

EVENT DESCRIPTION SHEET

(To be filled in and uploaded as deliverable in the Portal Grant Management System, at the due date foreseen in the system.

⚠ Please provide one sheet per event (one event = one workpackage = one lump sum).)

PROJECT	
Participant:	[4] - [UNIVERSIDADE DE EVORA] ([UEVORA])
PIC number:	[998269196]
Project name and acronym:	[Age Against the Machine – European Solidarity Network for Older Citizens Rights] – [AgeAgainstTheMachine]

EVENT DESCRIPTION			
Event number:	[WP5]		
Event name:	[Participative performance and debate in Evora, Portugal]		
Type:	[Intergenerational interactive performance + flash mob]		
In situ/online:	[in-situ]/[online]		
Location:	[Portugal], [Évora]		
Date(s):	[March-November 2024]		
Website(s) (if any):	https://www.ageagainstmachine.uevora.pt/		
Participants			
Female:	209		
Male:	61		
Non-binary:	-		
From country 1 [Portugal]:	263		
From country 2 [Brasil]:	4		
From country 3 [Spain]:	1		
Italy	1		
England	1		
Total number of participants:	270	From total number of countries:	5
Description			
Provide a short description of the event and its activities.			

WORK PACKAGE 5: PARTICIPATIVE PERFORMANCE AND DEBATE ON (MENTAL) HEALTH POLICIES

(March-November 2024)

Our objectives at WP5 were to research, analyse and present discriminatory practices of older persons in our regional and cultural context in Portugal, the rural region of Alentejo and the city of Évora in our topic of enquiry. On 10-14 April 2024, in our meeting at the Kick-off (Novi Sad, Serbia), we agreed that each group should research the most critical and relevant issues at the national and regional levels that need to be addressed. We decided that in our Portuguese local context, our debate on Mental Health policies should be enriched by adding the interdependence of the following topics: Social Policies (related to active social participation, active ageing and well-being), the rural contextual reality of Alentejo (intergenerational learning and heritage experience sharing and critical sustainable living and cultural conditions in rural areas); and Mental Health policies and the burden of informal care in older women (the risk of abuse, informal caregivers, and the role of women in family care).

We aim to foster intergenerational dialogue and empower (older) citizens in our regional context to raise their voices and influence decision-making processes regarding their citizens' rights, through the combination of various participative applied theatre methodologies. We built, during six months (from April to October 2024) a collaborative dramaturgy step by step, using approaches anchored in the principles and methodologies of Theatre and Community and participatory arts, through methods that are inspired by situated and sensitive listening, the experience of being and being part of a locus in which the presence of bodies are mediums of thought in action, in an intense socio-cultural experience of re-reading and desire, in constant questioning of the world, reconnecting the experiences of trauma and care.

Activities and division of work at WP5

Task 5.1 Research and workshops

The first research phase, in March 2024, involved a set of meetings at Évora City Council with the Director of the Sociocultural Department and conversations with the Department of Youth and Sports to organize the location for our community activities and to gather a group of older residents interested in our activities and empirical research. We decided to work in collaboration with the Youth and Sports Department, who already works with a group of older residents involved in sports activities for older citizens at Évora City Council. Pedro Silva, a superior technician of the Department of Youth and Sports, became a member of our research team as a community mediator and expert in health practices.

The second phase, from April to June 2024, involved running ten workshop sessions for creative processes of experimentation to provide a dramatic draft for creating the interactive play. The University of Évora developed empirical artistic and participative research with weekly workshop sessions of two hours every Wednesday afternoon (14:00 to 16:00) at the Sport Lisboa and Évora Headquarters. We gathered a total group of 45 people: an intergenerational group of 30 participants from both genres (15 students and 15 older people between ages 22 and 80, 4 men and 26 women) and a team from the University

of Évora and Évora City Council of 15 members (3 men and 12 women). Due to the required long-term commitment, the group dropped in June to 14 participants (10 older women and 4 students), which were only women. Our interdisciplinary research team was formed by members working in coordination, creative processes, audio-visuals and communication, production and management of science, and community mediation. It included teachers, researchers and assistants at the University of Évora, with the collaboration of Arteria Lab and the Department of Performing Arts, the Department of Visual Arts and Design (University of Évora), and technicians at Évora City Council (Department of Youth and Sports).



From April to June 2024, ten workshop sessions were related to creative processes indoors and outdoors. We engaged with participants in a dialogue valuing individual singularities and collective identifications through sensitive listening, participative theatre methodologies, participative artistic actions, and site-specific outdoor interventions.

Regarding creative indoor processes, we started with the concept of “spring awakening” of their bodies at an older age, travelling through time to remember how their «spring awakening» was in their youth. Later, we explored a «happy memory of their youth» to understand key-life individual memory moments that define their singularities and group cultural and geographical convergences. We also experimented with travelling with evocative images using improvisation and memory to work the construction of a collective body.



On the 15th of May, we aimed to share opinions and emotional life experiences about the concept of caring and its impact on their lives with poems, jokes, stories and secrets. We carried out guided conversations and improvisation work, which led to spontaneous performative interactions that emerged from them. We also worked on the concept of «travelling» as a symbolic image of the desire of older people to achieve a sense of independence and experience new things for themselves because age is not a limitation. We shared stories of journeys represented in group-frozen images. On the 29th of May, we created everyday life situations that unfolded over time with three scenic backgrounds (a hospital, the countryside fields and inside a family house), allowing the participants to create instantaneous actions and reactions to proposed situations, combining personal experiences with fictitious situations. We focused on being conscious of our responses, building a sense of family and community with mutual help and concern for the health of others.



On the 5th of June, we recreated bodily actions performed in the past, in the rural context, using movement mimesis. We started building group choreographies and introducing

rhythmic elements. We shared oral knowledge through traditional songs, protection prayers, and healing rituals. We imagined touching the land barefoot while working in the fields and singing traditional rural songs in Alentejo. In this session, we harvested using body memory (picking pomegranates, figs, planting rice, picking olives, and wheat) and witnessed the intergenerational transmission of an embodied heritage and a cultural legacy. The final two sessions before the dramaturgy construction were related to developing exercises of active listening and projection of the voice, and not in the meaning of the words, concentrating on reproducing an emotion. The last session was about trying on costumes of older times. Some participants were reluctant to try on clothes that were not what they are used to nowadays. Still, they agreed, and it was interesting to observe how their body language changed, revealing more unrestrained movements and postures that transported them to other epochs.



Regarding creative outdoor site-specific activities and interventions, on the 8th of May 2024, the group engaged in a performative itinerance in the rural neighbouring area. Our objective was to create an atmosphere of intimacy while walking in the neighbourhood, emphasizing that sensitive listening also means caring for others. At the doors of their homes and inside them, our participants showed us the treasures they guard with devotion, which they feel proud of.

On the 13th of May, 2024, we experimented with dance and movement in the public spaces of the Historic Center of Évora (Diana Garden and the Roman Temple, the exterior spaces of Vimioso Palace and Évora Court cloister) as a preparatory experimentation session for the conceptual development of the flash mob. Dr Vicky Hunter, guest Professor in Site Specific Dance from Bath Spa University in the United Kingdom, directed the session. Through site-specific dance, we could explore practices of “caring” (taking care of ourselves and taking care of others) in a set of exercises that included tree baths, articulating bodies, contact with others and declarations of intention.



In this work development stage (Task 5.1 - creative research and workshops), we created different social network platforms (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube) to disseminate our activities. For each workshop session, we registered our activities and disseminated the contents with photographic documentation. Each session was registered with two videos (one for Instagram and TikTok (1 min) and one for Facebook and Youtube (5 min to 15 min)).

You tube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@AgeAgainstMachine>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/age.against.the.machine.pt>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ageagainstmachine.ue>

TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@ageagainstmachine>

Immediately after each workshop session, the team met for a reflexive discussion and writing about the topics and goals achieved that day. We testified the quantitative participation of team members, residents, students, invited experts and interns; we explained the main goals and topics of that specific session; we analysed the methods, techniques and exercises employed; we summarised all the information gathered in the session into the main artistic activities developed; we reported the participants' responses and evolution from previous sessions; we also discussed our team impressions, comments and observations, regarding intergenerational knowledge shared in the activities, unexpected results and challenges faced during the activities, problems with the topics by the participants, transversal dialogues between themes and topics, participants' evaluation of the session; our ideas for upgrading exercises, methods and topics for the next session and ideas gathered for the dramaturgy. The process diary of each workshop session can be found in the following link:

<https://www.ageagainstmachine.uevora.pt/research.html>

The active presence on social networks has been of great importance to enlarge our family to other older citizens community in the city of Évora and to a socio-cultural network of different actors involved in the themes of active ageing, health, psychology, education, culture, sports, which they constitute the members of our Advisory Council. In this stage, we also started the contact, and we officially invited national, regional, and local actors who are

actively involved in the ageing dialogue and older citizens' revindications to constitute our Advisory Council. The advisory members will actively take part in workshops, questionnaires, debates and interactive parts of the performances at the Festival in Évora (12-14 June 2025). At this stage, they have been following us through our weekly information through social media networks and by email, getting to know the evolution and the different activities we are developing at Évora (PT). At this moment, at the end of the WP5, we have 22 members of the Advisory Council that accepted the participation at the Age Against the Machine Festival in Évora, divided into Culture and Community (actors involved in cultural and artistic public, private and NGO associations working with older people in Lisbon Metropolitan Area, Algarve, Alentejo, and Beira-Serra da Estrela), Culture and Education (actors from University of Évora and the foundations Inatel and Eugénio de Almeida), Community and Education (research members involved with participative and older people activities at Popular University Túlio Espanca, University of Évora and University of Minho), and Health (research members involved in Gerontology and Health, Expressions and Therapies and Neuropsychology, at the University of Évora).

More information of our Advisory Council can be found at:

<https://www.ageagainstmachine.uevora.pt/council.html>

At this stage, we disseminated our research work and creative processes workshops on the following platforms:

A scientific communication, "A reflexive dialogue on health issues and ageing through community intergenerational performance practices", presented by Isabel Bezelga and Ana Moya (3 May, 2024) at the Seminar Gerontology, Health and Well-being, organized by the Posgraduation in Gerontology and Health, School of Health and Human Development, University of Evora (3-4.05.2024), Évora (PT).

https://www.ageagainstmachine.uevora.pt/assets_events/AgeAgainstMachine_Seminario_Gerontologia.pdf



Facebook News at Évora City Council about our workshop in site-specific Dance in Évora's historical Centre public spaces:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/MUaxF8JwdpGiU9ts/>

Facebook News at University of Évora about our indoor workshops (23.05.24):

<https://www.facebook.com/uevora/posts/pfbid0BWsqd4Nfv1nDuQkfUiD7dSrXuFMhhW4oAQftPKPiTXAtZ9T6hdVGnYYq7Gv8bECKI>

In this stage, we also started developing our project website as a public platform to give visibility to all our production and research material (audio-visual, photography, publications, process diaries and dramaturgical construction, news and events):

Website: <https://www.ageagainstmachine.uevora.pt/>

Task 5.2 Production of an interactive performance and flash mob

The team decided to prepare the flash mob intervention in the public spaces of Évora Historical Centre in June 2024 because we could gather more participants inside and outside the Theatre group: 9 older women from our theatre workshops, 3 students from U Évora, 8 team members from U Évora and Évora City Council, and 15 older residents from the City Council Group of Sports., with a total number of 35 persons for the flash mob activity.



We prepared and created a site-specific itinerant and performative intervention through different public spaces of Évora Historical Center, where we visited the food market stands at Primeiro de Maio Square, rested and refreshed at the central Fountain of Giraldo Square, walked and performed along Largo da Misericórdia, Largo d'Alvaro Velho, Escadas Street, Caraça Street, and we ended up weaving our bodies with the trees at the Public Garden. On June 15th and 16th, 2024, The participants danced, sang, interacted in the public urban spaces with conversations with sellers and buyers at the Saturday market, and experimented with movement, interpretation and performance to the surprise of passers-by along our path. The activities focused on the theme of caring and the impact on the lives of older women.

The 15th of June we also informed at our Facebook page about our performative site-specific intervention celebrated in the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day:

https://www.facebook.com/age.against.the.machine.pt/posts/pfbid0i7kbxpKumuBKegMgUqzgCiVrFNw5gwhimALzP6CBogpcRoQgorG1iQjk2uAa3SZil?locale=pt_PT

These were press releases for our flash mob intervention at University of Évora:

<https://www.uevora.pt/ue-media/noticias?item=40683>

<https://www.facebook.com/evoradesporto/posts/pfbid0LRsbz4Cuh3s4GBTqhuLdxnFUwbTpf47F91Sop3KKsFDxDFQsFHXFNPVf76Zat7BSI>

<https://www.facebook.com/age.against.the.machine.pt/posts/pfbid02mpgiYpgTxt5i735DNGtD4Q3mrYAVKMWywzHNfgVfPPYJiLHdP2GxcUsxPZEsWLQxl>

<https://www.facebook.com/age.against.the.machine.pt/posts/pfbid0mUvKAbcXCZMw1SBa3KbqP8jn4qJV6U9nmk2ZzFz9SDZuJC9CLdQWREJ5tJomBcBEI>

<https://www.facebook.com/age.against.the.machine.pt/posts/pfbid02aqLRwHggqZWoxjpxEH6brZW1Vh3mRp3VWnvQKhRNcfJsvRi8qPg1pFqjSL3uwsgVI>

<https://www.facebook.com/age.against.the.machine.pt/posts/pfbid02SHrCiYpFzCZ5dQ6WdeALTmbANNLzTKwBM899rHoRPWaYVhoLbEs5PYNats3ooydUI>

From the 26th of June to the 24th of July 2024, we developed five extra workshop sessions to construct dramaturgic scenes. After each session, the team met to write down the main ideas regarding symbolism and composition of images and scenes, storyline construction, new ideas developed during the session, comments for the dramaturgy, and team impressions and observations. Information of each working session for the dramaturgical construction can be found in the following link:

<https://www.ageagainstmachine.uevora.pt/research.html>



In session 11, we started with the construction of three main scenes (the “thief scene”, symbolically referring to the vulnerability of older adults and their fears; the “tea scene”, based on the concept of forgiveness and unconditional care; and the “headscarves and gowns scene”, discussing the lack of freedom and the headscarf’s symbolism as a carrier of prejudice regarding women in tradition. In session 12, we constructed the scene related to “sisterhood caring” as a gear of group bodies in a harmony of movements, actions, gestures, words and sounds. In session 13, we worked out the scene “between a husband and a wife

do not interfere” dealing with domestic violence and group protection. We worked on the dramaturgic sequences, intermediate scenes, dramaturgical line narrative and the experimentation with the different layers of clothing from robes to swimsuits. The reference to the shoes at various ages, conceptualized in the flash mob, appeared in the dramaturgy. In Session 14, the whole group proposes different ideas for the title of the performance. In session 15, the team presented the close script to all participants. In this session, all the group chooses the songs that will appear throughout the performance, and costumes and stage accessories are organized. The older participants will be in charge of weaving the tapestry screen for the scenography.



From the 18th of September until the premiere on the 24th - 25th of October, the group rehearsed every Wednesday for three hours (14:30 to 17:30) in the Black Box of the School of Arts, University of Évora. During this time, the whole group rehearsed and recorded traditional Alentejo songs to be performed in the Spectacle. We also prepared the final script, the light design, the sound design, the scenography, costumes, scene complements, technical rider and subtitles. The team also had to work on the re-adaptation of the script to a cast of six members at Age Against the Machine Festivals. Meanwhile, we also had meetings with the intergenerational group to teach them how to participate in a hashtag campaign by uploading photos and thoughts in their personal Facebook accounts, related to the topics of our performance.



This is the link to the scripts at Évora Premiere (Portugal), and Holstebro AGM Festival (7-9 November 2024):

https://www.ageagainstmachine.uevora.pt/assets_research/Script_Evora%20Premiere_PT_09.10.pdf

https://www.ageagainstmachine.uevora.pt/assets_research/Script_Festival%20Denmark_PT_14.10.pdf

The team also worked in the translation of the script for the English subtitles at the Age Against the Machine Festivals:

https://www.ageagainstmachine.uevora.pt/assets_research/Script_Festival%20Denmark_EN_14.10.pdf



D5.1 Premiere of the performance and debate + flash mob in public space

On October 1st, on the International Day of Older People, we shared the promotional video clip for our Intergenerational Spectacle "Old ladies? Who said that? We're still here!" on Instagram (1min), Facebook and YouTube (5min). The video shows a performative intervention (flash mob) in the public spaces of Évora Historical Centre with an intergenerational group of 35 people.

Information about the promotion of our premiere and flash mob video appeared in the following social media:

<https://www.facebook.com/age.against.the.machine.pt/videos/1937126843426166>

<https://www.facebook.com/evoradesporto/posts/pfbid0traWy6rowvTHkgUgkk4sQN8LVX9ynDXyVNwryndEoqQDhuSo1P6WJRQoyc4TpyVpl>

A communication campaign started with a newsletter to the Academic community at U Évora and news about the premiere of our spectacle on the 24th and 25th of October 2024 at the Cultural Agenda and Évora Educational City (Évora City Council) at the School of Arts (U Évora), and at University of Évora website:

<https://www.cm-evora.pt/eventos/velhas-quem-disse-ainda-aqui-estamos-teatro/>

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid06qV2f8n2SETYQJpPrGhGhUqSaJDDiQsZqnX5hv466zotNWBfEXh55bKuri4Q3HBSI&id=100057202911033

<https://www.facebook.com/EvoraCidadeEducadora/posts/pfbid02dVyCAMjfVyzab5dXz9dphhRas1g21rDoZAwHvDxpuroN4iRiDFNqnEK2xdRWcVLI>

<https://www.uevora.pt/ue-media/agenda?item=41356>

Invitations to the performance were sent to the Advisory Council, local authorities, and representatives of culture, social organizations, health and education at Évora, including representatives of the University of Évora and the Évora City Council.

We designed and printed A3 posters placed at different locations at Évora city centre (at other University buildings; in book shops, at cultural associations and buildings of the City Council), and we designed and printed two roll-ups for the event information, A5 leaflets for the public. In our interactive performance “Old Women? Who said that? We are still here!”, with a duration of 45 minutes, contains a political, ethical, social, and cultural dimension, revealing poetically and transversally themes such as ageing, feminist care ethics, gender rights, embodied and performing heritage, the re-signification and connection with the land and Alentejo landscape and the deep relationship with the cycles of nature. This testimonial work of embodied knowledge of past and present memories holds the pride of a process of legacy transmission.



Link to the poster of the event:

https://www.ageagainstmachine.uevora.pt/assets_events/Cartaz%20A3_AGM_ESTREIA_Imagem.jpg

Link to the leaflet of the event:

https://www.ageagainstmachine.uevora.pt/assets_events/Play%20leaflet_PT.pdf

Our premiere performance was presented on two consecutive days, October 24th and 25th, due to the small capacity of the Black Box space at the School of Arts (U Évora), with only 50 seats. On the 24th of October, we received 41 spectators (28 women and 13 men). On the 25th of October, we received 39 spectators (29 women and 10 men). On the 25th of October, we held, after the performance, a round table debate and discussion with the public.



The recording of the round table discussion with the public, the intergenerational group, the research team members and technical assistants, on the 25th of October 2024, can be listened at:

<https://on.soundcloud.com/qzZR6CWpD3daPgK58>

The spectacle was recorded and we edited three videos for Instagram (1m), Facebook (5m) and Youtube (15 min):

https://www.instagram.com/reel/DC7K3h-Sqmg/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MzRIODBiNWFIZA==

<https://www.facebook.com/61560254429936/videos/997272548875563/>

<https://youtu.be/n0W2SOpSS84?si=1opYXi5JJCIBvSdT>



Prior to the performance, all the public filled in a form and was asked permission to receive by email a questionnaire of Red Cross Serbia about questions regarding ageism and discriminatory practices in relation to their age:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1KD1744ZI721zWNSzusb45MLSX_ErfSzD8vuz4dPiKCM/e/dit#responses

One week later, We presented a Communication “Community Intergenerational Performance: Challenging Age Prejudices” (1 November, 2024) at the International Conference EASTAP, European Association for the Study of Theatre and Performance (28.10.2024 – 02.11.2024), in the Institute of the Arts, Sitges (Barcelona).

This is the link to the PowerPoint presentation and abstract at the International Conference:

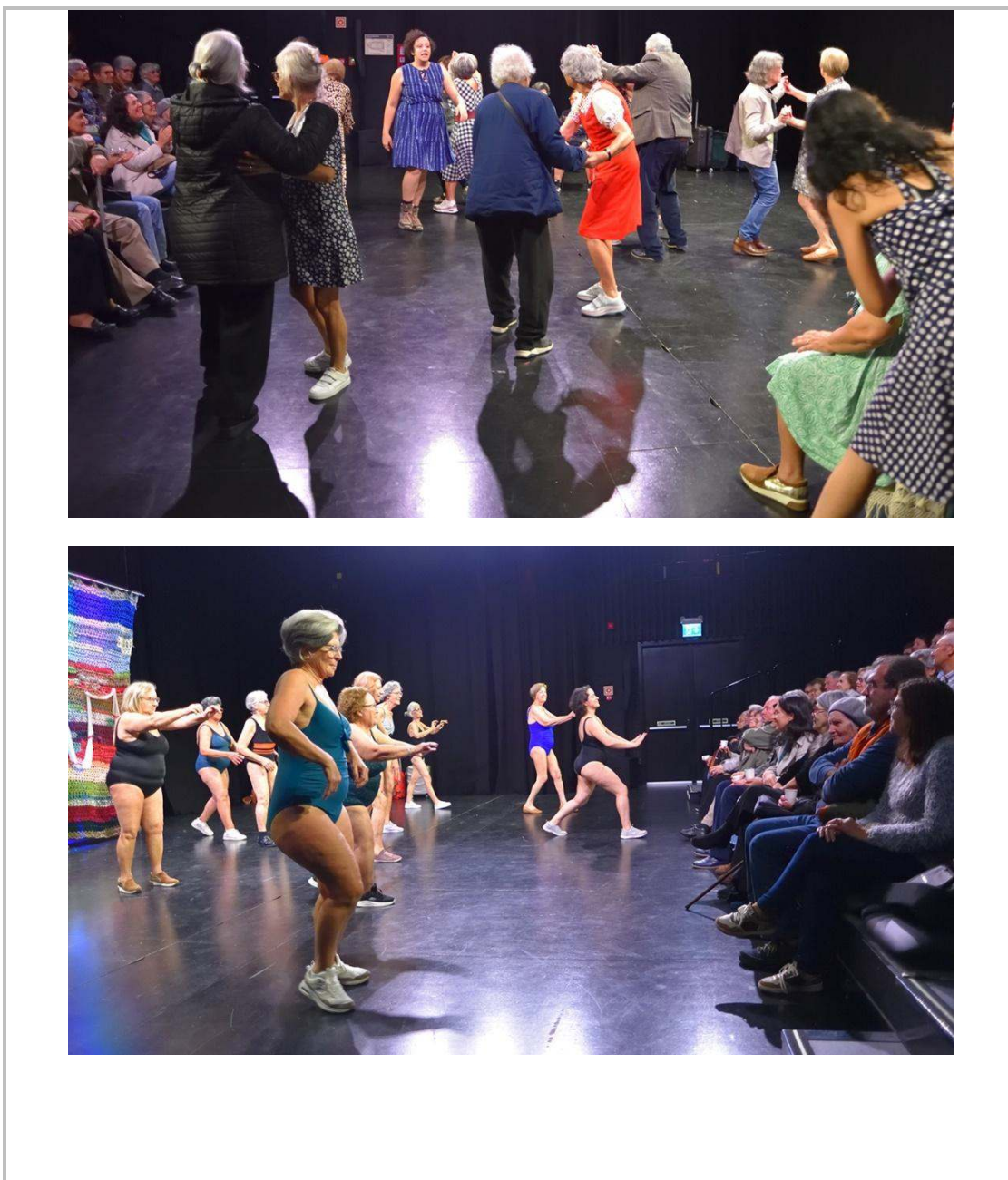
https://www.ageagainstmachine.uevora.pt/assets_events/PowerPoint%20-%20EASTAP_AGM_1NOV.pdf

https://www.ageagainstmachine.uevora.pt/assets_events/Abstract_EASTAP_AGM_1NOV.pdf



On November 27th 2024, in the context of the celebrations of the International Day of the Educating City, with the theme “The Educating City as a laboratory for learning, citizenship and social transformation”, Évora City Council, and the programme Évora Educational City, invited us to participate and present the intergenerational spectacle “Old Women? Who said that? We are still here!”. We performed in the “Salão Central” (Central Theatre Hall of Évora City Council), in the Historical Centre of Évora. The Theatre with a capacity of 170 seats, gathered the participation of 130 people (100 women and 30 men), the majority of them older citizens invited by Évora City Council. After the performance, we had a conversation with the public.





HISTORY OF CHANGES		
VERSION	PUBLICATION DATE	CHANGE
1.0	01.04.2022	Initial version (new MFF).