da Galiza/IDC) Marco Tonetto (Province of Udine) Ernesto Kratter (Province of Belluno) Anna Pietropoli (Province of Venezia) Doris Grundei (Eco Plus and Niederosterreich) Viktorija Grasic-Bole (Tourism Ljubljana) Karoly Adam (Vas County) Benito Vasquez (Casas Grandes de Hispania) Roberto Pirzio-Biroli (Case Della Tradizionne) Catherine Grafm Matuschka (Tradition Osterreich) Uros Buda (Hise S Tradicijo) Ferenc Kóvacs (Magyar Vendégváró) George Gossip (Hidden Ireland).



Victor Mendes, Vice President of Ponte de Lima Municipal Authority was also among

the speakers, underlining the rich patrimony and heritage and the natural beauty of the Lima Valley region and the importance of preserving it.

Dr. Nunes Correia said that the initiative by ADRIL was very important for Portugal and for the rest of Europe and relevant to the activities of his Ministry.

“We have a lot of admiration for



Francisco de Calheiros. He is an extraordinary agent in promoting regional development that adds value to our patrimony and heritage,” he said.



Francisco de Calheiros paid tribute to the entities involved in the Eurotrad project and for their enthusiasm in becoming part of Europe of Traditions and following in the concept created by TURIHAB – Solares de Portugal. He emphasised the fact that all TURIHAB - Solares de Portugal houses are officially

certified to very high standards and the philosophy of Europe of Traditions was to maintain the same regulations and criteria throughout its entire network. The main task of the new members will be to work in harmony to promote the philosophy of Europe of Traditions that represents centuries of European history and culture.

He said that the Eurotrad project was the start of a greater mission for the future which could witness the promotion of eastern countries such as Rumania, Bulgaria and the Czech Republic as well as Brasil within the TURIHAB concept.



As a result of the Eurotrad project, which is financed by the European programme INTERREG IIIC SUD, was created 4 new Associations of houses in order to integrate the Europe of Traditions network.