

Odivelas municipality

The birth of Odivelas municipality

Odivelas is one of the newest counties of Portugal, having been created on November 19, 1998. Is located in the district of Lisbon, Region of Extremadura. As part of the Lisbon Metropolitan Area, has borders with the municipalities of Loures, Amadora, Lisbon and Sintra. Since 2013, it is administratively divided into 4 parishes, Odivelas, Union of Parishes Pontinha and Famões, Union of Parishes of Póvoa de Sto. Adrião and Olival Basto and the Union of Parishes of Ramada and Caneças, distributed in an area of 26.4 km².

Geographically the Odivelas municipality takes the peripheral territorial status of the capital Lisbon, currently being a county with a recognized urban and social quality and outstanding at national level, with enhanced identity and being the holder of good references in structural areas such as education, action and social support, sport and culture.

Brief history:

Philologically, the word "Odivelas" comprises two elements "Odi" and "velas". The first is of Arab origin and means "watercourse". "Velas" is a Latin word referring to the sails of windmills.

The history of Odivelas municipality is associated with King Dinis, since the birth of Odivelas region dates back to the thirteenth century when King Dinis decided to erect in Odivelas, a monastery, invoking St. Denis and St. Bernard, attracting to this territory and the surrounding regions, members of the court nobility, artists and the people.

The Odivelas municipality also refers to other landmarks, including the Caneças Aqueduct associated with the various waterways, remaining in the county, as well as the installation of Movement Command Post of the Armed Forces, in Pontinha, in April 1974, constituting a major symbol of Portugal's democracy.

Characterization

According to the last census movement, Odivelas municipality had, in 2011, an area of 26.4 km², 144,549 inhabitants, a population density of 5,484.3 inhabitants / km², being the third most densely populated county in the area of Greater Lisbon, with an aging index of 107.9, one longevity index of 40.6, a birth rate of 12.3%, a 7% mortality rate, registering 1.06 foreign residents per 100 inhabitants.

In 2011, 16.3% of the population of the municipality was elderly, having also recorded an increase in average life expectancy, and an increase of the economically active population of the municipality (75,838 inhabitants) and 52 activity fee, 47% higher than that recorded in the Greater Lisbon area (50.16%) and also at national level (47.56%).

The geographical proximity of Odivelas to the capital associated with the recent development of road infrastructure and new investments in accessibility and mobility allowed reposition the territory of Odivelas in economic, cultural, urban. Odivelas is a territory with a high potential to be promoted and value, because of that it has been done an investment in the consolidation and improvement of the local community conditions and increasing the attractiveness of the territory. In order to promote a closer, more accessible and simplified procedures, Lisboa implemented, in conjunction with the Central Administration, a Citizen's Shop, which is the center of change and evolution of a new form of relationship between citizen and companies in the public sector and with some of the leading specialized services. This space was strategically located in major shopping center's own proactive county and recent example of the establishment of companies in the county and creating jobs.

Odivelas has stimulated local economic development and job creation, through the attraction and welcoming new businesses and companies, focused on innovation and development (I & D) and entrepreneurship, the establishment of companies and attracting investment, seeking an

inclusive, balanced and sustainable economy. Odivelas has implemented several projects to centralize companies and producers in the county in a perspective of capital gains to its citizens and territory. Promoting entrepreneurship, stimulating the local economy, is one of the key flags of the City Council. In this sense, created the Business Incubator called "Start in Odivelas", which will give priority to competitiveness, productivity and entrepreneurial creativity, and the elimination of costs and obstacles of small business installation in the county, contributing to the development and rejuvenation of the business fabric of the City of Odivelas.

Under the project "Start in Odivelas" was created the International Business Office, which aims to support companies in the construction of a pre-diagnosis of its potential for internationalization and identifying business opportunities in potential markets while will open, soon, a job center in Odivelas, in an employment protection logic.

The City Council will also promote interaction with the business community and educational institutions, research and development in order to take advantage of benefits, synergies and complementarity resulting therefrom as well as the promoters of entrepreneurship in order to ensure privileged access to partnerships, national and international, thus providing services and start-ups its implementation in a business context.

In promoting and boosting the local economy and the creation and protection of jobs, were also carried out numerous initiatives and implemented municipal programs, including the Anti-Austerity Program "ODIVELAS SUPPORTS MORE", which includes a wide range of measures to companies and persons, which are: the reduction of property taxes (IMI), the exemption from Pour (?) for all companies that locate its head office in the County of Odivelas, and introduction of tax benefits for those who prove to have maintained or created new jobs, among others.

In 2011, Odivelas featured a business density of 544.3 companies / km², occupying the 3rd position within the nine municipalities that constitute the Greater Lisbon, being the tertiary sector the predominant, like the existing reality in the Greater Lisbon . The activities with the highest number of companies are the construction, transport and storage, consultancy activities and the wholesale and retail and also the repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles.

The county of Odivelas is one of the Metropolitan Area of Lisbon, in addition to Lisbon, which has a significant and diverse cultural dynamics, which means a municipal level of investment in the cultural area. The four parishes of Odivelas municipality benefit of equipment and cultural spaces. We emphasize the existence of Odivelas Exhibition Center, a cultural facility consisting of several cultural spaces and working studios in different cultural areas, which aims not only the diffusion but also the creation of culture in Odivelas municipality. As well as the Cultural Center of Malaposta, considered a cultural facility of national importance, which exceeds about 54 thousand annual spectators. In this cultural space are promoted numerous theater and dance performances; concerts; exhibitions; screenings, being a real home where happens art and culture, is a home with art.

In the cultural level, Lisboa has secured a cultural program of excellence, using not only the dynamics of the various cultural and heritage facilities existing in the county, as well as performing numerous shows, exhibitions, festivals and other local events, national and international, focusing on multiculturalism and cooperation, in increasing tourism, dissemination and promotion of regional products, including traditional and convent White Marmalade of Odivelas, asserting itself as a gastronomic and leisure script.

This convent sweet, produced for centuries in the Monastery of St. Dionysius by the Bernardas nuns. Was D. Carolina Augusta de Castro e Silva, the last nun of the convent, who passed this testimony, through

a recipe notebook, to the civil society. Also the know-how was passed not to be lost in time. The City of Odivelas, in partnership with the Business Association of Trade and Services of Loures and Odivelas, promoted the establishment of a traditional Producers Section of the Monastery's marmalade and bet on qualification and registration of the mark - White Marmalade of Odivelas.

In the Odivelas county, education is a key area of intervention of the City Council. Annually are offered textbooks to all school children in the 1st cycle of the county public network, is guaranteed a supply of three daily school meals to the population of pupils in pre-school and 1st cycle, among other innovative projects and municipal support, and in the current school year was held an investment of EUR 3.5 million in education, covering a population of approximately 18,000 students and 44 public schools.

Odivelas is a more inclusive council on education and is in permanent rehabilitation of schools, solidarity and social innovation generating more jobs in 3rd age, disability and children at risk. Promote a more affordable health for all and bet, on a daily basis, in culture and sport as essential pillars of citizenship and integral development.

Odivelas is a more sustainable municipality regarding the spatial planning taking care of neighborhoods, legalizing, receiving and regenerating. Achieving that by betting on the redevelopment of the historic centers and rejuvenation of the aging areas, catapulting the environment, energy and mobility. It's being developed a plan as a strategic instrument in spatial planning that will allow investment and a new territorial reality and strategic direction that fits the current development paradigm.