

## Economic development fostered by the landscape

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The transition to sustainability in agriculture and broadly in rural areas is high in the agenda today. Sustainability practices are economically sound, socially just and environmentally friendly. The concept of transition emerges as a reaction to today's societal demands, including the awareness about the need for a more efficient use of resources and the demand for enhanced life quality of communities. Due to its nature and facing the dominant paradigms in agricultural production and use of the rural areas today, such a transition can not be undertaken by individuals alone. It must be supported on shared intentions and collective actions. It requires horizontal cooperation, vertical coordination and the framework of targeted public interventions. And it can only be made functional through changing practices at different governance levels, redefining priorities and innovating in strategies. It is here the landscape can play a fundamental role.

The rural landscape is a dynamic and complex system where both natural and human factors intervene. In the rural landscapes, human action has been since long mostly shaped by agricultural activities. For the agricultural sector and for some of the most influent public policies in Europe, the landscape is now recognized as an asset, though seen as an externality of the different land use systems. And preserving the quality of the landscape requires integrating farm based management with the public use and demand for the landscape, and solving the inherent conflicts between opposing interests. This integration so far has shown not to be straightforward. Nevertheless, the landscape can also be the place based attachment which defines a differentiation of the rural areas, links actors together and makes it possible to identify innovative strategies leading to higher sustainability.

In this presentation, we will address the role of landscape as the support of a transition to sustainability in the rural areas, and

International Conference  
Social, cultural, political and economic value of cultural heritage

thus also including new pathways to economic development. We will ground this presentation on case studies from Southern Portugal. We will start with the identification of values and assets in some of the Mediterranean landscapes, with examples in Alentejo, and identifying trends of change and drawbacks for their preservation. We will address the public demand for these landscapes and the activities, public goods and ecosystem services they support. And we will discuss the governance and institutional arrangements which define the framework for the management of these landscapes today, questioning possible pathways for higher integration in the future.

### Bio-note

Teresa Pinto-Correia is Geographer, associate professor at the University of Évora, Portugal. She is since 2012 Head of the Institute of Mediterranean Agrarian and Environmental Sciences (ICAAM), and she teaches in the Department of Landscape Environment and Planning. She coordinates a research team with several Post-doc researchers and PhD students, working on national and European research projects, and also in interaction with the community and stakeholders at different governance levels. Her research is on the dynamics of agricultural landscapes in the Mediterranean, and how these are affected by different sets of drivers, between production, consumption and protection, creating tensions but also synergies. She develops research on the landscape level provisioning of multiple services and the decision making process at different scales, for the management of these landscapes. Her main interest is on the processes of transition to sustainability in European and particularly Mediterranean agriculture and rural areas.