

RESULTS OF THE 7th CONGRESS ON MOUNTAIN VITICULTURE ORGANIZED IN ALTO DOURO REGION, PORTUGAL

In May 2022 the University of Tras-os-Montes UTAD and CERVIM published two documents presenting the results of the [7th International Congress on Mountain and Steep Slopes Viticulture](#) held from 12 to 14 May 2021 in Vila Real, Douro Region, Portugal.

The Congress was held as part of the *Centre for Research, Environmental Sustainability and Promotion of Mountain Viticulture* CERVIM, in collaboration with the *International Organization of Vine and Wine* OIV. It was organized by the University of Tras-os-Montes and Alto Douro UTAD, the Association for the Development of Douro Viticulture ADVID and the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Porto, with the support of the Association of Oenology and Viticulture Students (ANEVV) of the same University. The event also enjoyed the support of a wide range of institutional and business partners from the region

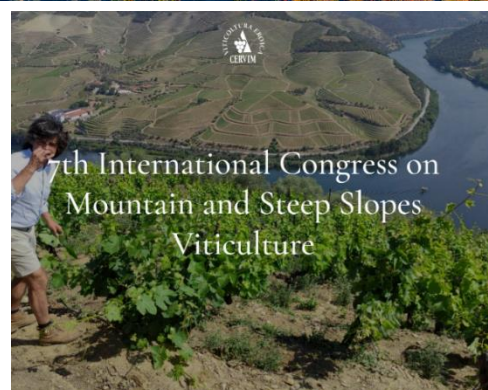
With more than 100 participants from 11 countries, and 76 scientific papers presented by oral and poster communications, the Congress recorded successful results as an international appointment for heroic viticulture, highlighting how it is possible to achieve economic and environmental sustainability from a cultural landscape in mountain territories.

The Congress was developed through four scientific sessions in which experts, lecturers and heroic vine-growers discussed the main thematic topics: maintaining sustainability and landscape in steep-slope vineyards; improving agronomic practices through new technologies in mountain vineyards; enhancing quality factors for wines; mountain and steep slope vineyards: people, history, economics and culture.

The event included technical visits to Douro farms, round table discussions with regional institutional representatives, demonstration events on technological innovations and equipment, presentation of cases of viticulture under extreme conditions from Andorra and Cyprus.

The Congress was also an opportunity to celebrate 20 years of the Douro Valley as [UNESCO World Heritage site](#) as a living, evolving cultural landscape, where “the long tradition of viticulture has produced a cultural landscape of outstanding beauty that reflects its technological, social and economic evolution”. In the Douro Region the wine has been produced by traditional landholders for some 2,000 years and since the 18th century its main product, the Port wine, is world famous for its quality.

The Douro Region is a valley extending over an area of 250,000 ha



along the River Douro, of which 18% is covered by terraced vineyards on steep slopes, with more than 58% of the vineyards having a gradient of more than 30%. It is the largest mountain wine region with around 44,000 hectares of vines, with an average yield of 3,500 kg/ha, producing around 153 million kg of grapes. However, viticulture in the Douro presents very difficult production conditions, resulting from the orography, climate, difficulty in mechanization and growing scarcity of labor, factors that contribute to raising production costs, which hinders the competitiveness of the wines produced in the global market. In a context where it is essential to increase the value of the product to pay better prices to producers, climate change tends to aggravate the challenge of economic, environmental and social sustainability.

In the [document presenting the Abstracts](#), published by the UTAD University and CERVIM to highlight the results of the event, all communications are presented in short paper format and are organized according to the four thematic areas of the Congress. The 76 papers produced for the event involved 377 authors with different profiles, including a large number of academics, professionals, researchers and PhD students from 10 countries. All these papers presented during the Congress have highlighted different approaches and methodologies, stimulating a wide-ranging discussion and critical vision of the future of vines in steep-slope regions throughout the world.

The documents diffused by the University of Tras-os-Montes and CERVIM can inspire other actors implementing viticulture on terraced landscapes in mountain territories and promote partnerships for the future in order to achieve greater economic sustainability while valuing its landscapes, its natural resources and its culture.

To know more

[News in Cervim website](#)

[Book of Proceedings in cervim.org](#)

[Book of Abstracts in cervim.org](#)

[VII Congress Cervim \(utad.pt\)](#)

[Alto Douro Wine Region - UNESCO World Heritage Centre](#)

[Cervim website](#)

