



A-AAGORA - DEMO PT FOCUS GRUPOS' RESULTS

HIGHLIGHT III



The focus groups of the A-AAGORA project included the participation of 42 key stakeholders who were invited to comment on the evolution of the Ria de Aveiro over the last 10 years.

This activity was developed as part of ongoing collaboration with the local community and followed the participatory approach that has been applied a decade ago.

The A-AAGORA project focus groups were held between April and July 2024. The participants were residents involved in different activities in the Ria de Aveiro.

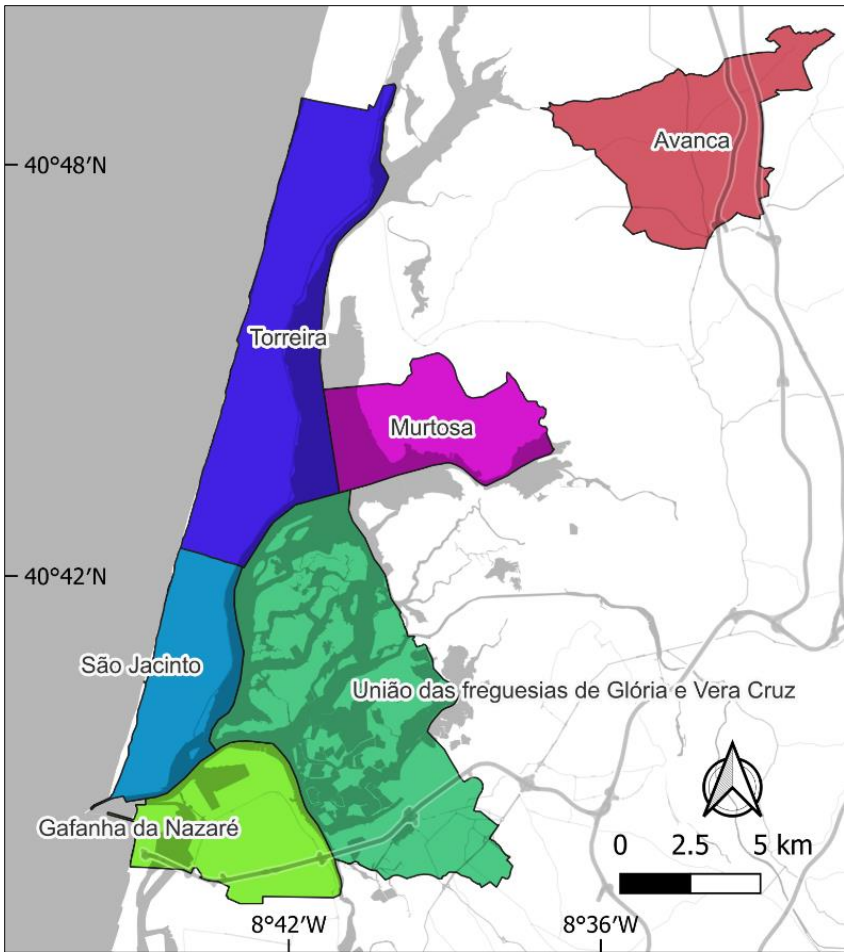
Action aims

The aim of these sessions was to discuss the topic of Ria de Aveiro and reflect on the main changes over the last decade, particularly the positive aspects, concerns and challenges, and the solutions presented by the A-AAGORA project.



Focus Groups Presentation

A total of seven focus groups were held. Five groups with residents from the parishes: União das Freguesias de Glória e Vera Cruz, Gafanha da Nazaré, Torreira, São Jacinto, Murtosa, one with students, technicians and researchers from the University of Aveiro and one with members of the Avanca Hunters and Fishermen Association.



Themes highlighted by the groups

The focus groups identified several positive aspects and concerns related to Ria de Aveiro, notably the following:



Main positive aspects:

- Reduction in the amount of waste
- Improvement in environmental conditions (water quality, less pollution)
- Greater awareness of the Ria and environmental issues

Main concerns:

- Silting of navigation channels
- Lack of an integrated management body for the Ria de Aveiro
- Appearance of invasive species (examples: water hyacinth, cormorants)
- Increased water and tidal speeds
- Widening of Barra
- Decrease in biodiversity



Presentation of A-AAGORA Project Solutions

The four innovative solutions of the A-AAGORA project were presented and participants were invited to reflect on ways to maximise their implementation in the region.



At the end of each session, participants were invited to mark the positive points (green dot) and concerns (red dot) on the map with stickers.



The DEMO-PT team thanks all the focus groups participants for their contributions to the study.



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