

# Buinho

Buinho Creative Hub

## PRECIOUS PLASTIC ALENTEJO

INFOPACK

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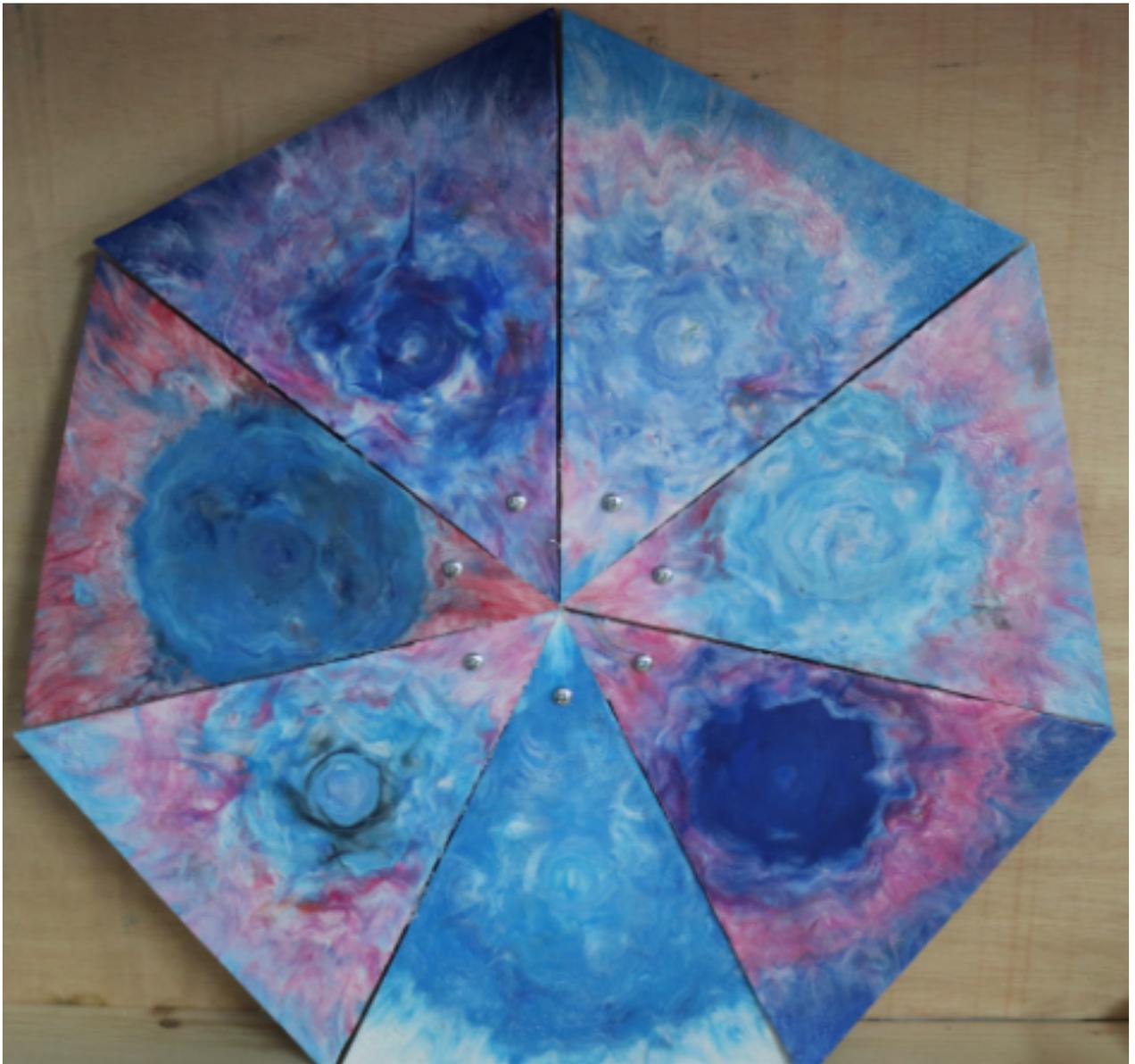


## PREAMBLE

This guide seeks to provide the most relevant information about this volunteering project intitled Precious Plastic Alentejo.

Precious Plastic Alentejo is a European Solidarity Corps project supported by the European Commission (2020-3-PT02-ESC11-007468), coordinated by Buinho Associação, and running in Portugal from February 2021 until January 2023 (24 months).

If after reading this document you still need to clarify any issue please feel free to contact us at [info@buinho.pt](mailto:info@buinho.pt)



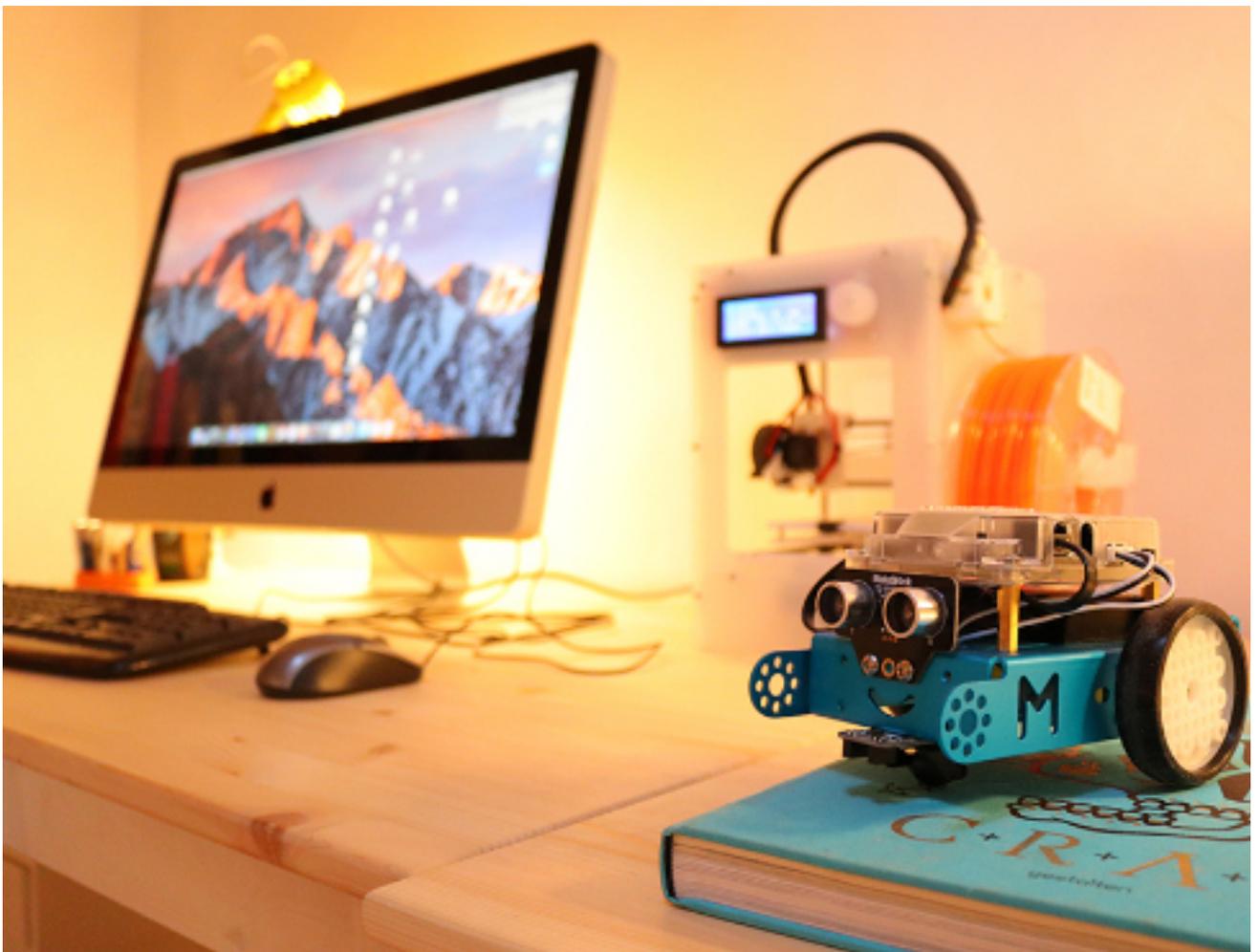
## WHO WE ARE



The aim of Buinho Association ([www.buinho.pt](http://www.buinho.pt)) is to be an inspiring place which fosters creativity, collaboration and innovation.

Buinho was created in 2015 in the town of Messejana. With the statutes of a non-profit cultural association, it is distinguished by being the second fablab accredited by the MIT Network in Alentejo region, and the only space with these characteristics in a rural area.

But Buinho is more than just a fablab. We offer private accommodation, different studios, and a creative residency program open for artists from different disciplines and writers. Buinho is the ideal place for those who want to adopt a more experimental attitude in their creative practice.



# A CREATIVE HUB IN A RURAL SETTING

In 2018 we created the first Precious Plastic unit in Alentejo, to which we added a machine building workspace in 2019, and we were planning to create an educational centre dedicated to DIY Plastic recycling when Covid 19 pandemic suspended most of the initiatives.

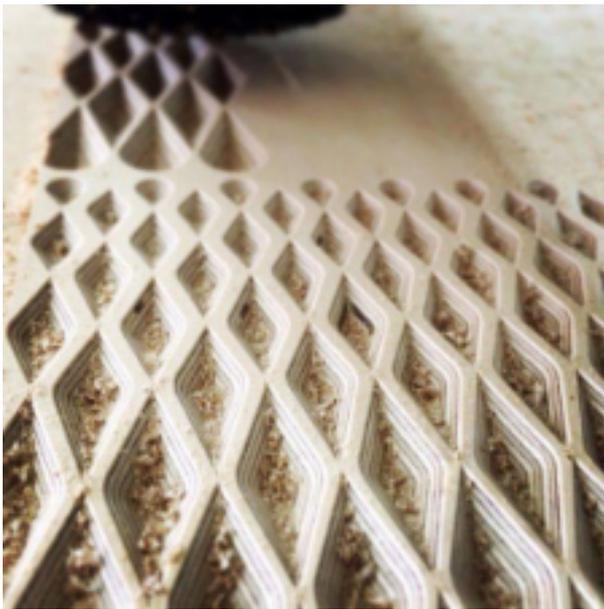
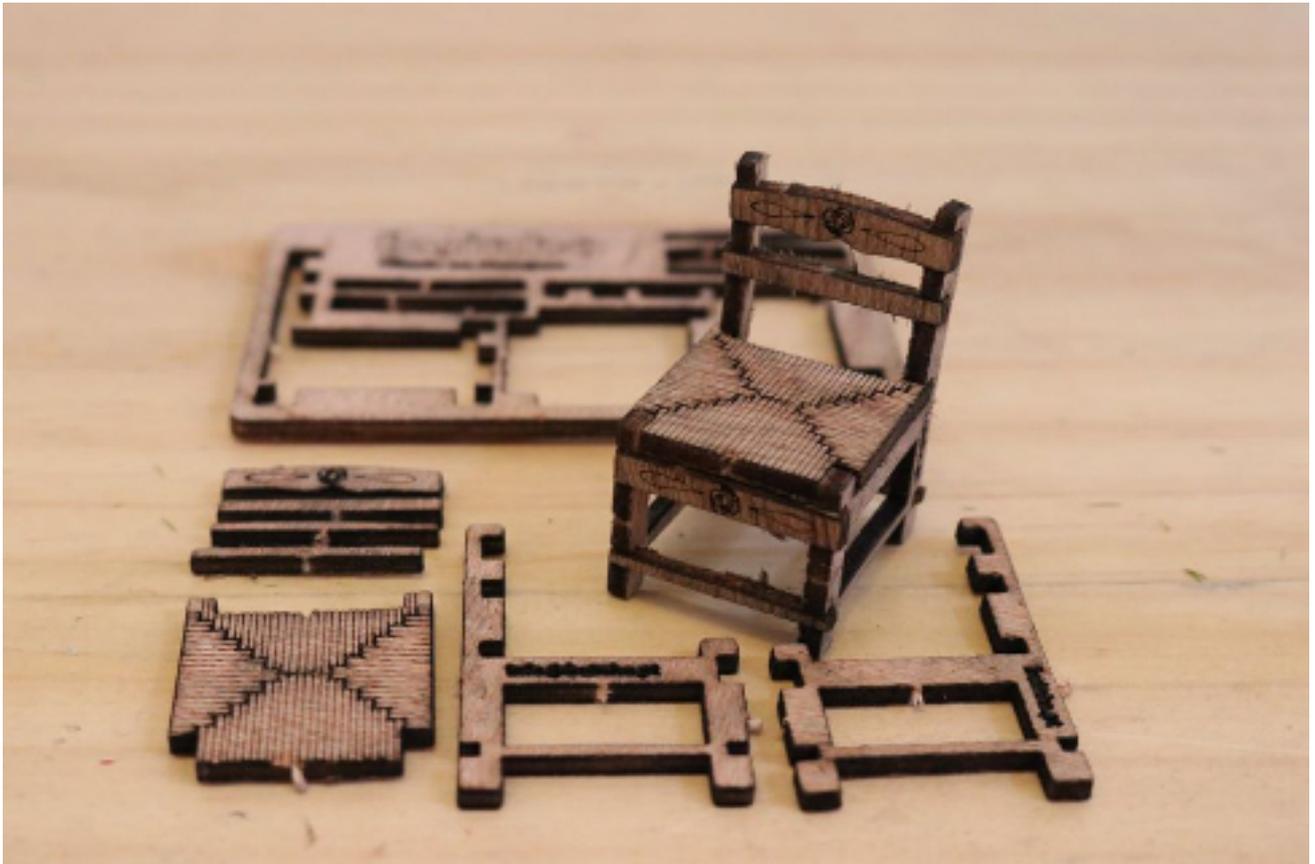
Since 2018 we built machines and developed workshops related with the Precious Plastic movement in Africa, developed dozens of demonstrations for local schools, and hosted many visitors looking for inspiration.

Now we want to do more. We want to enlarge the scope of the project to neighbouring communities, while providing more educational outputs that connect to our daily practice.

The current volunteering project seeks to complement and expand already developed by a group of six individuals from Buinho, dedicated to education, sustainability, and social innovation.

Besides our team mentorship and support, the volunteers will have access to all working spaces and equipments which include the Precious Plastic machines, the fablab, the school makerspace, and creative studios that we run in the historic town of Messejana.





# PRECIOUS PLASTIC

The “Precious Plastic” is a call for action, stimulating young people to act upon some of their fundamental environmental rights that are currently threatened.

It is inspired by the Precious Plastic initiative (<https://preciousplastic.com/>), which enables the creation of low cost, DIY, community-based recycling units. Recycling units that are not only capable of collecting and separating plastic waste, but also to transform recycled plastic into multiple new products with original design.

A space that connects social awareness (active citizenship) to creativity (design of new products) and digital skills (digital manufacturing).

A Precious Plastic workshop is above all a neighbourhood recycling factory, a space

to gather a community, share a purpose, develop new ideas and contribute for a better world.

Our current project is innovative because it addresses the needs of the local communities while helping to promote best practices in waste management and recycling. Precious Plastic Alentejo also dedicates time and effort in the promotion of a more creative and maker in a rural region, connecting isolated communities, and promote cultural exchange.

Buinho is working with a group of local and regional partners that include local parishes, municipalities, schools, environmental groups, and other fablabs to provide a more serious and meaningful engagement with the beneficiaries.





## PROJECT GOALS

*Buinho is working with a group of local and regional partners that include local parishes, municipalities, schools, environmental groups, and other fablabs to provide a more serious and meaningful engagement with the beneficiaries.*



The objectives of this project include:

1. Place the Messejana Precious Plastic Recycling center at the service of neighboring communities, increasing the scale of intervention and responding to the needs of the territory;
2. Develop an educational program dedicated to sustainability, with practical activities in the areas of recycling, repair, and biomaterials;
3. Enable other organizations and local communities to develop their own resources to reduce the volume plastic debris;
4. Promotion of a maker, creative and resilient culture in our region (Baixo Alentejo), linking the different values of our project in Messejana with those of others in neighboring locations;
5. Training of volunteers: promoting language learning, contact with new education methodologies non-formal, experience new activities and areas of intervention, acquisition of other transversal competencies that enhance active participation in society.



## TRAINING OBJECTIVES

Our volunteers will have the opportunity to learn the following contents:

- How to work and create with digital prototyping tools and software, including 3D Printing and laser cutting;
- Identifying different plastic materials, their mechanical characteristics, impact on the environment, and suitability for recycling;
- Learn about plastic recycling procedures including collection; sorting; washing and storage;
- How to use the Precious Plastic workshop, including the use of each individual Precious Plastic equipment, and understand plastic waste cycle of transformation;

- Learn how to build and upgrade Precious Plastic machines;

- Development of educational activities based on the intersection of sustainability, technology, and creativity;

- To create cultural community events, documenting and communicating all the activities;

- Act responsibly and contribute to the creation of a more secure, creative and clean environment;



## VOLUNTEERS TASKS - PRECIOUS PLASTIC

We expect the support of the volunteers in the following tasks:

- Operation of the recycling machines, namely the shredder, extruder, compressor and injector
- Washing and preparation of the plastic waste for recycling
- Development of products made of recycled plastic
- Making presentations and special activities with neighboring communities around Messejana
- Support in the building of the Precious Plastic Machines suitable for the creation of a distributed network of recycling nodes

- Support in the development of Precious Plastic Moulds for the injector, compressor, and pro extruder.
- Development of special projects with the support of the local communities namely local street markets for local producers
- Development of communication outputs as a blog and videos promoting and documenting the ESC activities



## VOLUNTEERS TASKS - EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Complementary to the previous dimension, the project also comprises a strong emphasis on education and digital empowerment for rural communities. As such we also request the support of volunteers for the additional tasks:

- Support to study visits and school workshops developed in the recycling center
- Development of educational contents and projects for the local children and youth
- Information, contact, and engagement with the local communities for education in recycling
- Bringing Precious Plastic activities to other schools and organizations
- Creation of an educational project for the youth of Messejana in the local Museum
- Development of family activities focused on the repair movement and making of biomaterials
- Helping local young people to develop entrepreneurial softskills

## ACCOMMODATION AND GENERAL CONDITIONS

*Important note: the photos may not reflect the final housing destination as Buinho has three houses, some of which dedicated for Artistic residencies. They reflect however the common aspects of our accommodation*



The participants will be accommodated in the beautiful small town of Messejana, in a three bedrooms house, that will be shared by all three volunteers (meaning each volunteer will have its own private space). The house is fully equipped, and free Wi-Fi access is available in all interior and exterior spaces.

Besides the working studios, each bedroom also provides private desk space, adding more quality for individual project development.

The volunteers will receive food support of two meals per day, complemented by a pocket money of 5 € per day that will be given at the end of each month in cash.

The working hours are a maximum of 35 hours per week, from Tuesdays till Saturdays. The volunteers will receive 2 days off per month, and can discuss with Buinho the most convenient period to enjoy the vacations.

The Portuguese language course will consist of the use of OLS (Online Language Support).

## ACCOMMODATION AND GENERAL CONDITIONS

Travel expenses from home country to the venue of the project will be reimbursed by Buinho in the maximum amount approved in the agreement. Please take into account that we will pay you back the travel costs for your way by plane, train and/ or bus. But only if we have a proof of payment, so please be careful and take your boarding pass, invoice and all the tickets with you.

Work insurance is provided by ESC in collaboration with CIGNA. Your sending organization will help you apply for it before departure.

The volunteers will be supported by Buinho team and will have an assigned mentor to support during the volunteering experience. We have also organised with some local partners special support and guidance to ensure the best integration and cultural experience during this period.





## MESSEJANA, TOWN OF THE SEVEN CHURCHES

*Buinho is located in the sunniest region of Europe.*

*Providing more than 3000 hours of sunshine per year, alentejo is also famous for its gastronomy.*

*We are just 1 hour and a half from Lisbon and other major cities.*



Located in Southern Portugal, deep within the region of Alentejo, Messejana (the town of the seven churches) weaves a colourful composition of blues into Mediterranean whitewashed houses. Offering a unique rhythm, Messejana is a place of contrasts between past aristocratic houses with its hidden patios, and the small rural taipa houses surrounded by baroque white churches.

Messejana has currently 800 population and a long story of human occupation. It possesses archaeological artefacts which dates to the neolithic, including the Romans, Moors and of course the Portuguese.

As a result Messejana possess several points of interest and a strong local identity, full of traditions, folklore and festivities.

Messejana is surrounded by Alentejo's plains and its world famous cork trees.

We provide bicycles to our volunteers for free. They just need to keep them in a good condition.

We expect to resume the community and cultural events that were suspended due to Covid19 restrictions. Volunteers can participate in these activities prepared within the residency program.



## HOW TO APPLY

If you are interested in applying to this project please contact one of our partner organizations or send us an email ([info@buinho.pt](mailto:info@buinho.pt)) with the following information:

- Personal CV with the most recent experience, highlighting activities concerning sustainability, community engagement, or other volunteering
- Motivation letter where you can explain the reason why you would like to stay 10 months in this Creative Hub and in a remote rural setting. It will also be an opportunity to better understand what ideas you would like to explore and bring to the project

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Buinho together with its partner organizations will schedule a Zoom meeting with applicants to better clarify what the contributions could be, and the overall dynamics of our team.

For the selected participants: you will receive all the documents related to the project - Please read them carefully. The sending organization will provide you the needed support and preparation of the period abroad, and will print, sign, stamp, scan and send the Activity Agreement with the additional details for Buinho to prepare the mobility (flights, accommodation, reception, etc.)



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