

THE ATLANTIC: OUR BRIDGE



Eixo Atlântico is immersed in an internationalization strategy to capitalize what has been done, exchange it in solidarity and learn from other territories.



Along these lines, Eixo is working, among others, with Latin American countries and Canada to develop urban cooperation projects along strategic lines such as the Urban Agenda or sustainability.

Eixo Atlântico bases its cooperation not only on experience but also on the transmission of the strong values and ideas of the European Commission with which we identify ourselves: social development, economic development, sustainable development.



Xoan Vázquez Mao, secretary general of Eixo Atlântico and Alberto Núñez Feijóo, president of the regional government of Galicia (Xunta de Galicia), with the EC President, José Manuel Durão Barroso, in Brussels. 2009



António Costa, Prime Minister of Portugal chairs the commemorative events of the 25th Anniversary of Eixo Atlântico. 2017



Inauguration of the Eixo Atlântico Square in Viana do Castelo. 2015



Xoan Vázquez Mao, secretary general of Eixo Atlântico and José María Costa, Mayor of Viana do Castelo, with the European Commissioner for Regional Development, Ms Corina Creţu, in Brussels. 2018



The King of Spain, Felipe VI and the President of the Republic of Portugal, Aníbal Cavaco Silva, at the closing act of the General Assembly of Eixo Atlântico in A Coruña. 2015



Meeting of the Executive Commission of EA with the Prime Minister of Portugal and current Secretary General of the United Nations, António Guterres. 2001



Mariano Rajoy, former President of the Government of Spain, at the EA congress in Vigo. 1996



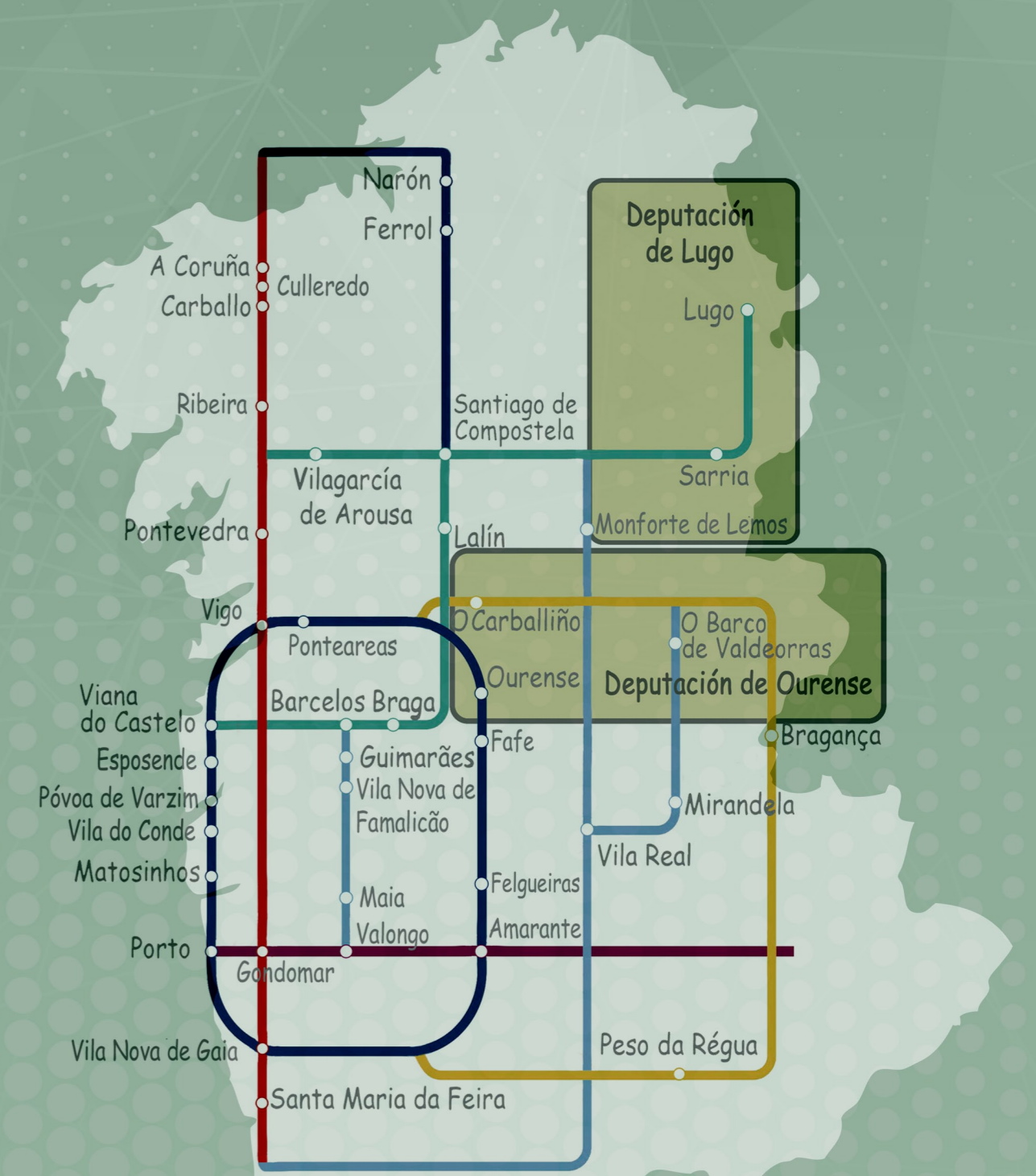
Xoan Vázquez Mao, secretary general of Eixo Atlântico and the President of City Twins with the former Prime Minister of France, Mr Pierre Mauroy, in Lille, France. 2007



The Prime Minister of Portugal, Pedro Passos Coelho, receives the President of the Eixo Atlântico, José María Costa, the Vice-President, Severino Rodríguez and the Secretary General, Xoan Vázquez Mao, in São Bento, Lisbon. 2012



EIXO ATLÁNTICO DO NOROESTE PENINSULAR



* Eixo Atlântico Urban System

POLITICAL LOBBY

The other main working line of the Eixo Atlántico is act as a **political lobbying** for the interests of the urban system of Galicia – North Portugal Euro-region. Action carried out before the Regional Government of Galicia, the national governments of Spain and Portugal and the European Commission itself. It focuses mainly on the legislative and investment fields, especially (but not only) in the field of infrastructure.

We have led social support for the proposal of the European Commission and Parliament for the **elimination of roaming** within the Union, as well as the completion of key infrastructures such as the A3 Porto – border, the Galicia – Madrid High Speed Railway Connection, the modernization of the line A Coruña – Lisbon railway, or the inclusion of Galicia in the Atlantic Railway Corridor.



Currently we are promoting the creation of a European Tourism Policy, and linked to it, a European Heritage Preservation Policy, as well as the digitalization and sustainability of the sector and its resources.

PROGRAMMES

SPORTS AND CULTURE

In the cultural field, Eixo Atlántico focuses its efforts on activities such as the **Capital of Culture**, which was born in 2009 with the purpose of promoting culture in all its expressions on both sides of the border, and the Painting Biennial, which, with more 25 years old, aims to stimulate artistic creation, as well as the exchange and knowledge of artists in the Euro-region.



The sports area is another area of citizen involvement. With a participation of more than 2,200 athletes, the *Xogos do Eixo Atlántico* have promoted, since 1995, sport and coexistence among young people in Galicia and the North of Portugal. Beyond the Xogos, which are held every two years in a different municipality, **sports tournaments** are organized in different areas, including adapted sports.

EDUCACIÓN

The *Mostra Musical* has the purpose of recognizing, promoting, rewarding and disseminating the practice of music, supporting those performing musicians from Galicia and the North of Portugal who, due to their value and interest, can contribute to the dissemination of a taste for music, especially among the youngest. Also in the area of Education we organize annual **School Exchanges** between Galician and Northern Portuguese municipalities.



TOURISM

Expocidades, an exhibition of tourism in the cities of the Eixo Atlántico, serves as a tool for the promotion of local tourism. In addition to this fair, tourist guides on various topics are published: Natural areas, historical routes, etc.



URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

In the area of Sustainable Development, Eixo Atlántico works through its Urban Ecology Agency, which carries out work for municipalities in areas such as waste management, climate change, Agenda 21 and sustainable events, among others.



THINK TANK



Eixo Atlántico has carried out **more than 200 reports and studies**, which makes it the entity with the largest knowledge base linked to the territory of a Euro-region.

The Eixo Atlántico generated the **first Cross-Border Urban Agenda in Europe** as well as a set of studies developed on urban sustainability, among which a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan for the Eixo Atlántico and a Decarbonization Plan for the municipalities of the Eixo Atlántico stand out.



Currently, Eixo has developed an agenda against the demographic challenge and the first Social Cohesion Map of the Urban System.

