

ENGLISH

Report – Cáceres 2031 and Potries

Context

Cáceres 2031 and the Valencian municipality of Potries have opened a new line of collaboration to explore new models of cultural cooperation between rural territories. Potries, with just over 1,000 inhabitants, was Valencian Capital of Culture in 2018 and later submitted a bid for European Capital of Culture.

Key highlights

Cooperation between rural territories: the partnership seeks to demonstrate the ability of small municipalities to develop cultural strategies, citizen participation, innovation and cooperation projects with both national and European dimensions.

Potries' experience: its journey will provide a valuable reference for exploring territorial transformation through culture, citizen participation, capacity building and shared governance.

Rural Labs: Cáceres 2031 is exploring the possibility of Potries joining Rural Labs, designed to turn rural territories into spaces for learning, experimentation and cultural cooperation.

Horizon Rural: within Rural Labs, Cáceres 2031 is developing a pilot initiative provisionally called *Horizon Rural*. It would bring together three to five small Spanish municipalities from at least two different autonomous communities, alongside one to three European municipalities or partners.

Leadership from small municipalities: the model proposes that one rural municipality should lead each project, moving from being a recipient of cultural programmes to becoming a promoter and leader of cooperation initiatives.

Potential leadership role for Potries: Cáceres 2031 will explore the possibility of Potries leading the first Horizon Rural pilot, transferring the knowledge gained through its cultural journey and its European Capital of Culture bid to other territories.

Transcultura: the collaboration forms part of Cáceres 2031's working method based on three actions — **listen, connect and transform** — turning the exchange of experiences into lasting capacities and sustainable projects.

European and cross-border dimension: the initiative connects with Extremadura's rural and peripheral character and its historic relationship with Portugal, reinforcing territorial and European cooperation as central elements of the bid.

Legacy of ECoC bids: the collaboration highlights how a European Capital of Culture bid can create lasting capacities, partnerships, knowledge and new ways of working regardless of the final outcome.

Building Europe from rural territories: Cáceres 2031 sees rurality and peripherality as spaces from which new forms of European cultural cooperation can be tested, enabling rural territories themselves to design, decide on and lead cultural projects.