

The contribution of mutualist associations towards a New European Bauhaus

*Paula Cristina Barros,
Ana Patrícia Duarte
and Margarida Perestrelo*
ISCTE-IUL

The aim of this paper is to discuss how mutualist associations (MA) in Portugal can contribute for the sustainability of communities and territories, namely in terms of health, well-being and welfare of the communities and territories resilience, in alignment with sustainable development goals number 3, 11 and 17 from a multi and transdisciplinarity.

Based on the literature review, analysis of secondary data regarding national ma, and the case study of two (MA), this paper argues that these organizations constitute key players in the promotion of territories sustainability and communities' well-being and welfare, acting in collaboration with other agents in the territories. MA are private organizations with a public utility, operating in the sphere of social and solidarity economy. They are created with the aim of addressing a common situation, risk or vulnerability faced by a particular group and offering complementary responses to the services provided by the government and the private sector to address these issues. These complementary responses can be essential to help communities gain access to primary services at a fairer price and responsibility is shared by all members, with democracy.

The recognition of the relevant contribution of this type of organizations to the well-being and development of territories and communities can help encouraging the creation of other similar organizations, whose activities will contribute to the sustainable development of communities and territories. Barros (2019) has developed a conceptual model on the understanding the role of human beings on the planet, that is being studied in the doctoral thesis of which this paper is part. It is intended to understand how the conceptual model can be applied in the territory, integrating multiple and transdisciplinary studies, in particular studying the contribution of ma in Portugal and analyze if and how it can provide an answer to a New Europeans Bauhaus.

