REGENERAR 2026

Thriving Soil and Culture across Generations

Golegã, Portugal | March-August 2026

At a glance: REGENERAR 2026 was a soil-literacy and community-engagement project developed by Fundação Mendes Gonçalves in Golegã, central Portugal, with support from SOILSCAPE, a project funded by the Horizon Europe Mission Soil call. It engaged different generations in understanding, protecting and regenerating soil through education, regenerative agriculture, science, traditional knowledge, culture and hands-on participation.

Why this project?

Soil is more than a productive resource: it supports life, food systems and biodiversity, while also carrying memory, culture, and local identity. Yet, despite its fundamental role, soil remains largely invisible to the local community, with awareness of soil health, its degradation, and its wider societal importance still relatively limited. REGENERAR 2026 was created to make soil more visible and relatable, strengthening the connection between local community, the place and the soil. Its main objective was to increase soil literacy and awareness through creative, participatory, and practical experiences for citizens of all ages.

A multi-generational approach

Children & schools

Regenerative Market-Gardens in schools combined environmental education, practical soil learning and community participation.



Young people

A Regenerative Ambassadors programme mobilized university students as young advocates and multipliers of regenerative practices.



Farmers & practitioners

Intensive regenerative agriculture training and knowledge exchange connected scientific evidence with practice.



Community & older generations

Traditional knowledge, testimonies, cultural activities connected to soil regeneration, and territorial identity.



Key results

200 participants at the Regenerar Forum • **25** University Regenerative Ambassadors • **13** Regenerative Market-Garden facilitators trained • **18** practitioners in intensive regenerative-agriculture training • **4** School Regenerative Forest Gardens created/initiated • **22** traditional knowledge oral contributions collected • **+50** press and media pieces • **2** permanent educational resources: practical guide + free e-learning • Participant feedback collected across 4 key activities, showing increased perceived knowledge, confidence and intention to apply/share regenerative practices

From activities to lasting resources

Regenerar com Evidência. An evidence-based practical guide supporting soil protection and regeneration, designed as an accessible resource for farmers, practitioners and other interested audiences.

Free e-learning course. An open Portuguese-language course on Regenerative Forest Gardens, enabling the learning developed through the project to remain available beyond its implementation period. English subtitles are planned.

Field Diaries and educational materials. Practical resources support continued implementation and replication of Regenerative Market-Gardens in schools and other settings.

Legacy and potential for replication

- School Regenerative Forest Gardens will continue beyond the project, with interest already expressed by additional municipalities for the following school year.
- The guide, e-learning course and educational materials remain available as reusable tools for soil literacy, training and replication.
- Relationships created with schools, municipalities, farmers, researchers, community organizations and young people provide a foundation for continued local action.
- The project demonstrated that soil literacy can connect scientific evidence with hands-on learning, cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and community participation.
- The methodology is highly adaptable across different territories and contexts, engaging diverse target groups such as schools, community organizations, older adults, and socially vulnerable communities.

Why it may be relevant to the UNESCO network

REGENERAR 2026 offers a place-based model that can be adapted rather than simply replicated. Its connection with the Paul do Boquilobo Biosphere Reserve, Portugal's first UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, located within the project's territory, demonstrates the potential to link soil literacy with a wider stewardship of landscapes, biodiversity, cultural identity and local communities. This offers a scalable and transferable model of place-based learning, making it particularly relevant to the UNESCO network, including Biosphere Reserves, Geoparks, World Heritage sites, ASPnet schools and UNESCO Chairs seeking to connect education for sustainable development with community participation, intergenerational knowledge exchange, cultural heritage preservation and territorial regeneration.

Explore & share

REGENERAR 2026 SOILSCAPE project page: Open link

Forum REGENERAR video: Open link



Practical guide on soil protection and regeneration in portuguese (translation in progress): Open link



Regenerative Market-Gardens in schools: Open link **and E-learning (in Portuguese):** Open link



Additional information:

Fundação Mendes Gonçalves website

Contact: info@fundadacaomendesgonçalves.org

From Golegã to the World

Regenerating soil also means regenerating knowledge, relationships, and possibilities for future generations.