



LIVE, INVEST AND START UP... IN
CORREDOR Azul

Municipal Booklet

MUNICIPALITY OF ÉVORA

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Introduction

Introduction

This file consists of a useful instrument for internal and external investors, ensuring a prompt response of both the Municipality of Évora and the Blue Corridor Network to investor requests, as well as presenting the components that the municipality has to offer in terms of investment attraction – industrial space availability, support services, human resources or business environment.

The Municipality of Évora



The blue corridor network

The blue corridor network

The Blue Corridor Urban Network for Competitiveness and Innovation is part of a policy instrument called Urban Network for Competitiveness and Innovation which aims to overcome the weaknesses of the Portuguese cities through interurban cooperation strategies and the constitution of urban networks with sufficient scale and resources to develop new functions and attract innovative activities.

The Blue Corridor includes the municipalities of Arraiolos, Borba, Elvas, Estremoz, Évora, Montemor-o-Novo, Santiago Cacém, Sines, Vendas Novas and Vila Viçosa that are strategically located on the link between the Lisbon Metropolitan Area and Spain, setting a territorial line up of urban centers that starts with the cities of the Alentejo Coast, through the so-called “Atlantic gateway” and structure the Central Alentejo territory, ending in Alto Alentejo with the Badajoz connection.



Urban Network for Competitiveness and Innovation

Source: RUCI Blue Corridor

The strategic vision of the Blue Corridor Network is supported on four strategic layers, in which each of these progressively increase the value and potential of the previous ones and proactively contribute to the affirmation of the competitive advantage of the Urban Network and of all the interventions that are intended to be developed in the Cities and Urban Centers of this territory:

- Enabling collaboration dynamics supported on the streamlining of efforts and the guaranty of complementarities;
- Promoting creativity in urban attractiveness;
- Access of enterprises to knowledge and innovation processes;
- Facilitated location for business accommodation/hosting.

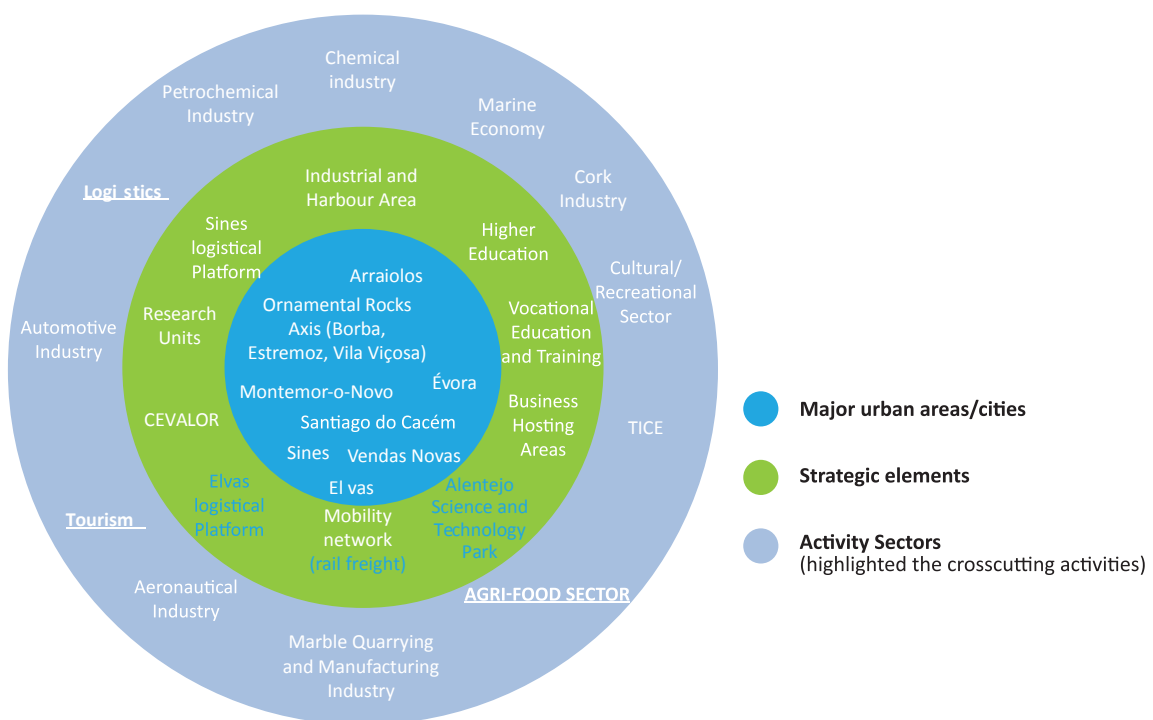
Why invest in the Blue Corridor

Why invest in the Blue Corridor

Macroeconomic Data

Investing in the Blue Corridor is investing on a close and accessible territory and on an area of excellence, in the Iberian and national context, for business location and growth with efficient public services oriented to support the specific needs of businessmen and enterprise hosting areas, that correspond to the individual requirements of various types of investors/entrepreneurs.

Investing in the Blue Corridor is investing in the main axis of goods exchange of Sines-Elvas, at an Iberian scale, strengthened by a network of companies and agents targeted to address to the needs of investors with the ability to produce and offer a quick response to recognized quality products, from traditional products to products with a High-Tech Merger value.

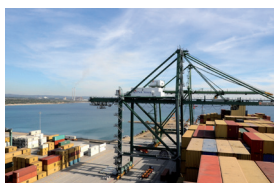


Strategic anchors to attract investment (foreign and inward)

Source: SPI, 2011

Competitive Advantages

ACCESSES/ MOBILITY/ TRANSPORTATION NETWORK



- Accessibility to major national urban axes and Spain (connections to the Lisbon Metropolitan Area and Madrid)
- Network inserted in the principal road and rail axes
- Port of Sines
- Railroad connection between Lisbon and Évora (Intercity service)
- Proximity to the Port of Lisbon and Setúbal
- Logistics Platform of Elvas/ Caia

BUSINESS HOSTING AREAS



- Availability of hosting areas for businesses
- Diversity among available areas
- Largest industrial area of the country (ZILS) with immediate availability of land space for big projects

INVESTOR SUPPORT SERVICES



- Desk Office support services for entrepreneurs (GADE / GAE)
- Proximity between decision makers and investors (time efficiency)

EDUCATION AND TRAINING OPTIONS



- Vocational and technological education
- Extended higher education (University of Évora, Elvas School of Agriculture, Instituto Piaget - Santo André and Sines Tecnopolo)

BUSINESS STRUCTURE



- Diversified business structure

R&D ACTIVITIES



- University of Évora, Sines Technology and Science Park - Research Units
- CEVALOR with experience in the development of technology related to the regional business tissue

QUALIFIED URBAN SPACES



- Availability of cultural and sporting equipments
- Urban centers of a regional dimension

WEATHER CONDITIONS / RENEWABLE ENERGY



- Higher values of solar radiation in Europe
- Prime locations for the installation of wind farms/ parks in the Alentejo Coast

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CONCERNS



- Investment in energy efficiency (InovCity Project in Evora, Energy Efficiency Project in Sines, Integrated Management of Health and Environment of Sines Project)
- Covenant of Mayors, endorsed by municipalities of the Blue Corridor

EFFICIENCY OF PUBLIC SERVICES



- Investment on administrative modernization (Governance - RUCI Blue Corridor Project)

ENDOGENOUS RESOURCES



- Sines-Elvas axis of market exchange, of an Iberian scale, strengthened by a network of companies and agents targeted to the needs of investors
- Ability to produce and offer a quick response to recognized quality products, from endogenous resources and traditional products to products with a High-Tech Merger value.

About Évora

Évora, future's heritage

Évora, an historical city

From the Roman times, Évora bears its ex libris – a Roman Temple¹ – as well as a couple of routes (Rua D^a Isabel) and old spas (in Praça do Sertório).

From late-Roman there are traces of the old fence. From the Medieval times, the winding layout of the streets, buildings and courtyards, the Cathedral and the Fernandinas walls².

Because of its monumental value and the marks of History, Évora was recognised by UNESCO as a World Heritage City, in 1986.

Évora projecting itself towards the future

The Siege of walls involves the historical and monumental city.

Nowadays, it separates the historic city (Intra walls city) from the extra walls city. Beyond this siege walls, there is a modern city as a result of the merger and interconnection of many neighbourhoods that have been growing around the old city, mainly since the 60s of the 20th century.

Évora has many public services which provide a set of functions, not only those inherent to the city but also to the surrounding region. Some of those services give the city the status of regional capital, even when it's a non-formal status. The Central Hospital, the judicial

services, CCDR Alentejo headquarters (Coordination Commission of Alentejo Regional Development) and other numerous regional public services contribute to establish such status.

The University of Évora, whose foundation dates 1579 and returned in 1979 after the interregnum, is also an important factor in Évora's central role and constitutes a relevant contribution to the process of the ongoing development.

It is an important city of services and now is starting to gain notoriety in other areas of economic intervention, particularly in the emerging "aerospace cluster" winning projection through Aeronautics Industry Park and when Embraer started operating.



¹ The so-called Diana Temple

² It is its common name but is still contested by some, namely, by Túlio Espanca.

Évora and its privileged location

According to the last Census, 56.596 inhabitants are residing in the municipality, spread across 19 parishes (12 of them rural and 7 urban). In the city, there are 41.164 inhabitants, translated into a tax³ of 72,73%.

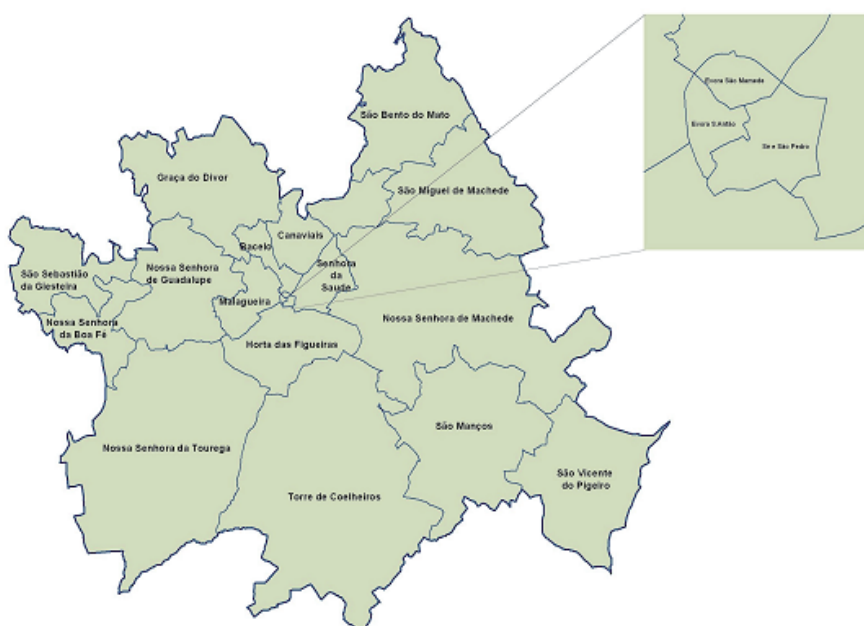
The demographic weight of Évora regarding Alentejo is 11,08% and regarding the total population of the continent is 0,56%. Due to its location, Évora was established as a pivotal space between the Alentejo coast and the Spanish Extremadura. In fact, the port platform of Sines ensures maritime cargo transport between the southern and northern Europe, as well as the road access (by IC33, IP2 and A6 roads) to Europe, through the city-gate of Elvas. This dynamic might be enhanced in the future through the LTM rail corridor (freight line).

Through A6 highway, Évora ensures national connectivity and also the connection to Spain. Regarding the transports network, there is a vast logistics offer, in what concerns both freight and passengers transportation.

Bus provides frequent connections, in a daily basis, to a plurality of destinations, some of them international.

Train offers four daily connections to Lisbon and many others from Lisbon to Évora, in the modern and fast intercity compositions, through a renewed and fully electrified line. Nowadays, you can get to Lisbon's city centre in one hour and thirty minutes journey.

Évora also has a modern airfield.



³ This is what sometimes is defined as the rate of urbanization. This set is a relationship between the number of those who live inside the city limits and outside residents.

Évora is ready to welcome investment

In order to welcome investment, Évora affords many Business Location Areas, with all facilities and endowed with excellent accessibility.

The municipality provides a set of supporting measures to encourage investment, for instance, a significant reduction in land cost and in urban rates and the granting of tax exemptions, particularly regarding IMI (Property tax).

Due to their size, we can stand out the PITE park (Industrial and Technological Park of Évora) with over 50 Acres and 250 lots, the PITE Expansion Area with approximately 23 acres and 153 lots and the recent Évora Aeronautical Industrial Park with large lots suited to accommodate large industrial units, where two units of Embraer company are already operating.

Near the airfield, there is also an area where enterprises related to aeronautical activities can be settled, such as repairing and maintenance, recreational practices like skydiving, among others.

Besides those Business Location Areas, there are other smaller areas where small factories and warehouses are located, namely, in the rural parishes (S. Sebastião da Giesteira, Torre de Coelheiros, Graça do Divor, Guadalupe e Azaruja).

Regarding logistics, the MARE (Supply Market of the Region of Évora) is located there.

Among many others, some successful companies based in Évora, are referenced here:

Tycos Electronics

Relays manufacturing for the automotive industry.

About 1500 employees. A turnover around EUR 150 million per year. Worldwide exportation. 40 assembly lines and a current relay production capacity of 300 million per year.

Grupo Lobo

Photovoltaic modules manufacturing. About 250 workers. Strong focus on exportation.

Fundição de Évora

Manufacture of aluminium parts for exportation. About 60 employees. Exports 90% of its production. Invoice of EUR 2,5 million per year, approximately. Exports mainly for the European market, particularly France.

Bolas – Máquina e Ferramentas de Qualidade, S.A.

Machinery and equipment trading. About 50 employees. Turnover of EUR 8 million per year.

Kemet Electronics

Manufactures tantalum capacitors for mobile phones and for the automotive industry. About 320 employees.

Embraer Portugal - SPGS, SA

Manufactures structures for the Aeronautical Industry. Start-up project. About 100 employees.

DECSIS

Provides ITC services.

Glint Energy, S.A.

Photovoltaic park with 35.000 square meters and 2800 solar panels. Produces electric power to sale afterwards. Start-up project.

Évora, a friendly city

This is a friendly city, not only because of its ability to welcome investment but also, and complementarily, because of its offer in education, training, health and culture.

There are also vast and diverse options regarding housing offer.

Therefore, Évora has excellent conditions, not only to welcome the investment, but also to welcome, with quality, investors and all those who choose Évora to live in, due to the investments done here.

Regarding educational offer, Évora has 18 public preschools and 20 IPSS - Private Institutions for Social Solidarity (2 of those are private);

Regarding 1st cycle basic education (till 4th grade), there are 25 public schools and 2 private schools.

Regarding 2nd cycle basic education (till 6th grade), there are 4 public schools and 1 private school and 7 public schools and 1 private school of 3rd cycle basic education (till 9th grade).

IEFP (Institute of Employment and Vocational Training) through its Job Centre has a wide training offer, mainly in the area of aeronautics industry.

There are schools with a recognized experience in vocational education and training (VET).

The University of Évora has not a regional but a national scope, since it hosts students from all different origins, and is the city's maximum exponent of education and training.

The city has a top-level healthcare network, built around their healthcare centres and family health units and top units, such as the Hospital do Espírito Santo.

Évora is a city of culture. The Regional Conservatorium of Music is placed here, in the rehabilitated convent of Remédios owned by the municipality, spurred by the Eborae Music association, Garcia de Resende Municipal Theatre hosts a resident company, the CENDREV. Dozens of professional and amateur associations create and produce in several artistic fields, in the municipality of Évora, within the urban space but also in the rural parishes.

The Regional Museum was recently modernized.

The Eugenio de Almeida Foundation, under the Acropolis XXI program led by the municipality, inaugurated an excellent Centre of Art.

The Public Library has relevant assets and it is a dynamic space for cultural promotion.

The historical centre is, by itself, a living museum, and a permanent and interactive exhibition space of the monuments.

The arch that supports buildings with opened windows for the square and into the streets, crosses the heart of the Historical Centre. The Praça do Giraldo and Henriquina fountain, the Évora's Cathedral, the Church of S. Francisco, the Roman Temple, are some of the most emblematic heritage references of this World Heritage Site.

The cuisine is also, by itself, an intangible cultural expression that, together with the Alentejo sing, makes a perfect symbiosis.

Évora, a good bet

Given its size, centrality and visibility in the national context, Évora emerges as the pole with better conditions to lead the hierarchy of the regional urban system. Indeed, the city clearly has a patrimonial, cultural, high educational and services ability, together with an environmental quality, which seeks to boost the entire area surrounding the city. Thus, the enhancement of the average cities network in the Alentejo region, as well as the urban centres with

a supra municipal influence, is the main objective in order to reach an integrated urban system.

In coordination with the national urban system, medium-sized cities of the Alentejo region, with particular relevance to Évora should contribute jointly to promote the harmonious development of the complementary regional network.



Contacts

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