



SAGES Pools Engagement in European Research (PEER)

Report on a visit to the University of Aviero, Portugal, 17-20th January 2017

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A visit took place in January 2017 to the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Aviero, Portugal, for the purpose of the development of a first-stage funding proposal to an EU H2020 Research and Innovation Action call for proposals, namely; “*Cultural Heritage of European Coastal and Maritime Regions, H2020-SC6-CULT-COOP-2016-2017, Europe in a changing world*”.

During the visit, the SAGES members travelling (Drs. Gagnon and Hughes) met over two days with Associate Professor Dr Ana Velosa. Dr Velosa had been the coordinator of an earlier proposal to a similar call in 2015, which was ultimately unsuccessful¹. On the occasion of the new opportunity becoming available during 2016, and considering the successful work in building a pan-EU consortium, the members of the consortium decided to continue collaborating and to prepare a bid for the new call. Dr Velosa approached Drs Gagnon and Hughes and enquired if they (and UWS) would consider taking on the role of proposal coordinators. This was due to the prior commitments of Dr Velosa reducing her availability to develop the proposal fully. This resulted in Dr Hughes assuming the role as coordinator and the application to the PEER scheme to allow a meeting with Dr Velosa to assist the transition to a new coordinator and to discuss in detail the tailoring of a new proposal to the specific call.

During the visit the overall scope of a proposal was developed, responding in detail to the call requirements. Existing partners from the previous proposal in 2015 were consulted and new partners invited to join the consortium, using skype calls direct from the meeting in Aviero.

The meeting was extremely beneficial, as it added significant momentum to the process of proposal preparation. It clarified the conceptual framework, the proposed actions, and the implementation of

¹ This call in 2015 asked for proposals considering risk from climate change to Cultural Heritage. The proposal is subject to a non-disclosure agreement amongst the consortium.

the project if it were to be funded. The proposal was submitted in February 2017, with the title “ANCCHORS: A Network of Coastal Communities: Heritage Opportunities and Research for Sustainability”. It involved 11 partners from 6 countries (UK, PT, NO, NL, IT, PL).

Unfortunately, the proposal was not selected for funding, falling short of the threshold score². However, the comments received on the proposal were very positive and the shortcomings clearly identified, allowing for future correction. Currently another opportunity has arisen³, to which we are considering leading another bid to.

² Score was 6/10, threshold was 8/10.

³ JPI Cultural Heritage and Global Change, Heritage in changing environments call.