

## **EUROPAN 13**

### **PORTUGAL, Azenha do Mar / Odemira**

Meeting point: Main Square of the village of Azenha do Mar, in front of restaurant "Azenha do Mar".

1<sup>st</sup> Accompanied Site Visit: 2 people participated in this visit.

2<sup>nd</sup> Accompanied Site Visit: 4 people participated in this visit.

On April 11 at 10.30 a.m. and on May 9 at 3.00 p.m. the visits to the competition site took place, with town representatives Pedro Ramos and Luísa Silva.

Those present at the visits took a walk through the competition site; both strategic and project sites' limits were identified.

Site restraining factors (architectonic, landscaping, historic) were pointed out, as presented in the competition files. Neither new information nor new documents were released.

The following questions were clarified/explained:

Which are the restraints and building rules arising from the allotment which established the urban configuration of the village?

The construction rules applicable are those in the Municipal Master Plan which were made available in the competition documents (written and graphic). It is permissible to redesign the land plots and vacant blocks; however, it is important to take under consideration the fact that the infrastructures (roads, sanitation, electricity and public lighting) have already been implemented.

Which village keeps a closer relationship/proximity with Azenha do Mar?

Brejão is the place with greater proximity, where the population of Azenha do Mar finds some essential services, such as the small minimarket, the ATM, the primary/elementary school and the kindergarten. The other local services are located at São Teotónio parish, such as the pharmacy, the health center, middle school and grammar/high school, supermarkets or petrol stations.

What was the village's origin and what are its main historical elements?

The first Azenha do Mar informal settlements appeared only in the 60s (20<sup>th</sup> century), by families whose activity was related to the harvesting of algae and later also with the fishing activity. The completion of the infrastructures works (roads, sanitation, electricity and public lighting) dates back to 2006 and the seafront improvements, including the wooden walkways and fishing gear/apparel are about 5 years old.

What part of the fishing port is included on the planned intervention for that specific area?

The two ramps that will be targeted for intervention within the fishing port's improvement works included in Polis Southwest Coast program were identified on site.

What are the everyday necessities' uses that Azenha do Mar lacks?

Eventually what is missed more by the locals is a selling point of basic necessities' products and food (like a minimarket of some sort) but what is sought is to create and enhance a set of uses in the village which itself create conditions for the installation of new uses and complementary services.

What are the main activities of the resident population?

The main activity of the resident population is undoubtedly related to the fishing activity and there are also some people who work in the local restaurant. Nowadays there are many

immigrants working in the greenhouses that surround the village; however, they live either in the farms where they work or on other villages, such as Brejão and São Teotónio.

**What is the nature of the village's vegetable gardens?**

These are informal settlements consisting of vacant spaces that local population occupies to plant small subsistence vegetable gardens.

**What projects or activities organized by or for the local population and local neighborhood association are there?**

The Sea basket's project is very interesting (the institutional video was released under the European competition and it may be seen in: <http://www.euopanportugal.pt/e13/video.htm>. *Click to play at Odemira-Azenha do Mar*), and aims to facilitate the flow of fish by establishing a closer relationship between the producer and the consumer. The Rota Vicentina is a more comprehensive project but because the route passes through the interior of the village, it has a huge potential for Azenha do Mar. Related to the Rota Vicentina is a business project consisting of guided tours, by local fishermen, in the coastal routes in the vicinity of Azenha do Mar. There is also the Festa dos Pescadores (fishermen's fiesta), organized by associations linked to the 4 fishing ports of Odemira municipality, which each year takes place in one of these ports.

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**Observations:**

Those at the visits were informed that any requests for information should be made through the competition website ("questions on sites"), before May 15<sup>th</sup> 2015, and any attempt made directly to the Municipality would not be answered.