European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards (2025)
1131-Education, Training and Skills 3. Education, Training & Skills

The Saber Fazer Program

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Entry details

General information

Main country of application	Portugal

Brief description of the project

> The techniques and artifacts that result from traditional arts are deeply rooted in daily customs and domestic environments, but in many cases, they have disappeared from our everyday lives. The interest in these products is not only maintained but also resurging, due to their authentic character and expressive identity dimension, which triggers attention for artisanal techniques and creates a space for growth in economic activity, employment and social inclusion. The Saber Fazer National Program establishes the national strategy for the traditional crafts and skills, defining measures for the safeguard, recognition and sustainable development of artisanal production.

Start date of the project	2022-05-06
Completion date of the project/initiative	The Saber Fazer Program is ongoing and at an advanced stage. The results are demonstrate at the section Results and Impact..
Website(s) of the project/nominee	https://programasaberfazer.gov.pt/
Facebook page of the project, if any	https://www.facebook.com/ProgramaSaberFazer/
Instagram page of the project, if any	https://www.instagram.com/programasaberfazer/
Does the site or heritage in question have national/regional/local cultural heritage designation or protection status in its country?	No
Is the site or heritage in question included on the UNESCO World Heritage List, either as a single World	No

Heritage Site or as part of one larger site?	
If relevant, is the site/heritage accessible to the public?	Yes

If relevant, is the site/heritage accessible to people with disabilities?

> Our public activities takes place in Portuguese territory in municipal councils buildings, our local partners, which are equipped to accommodate people with disabilities.

Contact details

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Organisation of the owner	General Diretorate for the Arts
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Concise summary

Concise summary

The Portuguese Ministry of Culture, knowing the importance of the artisanal crafts for the territorial cohesion and sustainable development, and the need to encourage the artisans to continue to produce and transmit knowledge and techniques, defined the Saber Fazer National Strategy for the traditional arts and crafts, approved in 2020, by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers, that establishes measures for the safeguard, recognition and sustainable development of artisanal production. The program reinforces the preservation of raw materials, ancestral practices, artisanal memory, and stimulates the combination of contemporary and ancient knowledge.
The aim of the program implemented by the General Directorate for the Arts is to settle traditional artisanal production as a dynamic, innovative and sustainable sector, which actively contributes to the richness and diversity of cultural heritage and to the socioeconomic development of the country. The Territorial Intervention Laboratories, also established by the program, impact and contribute to foster the artisanal practices in different regions of the national territory, by promoting encounters, co-creations and interdisciplinarity work. The program aims to integrate artisanal production in the promotion of cultural heritage, as well as to enable access to artisanal products and services in a contextualized, informed and creative way. During 2024 two laboratories were organized in the centre and in the south of Portugal, through public conversations with the artisans and the community, workshops and classes at schools, in which researchers were invited to produce original contents about arts and crafts. The laboratories explored embroidery, ceramics, cutlery, basketry and violas construction. The next laboratory will explore the art of working with cork, in the interior of Portugal, inviting artisans from the south of the country to play a special role in the transmission of knowledge to younger generations and whoever wants to learn this technique.
The Saber Fazer Program methodology, used to map the arts, artisans and artisanal units productions, can be replicated at a wider level to create an European repository that brings together arts and crafts from all Member-Sates, establishing similarities and distinctions between the different countries.
The program is supported by the recovery and resilience plan of the EU, with the amount of 2.010.000,00 € to implement the measures needed to begin mapping artisanal activities, artisans and artisanal production units at the national territory, available in a national online repository where relevant information on traditional Portuguese arts and crafts can be explored.

Objectives and work undertaken

Aims and objectives of the project/initiative

The aim of the program is to settle traditional artisanal production as a dynamic, innovative, and sustainable sector, which actively contributes to the richness and diversity of cultural heritage and to the socioeconomic development of the country.

Strategic objectives:

- Preservation, through safeguarding, research, and monitoring: preservation implies creating instruments of proximity to the territory, with the function of characterizing, informing and acting effectively on the arts and crafts sector.
- Professional training, through the transfer of knowledge, accessibility, and continuity of Know-How — to ensure the continuity of arts and crafts through the transmission of Know-How to new generations and new practitioners, providing access to traditional arts through of informed, and contextualized practice.
- Training, through technical assistance and strategic innovation — supporting artisans through individual, and sectoral measures within the scope of product qualification, services and marketing.
- Promotion of arts and crafts, through their cultural, and economic valorisation.
- Valuing artisanal work and artisans

Operational objectives:

- Create a reference space for arts and crafts in the national territory.

- Promote traditional artisanal production as a contemporary activity.
- Create informed accessibility for products, and services from artisans and artisans.
- Value the social, cultural, and economic dimensions of arts and crafts.
- Update the image and representation of arts, and crafts, as a viable sector with relevance to the needs of today's society.
- Gather and make available documentation on traditional arts and crafts.
- Promote the sharing of experiences and informal learning of traditional craft techniques.
- Present manufacturing as a sustainable alternative to the production of industrial goods

Any historical and technical research undertaken for the project/initiative

The implementation of the Saber Fazer Program is based on the strategy presented by the Ministry of Culture, aiming to revitalize techniques and artifacts from traditional arts, some of which have disappeared from our everyday lives.

During the program preparation, research was undertaken on the Portuguese literature about the sector, starting in the 1960s, which is rich in ethnographic studies, and followed all the phases the sector has gone through, with some areas being transformed into industrial production. Parallel to this study, data was collected from public services, showing the number of certified artisans and artisanal production units and the general panorama of artisanal arts in Portugal. A collaborative work followed with the Portuguese City Councils, in which important information about the artisans and units operating in the territory is being shared between partners. The gathered information is being used to contact the artisans and to map the artisanal arts actives in Portugal, which are then promoted in the program website.

Were invited researchers to work with the program, from distinct areas of study, that reflect on techniques and artifacts from traditional arts.

Activities carried out and stages of implementation of the project/initiative

The Saber Fazer Program has the following activities and stages of the implementation:

Repository
Making available to the public a repository of information and documentation on national artisanal production, in a dynamic and integrated way, with various levels of depth on raw materials, artisans, technologies and knowledge.

Territorial Intervention Laboratories TIL
The TIL provide moments of reflection and sharing around certain traditional practices, convening different local actors – artisans, production units, research centers, heritage, economic and tourist agents – to debate the challenges the arts and crafts sector faces.

Knowledge transmission
To encourage access to traditional craft techniques through experience and informal learning, and to ensure the continuity and renewal of the sector with research, innovative proposals and new practitioners, especially in situations of particular disadvantage, such as interior areas with little economic dynamism or urban centers with significant outbreaks.

Routes
The Saber Fazer Routes propose themed routes, with no starting or finishing points, in which everyone builds their journey comprised of arts and crafts. Artisanal activity can be relevant as a tool for communicating and promoting regions of Portugal and sustainable practices that benefit the territory and local communities.

Exhibition
The itinerant exhibition “Portuguese artisanal production: the current state of ancestral know-how”, associated with the laboratories, reinforces the relevance of artisanal production, highlighting the time dedicated to each object, the natural beauty of the materials and the effectiveness of the techniques developed over time.

Book Collection
The first book presents the principles and axes by which the Saber Fazer Program is guided. The other books in the collection emerge from each laboratory exploring one or more traditional techniques and have contributions from specialists whose research and work path is within the scope of arts and crafts, or similar areas, highlighting the importance of valuing this sector.

Challenges or problems encountered and solutions found to overcome them

During the work carried out in the territorial intervention laboratories, the major challenge is the advanced age of the artisans, often being the single remaining skilled worker in their community, without any apprentice to continue the traditional craft techniques. To address this challenge, Saber Fazer fosters the transfer of knowledge to the local population supporting workshops, preferably offering various levels of learning. The program endeavours to completely document the whole ancestral knowledge and techniques, tools, type of materials used and their assembly and preparation. These documents, incorporating multimedia records of the full process, with live interviews, are then made available in the program repository. The main objective of the program is to safeguard artisanal techniques and ensure that future generations have access to this ancestral knowledge.

Results and impact

Summary of the main results achieved and knowledge that has been gained. List the ways that the project/initiative contributes to the preservation and/or enhancement of the historical, cultural, environmental, educational and/or social values of the heritage in question. Mention the project's impact on conservation policy and practice, if any.

Main results achieved between 2022 to 2024:

15 routes:
Water Jar, Wicker Basketry, Wooden Basket, Palm Empreita, Silk Thread, Tinwork, Woolen Blankets and Blankets, Bunho Furniture, Black Clay Pottery, Palitos from Lorvão, Bobbin Lace, Talhas, Cutlery, Chordophones, and Cork.

5 Territorial Intervention Laboratories:

- Ponte de Sor: Creating in the time of cork
- Odemira: From landscape to sound
- Embroidery, Ceramics and Cutlery: dialogues in Caldas da Rainha
- The silk thread: Shared knowledge
- Territorial Intervention Laboratory | Lorvão Sticks: Shared knowledge
- Territorial Intervention Laboratory | Encounters of the black clay of Castro Daire

970 artisans contacted

The above information can be found on the program website.

With the work carried out in the last two years, the program deepened the knowledge of the reality and particularities of each territory, allowing the adoption of specific measures for each one, in order to enhance the traditional knowledge transfer and dissemination, and to advise in how local culture can improve economic and social development.

The initiatives developed have contributed to the:

- preservation of cultural heritage: intangible heritage
- safeguard of traditional crafts and skills, tradition and knowledge
- involvement of the community in the activities of territorial laboratories, recognizing their ownership and knowledge
- development of partnerships with municipalities that assist local policies in the safeguard intangible heritage

- strenghtening of identity and sense of belonging to territory
- sustainable use of endogenous materials, in rhythm with the seasons
- preservation of cultural expression
- sharing of knowledge with younger generations
- creation and growth of an online repository with information on traditional arts and crafts documented by high-quality images

Aspects of the project that can be considered innovative within its area or field.

Portugal, for the first time has a National Strategy for the traditional arts and crafts, approved in 2020, by the Resolution of the Council of Ministers, that defines the strategic objetives for the Saber Fazer Program. It also expresses both the importance of the safeguarding of traditional knowledge, and the need of a balanced relationship with the environment through sustainable practices of the artisanal techniques. The reference to sustainability and to practiceshat respect the environment is very important for the cultural heritage, because the national strategy for climate change (back in 2020) didn´t have an explicit reference for culture.

Measures to ensure the sustainability/future viability of the project (in terms of future plans and funding).

The Saber Fazer Program is financially supported by the EU Recovery and Resilience Program, until December 31, 2025, a political decision taken to implement the project.
The General Directorate of Arts will be responsible for the continuity of the program, from January 1, 2026, with a specific budget allocated to the program, in order to mantain and enlarge the collaborative work it has developed with the territory.

Environmental sustainability of the project and contribution to climate action (in terms of results, techniques, materials employed, methodologies etc.), if relevant.

The arts and crafts covered by the Saber Fazer Program can be considered ambassadors of sustainable environmental practices, and consequently make a great contribution to climate action.
The program highlights the techniques and materials used have small impact on the environment, considering the manual and slow production rates, as opposed to industrial production; the materials are gathered locally, used in small quantities and according to the rythm of annual natural cycles, also making it possible to clean and mantain rural areas that may be affected by wildfires. The importance of traditional arts and crafts for the settlement of the population in rural and low-density places is reinforced by the program actions, which contribute to the revitalization of territories and the economic and social development.

Dissemination of the project's results and knowledge gained and any outreach or educational activities.

The dissemination of project results and acquired knowledge is shared in public sessions, highlighting the work being developed in a wide range of territories. These public moments have a crucial role in attracting more partners for the project, namely the municipalities, which demonstrate their interest in hosting a Territorial Intervention Laboratory of the Saber Fazer Program.

During technical meetings, within the scope of the activities of the Ministry of Culture, the program shares the results of territorial intervention laboratories, the challenges that arise and the solutions that are found, sometimes in territories with similar characteristics that still maintain a lively artisanal activity.

Educational initiatives are very important for community involvement and to enhance their sense of belonging, ranging from the fundamental work with schools to initiatives for a more general audience interested in learning about local arts and crafts.

Participation in the initiative (number of participants/audience/users per year and/or, in the case of websites and digital platforms, information regarding visitor numbers and online interaction).

Grand total of 67 pedagogical and informative activities on traditional techniques

Year 2022
*16 workshops/ activities

- 135 participants
- 5 artisans
- 13 teachers

Year 2023

- 40 workshops/ activities
- 514 participants
- 18 artisans
- 23 teachers

Year 2024 (until November)
*11 workshops/ activities

- 211 participants
- 17 artisans
- 10 teachers

Workshops: schools, museums and associations
Participants: students, local people, foreign people and people from other portuguese territories.
Artisans: local and/or from another territories are invited to share knowledge and to participate in public conversations with the comunnity.
Teachers: public schools

Social Media
Instagram
202 publications
2 726 Followers
5 500 accounts reached in the last 30 days

Facebook
728 likes
1 100 Followers

website
updated dialy
2 600 ative users
2 300 new users
7 500 views

Social networks and email available on the website are excellent communication channels with the public.

Involvement of youth, community, non-traditional audiences and/or people with disabilities.

The program activities are developed according to the territory and aim for a wide range of audiences.

In the interventions carried out in the territory, the initiatives are developed for the following segments:

Young people

- Experimental workshops with regular schools and artistic schools in artistic production courses, guided by the artisan and with the mediation of a teacher.
- Masterclasses with higher education students specializing in the arts.

- Conversations with artisans and students.
- Visits to the Saber Fazer itinerant exhibition.

Community

- Workshops for adults and young people (for example, initiation into weaving, from carding to yarn, basketry).
- Guided visits to learning centers, museums and the Saber Fazer exhibition.
- Field trips.

International
Saber Fazer itinerrant exhibition – Luxembourg (2022): The developed initiatives provided direct contact with materials, raw materials, techniques and an initiation experience in six Portuguese artisanal techniques, led by artisans.

The initiatives are prepared to welcome people with disabilities.

Contribution to intercultural dialogue and to the protection of cultural diversity.

In Portugal, a great diversity of techniques can be found, related to the traditional arts and crafts, which are characteristic and adapted to each territory. In the Territorial Intervention Laboratories, across the country, the programs seeks to promote this dialogue by calling on artisans to participate. These meetings enrich the sharing of knowledge and the feeling of belonging. With regard to initiatives for the general public, these are attended by people from different territories who want to learn about traditional local crafts.

On an international dimension, the first public presentation of the program, which occurred in Luxembourg, brought the attention of a more specialized audience and, as was expexted, of the Portuguese community in that country. In Portugal, the workshops welcome foreigners residing in the country, who seek to better understand Portuguese local culture and the use of vernacular artefacts in the traditional daily life.

Transferability of the initiative to other contexts and its scalability potential.

The Saber Fazer Program has great potential to be replicated at European level, bringing together traditional arts and crafts from all Member States on a single platform. It would be very important to cross-reference the similarities between craft techniques in distant territories and in different EU member states.
EU Member States' Territorial Intervention Laboratories would be a great contribution to intercultural dialogue and the protection of cultural diversity.

Any related work that still needs to be completed, if applicable.

Early on 2025, the program will hold a Territorial Intervention Laboratory in the city of Covilhã, one of the many creative Portuguese Unesco cities.
It is expected that this joint work with other cities can be developed in future Saber Fazer Program initiatives.
There is also interest in deepening and promoting arts and crafts at UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Portugal.

Interim or Final Evaluation Report

PDF	results achieved_2022_202... (2.6 MiB download)

European and international dimension

European significance of the project/initiative/nominee.

The Saber Fazer Program works territorially with traditional arts and crafts, through specific actions according to the reality of each location, through the involvement of local communities, in participatory actions, that welcome all citizens, regardless of economic situation, social status, age, gender or religion, among others.

The Program contributes to the cohesion of each territory, reinforcing, through artisanal techniques and the history that each art transmits with the work it develops, our European identity, specific to each place, but which contributes to the entire Culture that characterizes Europe. Each artisan expresses, in the artifacts that he or she produces, the sense of European identity that is part of us all.

Costs of the project/initiative

Costs of the project (in euro), financial and management arrangements, funding partners and/or the type of funding.

Cost of the Saber Fazer Program: €2,010,000.00, for the implementation of the project, from 2022 (May) to 2025 (December 31), with the support of the EU.

**Measures defined

- Integrate a specialized interdisciplinary team to implement the program.
- Promote the actions and contracting procedures necessary to make a repository of information and documentation on national craft production available to the public.
- Promote the actions and contracting procedures needed to publicize, open and operate the “Saber Fazer” routes.
- Promote the actions and contracting procedures necessary for the dissemination and operation of educational and informative activities on traditional techniques.

**Acquisition

- Acquisition and maintenance of a technological platform for information and documentation repositories.
- Services related to studies and mapping on “Know-how”.
- Goods and services related to the communication and image of “Saber Fazer” and of the routes, learning programs, territorial intervention actions.
- Provision of training services, exhibitions and workshops.
- Product marketing services.
- Promotional materials for the Saber Fazer program
- External consultancy for the implementation of the program's strategy.
- Content by guest researchers for the books in the Saber Fazer collection.
- Production, publishing, and editing Saber Fazer books.
- Information support for artisans.

Funding provided by the European Union or the EEA/Norway Grants (including programme, year and amount of the Grant), if any.

The implementation of the Saber Fazer Program is supported by the **EU Recovery and Resilience Program** dedicated to Portugal, with a **financial amount of €2,010,000.00**, for the implementation period 2022 (May) to 2025 (December 31). The funding rate is 100% of the overall eligible amount, up to the maximum funding amount for this project.

Project name: “Implementation of the Saber Fazer Program”, with code no. C04-i02-m03.

Beneficiary: Directorate-General for the Arts, represented by the Director-General for the Arts, Américo Rodrigues.

The Culture component represents the following pillars relevant to the EU and which underpin the initiatives of the Saber Fazer Program:

- digital transformation

- Smart Growth
- Sustainable and Inclusive
- Social and territorial cohesion
- Policies for the Next Generation, children and young people

The funded project “Implementation of the Saber Fazer Program” has met the timetable for the project's implementation and is fulfilling all the achievement indicators set out in the funding contract and presented in this application.

Technical Guidance - Measure C04-i02-m03 - “Saber Fazer Program”

Additional information

How would winning the European Heritage Award / Europa Nostra Award benefit you, your project and/or your organisation?

Winning the European Heritage Award/Europa Nostra Award would be very important for:

- value artisanal work and artisans.
- an incentive for the team to continue doing this exceptional work with the local communities.
- awareness reinforcement of the program at national level.
- visibility of the program at European level.
- put traditional arteanl techniques on the European cultural agenda.
- possible partnerships with entities from other Member States.

In case this submission is the winner of the Grand Prix, what will the monetary award be used for?

The award will be used to reinforce training and support new artisans, improving technique, design, marketing of products and internationalization of their work.

In case this submission is the winner of the Grand Prix, who will be the recipient of the monetary award?

The recipient of the prize money will be the Directorate-General for the Arts, the department of the Ministry of Culture that has been appointed to implement and coordinate the Saber Fazer Program.

How did you find out about the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards?	Europa Nostra newsletter
Is this the first time that this entry has been submitted to the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards?	Yes
On a scale of 1-10, how satisfied are you with this online submission form?	✓ 8

Do you have any comments on the application form or suggestions that you would like to share with us?

The platform didn't save the documents. We hope that all the photos, vídeos, additional material and the authorization form was updated and added to the submission.

By submitting your data, photographs and other material to the European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards you agree to the processing and sharing of your data in accordance with Europa Nostra's	Privacy Policy	. Please check the box to indicate you agree with the Privacy Policy. ✓

Log in to european-heritage.awardsplatform.com to see complete entry attachments.



Barro Negro ©... 2.0 MiB



Cestaria de Vim... 604 KiB



Cestaria Madeir... 1.4 MiB



Empreita de Pal... 1.2 MiB
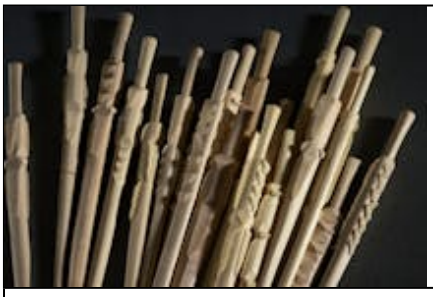


Latoaria ©DGA... 857 KiB



Mobiliário de B... 298 KiB



Olaria ©DGART... 1.2 MiB



Palitos de Lorvã... 8.7 MiB



Renda de Bilros... 839 KiB



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artisan student ... 2.4 MiB



workshop bask... 2.5 MiB



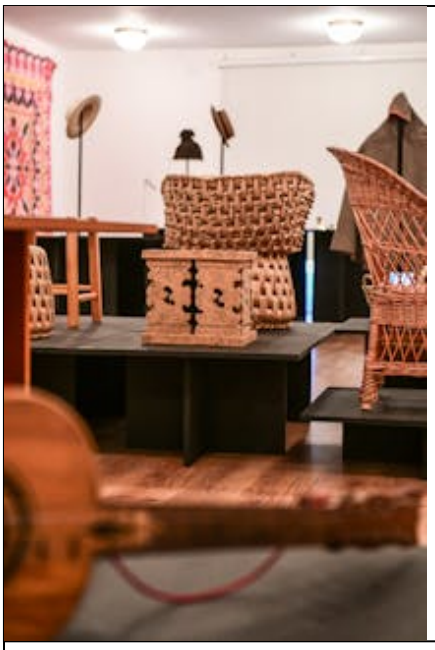
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The Saber Fazer... 84 KiB



HA2025 Entrant... 408 KiB



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