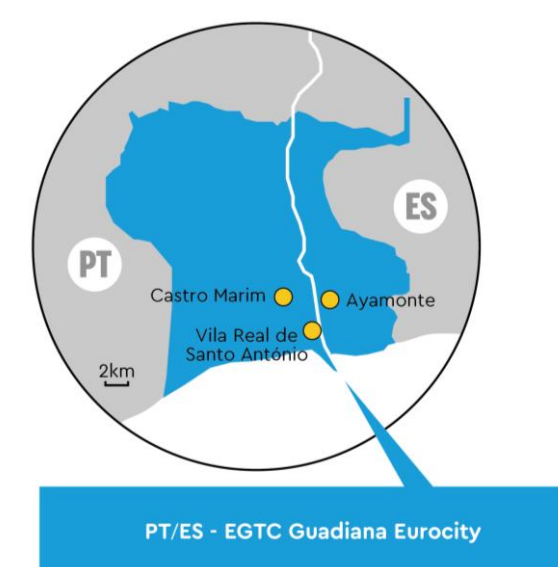


# Guadiana Eurocity - Planning sustainable territory 2030



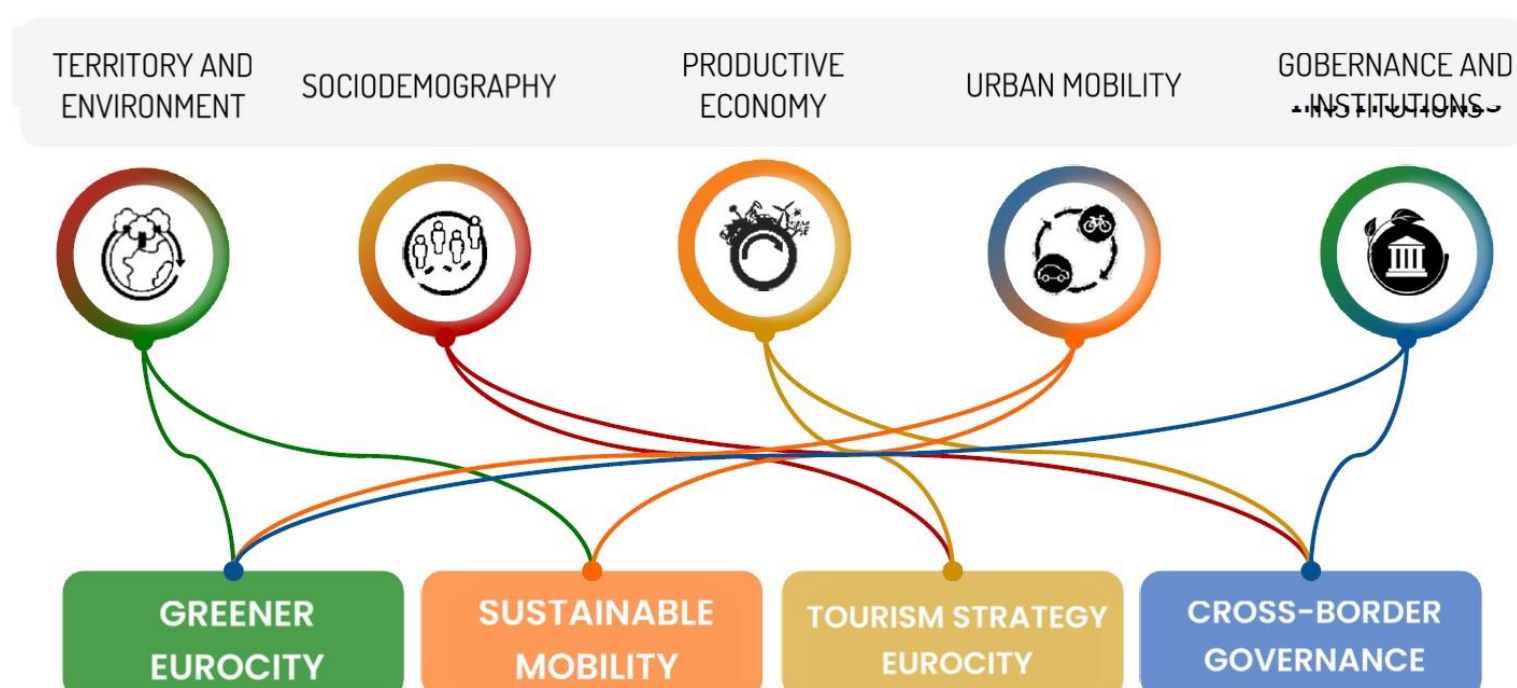
## PORTUGAL / SPAIN

## PARTNER

### EGTC Eurociudad del Guadiana

The Pilot Study for Territorial Planning of the Eurocity of the Guadiana represents an innovative exercise in cross-border cooperation between Spain and Portugal. Its main objective is to provide a shared framework for diagnosis, planning and proposals among the municipalities of Ayamonte, Castro Marim and Vila Real de Santo António, enabling progress towards a sustainable, resilient and integrated territorial development model by 2030.

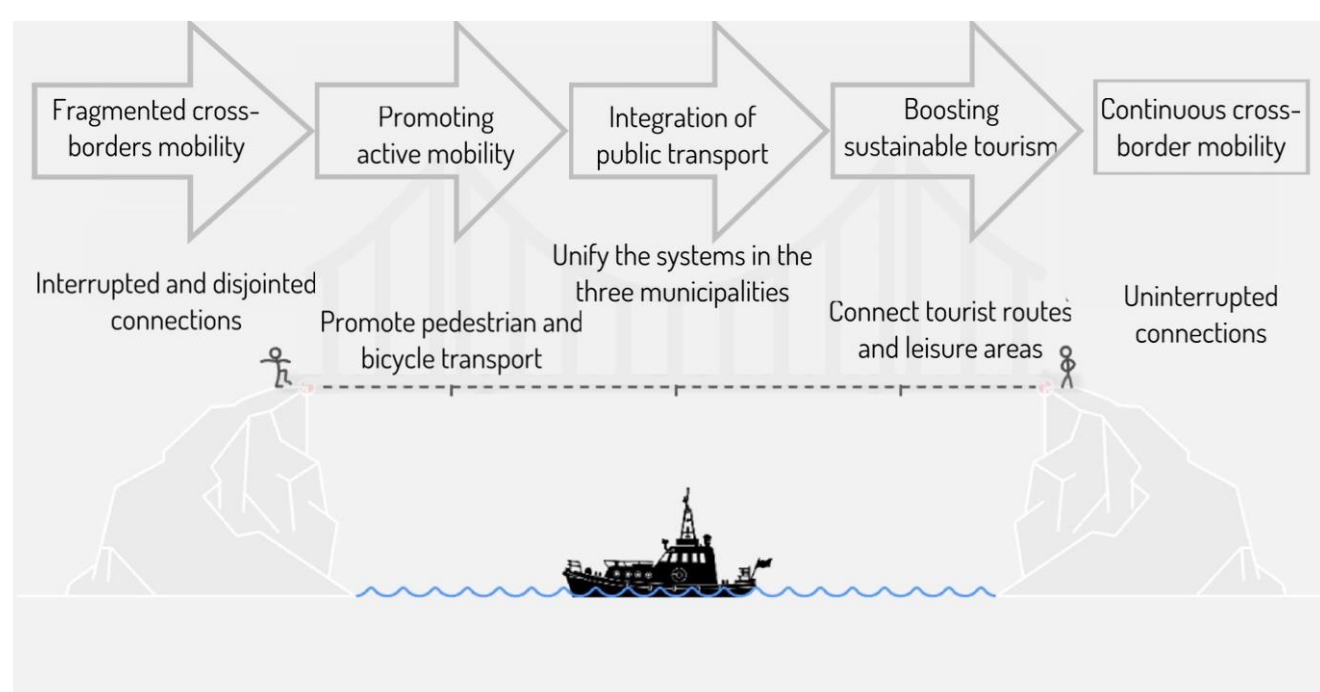
Once the territorial synergies and tensions were identified, the study focused on the axes that were considered priorities: (1) urban mobility; (2) productive economy; (3) sociodemography; (4) territory and environment; and (5) governance and institutions, connected with the Urban Agenda of the Eurocity of the Guadiana.



[www.euroguadiana.eu](http://www.euroguadiana.eu)

## (1) Bridges for Integration.

The Bridges for Integration Pilot Action emerges as one of the most emblematic initiatives of the Eurocity of the Guadiana, as it directly addresses one of the main challenges identified in the territorial diagnosis: the lack of multimodal connectivity between the two banks of the Guadiana River. Cross-border mobility, recognised as an essential element for territorial cohesion, economic competitiveness, and social integration, is currently limited by an almost exclusive dependence on road traffic across the International Guadiana Bridge and by the fragmentation of pedestrian and cycling routes.



## (2) One Territory, One Vision

The project is structured around three complementary axes:

First, the development of a Territorial Plan for Eurocity of the Guadiana, aimed at defining a long-term integrated vision aligned with Spain's and Portugal's urban, environmental, and sectoral legislations. This document is conceived as a reference framework to prevent overlaps, guide urban growth, and strengthen territorial resilience.

Second, the creation of a Cross-Border Geoportal, designed as a digital platform for accessing and consulting territorial, urban, and cadastral information from the three municipalities. This tool will ensure transparency, facilitate the work of technical staff and planners, and make information accessible to all citizens, promoting social engagement in decision-making.

### Components of 'One territory, one vision'



Finally, based on the outcomes of citizen participation processes and focus groups involving political representatives and regional authorities, a third subproject has been incorporated: the development of joint documents on critical sectoral impacts. This axis directly responds to the concerns expressed by both citizens and institutional stakeholders regarding flood risks, the management of the Public Hydraulic Domain, forest fires, and anthropic risks associated with urban and tourism pressure.

## (3) Blue horizon



The Blue Horizon pilot project stands as one of the most ambitious initiatives of Eurocity of the Guadiana, bringing together two key dimensions for the territory's future: on one hand, the promotion of the blue economy, linked to the sustainable use of coastal, river, and marine resources; and on the other, urban adaptation to climate change, through interventions that enhance ecological resilience, active mobility, and the quality of public space.

## (4) Living identity



The territorial diagnosis and participatory processes have highlighted several weaknesses requiring priority attention. Among them are the fragmentation of cultural and tourist signage, unequal accessibility to heritage resources, the lack of shared interpretation services, and the absence of a unified narrative that allows the Eurocity to be perceived as an integrated space. In addition, citizens have expressed the need to create new cultural routes, expand guided activity offerings, and strengthen protection of natural and heritage environments against tourism pressure and overcrowding.

## (5) Productive territory

Strengthening the productive and social fabric of Eurocity of the Guadiana is one of the fundamental pillars for ensuring its long-term cohesion and sustainability. The territorial analyses and citizen participation processes carried out within the framework of the Pilot Study revealed that, alongside environmental and mobility challenges, the provision of essential services, social innovation, and the adaptation of the local economy are critical dimensions for both population well-being and territorial competitiveness.



The completion of the Pilot Study for Territorial Planning of the Eurocity of the Guadiana marks a decisive step in building an innovative and sustainable model of cross-border cooperation. Following a process that has integrated technical diagnosis, citizen participation, and the definition of strategic projects, the document synthesizes the results achieved, formulates recommendations to strengthen the Eurocity's governance framework, and reflects on the potential to transfer this experience to other European border territories.