

LAR PROJECT

“THE PROJECT AIMS TO DECONSTRUCT PREJUDICES TOWARDS PEOPLE AND THEIR CULTURES, TO COMBAT DESINFORMATION AND ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION.”



Lar (means Home in Portuguese) Project is a community-based project that integrates migrants and refugees with the help of the whole community. The project is developed by AIIR – Association for the Integration of Migrants and Refugees in a small village called Ima, in Guarda, having emerged to answer some current challenges like the migrant situation worldwide; the ageing and populational decrease, associated with the abandonment of rural lands.

The project aims to integrate migrant families and to help revitalize rural communities in the interior of Portugal. Since October 2020 it has welcomed two immigrant families.

After arrival, the families are welcomed and supported in all aspects of inclusion from labor market inclusion of the adults, to learning the Portuguese language. Housing was a big challenge, so the Association partnered with organizations like Habitat for Humanity to help revitalize local houses. The project follows the community sponsorship approach by being led by the community and for the community.

All family members are trained and supported to enter the labor market. After the arrival of the families, a migrant center was opened in the village as a first step to a multicultural community that welcomes and helps foreigners.

The social-cultural integration of the families allows them to be closer to the community and the countryside. The project implements several activities for the families and the community to work together, focusing on interculturality and intergenerationally.

“WE VALUE THE TERRITORY WHICH MAKES IT A LOT EASIER TO ACCEPT OTHERS. WE ARE HERE TO PROMOTE OPPORTUNITIES.”

As part of their environmental regeneration, the families cultivate products in a sustainable way and sell them to local markets. Environmental education activities are also promoted.

The project is working to integrate more families and to expand to neighboring villages, as a model to be replicated for the inclusion of migrants and refugees.

