



CITY PROFILE

LISBON

JULY 2016





CITY DESCRIPTION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Country: Portugal

Metropolitan area: Lisbon

Area: 100,05 km²

Population: 545,245 inhab.

Density: 6,458 inhab/km²

Metropolitan area: 2,821,876 inhab.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Mayor: Fernando Medina

Website: www.cm-lisboa.pt

CONTEXT

Lisbon, capital of Portugal, is located on the right shore of the Tagus River Estuary, which is the longest river in the Iberian Peninsula. It is one of the most ancient towns in Europe.

Lisbon is a city of irregular topography, dominated by hills and valleys of variable dimension. Given this irregular topography, Lisbon is known as the city of the seven hills.

The capital occupies an area of 100.1 km². In 2013, its resident population was up to 520,549 people. In the 2014 parliamentary elections, 501,851 voters were registered. The city's population density is of 5,202.7 inhabitants per square kilometer. This density is 6 times higher than the density in the Lisbon Metropolitan Association (LMA), of 932.9 inhabitants per square kilometer, and 46 times higher than the general density in Portugal, which was of 113.4 inhabitants per square kilometer approximately in 2013.

"In accordance with data from the census in 2011, 94, 977 people commute into Lisbon every day for work and study purposes, which represents 3,4% of its resident population. In turn, a smaller number of 49, 440 individuals commutes from Lisbon to work and study, which represents 1,8% of Lisbon's resident population.

Due to its geographic position and climate conditions, Lisbon receives an average of 260 days of sunshine in a year, meaning it is one of the sunniest cities in Europe. Moreover, the conjugation of several factors generates a distinctive light in Lisbon, which makes it the subject of literature, cinema, painting and advertising, among other forms of expression.

The city of Lisbon is included in the LMA composed by 18 municipalities. Together, this group of municipalities forms the highest concentration of population and economic activity in Portugal.



CULTURAL HERITAGE

A City that THINKS, CREATES AND SHARES CULTURE.

- **Thinks** – Strategically models of action, its goals and approaches; to define, to implement and to evaluate cultural policies and cultural strategies for the city of Lisbon with the aim of contributing to establish Lisbon as a cosmopolitan city, a contemporary city, a creative city and an inter-cultural city.
- **Creates** – Cultural programmes through its institutions and services and enables cultural agents to develop their activity; this is achieved by protecting the city's cultural identity and by facilitating and articulating the city's cultural dynamics.
- **Shares** – By promoting and communicating in a way that knowledge and information reaches all.

We have embraced the principles of the Agenda 21 for Culture. It is fundamental to articulate with other areas of municipal intervention and to create awareness of the role culture plays in our daily lives – past and present as well as the future. Sustainability can only be achieved through this multidimensional approach.

This vision is strongly linked with the values we believe in:

Culture is a right; Culture is Identity; Culture is diversity; Culture is memory; Culture is Citizenship; Culture is sustainable development.

So, all our action is channelled to accomplish these values in order to:

- Promote access to culture and the growth of audiences
- Stimulate cultural contemporary creation
- Rehabilitate and safeguard tangible and intangible cultural heritage
- Internationalization of the city and its cultural agents
- To promote and value the transversal dimension of culture

This action is developed by two equally important bodies: Municipal Direction of Culture ("Direção Municipal de Cultura" - DMC) and EGEAC (municipal company).

The 2 bodies are complementary in their action: the DMC providing access and producing contents on several fields (archaeology, literature, heritage and memory, Lisbon studies) and financial and logistical support to cultural agents. Research projects involving universities and research centres have materialized in exhibitions, catalogues, conference cycles, congresses, etc. with the final aim to promote the city's tangible and intangible heritage.

And EGEAC executing and providing venues and acting as a co-producer, recurring to the cultural sector as partners in its activity.

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE

With regards to politics, the Lisbon City Council (“Câmara Municipal de Lisboa” - CML) is the executive body in the Lisbon Municipality. Its mission is to define and implement policies and to promote the development of the municipality in several sectors. The CML is composed of 17 locally elected officials (1 President and 16 council members), who represent the different elected political forces.

The DMC is one of 12 Municipal Directorates which make up the organisational structure of the Lisbon Municipality. The DMC operates under the authority of the Culture Department of the Lisbon City Council. In the current municipal government, the head and Director of the DMC is Mr. Manuel Veiga and the Culture Department of the Lisbon City Council is led by Mrs. Catarina Vaz Pinto.

In 2015, the DMC had a staff of 557 members and a budget of €23 million, representing 3% of CML's aggregate budget. In addition, a further amount of €2.19 million was spent in the building and/or renovation of the DMC's equipment.

The DMC is responsible for the provision of grants to the cultural sector, promotion and communication and library network, and the Department of Cultural Heritage (the latter department includes archives, public art, archaeology and Lisbon studies).

THE EGEAC

EGEAC is responsible for the direct management of 22 venues and takes responsibility for multiple events that punctuate the city's agenda: Lisbon Carnival, Lisbon Festivities (including internationally-recognised events such as the Lisbon Popular Parades and the Sardine Exhibition and Contest and several other street festivals under different themes), and whenever suitable, EGEAC offers logistical and/or communications support to the multiple initiatives carried out by CML and by ATL.

The universe of EGEAC has a staff of 250 people, including employees and temporary collaborators (as the Lisbon Festivities always require a supplementary work force).

CULTURAL STRATEGY

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK OF CULTURE

The involvement of the State in the cultural sector, as it is envisaged in the present day, dates back to the 17th century, with the establishment, on a national basis, of the first theatres, museums and libraries in several European countries.

The role of the State in respect of arts and culture became more intense in the 20th century and there was an inversion as to logics that presided over the appropriation of culture by political powers: in order to attain a political purpose, culture has become a goal that uses policies as means.

Given the consolidation of the democratic regime and the fact that the phase of substantial physical investment in the area of culture has come to an end, it is possible to identify a certain number of common targets in the governmental programmes and actions of the governments succeeding within the past 15 to 20 years, as follows: support to contemporary creation; protection and appreciation of heritage; decentralization of the State's competences; qualification of players in the sector; acknowledgment of the need to increase the resources made available for the cultural area; internationalization of artists and performers; development of the relationship between culture and other areas, such as education, notably.

LOCAL FRAMEWORK OF CULTURE

In order to understand the history of cultural policies carried by the local administration in Lisbon it is necessary to consider the following: (i) the central place occupied by culture in the local administration in Lisbon is different from the remaining territory: in Lisbon, the local administration is close to the central administration and is affected by the concentration of initiatives and equipment existing herein; (ii) until the second half of the 1990 decade, the cultural actions carried out by the local government (in Lisbon and elsewhere) were mainly focused on cultural planning (allocation and management of cultural resources) and less focused on the strategic and proactive dimension of culture. (iii) Finally, the reconfiguration of assets, equipment and management mechanisms (carried out in the second half of the 1990s and in the first half of the 2000-2009 decade) leads and compels the government into adopting a new perspective for the place of culture in the city: culture is set apart from other sister areas (such as Education, Youth and Sports) and derivate products (such as "cultural entertainment"). As a consequence, there is a new place for culture in local administration.

Where culture is concerned, the entry into the 21st century in Portugal and especially in Lisbon is made in a context of enthusiasm and blossoming, an environment that has been generated in the previous decade. Taking into account the cultural evolution achieved after the revolution of 1974, it becomes apparent that the 90's were a milestone period, an age of expansion in terms of equipment, cultural structures and artistic diversity, of growth in technical and human resources. In summary, the 90's were equally an influential period where local cultural policies are concerned and its impact remains to this the present day.

CULTURAL ACTORS AND OFFER

CULTURAL OFFER IN LISBON

One may safely affirm that in the present days Lisbon benefits from a solid and diversified cultural offer. The quantity and the quality of the events, the upgrading in material and immaterial heritage and the recognition of the city's identity, and that of its inhabitants, are the result of a path taken in the latter years, one implying great investment and a strategic vision positioning the city as "an open capital: a central and cosmopolitan city, with an international calling". The role of culture as an instrument for development has become increasingly important, both economically and politically.

2007, 2009 are years of coincidence with the coming into office of new local governments but with continuity in the selected approach. This allowed for increased transversality and expansion in respect to city planning (such as the relocation of the Presidency of the City Council in the "Largo do Intendente", for example).

As from 2009, political action in the sector of Culture has been oriented towards the implementation of the following goals:

1. To restructure, to bring value and to consolidate municipal facilities and projects;
2. To consolidate, to regenerate and to facilitate the relationship between the city and its artists and political players, and also to develop the city's cultural diversity;
3. To bring value into the city's heritage; in addition to being a reference outside the city's territory, this idea is elemental to the identity of the city's inhabitants and increases their sense of belonging;
4. To bring people closer to culture and to bring culture closer to people, as a condition to stimulate a cultural background in people.
5. To upgrade and to emphasize Lisbon's cultural dimension: past and present;
6. To reinforce Lisbon's international and cosmopolitan dimension;
7. To promote culture as a factor for knowledge, competitiveness and innovation; In Lisbon, there are some examples of what cultural good practices should be. This is the case of: the creation of an Urban Art Gallery, the concession of cultural spaces by means of tendering procedures (such as DNA¹ and the "Carpintarias de São Lázaro"), the opening of the "Escola das Gaivotas", the establishment and requalification of certain libraries ("Coruchéus", "Penha de França", "Hemeroteca", "Marvila" and "Galveias"), the Museum of "Aljube", the restructuring of the Lisbon Museum and the setting-up of the Lisbon Film Commission.

Another of the city's striking features is Fado, which was acknowledged as UNESCO'S World Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2011.

¹ This site, located at Rua das Gaivotas,6, is used as a cultural working space and for exhibitions; following a tendering



CONTACTS

For additional information about this exercise, please contact:



Lisbon City Council

Catarina Vaz Pinto, Vice-Mayor for Culture: catarina.vaz.pinto@cm-lisboa.pt

Alexandra Sabino, Councillor on Culture: alexandra.sabino@cm-lisboa.pt

Web: www.cm-lisboa.pt



United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) - Committee on Culture

Email: info@agenda21culture.net

Web: www.agenda21culture.net