

## Project: Interactive map of Minde

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### About the language



Minderico (ISO code [drc], since 2011) is an Ibero-Romance language spoken in Minde, Portugal. Minde is a small town with 3293 inhabitants (census 2011) that belongs to the municipality of Alcanena.

Minde is essentially an industrial town

with an almost monoindustry of textiles and wool artifacts with a long tradition in Portugal. According to the existent written sources, Minderico emerged at the end of the 17th century (accurate and extensive



etymological research is needed to attest this dating) as a sociolect: the wool carders, blanket producers and merchants of Minde created a special language to protect their



business from “intruders” in the markets they visited all over Portugal. After this initial phase, Minderico began to expand its vocabulary continuously and creatively. With the increase in vocabulary, Minderico also extended its scope of application. It began to be used not only for commercial reasons, to conceal information, but also in

daily social contexts. Consequently, the speech community increased and Minderico came to be seen as a unifying identity element. From this period on, Minderico was used by all social groups and progressed to become the everyday language in Minde - it was used within the community as a means of communication in all social, economic, cultural, and political contexts. In this process, Minderico turned into a full-fledged language, totally incomprehensible for Portuguese speakers, with a very characteristic intonation and a complex morphosyntax (different from Portuguese and other Romance languages). Currently, there are only 150 active speakers (between 40 and 90 years) but only 20 of them are fluent speakers, and about 1000 passive speakers. Some of the members of the younger generation that know Minderico belong nearly totally to the last group.



The lack of financial resources also represents a problem for the community in the documentation, revitalization, teaching and dissemination of Minderico. There are, however, some activities to bring Minderico to the younger generation (Minderico crash courses, theater sketches, etc.) that are being developed by the local school, together with

CIDLeS, in order to fill the gap that emerged with the interruption of “natural” language transmission.

### About the project

The project “Interactive map of Minde” aims at creating a multimedia, interactive, trilingual (Minderico, Portuguese and English) map of Minde, which has Minderico in



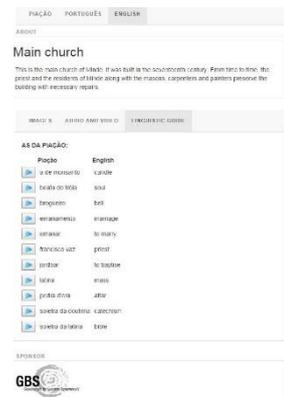
foreground and combines information in the form of photos, text, sound and/or video of the several (private and public) institutions, public spaces, shops, restaurants, coffee, and facilities existing in

Minde, including a documentation of their traditional products and working methods. The map will also have a linguistic guide with Minderico expressions and vocabulary used and/or expected in the several locations.

So the main tasks consisted of georeferentiation of Minde streets and facilities; collect data almost 60 institutions, public spaces;



free interviews with owners; recordings, and translations.



The map is freely available online at CIDLeS site, and constantly developing. On the one hand, the interaction between the guide and the map is a new and innovative way to correlate a language with their socio-economic and cultural environment. It will allow a didactic context of Minderico, which makes this map a important and powerful tool for language teaching. On the other hand, it will bring language to a wider audience (not just residents of Minde will be exposed to the language, especially the younger generation, but also people outside Minde, at national and international level), thus contributing to the its promotion and preservation.

**Budget details**

The total budget of the project it was 1480€ which included all the expenses for compensating the consultant who worked for data collection, processing and editing, as well as creation of the map and linguistic guide; purchase of equipment; and small presents to compensate the language consultants.