


### ENGAGE Project Database of Best practices collected at EU level

**Purpose:** To offer a gallery of best practices examples to be used as examples and motivations for the youth leaders in their activities when raising young people’s awareness of UE values and motivating them to get engaged in democratic life.

Title of the initiative	À Noite no Mercado (Night at the Market)
Representative image of the initiative	
Website/Social Media account of the initiative	Official Website: <a href="https://www.mertolafuturelab.pt/">Mértola Future Lab – À Noite no Mercado</a>
Country of implementation	Portugal
Representative organisation/ individuals	Municipality of Mértola Association of Entrepreneurs of the Guadiana Valley (AEVG)
Field of action	

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	EU values & human rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	Citizenship	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Cultural identity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Digital citizenship	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Diversity and inclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gender, social, economic and health	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Social justice	<input type="checkbox"/>	Leadership & mentorship	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Democratic life	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Climate change, sustainability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
If other, please specify .....				
Type of action	<p>Monthly community gatherings</p> <p>Thematic discussions on sustainable food practices</p> <p>Cultural activities (e.g., traditional music and dance)</p>			
Target group	<p>Local residents of Mértola and Mina de São Domingos</p> <p>Local producers and entrepreneurs</p> <p>Community organizations and associations</p>			
Main partners or stakeholders	Municipality of Mértola			
Short description of the initiatives	<p>"À Noite no Mercado" is a community-driven initiative that transforms municipal markets in Mértola and Mina de São Domingos into vibrant spaces for dialogue, cultural exchange, and promotion of sustainable food practices. Held monthly since October 2017, these evening events combine thematic discussions on topics related to local gastronomy and sustainability with shared meals prepared using local, seasonal ingredients. The initiative fosters community cohesion, revitalizes traditional markets, and encourages environmentally conscious consumption.</p>			

<p>Activities and methods implemented</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Thematic Conversations: Each event centers around a specific topic related to sustainable food, such as regenerative agriculture, local culinary traditions, or climate change.</li> <li>● Community Cooking: Local residents are invited to prepare dishes aligned with the event's theme, emphasizing the use of local and seasonal products.</li> <li>● Shared Meals: Participants bring food items to share, promoting a sense of community and mutual exchange.</li> <li>● Cultural Performances: Events often feature traditional music and dance, such as "cante alentejano" and "viola campaniça," celebrating local cultural heritage.</li> </ul>
<p>Key Success Factors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Community Engagement: Active involvement of local residents in organizing and participating in events fosters a strong sense of ownership and sustainability.</li> <li>● Cultural Integration: Incorporating traditional music, dance, and culinary practices strengthens cultural identity and community bonds.</li> <li>● Educational Impact: Thematic discussions raise awareness about sustainable food practices and environmental issues, leading to informed community actions.</li> </ul>