



From Regional Planning Board to the Alentejo's Commission of Coordination and Regional Development

To better understand what it is and the mission of the **Alentejo's Commission of Coordination and Regional Development**, which is to ensure the coordination and articulation of various sectoral policies of regional scope, as well as implementing policies on the environment, spatial planning, and cities, and provide technical support to local authorities and their associations, at the level of the respective geographical area, in addition to implementing the State's policy of incentives to the media under the terms foreseen by law, it is important to know the path that was taken to reach this stage of decentralization.

In 1961 the Government presented a bill proposing the creation of a Regional Planning Board. On March 11, 1969, in accordance with the III Plan of Development, the territory of the Continent and adjacent Islands was divided into six regions: Northern Region; Central Region; Lisbon Region; Southern Region with one (Alentejo sub-region) and one (Algarve sub-region); Azores Region and Madeira Region. In November 1969 the Planning Commissions of the respective Regions were then decreed and promulgated.

The Planning Commissions lasted until 1979 when the Regional Co-ordination Commissions (RCC) were created. The country was thus divided into five regions, CCR Norte, CCR Centro, CCR Lisboa e Vale do Tejo, CCR Alentejo (CCRA) and CCR Algarve. The accession of Portugal to the European Union, in 1986, deeply marked the life of the CCRA. In that year, it got acquainted with new fields of action. It is the case of the competencies

of environment and spatial planning, in the meantime transferred for the Regional Direction of Environment and Spatial Planning of the Alentejo (DRAOT-A), the management of national and European financial programs and cooperation.

In 2003, in an act that is considered a "re-founding" of the Coordination Commissions, the CCRA and DRAOT-A merged, giving rise to the **Alentejo Regional Coordination and Development Commission (CCDRA)**.

Already in 2007, new legal diplomas were published to frame and define the attributions and competencies of **CCDRA**, as a decentralized body of the Ministry of the Environment, Spatial Planning and Regional Development. As a result of their application, **CCDRA** integrated the Intersectoral Coordination Council, a new body designed to promote the coordination of central administration policies, on a regional scale, and to dynamize the articulation of decentralized public services. On the other hand, the competencies exercised over the hydric domain were transferred and the extinction of the Technical Support Offices was determined. Currently, CCDRs are an instrument for the dynamization monitoring, and evaluation of the process of devolution at the regional level of central administration and the decentralization of its competencies to local authority administration.

CCDRA also participates in European Territorial Cooperation with regional entities and European associative bodies, with a view to strengthening cohesion, the blurring of borders, progress, and social and economic development. Its role in the Management of Community Funds, through the Regional Operational Programmes, throughout the various programming periods, should also be highlighted.

CCDR Alentejo Headquarters

Avenida Engenheiro Arantes e Oliveira, 193
7004-514 Évora
Tel: +351 266 740 300
Fax: +351 266 706 562
email: geral@ccdr-a.gov.pt

It offers deconcentrated services in Portalegre, Beja and Santo André.