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Coordinator

THE REGION of

LEIRIA

IDENTITY and DEVELOPMENT

908/LEI/70 ✓

Alda Mourão Filipe

Coordenadora

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LEIRIA

IDENTITY and DEVELOPMENT

A historical and geographical
journey



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REGION OF LEIRIA
IDENTITY and DEVELOPMENT

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Cover photo:
Instituto Geográfico Português
www.igeo.pt
Landsat, 1998; Composition 543, Resolution: 25 metres.

Artwork:
Works, Comunicação Global
www.works.com.pt

Publisher:
Polytechnic Institute of Leiria
www.ipleiria.pt
Rua General Norton de Matos
Apartado 4133
2411-901 Leiria
Portugal
Tel.: 244 830 010
Fax: 244 813 013

Printers:
Publicenso
www.publicenso.pt

Print run:
2000 copies

Acknowledgements:
Barros III, Castanheira de Pêra
Câmara Municipal de Leiria
Câmara Municipal da Marinha Grande
Canividro,
Cerâmica Vala,
Escola Amarela, Leiria
Fábrica - Museu Bordalo Pinheiro, Caldas da Raíña
Icomatro, Pombal
Instituto Geográfico Português
Direcção Mosteiro de Alcobaça
Direcção Mosteiro da Batalha
Museu Escolar, Marrazes - Leiria

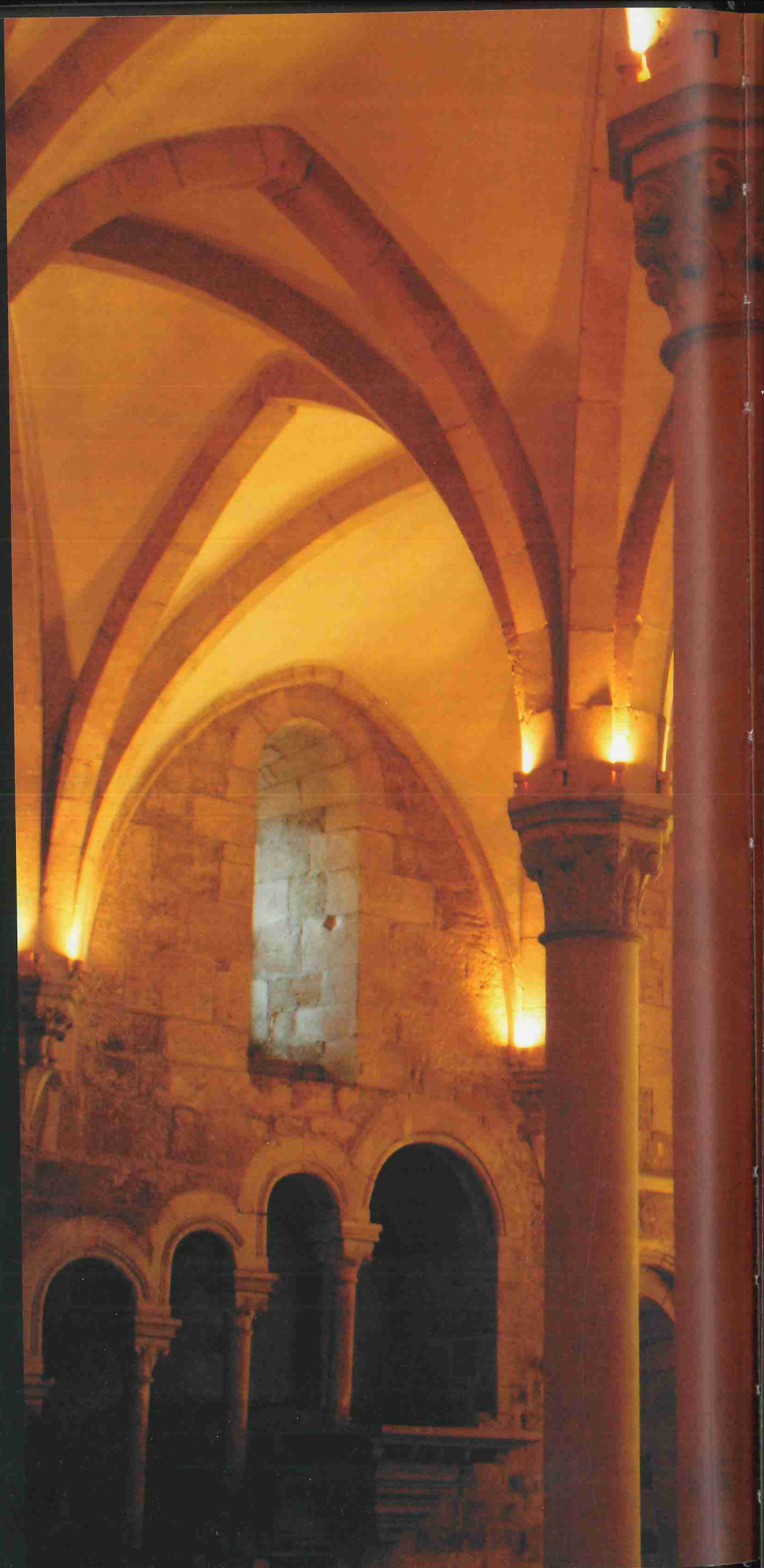
ISBN:
975-8793-16-2

Legal Deposit:
253416/07

First edition: October 2005
English version: December 2006

Translator:
Jean Burrows

Cover photograph:
A view of Leiria from the Castle



FROM LAND TO PEOPLE

An overview of the region

Another way of looking at the reality generically known as the Leiria region is to consider the maps that have been made of this portion of land, including the area representing the district itself and the municipality of Ourém, with which it is unquestionably linked.

By reflecting thus on regional identity, or rather, on the intersecting and superimposed identities outlining what may, without excessively rigid legal or even geographical concerns, be defined as the region that saw Leiria as its natural head, a new approach to the subject is almost inevitably bound to emerge. It is an approach which emphasises the importance of maps in constructing a grid for interpreting the surrounding territory, as a means to helping us to see, describe and explain "our" region.

We begin by setting the *region* we have defined in the context of the territory of mainland Portugal. Fig. 1 provides this context, illustrating some of the essential features that must be considered:

- its location on the Atlantic coast (almost half the municipalities in the region have access to the sea);
- the fact that it is located on an axis which links the country's two major metropolitan areas (Lisbon and Porto);
- its proximity to other cities of middling importance (Coimbra and Santarém);
- its intra-regional diversity, in terms of the coastal/inland dichotomy (giving the 5 municipalities in the northeast of the region a certain inland character in what is a coastal region).

From the outset these characteristics define a certain line of approach, since they represent other specific features relating to geographical location, which may help to explain a great deal of what is to follow.

The region consists of 17 municipalities and 166 parishes covering a total surface area of 3916 km². As Table 1 and the maps in Figs. 2 and 3 show, there is great diversity in the size of both the municipalities and the parishes. The total area of the region amounts to approximately 4.3% of the national territory.

To understand the regional territory as it is today, it is important to analyse the various existing transport systems, and thus the importance of each in structuring land in the region. Fig. 4, taken from the most recent edition of the duly adapted Map of Mainland Portugal (*Carta de Portugal Continental*) published by the IGP (Portuguese Geographical Institute), shows the region's main road routes: the A1 and A8 motorways.

MUNICIPALITIES	AREA (km ²)	PARISHES
Alcobaça	406.5	18
Alvaiázere	160.4	7
Ansião	176.2	8
Batalha	102.8	4
Bombarral	91.3	5
Caldas da Rainha	254.6	16
Castanheira de Pêra	66.8	2
Figueiró dos Vinhos	173.6	5
Leiria	568.1	29
Marinha Grande	185.4	3
Nazaré	81.5	3
Óbidos	141.1	9
Pedrógão Grande	128.7	3
Peniche	77.0	6
Pombal	625.7	17
Porto de Mós	260.1	13
Ourém	416.2	18
Total	3.916.0	166

Table 1 - Area and Municipal numbers per region (2003)
Source - INE (www.ine.pt)

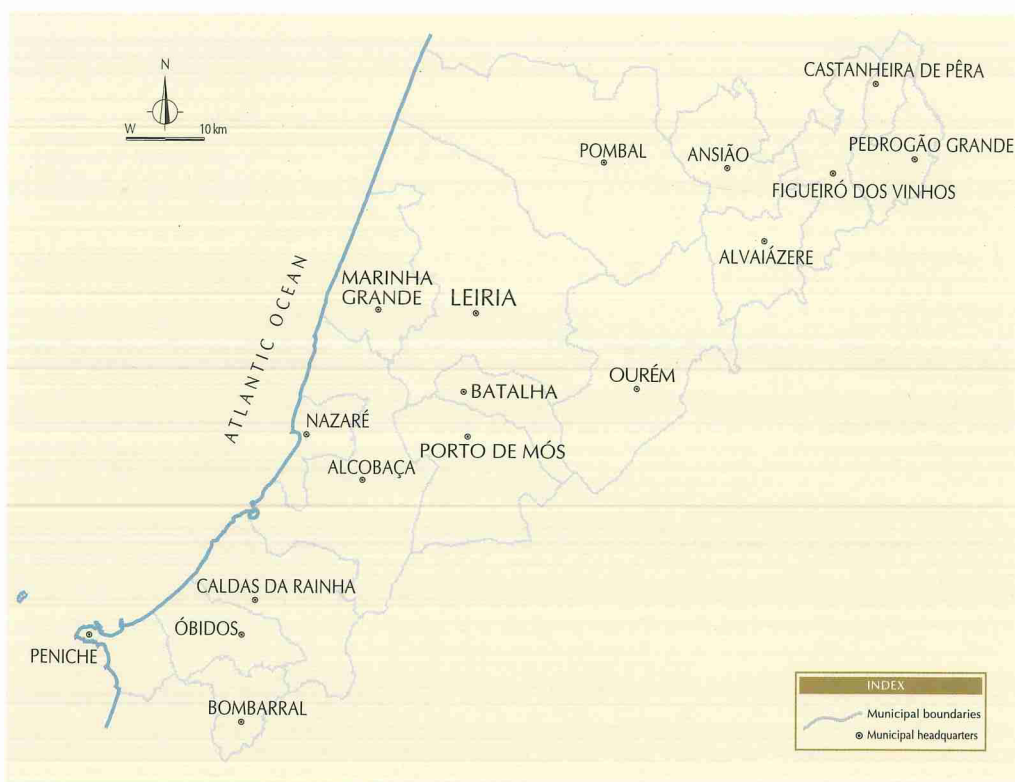


Fig. 2 - LEIRIA REGION: ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE (municipalities)

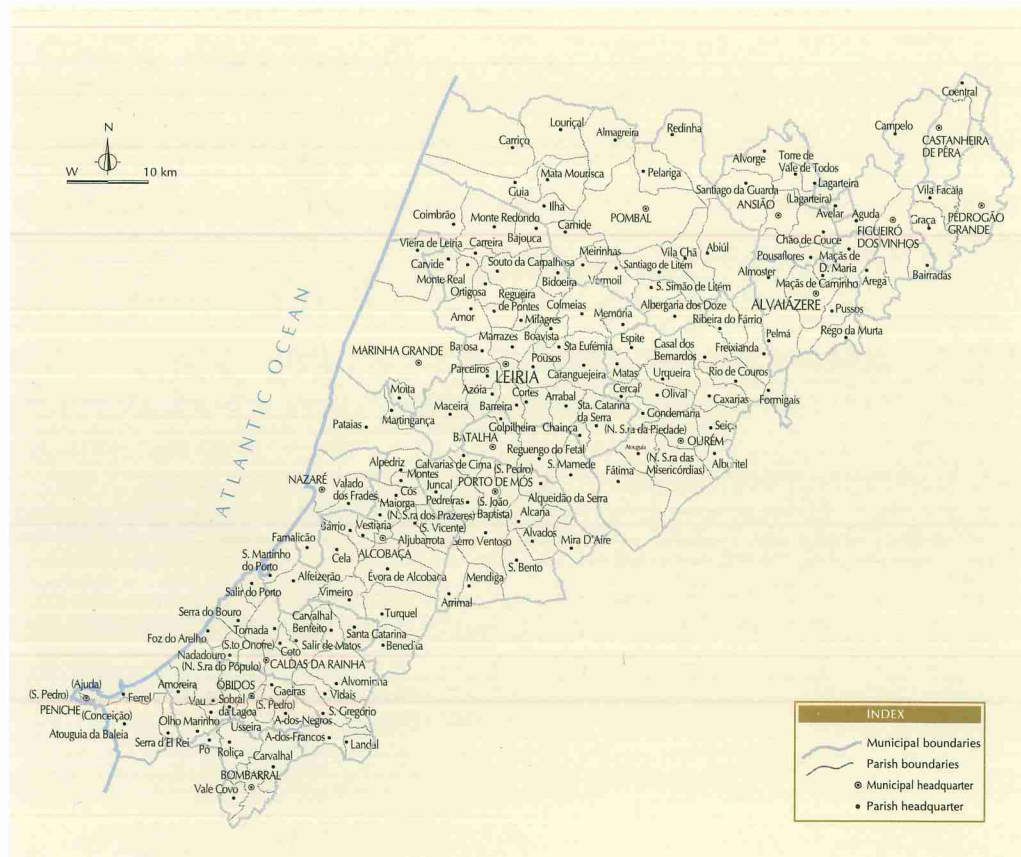


Fig. 3 - LEIRIA REGION: ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE (municipalities and parishes)

The former passes through the municipalities of Pombal, Leiria, Batalha and Ourém and the second through the municipalities of Leiria, Marinha Grande, Alcobaca, Nazaré, Caldas da Rainha, Óbidos and Bombarral. These routes clearly show that the municipalities in the northern inland area of the district of Leiria are the least well-served in terms of access to quality road networks. Moreover, the fact that there is no link between these two axes in the area around the city of Leiria makes any connection between them impossible or at least very difficult.

It should also be noted that the municipality of Peniche is served by a partially constructed link to the A8 via the IP6, which does not yet appear on the aforementioned map. The same main road, as a motorway (A15), also links the south of the region, from Óbidos to Rio Maior and Santarém.

The region is less well-served in terms of rail transport since the Northern Line, the most important and modern rail link in the country, only passes through the city of Pombal. In fact, although it also serves the municipality of Ourém, it has not proved a popular access route, particularly with pilgrims and tourists en route for Fátima. The Western Line (Linha do Oeste) has also failed to establish itself as a viable alternative to the road system leading to Lisbon and there has been a marked decline in the use of this means of transport, in terms of both goods and passenger services. This unfortunate situation is certainly a constraint on regional development, particularly since rail transport is considered safer, more convenient and better for the environment.

Still within the terms of this overall framework, it is worth recalling the system of provinces formerly used to divide up

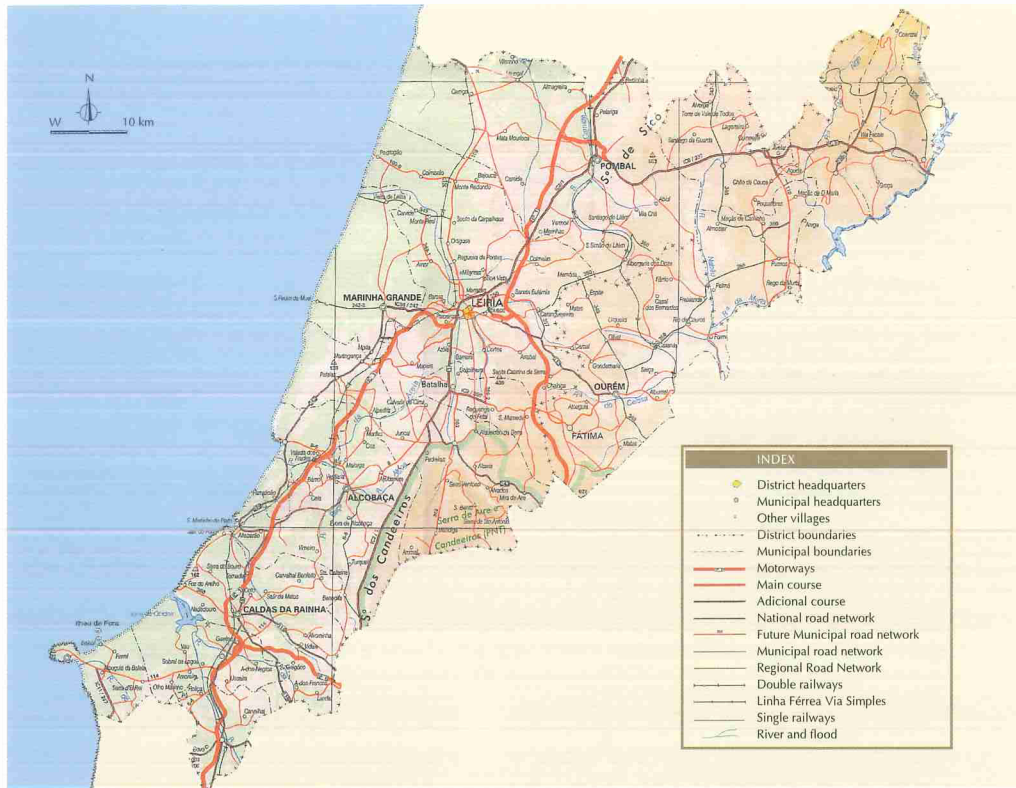
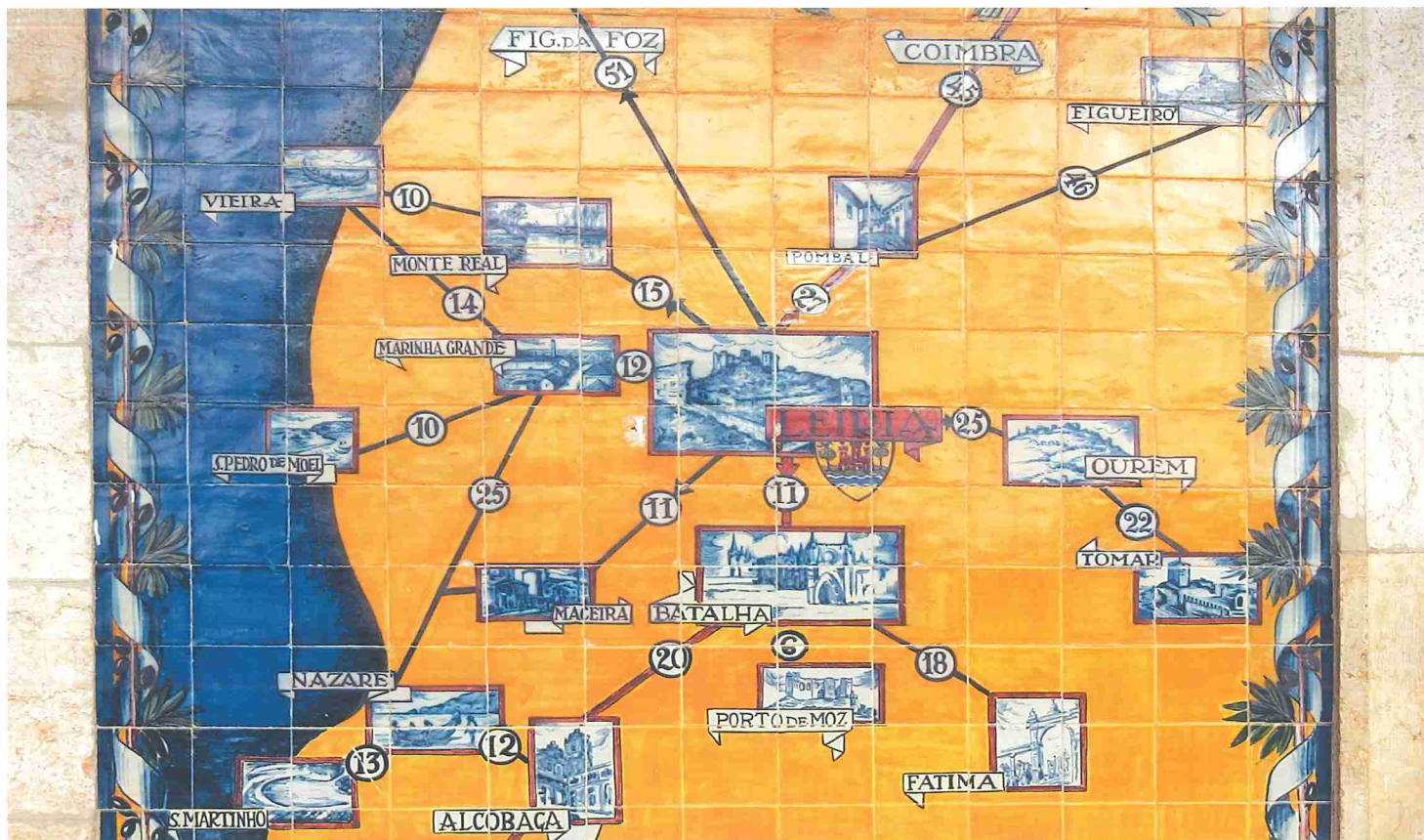
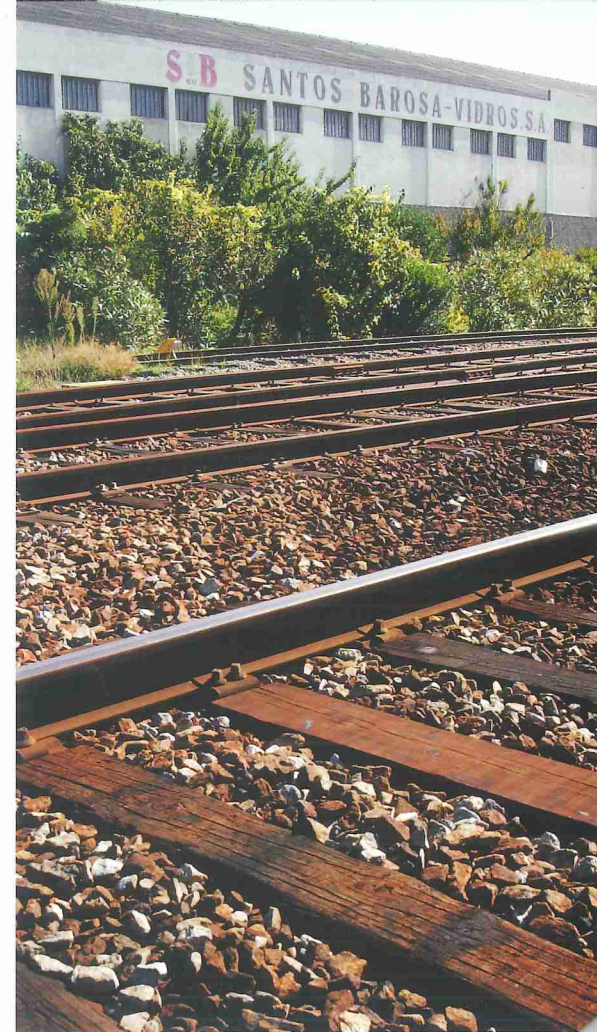
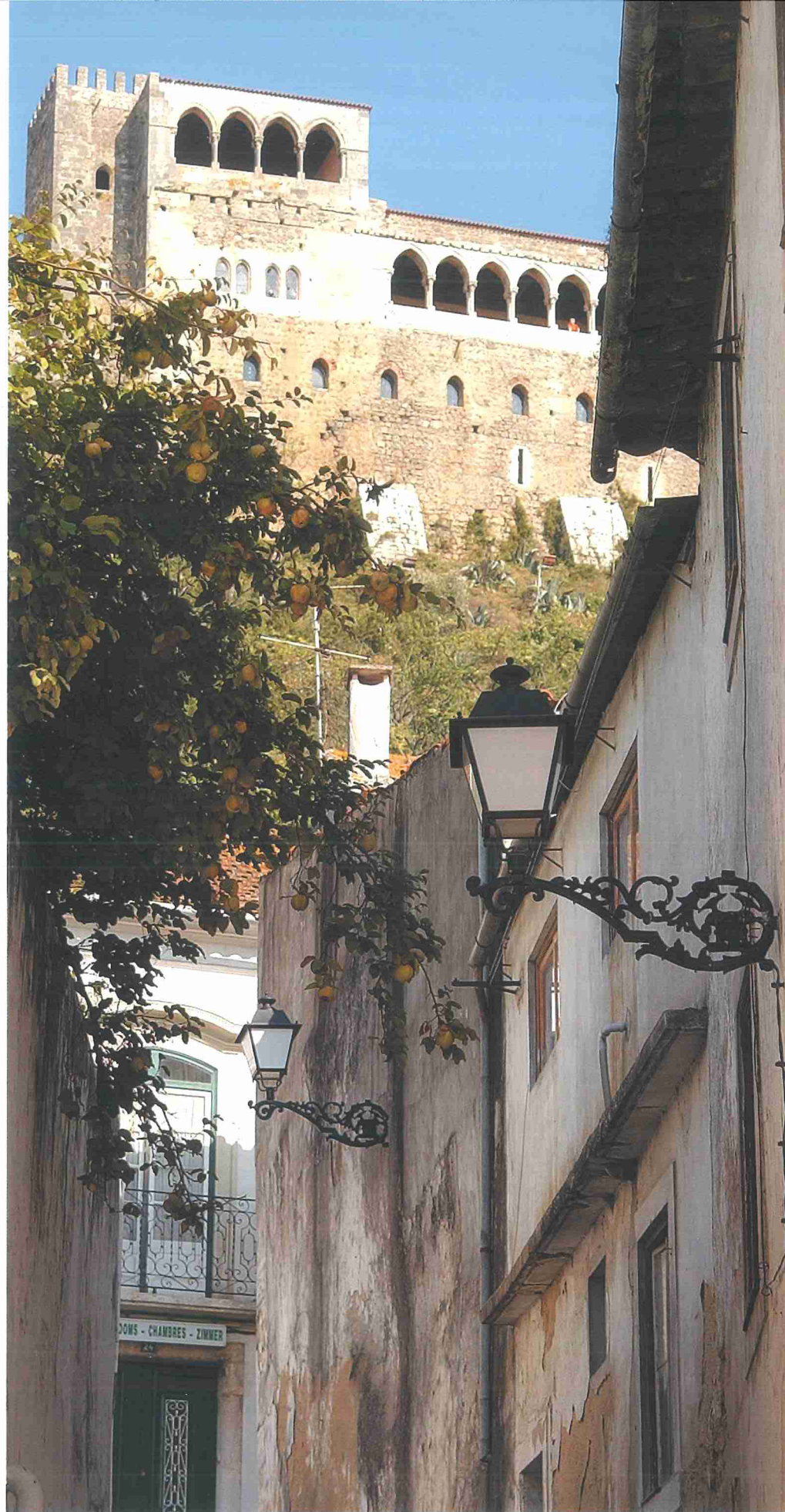
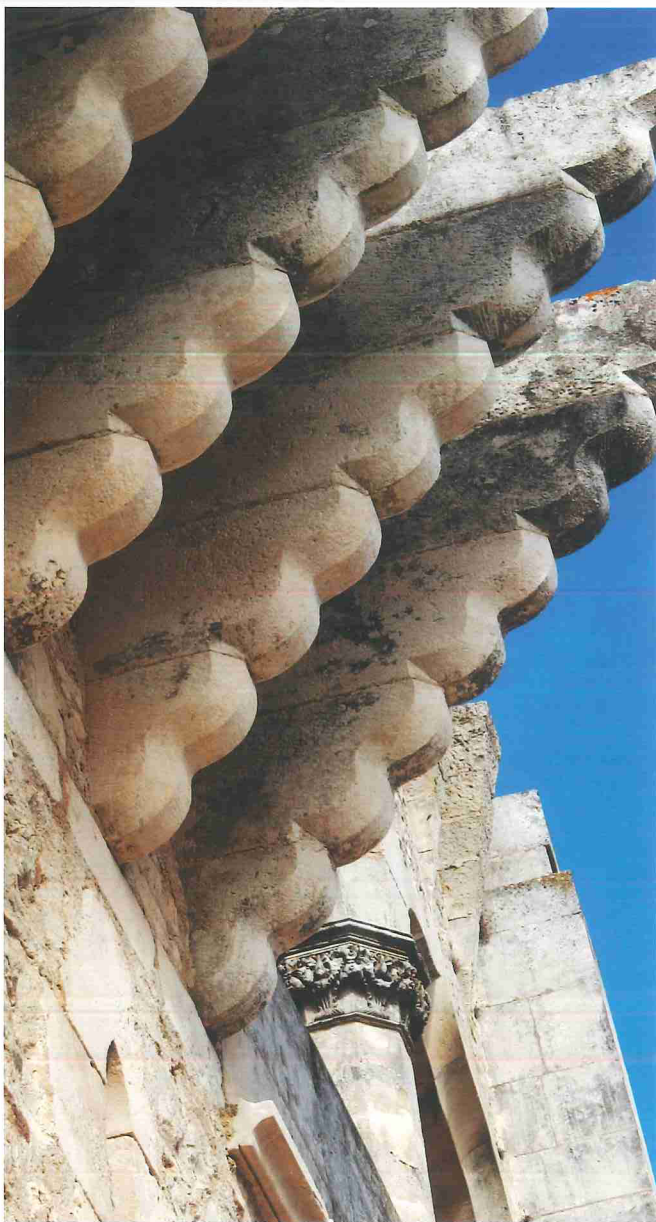


Fig. 4 - LEIRIA REGION: MAIN ACCESS ROUTES



mainland Portugal. In fact, under this old system (Fig. 5), which some people still insist on using today (and which even appears in certain maps used in primary schools), the territory was divided into the provinces of Estremadura (south, from Marinha Grande – Alcobaça – Porto de Mós) and Beira Litoral (north, from Leiria – Batalha – Ourém), a system which, as can be seen, is quite artificial since it separated municipalities which have close links, such as Leiria and Marinha Grande or Batalha and Porto de Mós.



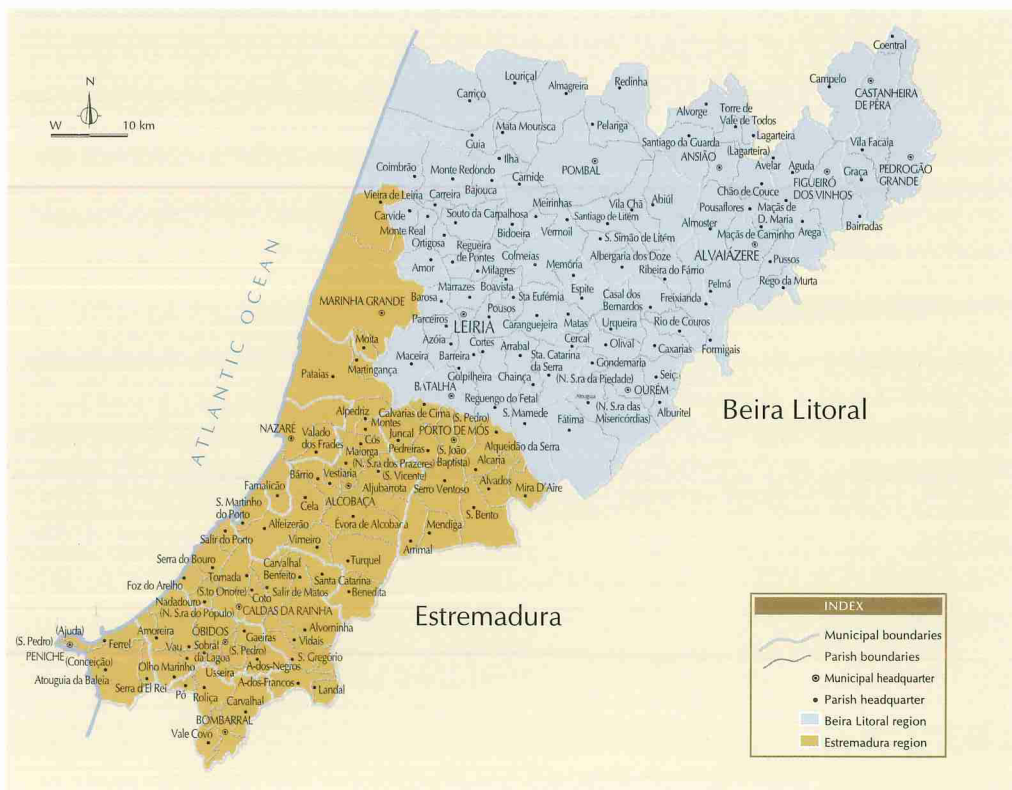
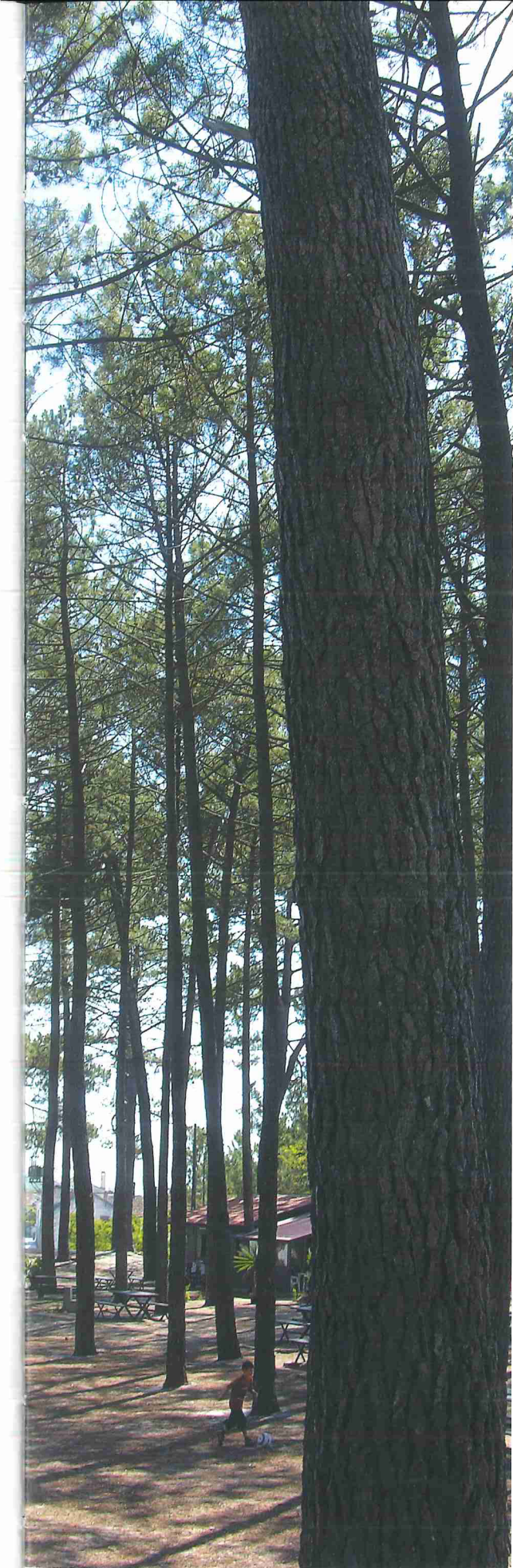


Fig. 5 - LEIRIA REGION: FORMER PROVINCES



FROM LAND TO PEOPLE

The language of maps

Maps favour the construction of identities and are a form of representation that allows people and groups to identify with that part of the earth's surface which they inhabit, or helps its recognition by people seeing it from the outside. To appreciate this, it is sufficient to recall the *hexagon* of France, the *boot* of Italy or the *rectangle* we associate with mainland Portugal: outlines of territories that are based on the perpetual study of maps and the memories we retain of them.

We can see in these geographical representations, the areas we live in and where we work and spend our leisure time or, in other words, where we spend our everyday lives and construct our *living space*. In fact, when we talk about territories we are implicitly alluding to memories and the links between perception and representation, between what we see and what we imagine and between reality and its image. The ideas we create about a region are nurtured by the images and sensations created in each of us through our positive or negative experiences of places and the trajectories of our daily, weekly, monthly or yearly patterns of life.

The extent to which a territory is readable depends on the efforts invested in terms of information, although we should realise that maps always represent a deliberate choice of particular data and constitute a limited or even fragmented representation of a territory. Nevertheless, maps are presented as communication tools which make it easier for us to explore or revisit certain realities.

Very diverse criteria have therefore been used to produce the different maps of the region, reflecting the various divisions that have moulded the area over the years and the borders which have defined and shaped it in administrative terms. The grouping of the present day district of Leiria with the municipality of Ourém is useful for our purpose, since this represents an extended area of influence for Leiria that has been established, to a certain extent, for more than a hundred and fifty years in the case of the district, and much longer in the case of its general relationship with Ourém.

This is clearer if we consider only the perimeter corresponding to the Diocese of Leiria-Fátima, and it is a pattern that recurs in other defined areas such as the Leiria/Fátima Tourism Region (RTL/F) or the Upper Estremadura Municipal Association (AMAE), the latter now in the process of being disbanded, following the creation of new urban communities.

The situation of the various entities which have represented inter-municipal cooperation between the 17 local authorities in the region up to now is extremely interesting, especially as it is the result of the free association of the various municipalities rather than of any political or administrative imposition.



Five municipal associations are operating in the region (Fig. 6) and their aim is to achieve various objectives and to voluntarily exercise certain common powers: the Upper Estremadura Municipal Association (AMAE), the Serra de Sicó Municipal Association (ADSICÓ), the Pedrogão Grande, Figueiró dos Vinhos and Castanheira de Pêra Municipal Association (PEFICA), the Western Municipal Association (AMO) and the Middle Tejo Municipal Association (AMMT).

Although their existence is currently under threat, due to the creation and establishment of various supra-municipal structures such as Metropolitan Areas and Urban Communities, it is still interesting to note the configurations and, in some cases, the juxtapositions that can be observed in this area.

In fact only two of these associations were formed exclusively from municipalities within the region – AMAE and PEFICA. ADSICÓ, AMO and AMMT also included municipalities from outside this area. Some of the municipalities belonged to more than one inter-municipal association, such as Pombal (a member of AMAE and ADSICÓ) and Ourém (a member of AMAE and AMMT).

The tourism regions, that promote the tourism industry, are another example of administrative divisions resulting from voluntary association, although these are subject to a certain measure of government control.

In a regional context, the Leiria/Fátima Tourism Region is the major tourism body, involving eight of the municipalities in question. The rest are divided between the Central Tourism Region, which is based in Coimbra (municipalities north of the district of Leiria) and the Western Tourism Region (municipalities in the south), based in Óbidos – Fig. 7.

As previously mentioned, the ecclesiastical division is also quite relevant, for historical reasons, and, in the case of the Diocese of Leiria-Fátima, would seem to correspond to the leading role played by the city of Leiria in the surrounding region. In addition, the fame of the Fátima Shrine – a major regional and national religious centre – has become one of the hallmarks of the region and is crucial to its recognition abroad.

The outline of the Diocese of Leiria-Fátima (see Fig. 8) is odd in comparison with the other models of regional territorial division, given that it contains not only entire municipalities (Batalha, Leiria, Marinha Grande, Ourém and Porto de Mós), but also parishes belonging to municipalities that are only partially included within it. This is the case with the parishes of Albergaria dos Doze, Carnide, Meirinhas, São Simão de Litém and Vermoil, all in the municipality de Pombal, the parishes of Aljubarrota (N.º Sr.ª dos Prazeres and São Vicente), Alpedriz, Martingança, Montes and Pataias in the municipality de Alcoçaba and those of Minde and Serra de S. António in the municipality de Alcanena (in the district of Santarém). It should also be noted that not all the civil parishes are based on religious parishes (for example, Martingança, Montes, Moita and Carreira).

The division established for statistical purposes should also be noted, although this has nothing to do with historical issues or voluntary formation. Known as the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS), (under Decree-Law no. 244/2002 of 05/11) its second level (NUTS II) currently includes all the region under consideration, since the municipalities of Alcoçaba, Bombarral, Caldas da Rainha, Nazaré, Óbidos and Peniche, which previously belonged to the Lisbon and Tejo Valley region, are now part of the Central NUTS II and so come under the jurisdiction of the Commission for Regional Coordination and Development for the Central Region (CCDR-C).

With regard to NUTS III, the region of Leiria is subdivided into the *Pinhal Interior Norte* (Alvaiázere, Ansião, Castanheira de Pêra, Figueiró dos Vinhos and Pedrógão Grande), *Pinhal Litoral* (Batalha, Leiria, Marinha Grande, Pombal and Porto de Mós), *Médio Tejo* (Ourém) and *Oeste* (Alcoçaba, Bombarral, Caldas da Rainha, Nazaré, Óbidos and Peniche) – see Fig. 9. In this scenario, it can be seen that only one of the areas in question (the Pinhal Litoral NUTS III) consists solely of municipalities in the region covered by this study.

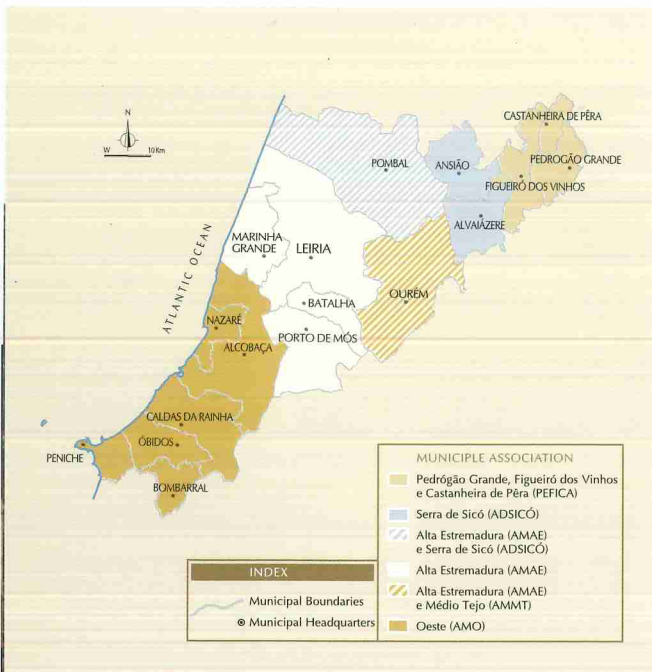


Fig. 6 - LEIRIA REGION: ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES

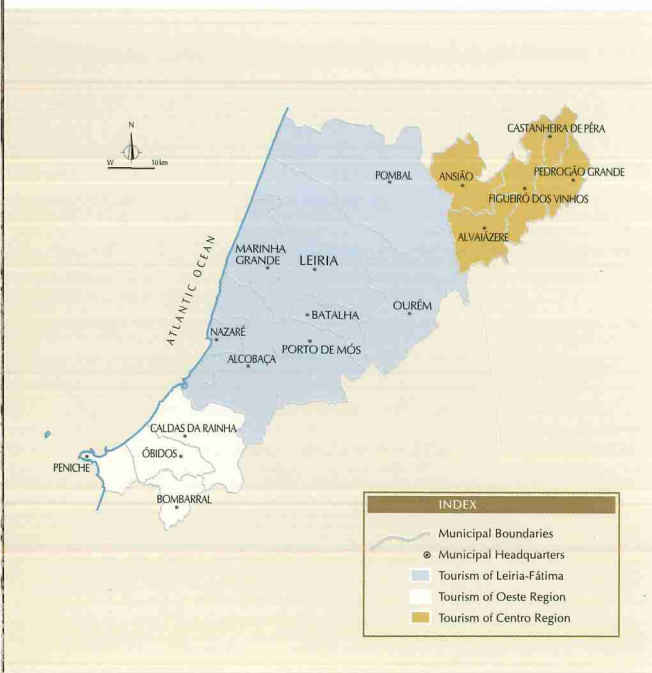


Fig. 7 - LEIRIA REGION: TOURISM DIVISION

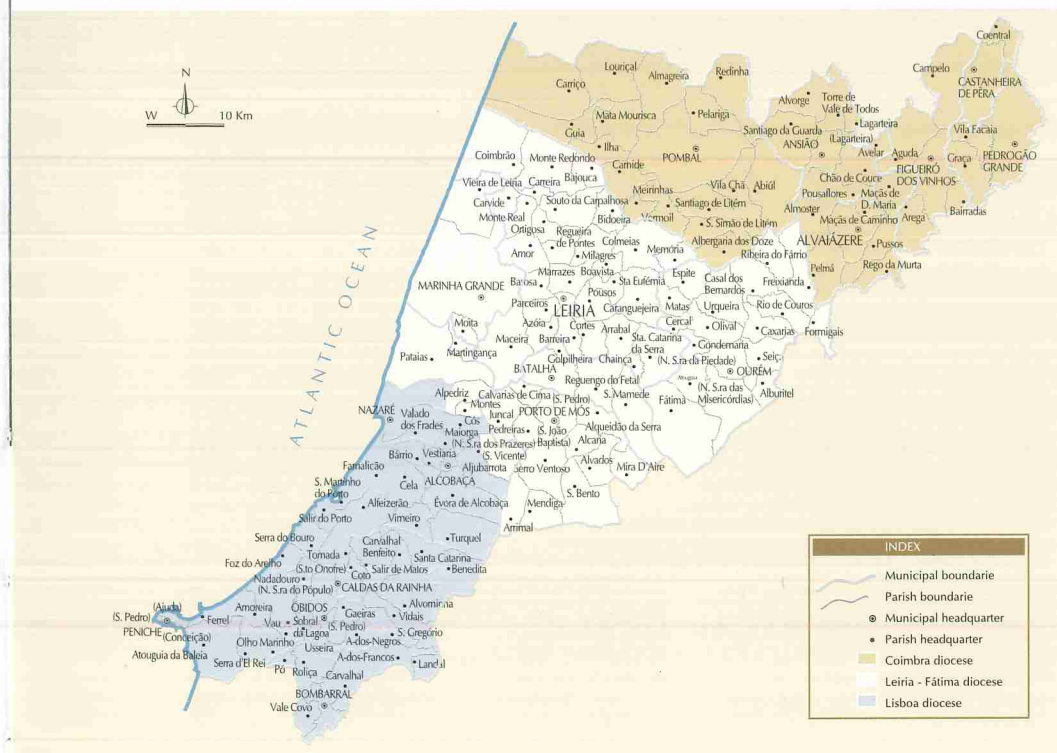


Fig. 8 - LEIRIA REGION: DIOCESES





Fig. 9 - LEIRIA REGION: STATISTICAL DIVISION

Having reviewed some of the most important maps, we shall now consider some maps representing sectoral divisions. With regard to the education sector, the territory is divided into two regional boards – the Central Region Board of Education (DREC) and the Lisbon Region Board of Education (DREL).

As Fig. 10 shows, the municipalities in question are spread over three education authorities – the CEAs of Leiria, Lezíria and Médio Tejo and the Oeste. The first of these includes the municipalities of Pinhal Litoral and Pinhal Interior Norte.

As far the state health care sector is concerned, it should be noted that the prevailing division model is by district,

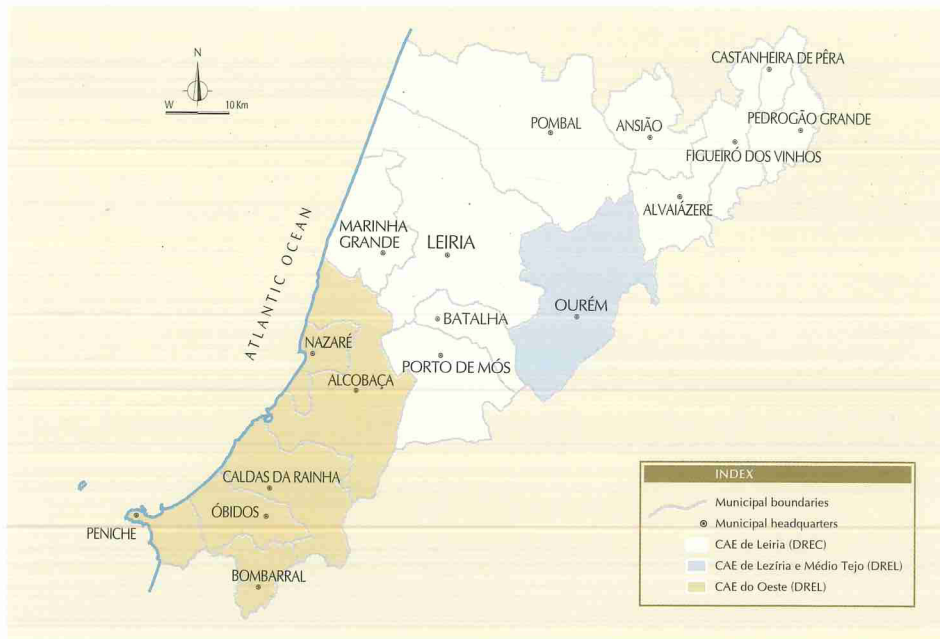
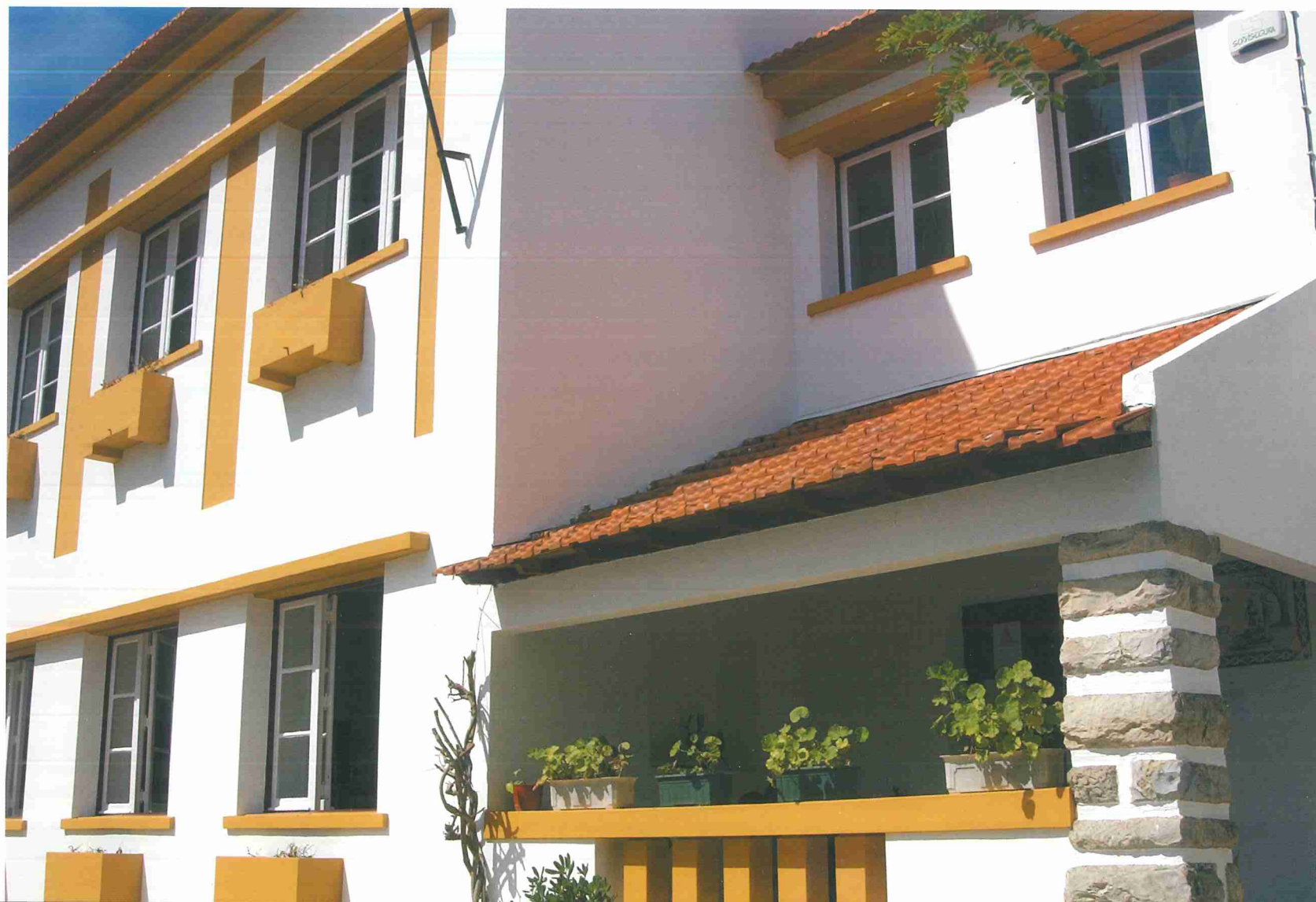


Fig. 10 - LEIRIA REGION: EDUCATIONAL DIVISION

from a strictly administrative point of view, meaning that all 16 municipalities in the district of Leiria are included in the Leiria Sub-Regional Health Authority which belongs to the Central Regional Health Authority (RHA), with its headquarters in Coimbra. The municipality of Ourém, however, belongs to the Santarém Sub-Regional Health Authority under the Lisbon and Tejo Valley RHA.



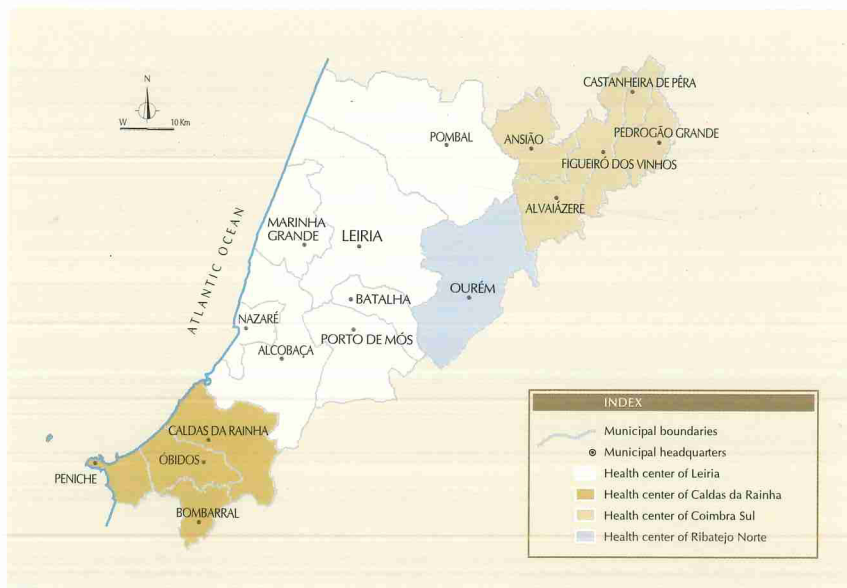


Fig. 11 - LEIRIA REGION: HEALTH DIVISION

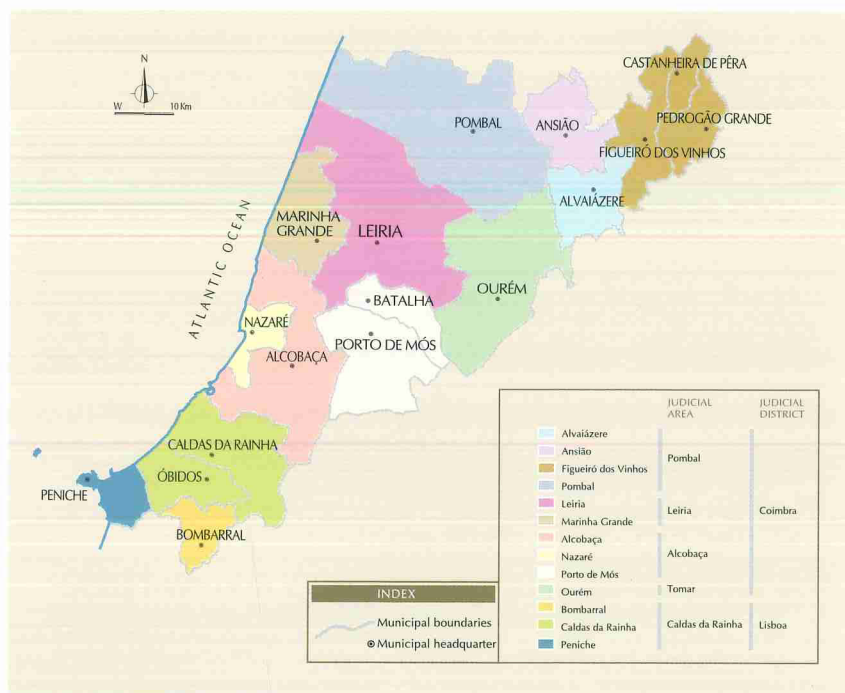
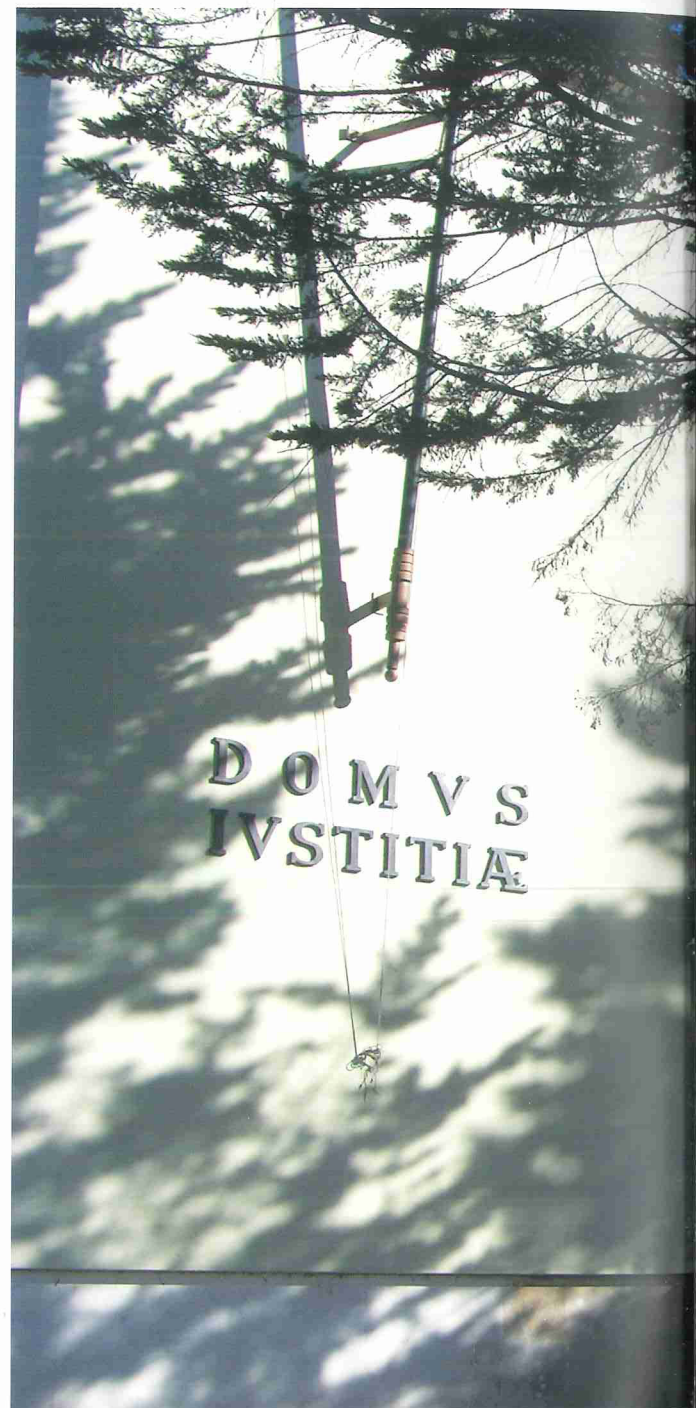


Fig. 12 - LEIRIA REGION: JUDICIAL DIVISION



From a more functional perspective, that of the so-called health units, the situation is different – see Fig. 11. The health centres in the Leiria Sub-Regional Health Authority belong to three different Health Units. The Leiria Health Unit consists of the Pombal, Marinha Grande, Gorjão Henriques (Leiria 1), Arnaldo Sampaio (Leiria 2), Batalha, Nazaré, Alcobaça and Porto de Mós health centres and the Leiria, Pombal and Alcobaça hospitals.

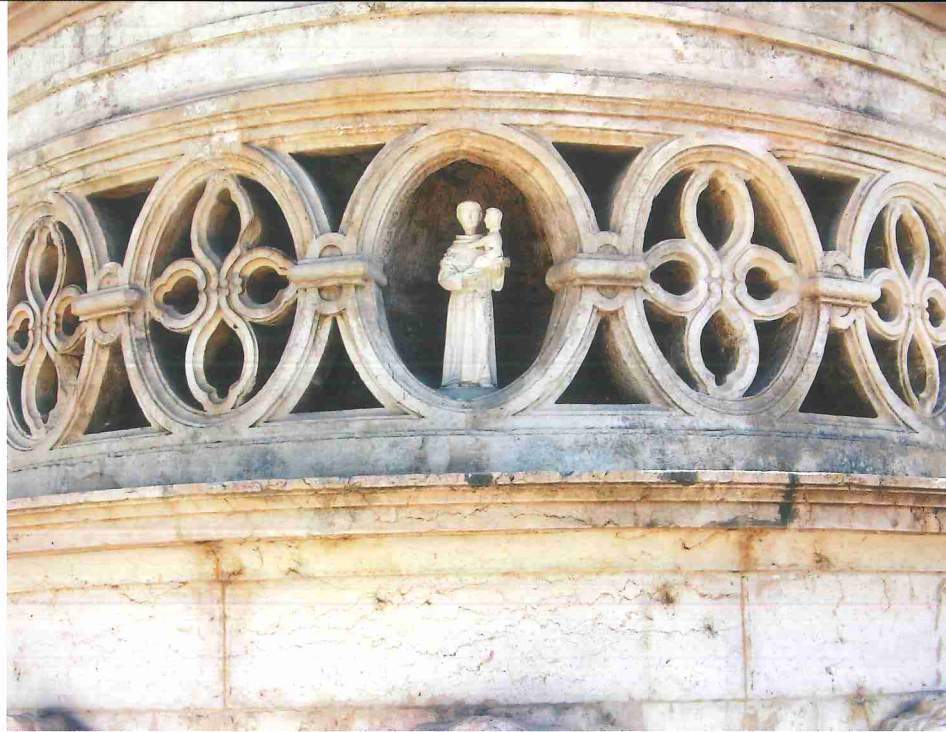
In the south of the district, the Caldas da Rainha Health Unit includes the Bombarral, Caldas da Rainha, Óbidos and Peniche health centres, Peniche Hospital and the Caldas da Rainha Hospital Centre. In the northern part of the district, the Alvaiázere, Ansião, Castanheira de Pêra, Figueiró dos Vinhos and Pedrógão Grande health centres belong to the Coimbra South Health Unit. Finally, in this division of patient flow and cooperation between state health care establishments, Ourém belongs to the Ribatejo North Health Unit.



With regard to the administration of justice, the regional territory is unequally divided between the judicial districts of Coimbra and Lisbon, with the larger part of the area lying within in the former – Fig. 12. The basic units in the territorial organisation of the Portuguese judiciary, known as the common courts, are the district courts and there are thirteen of these in the region.

This division into district courts does not always coincide with municipal boundaries and so there are several cases in the region where courts cover areas corresponding to several municipalities. This is the case with the district courts of Figueiró dos Vinhos (which, in addition to this municipality, also includes the Castanheira de Pêra and Pedrógão Grande areas), Porto de Mós (covering the municipality of the same name and also that of Batalha) and Caldas da Rainha. The latter includes the municipalities of Caldas and Óbidos, whereas Bombarral, which belonged to it until a few years ago, now has a new district court, the most recently-created in the region.





The same situation occurred earlier in relation to the Nazaré district court, because its municipality had formerly come under the jurisdiction of the Alcobaca district court.

Between the division into district courts and judicial districts, there is also division by judicial circuits, which group the first into an intermediary level of organisation. The district courts in the region form the following judicial circuits: Pombal (Alvaiázere, Ansião, Figueiró dos Vinhos and Pombal), Leiria (Leiria and Marinha Grande), Alcobaca (Alcobaca, Nazaré and Porto de Mós), Tomar (Ourém) and Caldas da Rainha (Bombarral, Caldas da Rainha and Peniche).



In relation to the operational links between security forces, it should be recalled, that the Police Force (PSP) is concerned with urban agglomerations and the National Guard (GNR) with rural areas, as illustrated in Fig. 13.

It should be noted that in civil parishes such as Pombal, Marinha Grande, Ourém (N.^a Sr.^a da Piedade) and Fátima, in which only part of the territory is classified as an urban zone, the PSP is responsible for law and order in these areas and the GNR for the rest. This is also the case in the parishes on the outskirts of the city of Leiria which partly belong to the respective urban area. These situations mean that both forces can be found in certain parishes in the region, as shown on the aforementioned map.

It should also be noted that the PSP has a district command, based in Leiria, and squadrons in the following urban centres: Alcobaca, Caldas da Rainha, Marinha Grande, Nazaré, Peniche, Pombal, São Martinho do Porto and São Pedro de Moel. The Ourém and Fátima squadrons come under the Santarém District Command.

With regard to the GNR, the area embracing the district of Leiria includes the Leiria Territorial Group and is part of Territorial Brigade no. 2, based in Lisbon, which has detachments in Caldas da Rainha, Leiria and Pombal. The first of these covers the territorial posts of Alcobaca, Benedita, Bombarral, Caldas da Rainha, Óbidos, Pataias,

Peniche and Valado de Frades. The second includes the territorial posts of Batalha, Leiria, Mira D'Aire, Monte Real, Monte Redondo, Porto de Mós and Vieira de Leiria. The Pombal Territorial Detachment has posts in Alvaiázere, Ansião, Castanheira de Pêra, Figueiró dos Vinhos and Guia. The municipality of Ourém also has a territorial post which operates in its respective rural area, under the Tomar Territorial Detachment, which forms part of the same Territorial Brigade as Leiria.

The last of the maps in this section relates to Portugal's latest administrative reorganisation, which began in 2003, following the publication of Laws no. 10/2003 and no. 11/2003 of 13/05, and has been implemented since 2004. This process has resulted in three different groups of municipal associations, organized on a voluntary basis and as a result of decisions made by their representative bodies, defined by the number of municipalities involved and the populations they cover, viz. the Greater Metropolitan Areas (GAMs), Urban Communities (ComUrbs) and Inter-Municipal Communities (ComInters).

In our region (see Fig. 14), this reform has led to the 17 municipalities being divided into three of these bodies. Leiria is the centre of a ComUrb which includes the municipalities of Alvaiázere, Ansião, Batalha, Marinha Grande, Ourém, Pombal and Porto de Mós, and is known as the AMLEI – the Metropolitan Area of Leiria. This designation would appear to reflect its aim of turning the Urban Community into a GAM, although this has not yet been achieved because it does not fulfil the necessary legal requirements (already mentioned)¹.

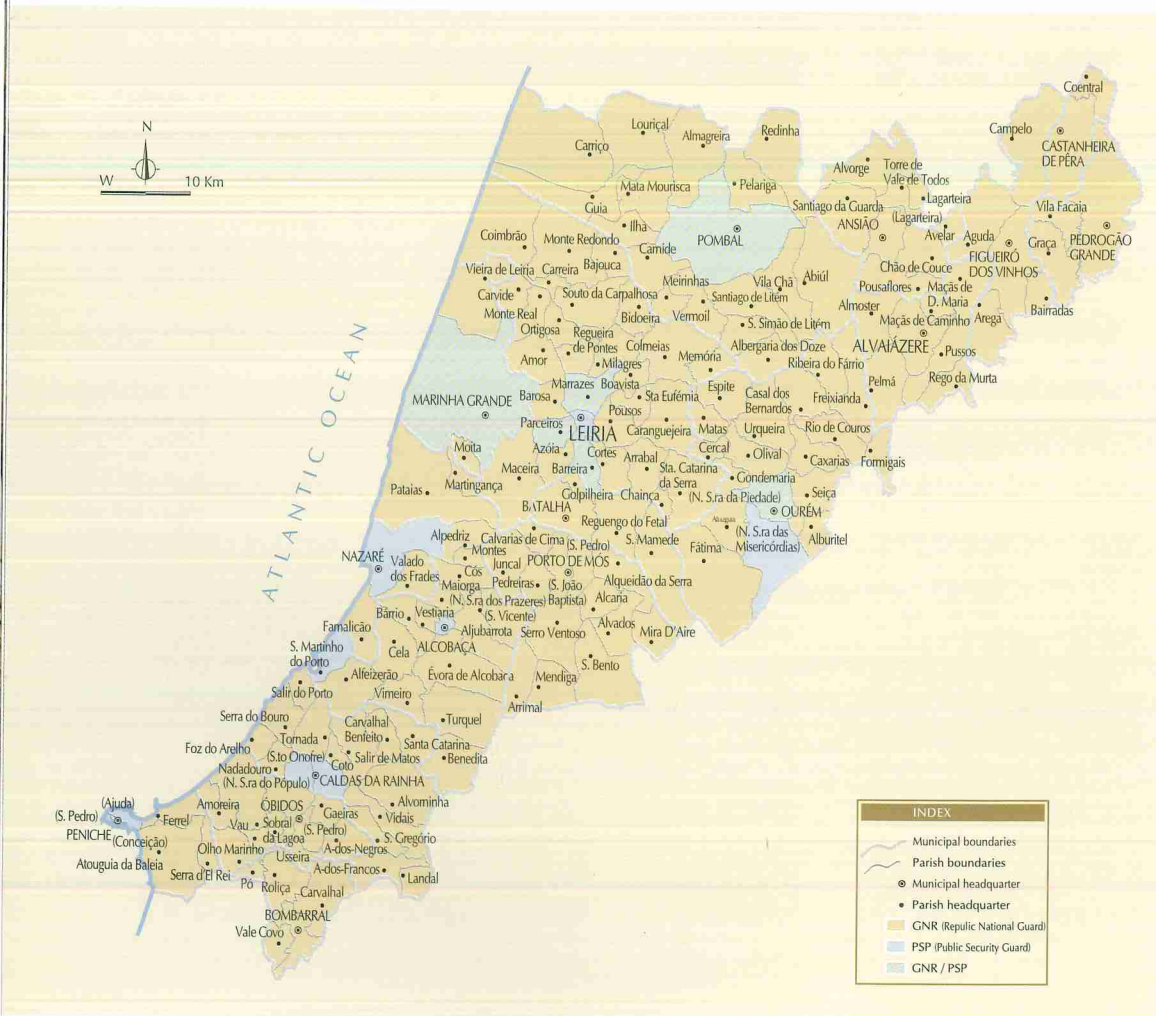


Fig. 13 - LEIRIA REGION: POLICE AREAS



The municipalities in the south of Leiria district, together with other neighbouring municipalities with whom they had founded the Western Municipal Association, opted to join the Western ComUrb. Only the municipality of Nazaré, prevented from joining the AMLEI² against the apparent wishes of its leaders, as it was not close enough to the other municipalities which belonged to it, had not at the time of writing, decided on its position and is therefore shown in white on the map.

In what seems to be still a very early stage, the three municipalities in the north-east of Leiria district (Castanheira de Pêra, Figueiró dos Vinhos and Pedrógão Grande) have stated their intention of creating an Inter-municipal Community together with the other adjacent municipalities, which is likely to be called the *ComInter do Pinhal*.

Although allowed by law, the future of this new administrative model is still uncertain, since its jurisdiction and powers still need further definition, particularly with regard to the allocation of financial resources, so it is not possible at the moment to anticipate the actual influence of this model on the (re)configuration of the region that concerns us.

“Our” region is therefore a regional area that is defined by and consolidated in a plurality of maps. This is the result of various different interpretations of the territory, on the basis of sometimes

unfounded options, which is why it is difficult to interpret. Nevertheless, some of the maps from which the various contours of this area of the central Portuguese coast have been shaped are regarded here as visual representations of the fragmentation that has been a feature this part of mainland Portugal.

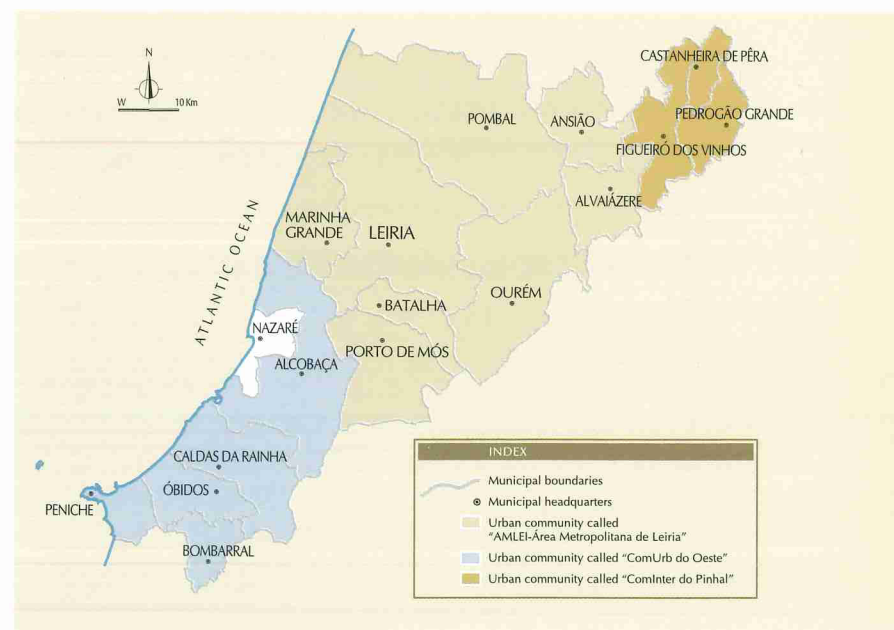


Fig. 14 - LEIRIA REGION: NEW ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE (2004)

¹ In fact there are only 8 municipalities in the AMLEI (the minimum requirement is 9), representing a population of 319,363 in 2001 (whereas the law stipulates a minimum of 350,000).

² Even if membership does prove possible, AMLEI would be unable to benefit from GAM status since it represents a population of 334,423 and so does not meet the population requirement.



FROM LAND TO PEOPLE

The dynamics of regional demography

The region we are examining is nowadays considered a demographically attractive area receiving both national and foreign migratory flows.

Its location on the Portuguese coast – the strip of land which is currently the most dynamic in terms of population, its position half-way between the country's two major metropolitan areas (Lisbon and Porto) and its relative economic strength as represented by an entrepreneurial fabric of SMEs, are other factors which have helped it achieve this status.

Nevertheless, the regional territory does contain some asymmetries and the variations in population indicators in each of the 17 municipalities in the area are very uneven.

Let us first analyse the evolution of the regional population during the period 1864 to 2001, for which data obtained from regular census counts is available³. During this period the population ranged from 194,858 to 505,642, meaning that the current figure is roughly two and a half times more than that recorded 137 years earlier (see APPENDIX - Table I). It should also be noted that in 1527, according to the results of a *Numeramento* (population count) undertaken at the time, the total number of residents in the region was estimated at about 33,608⁴.

Fig. 15 is based on the results of fourteen census counts carried out in the above-mentioned period, illustrating the regional demographic profile from the 19th to 21st centuries.

During the period in question, the regional population curve, with a few significant nuances, mirrored the national trend for the same period (cf. APPENDIX - Table II). Therefore, between 1864 and 1911, a substantial natural growth rate was recorded, as



Fig. 15 - POPULATION EVOLUTION IN LEIRIA REGION FROM 1864 TO 2001

Source - Elaborated, according to the INE available information (1964; 1970³, 1981, 1991 e 2002³).

in the country as a whole. Between 1911 and 1920, the stagnation recorded in the Portuguese population as a whole (caused by high death rates due to the Spanish flu epidemic and military involvement in the First World War, in addition to waves of emigration, particularly to Brazil) was not experienced to the same extent here.

In the following period (1920-1950), the region also witnessed a significant sharp rise in population due to a fall in the death rate (caused, among other reasons, by better living conditions, medical care and hygiene) and a decline in emigration (due to the international economic crisis in the 1930s and the Second World War).

Between 1950 and 1970, however, the number of emigrants rose so sharply that in the 1950s growth was very slow and in the 1960s there was negative growth for the first time. In both the region and the country as a whole, again due to intense waves of migration, this time to wealthier European countries such as France and Germany.

³ We refer to the present day municipalities, even though they have changed considerably during the period under consideration in terms of administrative division into municipalities and parishes. Nevertheless, on the basis of official retrospective data (INE, 1964), it has been possible to reconstruct demographic development with reference to the present day.

⁴ Our calculations are based on the total number of residents recorded in the 1527 *Numeramento* in each of the administrative units considered at the time, whose territory lies within the present day region under study: Alcobaça, Alfeizerão, Aljubarrota, Alpedriz, Cela, Coz, Évora de Alcobaça, Maiorga, Paredes, S. Martinho do Porto and Turquel (the present municipality of Alcobaça); Alvaiázere, Maças de Caminho, Maças de D. Maria and Pussos (the present municipality of Alvaiázere); Avelar and Pousaflores (the present municipality of Ansião); Batalha; Alvorninha, Caldas da Rainha, Salir de Matos, Salir do Porto and Santa Catarina (the present municipality of Caldas da Rainha); Aguda and Arega (the present municipality of Figueiró dos Vinhos); Leiria; Pedreira (the present municipality of Nazaré); Obidos; Atouguia da Baleia (the present municipality of Peniche); Abiúl, Pombal and Redinha (the present municipality of Pombal); Porto de Mós; Ourém. In calculating the number of inhabitants in the region we followed GALEGO e DAVEAU (1986: 65), using "one of the criteria adopted in demographic studies of the time, according to which each household or resident corresponded to an average of 4 individuals".

Demographic growth is evident in the next decade (1970 – 1981) although in the region we are interested in it was much less intense than in the country as a whole. This growth was due to a slow-down in the flow of emigrants and the return of hundreds of thousands of Portuguese citizens from the former overseas provinces. However, in 1981, the population of the Leiria region was not much more than it had been 1960, as recorded in the Census. It is likely that in the region generally and, in particular, in some of the municipalities within it, there was still a considerable amount of migration, so the fall in emigration noted after the first oil crisis (1973) was not so visible.

From 1981 to 1991, here, as in all country, the population barely grew at all, despite a rise in average life expectancy, as the effects of an increasingly lower birth rate became more marked.

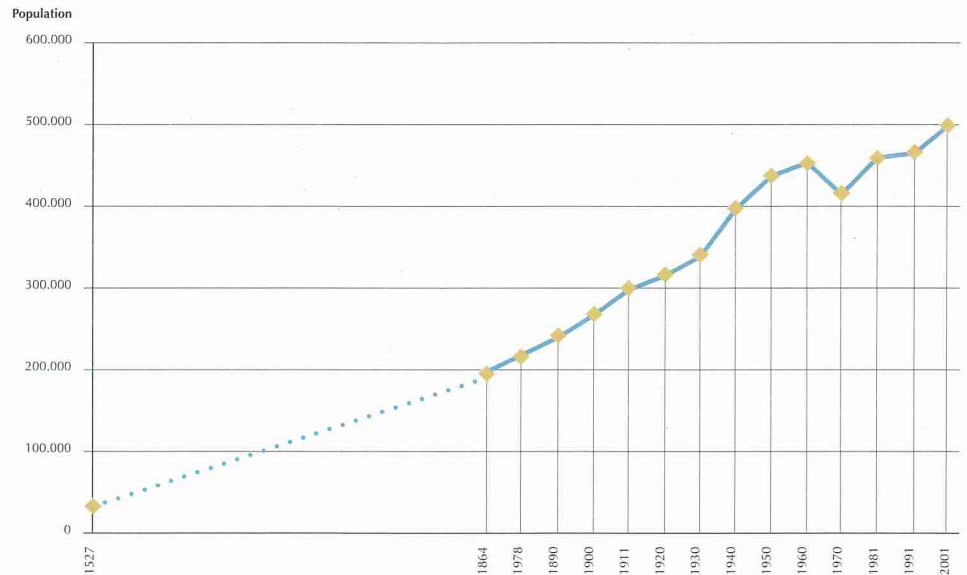


Fig. 16 - POPULATION EVOLUTION IN LEIRIA REGION FROM (1527-2001)

Source - Elaborated, according to the GALEGO, DAVEAU (1986) and INE information (1964; 1970^a, 1981, 1991 e 2002^a)

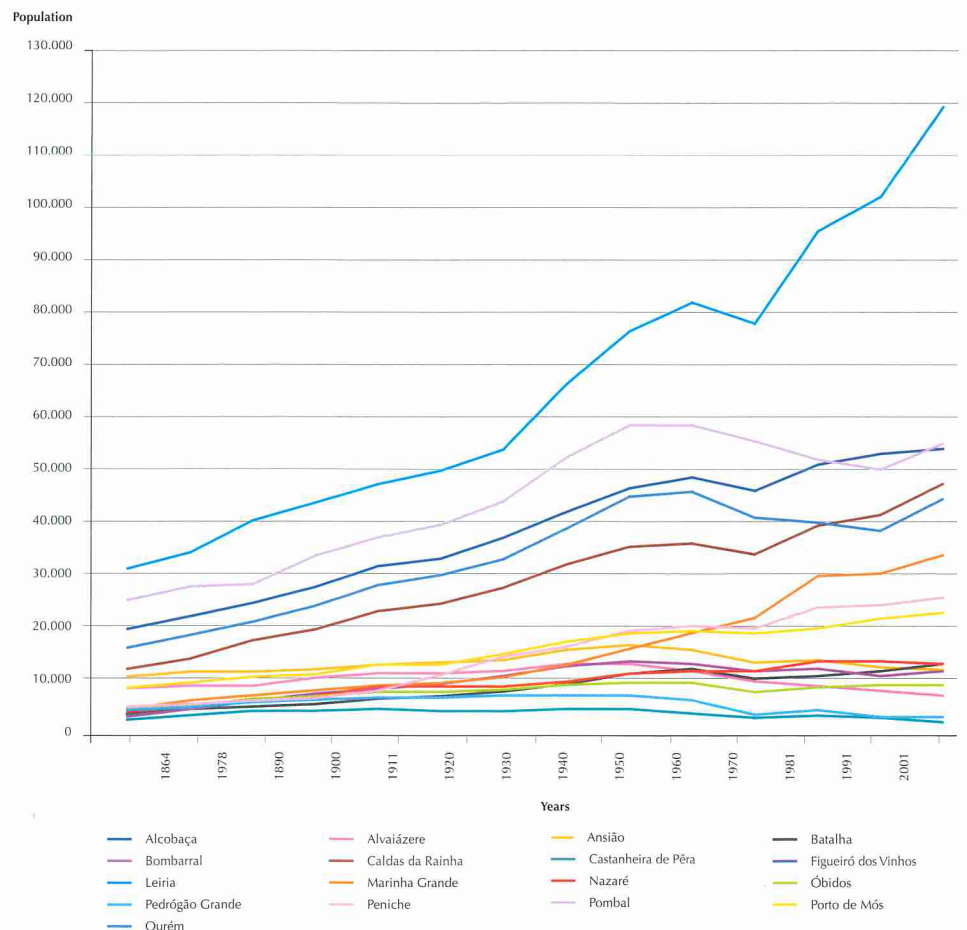


Fig. 17 - POPULATION EVOLUTION IN LEIRIA REGION FROM 1864 to 2001, by municipality

Source - Elaborated, according to the INE information (1964; 1970^a, 1981, 1991 e 2002^a)



More recently (1991-2001), a new demographic factor has emerged: immigration. The region, and the country as a whole, is witnessing a new phenomenon (in terms of its scale) in its demographic history – an influx of foreign workers, not only from the Portuguese-Speaking African Countries (PALOP) and Brazil, but above all, from Eastern European countries. Demographic growth is now becoming much more the result of a migratory, rather than a natural, balance.

Let us turn now to the broader demographic cycle (Fig. 16), which includes the population estimated in the 1527 *Numeramento*. Although the records cover only the results of this exercise, in the 337 years up to the next period (1864) it can be seen that the population of the region grew by 480%, i.e., on average roughly 1.4% per year. From 1864 to the 2001 census – a period of 137 years – the growth rate was slightly lower, at around 1.2% per year.

As the above figures show, in the 2001 census the region slightly exceeded the benchmark of half a million inhabitants. However, of this total, the figures for each of the municipalities reveal significant differences between the most and least densely populated.

These discrepancies are clearly shown in Fig. 17, which trace the evolution of the population in the 17 municipalities which comprise our region in the period between 1864 and 2001.

In 2001, and by quite a margin, the municipality of Leiria is top of the list, with a total population of almost 120,000. Moving down at intervals of 30,000 to 60,000 inhabitants we find the municipalities of Pombal, Alcobaça, Caldas da Rainha, Ourém and Marinha Grande. A group of small municipalities, all with populations of less than 20,000 contains Nazaré, Batalha, Ansião, Bombarral, Óbidos, Alvaiázere, Figueiró dos Vinhos, Pedrógão Grande and Castanheira de Pêra. The municipalities of Peniche and Porto de Mós lie somewhere between this group and the previous one.

These synchronic results, from the last census were compared with the corresponding figures for 1864. Diachronic analysis reveals some striking findings, not only in terms of certain changes in the rankings in comparison with today, but above all in the much smaller discrepancies existing between the municipalities.

Comparing the each of the present day municipalities during this period, it can be seen that around half of the municipalities in the region have stagnated or even regressed in demographic terms, particularly those in the northern inland area of the district of Leiria. Another group, consisting of the remaining municipalities, with the exception of Leiria, showed moderate population growth during this time. During the 137-year period, only the district capital has experienced exceptional population growth, gradually establishing itself (except in the 1960s due to a wave of emigration which also had an impact here) as the main regional centre of attraction, with the population increasing from 32,252 to 119,847 inhabitants.

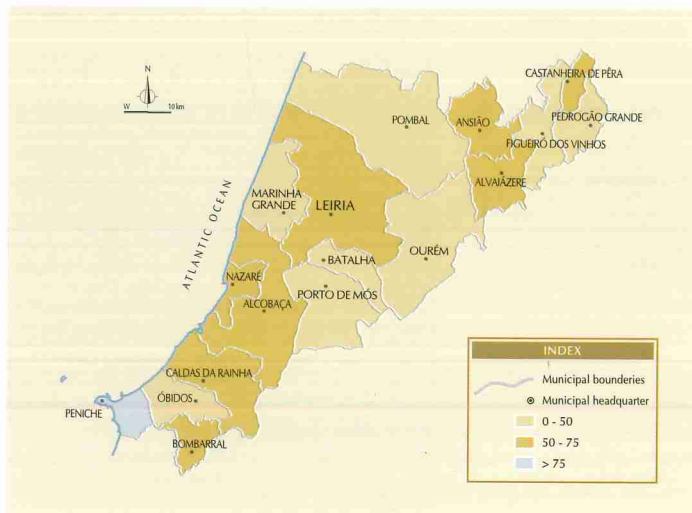


Fig. 18 - POPULATION DENSITY IN LEIRIA REGION, by municipality (1864)

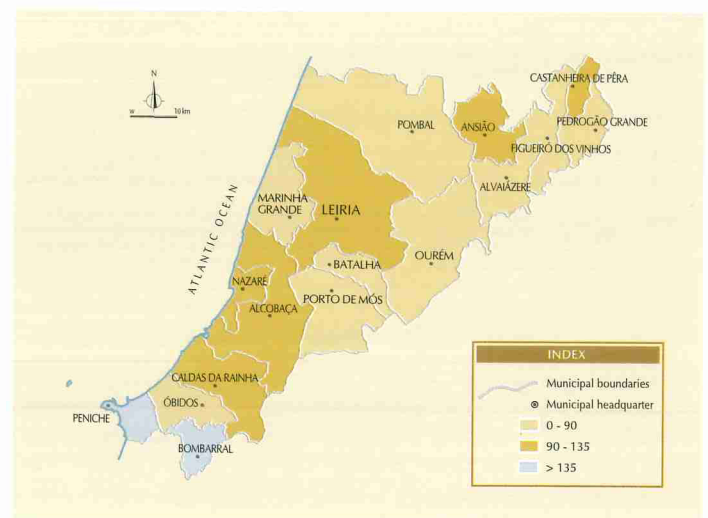


Fig. 19 - POPULATION DENSITY IN LEIRIA REGION, by municipality (1930)



The data relating to population density in the region that today has the city of Leiria at its centre is also interesting – see Table 2, which traces the evolution of this indicator during the above period.

From a demographic point of view, it can be seen that the population has gradually concentrated in this area, even if this happened slowly at certain times and even slipped back in the 1960s, for the reasons explained earlier.

But, this indicator varies when the overall figures are broken down by municipality, with the population density of each ranging, in 2001, from 34.2 pop./km² (Pedrógão Grande) to 351 pop./km² (Peniche). Moreover, the overall trend for these figures, when analysed in terms of individual municipalities (APPENDIX - Table III), also reveals significant changes in the relative position of each municipality.

Figs. 18 to 20 aim to highlight this trend, on the basis of data relating to the initial (1864), intermediate (1930) and final (2001) points in the period in question, relative to three groups of municipalities: those with a population density that was less than average for the respective year, those in the middle of or slightly above this average (figures of up to 50% above the average) and those which were considerably above the average (i.e. with a population density that was more than 50% higher).

In 1864, only Peniche came into the last, group, a position which it also maintained at the other points in the survey. In 1930, Bombarral was also included in this level but was replaced by Leiria in the latest (2001) census.

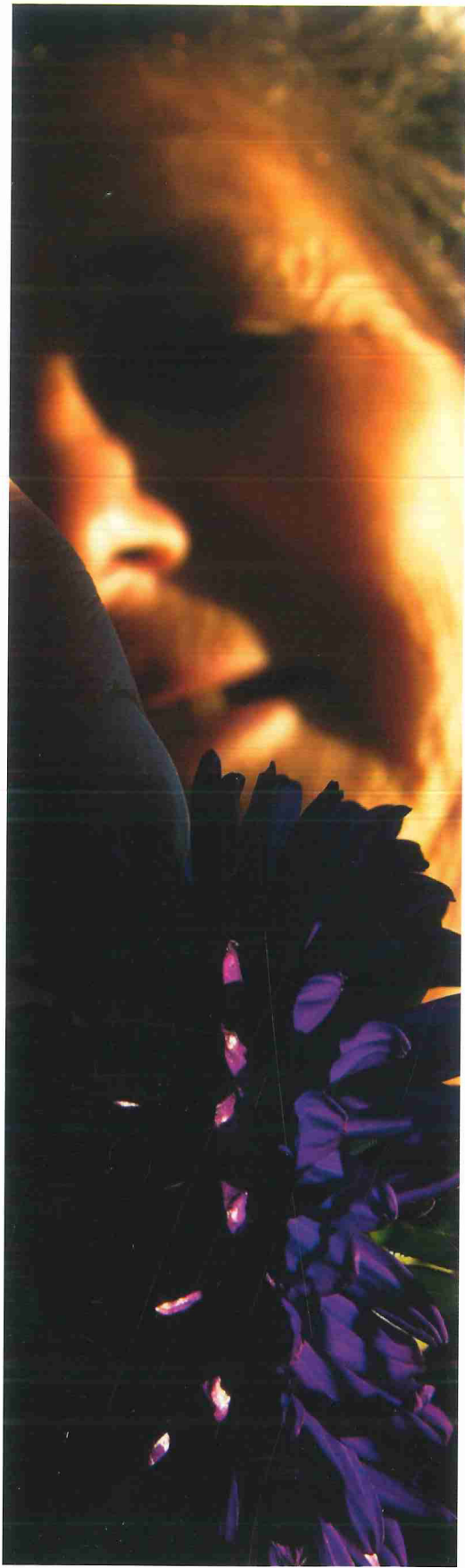
In contrast, some of the municipalities in the region have always featured in the list of the least densely populated in all three census counts that were analysed. This was the case with the municipalities of Figueiró dos Vinhos, Óbidos, Pedrógão Grande, Pombal, Ourém and Porto de Mós. Others were always in the middle group (Alcoçaba, Caldas da Rainha and Nazaré).



Fig. 20 - POPULATION DENSITY IN LEIRIA REGION, by municipality (2001)

YEARS	DENSITY (inhabitants / km ²)
1527	8.6
1864	49.8
1878	55.5
1890	61.9
1900	68.5
1911	76.5
1920	80.4
1930	87.9
1940	101.8
1950	113.0
1960	115.4
1970	107.2
1981	117.9
1991	119.1
2001	129.1

Picture 2 - INHABITANTS' DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION (1527-2001)
Source - Elaborated, according to the GALEGO, DAVEAU information (1986) and INE information (1964; 1970^a, 1981, 1991 e 2002^b)





Some hovered between this group and the previous one, such as those whose populations had fallen between 1864 and 1930 (Alvaiázere) or 1930 and 2001 (Ansião and Castanheira de Pêra), whilst others, such as Marinha Grande (1930) or Batalha (2001), saw an increase.

In trying to assess the relative weight of the region in relation to the national total, it can be seen that at present it represents 4.9% of the total population of Portugal (cf. APPENDIX - Table II). Moreover, in diachronic terms, this weighting has not varied significantly since 1864, remaining at between the 4.5% calculated for this year and the 5.2% calculated for 1920 and 1950). In earlier times (1527), however, the percentage population for the region did not exceed 3% of the total number of inhabitants in mainland Portugal.

Another aspect that must be considered when assessing demographic behaviour in the region concerns the analysis of birth and death rates, from which the natural growth rate (NGR) for the population may be obtained. These figures are presented in Fig. 21 for the year 2001, highlighting those municipalities in which the line representing the mortality rate is located at some distance from the line marking the birth-rate, which applies to most of the 17 municipalities included. In contrast, only

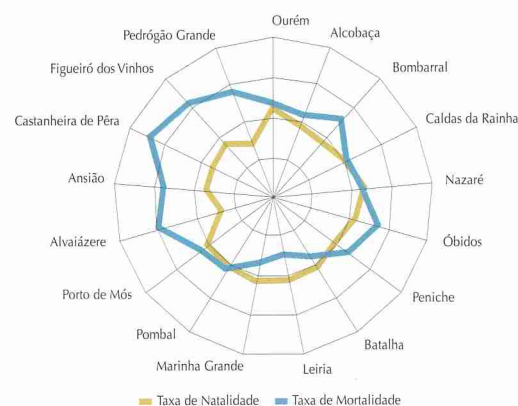


Fig. 21 - BIRTH AND DEATH RATES FOR MUNICIPALITIES IN LEIRIA REGION (PER MIL) - 2001

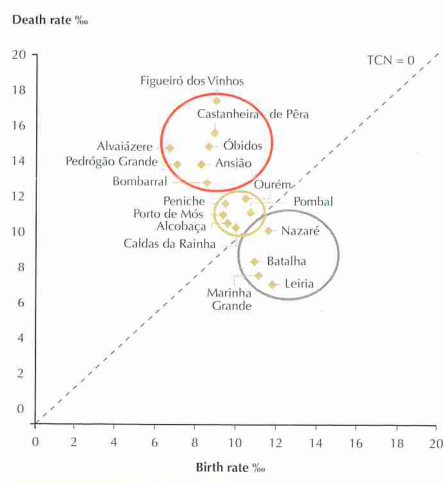
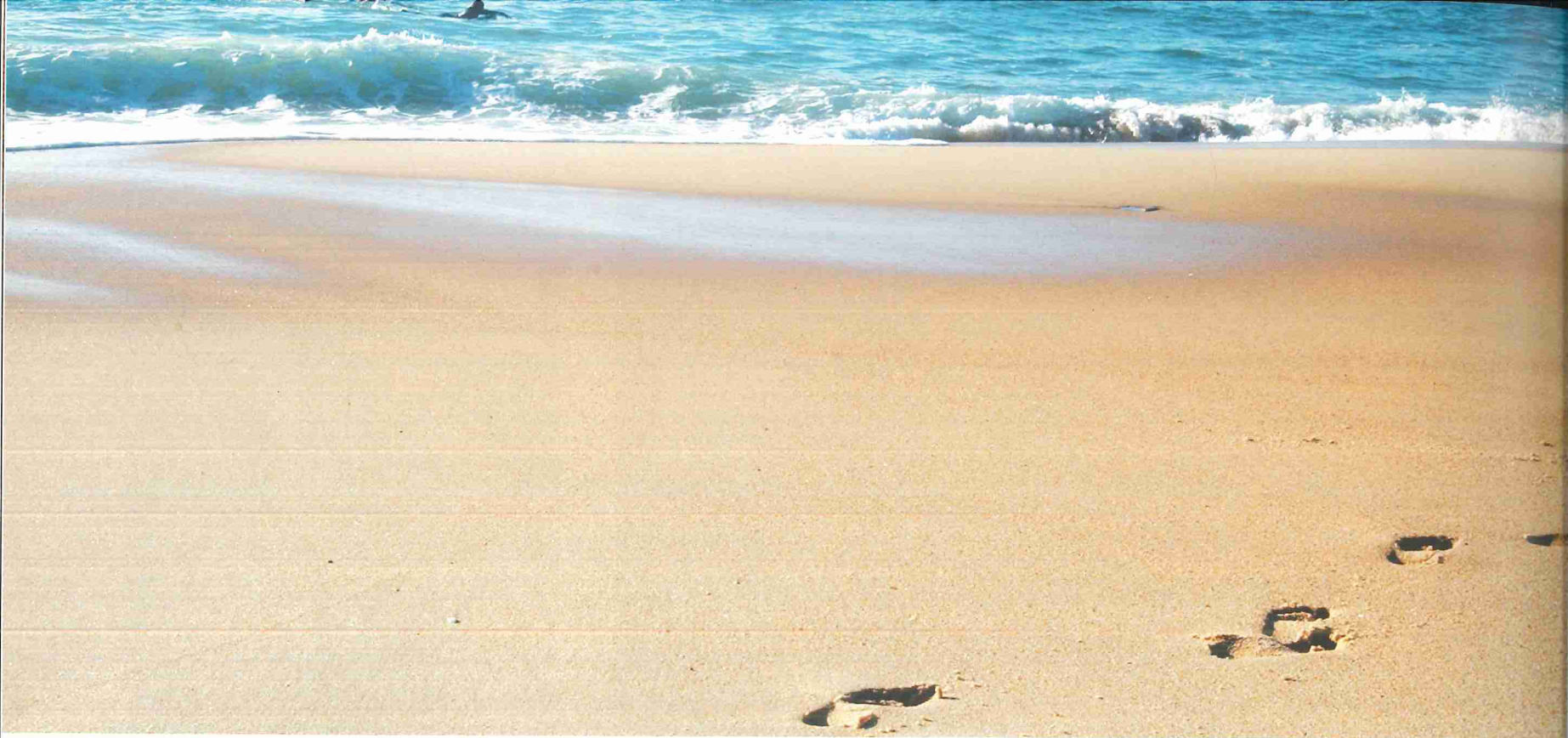


Fig. 22 - BIRTH AND DEATH RATES FOR MUNICIPALITIES IN LEIRIA REGION (2001)

Source - Elaborated, according to the INE information (2002b)

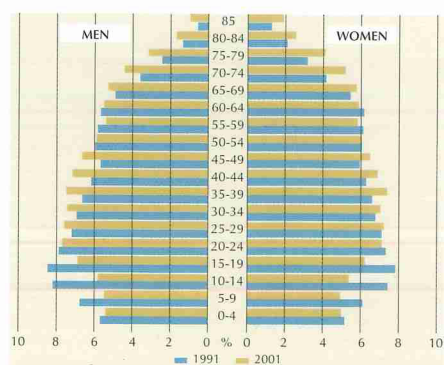


Fig. 23 - AGE PYRAMID FOR POPULATION IN LEIRIA REGION (1991 - 2001)

Source - Elaborated, according to the INE information (1991 and 2002a)

the municipalities of Leiria, Marinha Grande, Batalha and, tangentially, Nazaré, exhibit a positive natural growth rate.

On the evidence of figures from the INE (National Statistics Institute) on the basis of which the above figure was produced, it may be seen that the birth rate for the different municipalities is 4.8‰, although there are variations of between 6.9‰ (Alvaiázere) and 11.7‰ (Nazaré). The death rate varies between 7.7‰ (Leiria) and 17.1‰ (Castanheira de Pêra) – revealing an amplitude of 9.4‰.

The natural growth rate revealed for each of the municipalities using the demographic statistics provided is negative for the municipalities of Castanheira de Pêra (- 8.6‰), Alvaiázere (- 8.1‰), Figueiró dos Vinhos (- 7.1‰), Pedrógão Grande (- 7.0‰), Ansião (- 5.4‰) and Bombarral (- 3.9‰), relating only to situations that are most obvious from this indicator, which is one of the factors contributing to the ageing of the population.

By presenting the same situation differently (Fig. 22), it is possible to define and represent three groups of municipalities according to the birth and death rates for 2001.

Using this method, the municipalities are divided into three groups: the first (defined by a red line) includes those whose natural growth is negative due to a low birth-rate and a simultaneously high death rate – the *shrinking* municipalities.

As a counterbalance, the second group consists of those with higher birth rates and lower death rates, highlighting, as we said earlier, the situation in Leiria and Marinha Grande, which are experiencing positive natural growth – the more *dynamic* municipalities. Somewhere between them are the municipalities for which the figures, although negative, are approaching zero natural growth rate – the almost *stationary* municipalities.

The age pyramid for the region (presented in Fig. 23) represents the situation just described, in which the phenomenon of the dual ageing of the population accentuates

sharply from 1991 (light bars) to 2001 (dark bars), as a result of the twin effects of an increasingly lower birth rate (the age groups at the base of the pyramid) and a gradual rise in average life expectancy (the groups at the top of the pyramid).

The age pyramid for 2001 may be classified as *constrictive* that is, one in which the proportion of adults and the elderly is much higher than the juvenile group, for the reasons already given. This was already in evidence in 1991, although the trend was much less marked. In both cases women are, as usual, less well represented in the lower age groups (it is an established fact that more males than females are born). In contrast, women are increasingly represented in the adult age groups, clearly exceeding the effect of men in the groups representing the elderly, since life expectancy is slightly higher for women.

We now turn to an analysis of the age pyramids for each municipality in the region for 1991 and 2001, which will enable us to verify the development that has taken place and the trend this reveals (Fig. 24). The groups which were defined for the purposes of Fig. 22 largely reappear here.

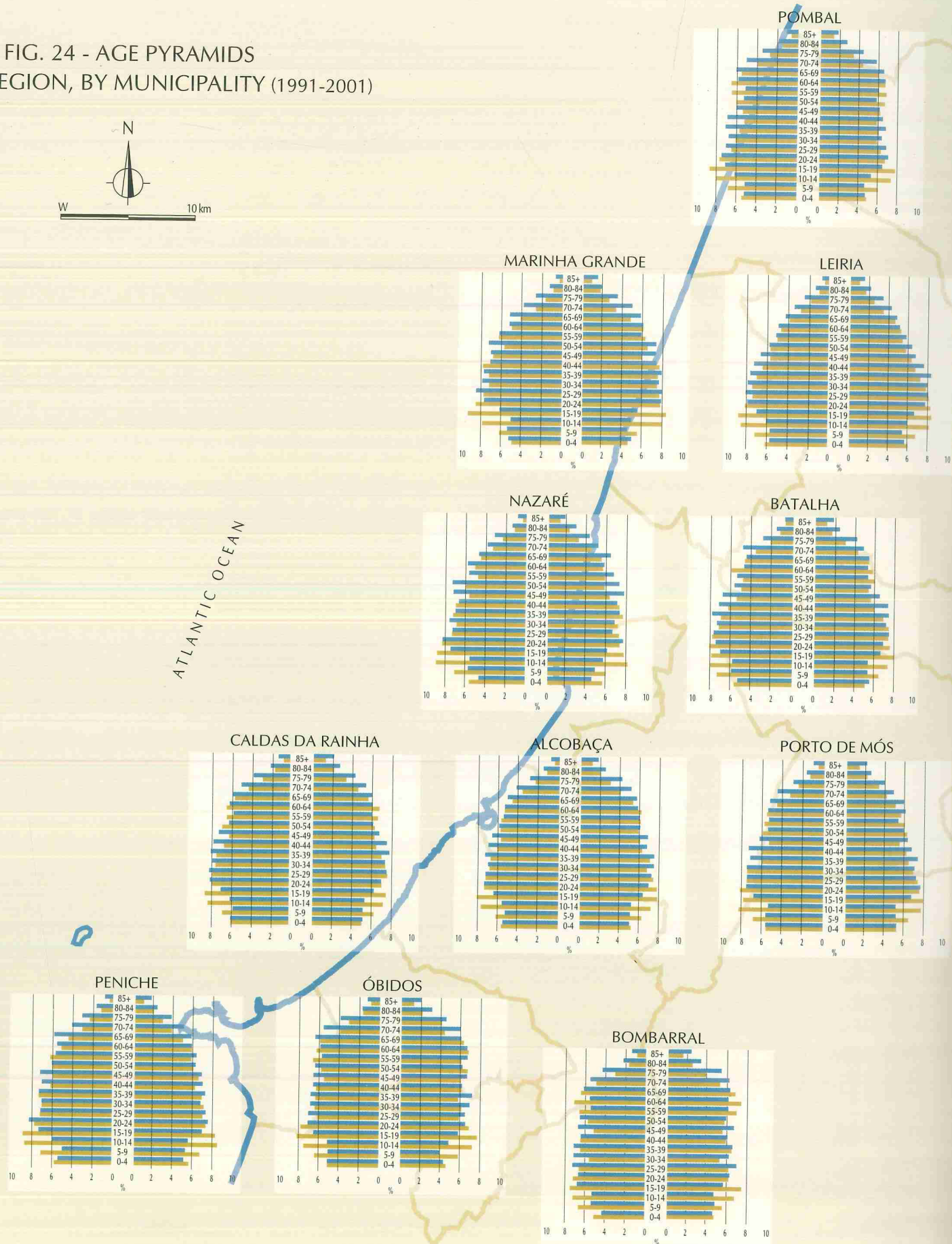
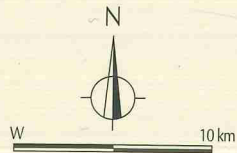
Let us start with Leiria and Marinha Grande, where a certain balance may be seen, despite a low birth rate which is clearly visible in the younger age groups. Nevertheless, in the latter municipality the percentage for the 0-4 year old group increased slightly between 1991 and 2001, as was also the case, less visibly, in Batalha (only for females) and Caldas da Rainha. These two municipalities, together with Alcobaça, Nazaré, Peniche and Porto de Mós, have similar age pyramids, which are close to the Leiria-Marinha Grande demographic axis in terms of their dynamics.

Pombal and Ourém, on the other hand, are a better reflection of the profiles of the groups featuring the more constrictive age pyramids, which include Alvaiázere, Ansião, Bombarral, Castanheira de Pêra, Figueiró dos Vinhos, Óbidos and Pedrógão Grande. The last one deserves special mention since its pyramid is almost inverted, a phenomenon that has been reinforced over the last decade.

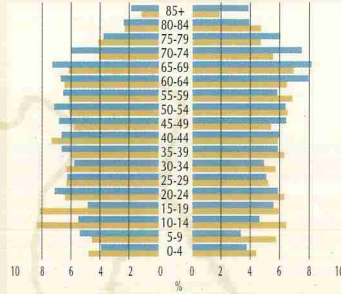
In short, although the regional demographic situation may be characterised in general by an aging population, this process is taking place at difference rates, ranging from the apparently less disturbing situations in the main urban centres to the somewhat more dramatic cases of the municipalities in the Pinhal Interior Norte area, which is exhibiting such a marked and rapid aging trend that it would seem to presage near desertification in the long term.



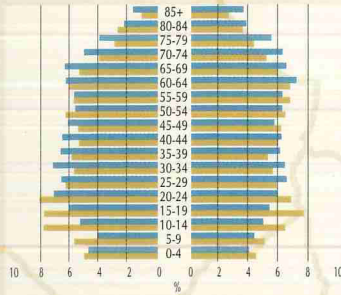
FIG. 24 - AGE PYRAMIDS
IN LEIRIA REGION, BY MUNICIPALITY (1991-2001)



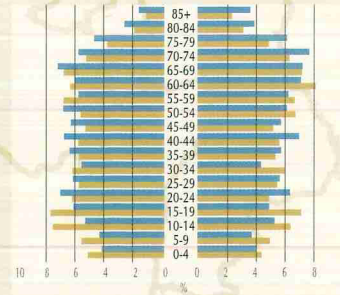
CASTANHEIRA DE PÊRA



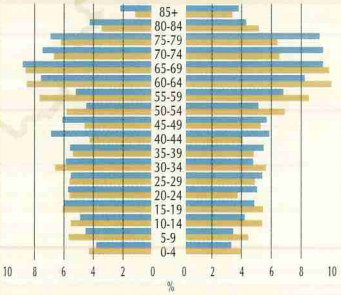
ANSIÃO



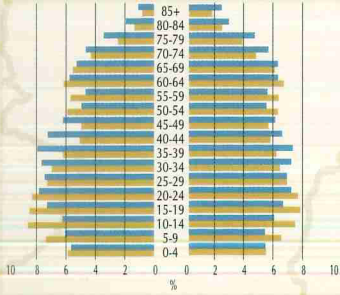
FIGUEIRÓ DOS VINHOS



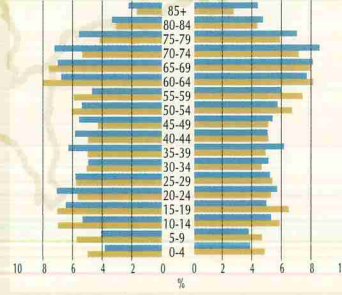
PEDROGÃO GRANDE



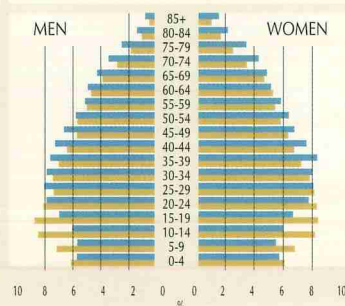
OURÉM



ALVAIÁZERE



INDEX



1991
2001

Municipal boundaries



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MALAGUETA A PRODUZIDA RESTAURANTE

PROMOÇÕES

bing

Garrafinhas Promocão

50%

FROM LAND TO PEOPLE

The structure of the working population by sector: a rapidly changing region

Using data from the census counts of 1950 to 2001 relating to the resident working population by sector of economic activity⁵, the following graphs have been produced (Figs. 25 to 30) to illustrate the deep-seated changes that have taken place during this half-century with regard to the structure of the working population in the region.

In fact, the graphs for the population structure by sector of economic activity almost speak for themselves, given the numbers they involve and the vast changes these represent. The development in the primary sector can be seen at once: its relative weight, calculated by the proportion of the labour force it embraces, is currently more than eleven times less than it was in 1950. This leads us to conclude that the rural-based society that characterised the region until the mid 20th century is nowadays no more than a memory. Moreover, at the time of this census Leiria and its surrounding region still relied more on agriculture, livestock, forestry, fishing, etc. than the nation as a whole, given that within the region 63.9% of the working population were employed in these activities, whereas the figures nationwide did not exceed 49.1%.

This steady abandoning of the primary sector until it reached a low of 5.7% in 2001 benefited first the secondary and, later, the tertiary sector. Until 1981, in fact, tertiary activities amounted to between 16.5% and 22.1% and it was only in that year that they broke the 30% barrier. In these three decades most of the people who had abandoned agriculture went into the manufacturing industries and other activities in the secondary sector, and this growth lasted until the early 1990s, when it reached its peak – 45.5%. The secondary sector still occupies a leading position today (43.3%), compared with a figure of 35.1% for the sector in the country as a whole.

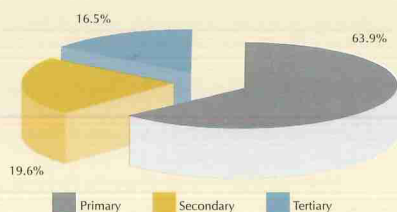


Fig. 25 - ACTIVE POPULATION IN LEIRIA REGION per activity area (1950)

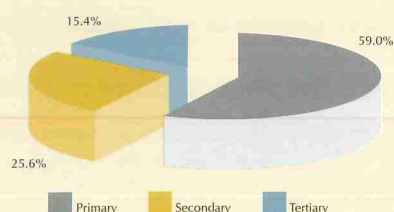


Fig. 26 - ACTIVE POPULATION IN LEIRIA REGION per activity area (1960)

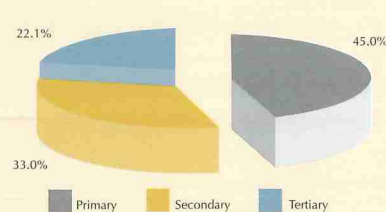


Fig. 27 - ACTIVE POPULATION IN LEIRIA REGION per activity area (1970)

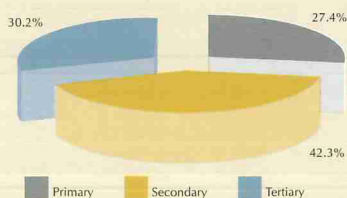


Fig. 28 - ACTIVE POPULATION IN LEIRIA REGION per activity area (1981)

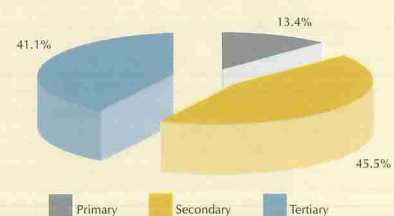


Fig. 29 - ACTIVE POPULATION IN LEIRIA REGION per activity area (1991)

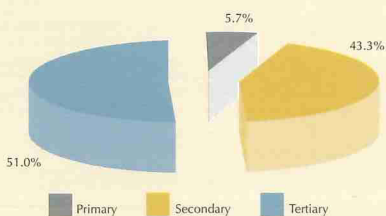


Fig. 30 - ACTIVE POPULATION IN LEIRIA REGION per activity area (2001)

⁵ Prior to 1950, there was no statistical data available for this indicator by municipality, only by district. As we were aiming for a regional perspective (i.e. one that included the municipality of Ourém as well as the district of Leiria) we chose only to process information that was available from that year on. Another constraint concerned the 1970 results, also unpublished, in which mining and quarrying were included in the secondary sector. It should also be stressed that the division of the working population by sector of activity sometimes did not reflect the complex reality of professional structures. For example, the tertiary sector includes both highly specialised and less specialised professions. However, it is still possible to construct an interesting picture from this very broad classification, bearing in mind the objectives of this study.

Tertiary activities made a decisive leap forward in the 1990s, becoming the most important sector in the regional economy and involving over half the working population, although this figure was still considerably lower than the figure of 59.9% recorded for the country as a whole. Nevertheless, the sectoral diagrams in Figs. 29 and 30 reveal the rapid advance of tertiarization (an increase of 10 percentage points over 10 years), due to a sharp reduction in the relative weight of agriculture, livestock, forestry, fishing mining and quarrying, which continued to see a downward trend in terms of the proportion of the labour force they employed during this period (from 13.4% to 5.7%). This phenomenon also contributed, on a smaller scale, to a slight fall in the relative weight of the secondary sector (-2.2 percent).

It is also interesting to observe the sectors of activity in more detail by breaking down the data by municipality, as shown in Figs. 31 to 36 (APPENDIX). A diachronic analysis of these graphs leads us to conclude that once again the region, like the country itself, was subjected to huge socio-economic changes whose effects were felt not only in general terms but also within each of the municipalities.

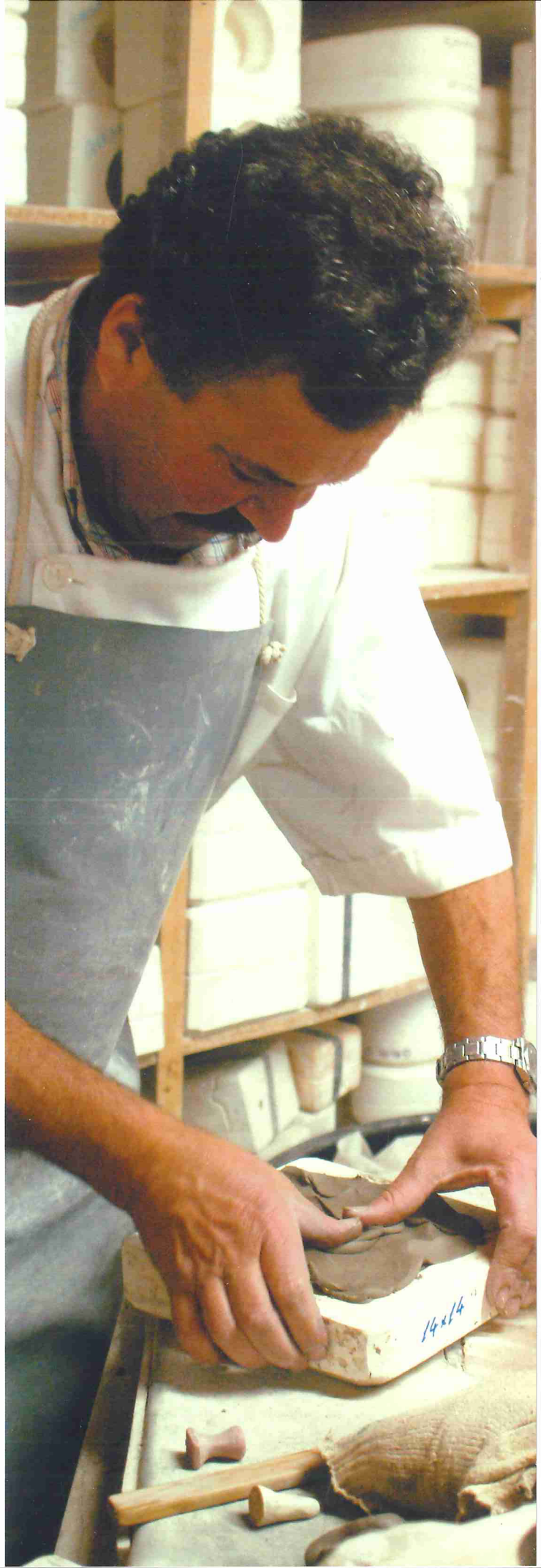
Although it is true that there were differences in pace and intensity, the profile of economic activity changed radically over this fifty-year period. This change accelerated much more rapidly during the second half of this period as a consequence of, amongst other factors, the phenomenon of emigration (in the 1960s and 70s), the change in political regime in 1974, the return of nationals who had been resident in the former overseas provinces (1974/1975) and Portugal's entry into the European Union (1986). These and other "shock waves" were felt in varying degrees in the 17 municipalities under consideration, resulting in a regional profile for the year 2001 that bore no resemblance to the one recorded in 1950.

Let us look more closely at the latter profile (APPENDIX - Fig. 31). With the exception of Castanheira de Pêra and Marinha Grande, industrial centres for the wool manufacturing and glass industries respectively, the working population in the remaining municipalities in the region was mainly employed in the primary sector, mostly in rural municipalities. Moreover, in some municipalities around 70% or more of the working population was employed in this sector, as in Alvaiázere, Ansião, Batalha, Bombarral, Figueiró dos Vinhos, Óbidos, Pedrógão Grande, Pombal and Ourém. In the fishing communities (Nazaré and Peniche) the figures averaged 60%. In the case of Óbidos and Pombal the population employed in the primary sector was as much as 80%!

In relation to the secondary sector, with the exception of the two cases previously cited, only Alcobaça, Leiria and Porto de Mós employed more than 20% of the working population in this sector. Similarly, the tertiary sector had barely come into existence: only Caldas da Rainha, Leiria and Nazaré (which had some tourism at the time) employed more than 1/5 of the population in this area.

In 1960 (APPENDIX - Fig. 32) the profile previously described was essentially maintained, although there was a slight fall in the relative weight of the primary sector. Castanheira de Pêra and Marinha Grande reinforced their status as industrial centres and the beginnings of a measure of industrialisation were being felt in municipalities such as Alcobaça, Leiria, Porto de Mós and Ourém. Only the municipality of Nazaré features in terms of commerce and services and it maintained the highest percentage in this sector in the region. Nevertheless, it was still a markedly rural region, in which, in many of the municipalities, around 60%-70% of the working population was still active in the primary sector.







It was only in 1970 that the structure of production in the region began to show signs of changing (APPENDIX - Fig. 33), albeit cautiously, with the secondary sector becoming the most important, not only in the two industrial municipalities already mentioned but also in Alcobaça, Leiria and Porto de Mós, accentuating the trends that the 1960 statistics had already begun to indicate for these municipalities. Thus, the secondary sector began to predominate in five of the municipalities in the region.

The tertiary sector also began to feature in some of the municipalities, reaching or approaching 30% in Caldas da Rainha, Leiria and Nazaré. In the last one, however, all three sectors had an almost equal weighting at the time. In addition, commerce and services had become the second most important sector in Bombarral, Figueiró dos Vinhos, Óbidos, Pedrógão Grande, Peniche (although in all cases at some considerable distance from the primary sector) and Caldas da Rainha. In Leiria, the tertiary sector was almost level with the primary sector, which had taken by 20 percent in the 1960s. However, the relative weight of the primary sector, although no longer so important in some municipalities, remained a decisive factor in regional employment: in 11 municipalities half or more of the working population was still employed in agriculture or other activities in this sector.

The turnaround in the economic structure of the section of the country that we are examining in this study emerges clearly in the data from the 1981 census (APPENDIX - Fig. 34), in which the area is established as an industrial region with some of the main municipalities revealing a predominant secondary sector, as was the case in Alcobaça, Ansião, Batalha, Castanheira de Pêra, Leiria, Marinha Grande, Porto de Mós and Ourém.

The service sector, in turn, had become the most important sector in Caldas da Rainha and Nazaré. It had also reached a figure of over 20% in all the municipalities and had become the second most important, in percentage terms, in the municipalities of Alcobaça, Batalha, Bombarral, Castanheira de Pêra, Leiria, Marinha Grande, Óbidos and Porto de Mós. In Peniche the tertiary sector had the same weighting as industry, whilst the primary sector remained the most important, due to the combined weight of the rural parishes and the fishing industry in this community. Even so, just a few years before the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) was applied to Portugal, the primary



sector was still the most important sector in the municipalities of Alvaiázere, Bombarral, Figueiró dos Vinhos, Óbidos, Pedrógão Grande and Pombal.

In relation to the structure of the working population as outlined in 1981, the economic fabric of the region had, by the time of the next census (1991), gained strength in terms of industrialisation, and seen the establishment of the tertiary sector and a major recession in the rural and fishing populations (APPENDIX - Fig. 35). In the last census (2001), the commerce and services sector was well-established across the board, and there was a certain stagnation (or even recession, in some municipalities) in the secondary sector and an employment rate in the primary sector of less than 10% of the labour force in 13 of the municipalities analysed (APPENDIX - Fig. 36).

Let us compare this graph with the previous one. The main conclusion to be drawn, in relation to the primary sector, is that the working population has diminished in all municipalities, without exception. This is most evident in those traditionally associated with agriculture and forestry (such as Alvaiázere, Ansião, Bombarral, Óbidos, Pedrógão Grande, Ourém and Pombal) and in the fishing communities (Peniche). Even in Marinha Grande, where the sector had an almost a residual status in 1991 (0.9%), it fell to 0.7% in 2001. It should also be noted however, that Bombarral, Figueiró dos Vinhos, Óbidos and Peniche still registered figures of between 10% and 18% in 2001.

With regard to the secondary sector, the existence of various cases (seven) of industrial recession during this period should be emphasised, in particular in the municipality of Marinha Grande and, more especially, in Castanheira de Pêra. In contrast, with regard to the reduction in the number of jobs in the primary sector, the labour force employed in manufacturing industries, construction, etc. increased in some of the municipalities referred to in the previous paragraph, together with the process of tertiarisation which will be discussed later, which compensated for this fall. Moreover, in 8 municipalities in the region the secondary sector was the most important, whilst in some others it was the tertiary sector. In one case (Óbidos) the three sectors were of almost equal importance in percentage terms.

Thus Alvaiázere, Ansião, Bombarral, Peniche and Pombal still seem to be recovering from the low level of industrialisation with which they were customarily characterised, in contrast with the situation in the municipalities where industry already had more weight.

A third group consisting of the municipalities of Figueiró dos Vinhos, Nazaré, Óbidos, Ourém and Pedrógão Grande did not register any changes in their situation worth mentioning between 1991 and 2001 and the proportion of the labour force in the secondary sector remained stable overall.

Alongside these developments in the primary sector, there was a sharp increase in the number of employees in the tertiary sector in all the municipalities in the region during this decade.

In terms of this increase in the relative importance of the tertiary sector, it is important to note that certain municipalities, such as Castanheira de Pêra, Pedrógão Grande, Alvaiázere and Óbidos, showed figures for tertiarisation that were almost above the average for the region, due to the sharp fall in the other two sectors.

It is clear today that the municipalities in the region with the largest primary sector are Óbidos (17.8%) and Bombarral (17%), whilst some municipalities are still in double figures – Peniche (13.1%) and Figueiró dos Vinhos (10.9%) - and the figures for all of them are considerably higher than the regional average (5.7%).



With regard to the secondary sector, the following municipalities stand out by virtue of the fact that half of their workforce is employed in this sector: Marinha Grande (56.5%), Porto de Mós (52.6%) and Alcobaça (50.2%).

Pedrógão Grande (62.9%), Caldas da Rainha (58.8%), Leiria (55.6%), Nazaré (55.1%), Ourém (54.5%) and Peniche (53.8%) may be distinguished as the municipalities in which the tertiary sector has developed most. In the majority of cases, the already significant or more intense tourism industry, together with the establishment of Polytechnic Institute of Leiria schools in three cases partly explains this result.

In short, during the 1990s the regions displayed strong mobility between sectors. This had clear socio-economic implications and consolidated the structure of the sectors of activity that had been emerging prior to this period.



If we look now at the data for the entire period in question (1950-2001), by municipality and insert this into a map of the region (Fig. 37), it is easier to appreciate much of what has been said on this subject and we can ascertain the evolution of the working population in the Leiria region on the basis of the municipalities. We can thus identify the specific features of the development of each municipal unit, as well as the features that they share, in terms of both their development and the direction and intensity of the changes which have taken place in the various sectors of activity over half a century. In fact, the relative importance of each change recorded during this period illustrates the specific situation at the starting point (1950) and the finishing point (2001) in relation to this study, together with the differences in the time and manner of this evolution in each municipality.

FIG. 37 - EVOLUTION AND STRUCTURE OF ACTIVE POPULATION IN LEIRIA REGION, BY MUNICIPALITY (1950-2001)

