



NBRACER
Nature Based Solutions
for Atlantic Regional Climate Resilience

NBRACER Immersive Visit in Cávado Region Showcases Nature-based Solutions for Climate Resilience



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Press Release

Paris, May 5, 2026 – On April 29–30, 2026, partners of the European project NBRACER gathered in the Cávado region in Portugal for a two-day immersive visit focused on advancing Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for climate resilience in urban and periurban areas.

Hosted by Intermunicipal Community of Cávado (CIM Cávado), the visit brought together local authorities, municipal technicians, NGO, researchers, and practitioners to exchange knowledge, strengthen collaboration, and explore concrete examples of NbS implementation across urban and rural landscapes.

Building a Common Ground for Nature-based Solutions

The first day in Braga, participants joined at the CIM Cávado office to focus on training and capacity building, combining expert-led masterclasses, workshops, and collaborative sessions.



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Participants explored:

- The role of NbS and ecosystem services in climate adaptation
- Implementation experiences from across Europe (urban and rural contexts)
- Governance and financing mechanisms enabling NbS deployment
- Integration of NbS into flood risk modelling and territorial planning

Interactive breakout sessions emphasized translating knowledge into local action, highlighting the importance of cooperation, coordination, and community engagement as key drivers for systemic change.



From Strategy to Reality: Field Visits Across the Territory

The second day shifted to hands-on field visits, allowing participants to experience NbS in action across the Cávado region:

- Esposende Interceptor Channel: A large-scale intervention demonstrating how hybrid green-grey infrastructure can enhance flood management and climate resilience.
- Coastal erosion in Esposende: visit to the area with highest seaside erosion risk.
- Barcelos School Interventions: Visits to schools such as Abel Varzim and Barcelos Secondary School showcased how NbS can transform educational spaces into greener, cooler, and more resilient environments.
- Arboretum of Barcelos Secondary School: A living example of biodiversity enhancement and environmental education.



Transforming Landscapes Through Nature

The visit also highlighted broader regional initiatives, including:

- The renaturalisation of the Este, Castro, and Torto rivers in Braga, restoring over 3 km of waterways by removing concrete, improving biodiversity, and reducing flood risks while creating accessible green spaces for communities, with a lively presentation by VP of the Braga Municipality Altino Bessa.
- The Ecovia Cávado and Homem, a 75 km green infrastructure corridor connecting mountains to the sea, integrating ecosystem restoration, sustainable mobility, and local development, guided by the mayor of Vila Verde: Júlia Fernandes.

These projects demonstrate how NbS can simultaneously address extreme flooding, heatwaves, biodiversity loss, and quality of life, delivering multiple ecosystem services.

Climate Urgency Meets Local Action



The visit took place against the backdrop of increasing climate urgency in Europe. Recent climate reports underline the accelerating pace of change, with rising risks from floods, heatwaves, and wildfires across the continent. Participants emphasized that NbS are not only effective adaptation tools but also pathways to healthier, more livable territories, offering long-term, sustainable alternatives to purely technical solutions.

Moving Forward Together

The immersive visit reinforced a shared commitment among partners and stakeholders. As the NBRACER project progresses, the Cávado region stands as a powerful example of how local action, supported by European cooperation, can drive meaningful climate adaptation.

For more information and to stay up to date on NBRACER's progress, visit [NBRACER.EU](https://nbracer.eu).

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