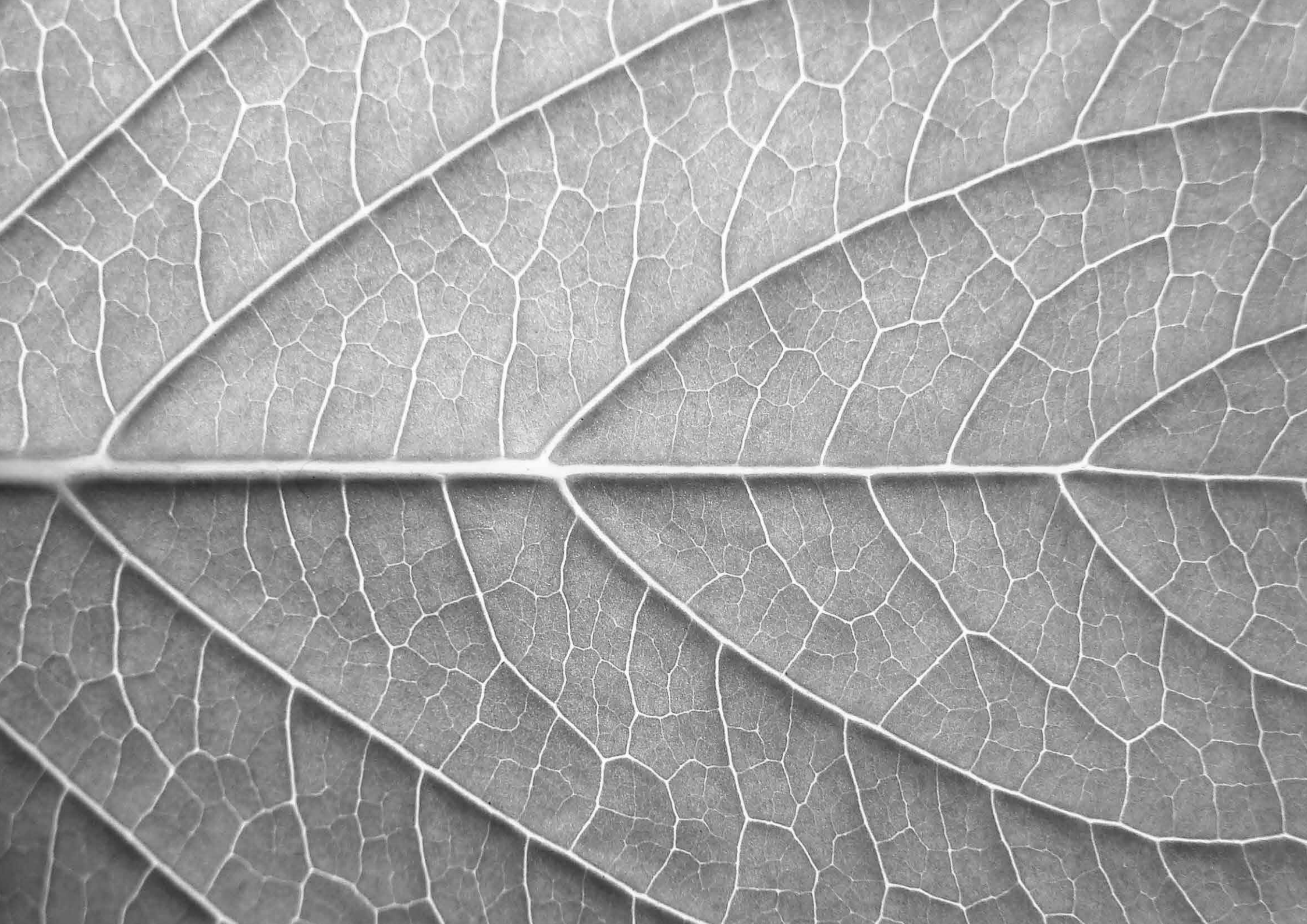


Corporate Social Responsibility

REPORT | 2015





VdA Responsibility

When we first established our Corporate Social Responsibility Programme, back in 2008, we had many dreams but we could never have imagined how far we would reach, or how important some of the steps taken along the way would turn out to be.

We were not aware of the existence of so many relevant and inspiring Portuguese social projects, nor did we realise what an impact the 5000 hours VdA annually dedicates to pro bono legal services would have, having already benefited more than 100 organisations through the involvement of over 60% of our lawyers.

We could not have guessed the dimension of our contribution to the capacity building of hundreds of employees from social economy entities, through the holding of workshops and training sessions on relevant legal subjects, aimed at strengthening the participating entities and the important mission they develop.

We did not know how relevant and mobilising our environmental sustainability programme would become.

We also did not realise just how much of a shift was needed in the prevailing social economy paradigm – evolving from a framework overly dependent on donations and public funding to a more dynamic framework based on social investment and innovation – and that we would be able to make such an active contribution to this change.

We could not have imagined that in 2015 VdA would be named by the Financial Times as one of the Top 10 European most innovative law firms in the field of social responsibility, or that we would help establish the first Portuguese social enterprises and contribute toward the launching of the first social investment funds.

There is still a lot we do not know.

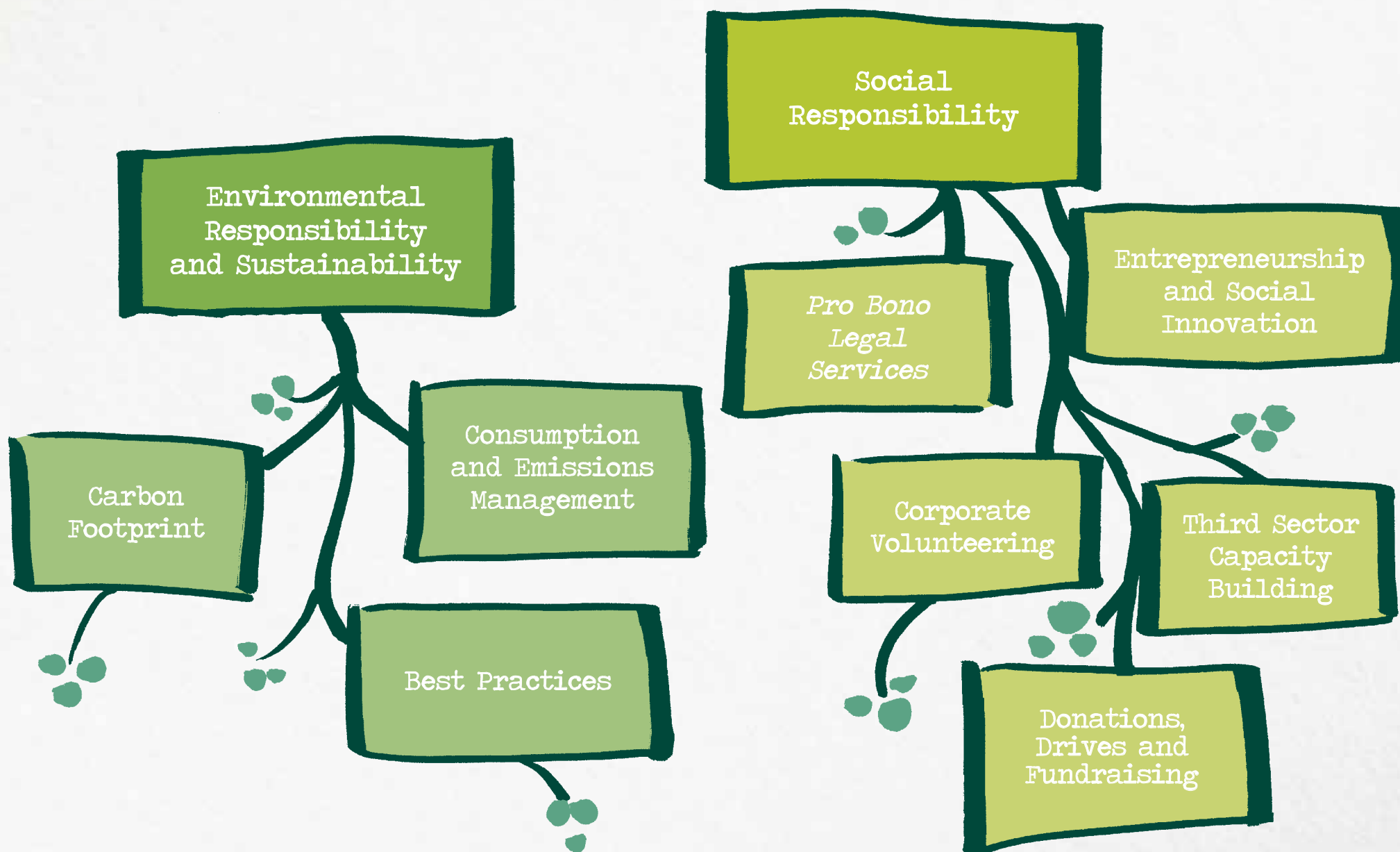
However, looking back, we are very proud of what has been achieved thus far and we are confident that VdA will continue to be a change-maker in the Portuguese social economy.











Network cooperation and partnerships

In 2015, we continued to invest in cooperation through networks and in the establishment of partnerships as both a means to develop VdA's Corporate Social Responsibility Programme and as a way to maximise our social impact.

We have strengthened our existing partnerships and established new ones, with special mention to VdA's accession to TrustLaw and to PAR-Portuguese Refugee Support Platform.





GRACE - Grupo de Reflexão e Apoio à Cidadania Empresarial



VdA is a member of GRACE, a non-profit organisation founded in 2000 with the aim of supporting businesses operating in Portugal to reflect on, further develop and promote their corporate social responsibility initiatives and programmes. The Association has played a pioneering role in encouraging collaboration and the sharing of best practices in this field, namely, among its members, whose numbers have been increasing every year, having reached 136 in 2015.

As a member of GRACE, VdA participates and contributes toward many of its projects. We highlight the Uni.Network project, which has the goal of raising awareness among the university community about good practices in the field of Social Responsibility and Social Entrepreneurship, through the organisation of lectures, classroom presentations, workshops and programmes at partner universities. These activities are led by employees of GRACE member companies, including VdA, who share their know-how on these subjects with university students. VdA also participated in the jury of the GRACE Academic Award, which promotes the submission of essays on a topic related to Corporate Social Responsibility and awards the winners with summer internships at GRACE member companies.



We also participated in the 2nd Edition of Successful Social Responsibility, an initiative organised by GRACE in partnership with the Manuel Antonio da Mota Foundation and dedicated to the topic of Portuguese companies' social responsibility.

The event, which took place in Porto, was divided in two parts: "The Market of Good Practices", which consisted of a show of social responsibility projects; and a round-table conference entitled "Social Innovation and the Role of Corporate Social Responsibility".



BCSD

BCSD Portugal – Business Council for Sustainable Development, founded in 2001 by a group of 35 companies, today has close to 90 members. Together, their mission is to catalyse leadership and to defend common interests in the building of shared solutions and actions. Bolstered by its strong relationships with different stakeholders, BCSD fosters public policy change in favour of sustainable development.

ENTRAJUDA

ENTRAJUDA, an important VdA partner in its mission to guarantee the rights of all, has proven to be an increasingly invaluable entity in supporting the strengthening of the Portuguese non-profit sector, especially of Private Institutions of Social Solidarity (IPSS), by facilitating access to the means and resources necessary to allow these institutions to play a key role in promoting social inclusion and the fight against poverty.



LEGAL SUSTAINABILITY ALLIANCE

In the context of its Green Project, VdA is also a member of the Legal Sustainability Alliance, an international organisation of law firms committed to the adoption of environmentally sustainable practices within the scope of their activities. At present, this organisation has close to 390 members at the global level.

CPF

The Centro Português de Fundações (Portuguese Foundation Centre) is an association recognised as a legal person of public utility. It was founded in 1993 to act as the institution representing the foundation sector in Portugal. Today, it is composed of more than one hundred member foundations, from all over the country, and continues to be one of VdA's important long-term partners.



TRUSTLAW

2015 marked the start of our partnership with TrustLaw, the global pro bono legal support programme of the Thomson Reuters Foundation, which acts as a bridge connecting leading law firms and corporate legal teams with high-impact NGOs and social enterprises working to create social and environmental change.

The TrustLaw tool provides NGOs and social enterprises across the world with an easy means of presenting requests for legal support, which are subsequently shared with the members of this legal network. Those who have the necessary know-how and internal capacity can then volunteer to provide the assistance requested.

At the start of this partnership in 2015, VdA immediately had the opportunity to support the Portuguese social enterprise My Farm in reviewing the terms of use and privacy policy of its website, as well as the Mozambican social enterprise moWoza in the review of a service contract for the provision of telecommunication and electronic payment services.



PRO BONO PORTUGAL

Also in 2015, VdA deepened its partnership with the Pro Bono Association, a project created with the objective of facilitating access to justice among the most deprived sectors of the population, complementing the public legal aid available and the support provided by Social Economy institutions.

In order to perform this mission, Pro Bono mediates the supply and demand of legal services in an innovative way, relying on the collaboration and networking of its various partners: lawyers and law firms, students, jurists, mediators, universities and third-sector organisations.

This system helps private social solidarity institutions obtain legal support for themselves and to complement the support they provide to the community, while also promoting lawyers' increased engagement in volunteer pro bono activities.

VdA believes that the Pro Bono Association provides an essential service toward the improvement of legal access by private citizens, which is why it has contributed to the strengthening of the mission and sustainability of this organisation.



PAR - Plataforma de Apoio aos Refugiados

VdA believes that the answer to the current migrant crisis requires the concerted effort of various stakeholders from across different sectors. Toward this end, we lent our support to PAR, a platform of civil society organisations created with the mission of promoting a more welcoming and supportive culture and framework for receiving refugees. It carries out this mission through two axes of intervention: PAR Famílias (a families hosting project) and PAR Linha da Frente (a frontline project providing support on the ground, in the countries of origin or transit).

The PAR Famílias project welcomes refugee families and seeks to facilitate their integration in Portugal, within a community environment, counting with the involvement of various institutions. PAR Linha da Frente responds to local needs, allowing refugees and internally displaced populations to live with greater dignity and security.



PLATAFORMA DE APOIO AOS
REFUGIADOS





ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY



The Green Project

The environmental dimension of VdA's Corporate Social Responsibility Programme is developed through its Green Project, which aims to promote the progressive adoption of a set of sustainable and eco-efficient internal measures. These measures are defined annually and are mainly implemented through three fields of action: reduction of the direct and indirect environmental impacts of the firm's activity; raising awareness among internal and external stakeholders of the need for joint action; definition of performance goals; and the evaluation and dissemination of results achieved.

Green Barometer and Carbon Footprint Report

At VdA, we believe that the regular internal communication of jointly achieved results is fundamental for boosting the motivation of our employees and demonstrating the managing bodies' commitment to this project. VdA presents quarterly reports to its employees detailing the levels of consumption measured at the office through our Green Barometer tool, which then quantifies the firm's carbon footprint. The following consumptions are included in the quarterly reports: energy, transport, paper and waste. Our Carbon Footprint Report is published annually and presents the results of the firm's monitoring of its carbon footprint. It represents the main annual evaluation tool of VdA's Green Project and also serves to report the results of this project to the Legal Sustainability Alliance (LSA), an international organisation of law firms, of which VdA is a member, committed to the fight against climate change through the reduction of their respective carbon footprints and the adoption of sustainable practices.

Some data regarding 2015

In 2015, the joint effort of VdA's employees led to a clear reduction in the rate of paper consumption and waste production per employee. Each employee consumed 987 sheets of paper less than in 2014. As for waste production, the decrease was of 12% in comparison with 2014. On the other hand, we identified the need to improve our electricity and transportation consumption levels.

VdA's average emissions per employee (2.64 t/CO₂) continues to be lower than the average reported by the Legal Sustainability Alliance (3.56 t/CO₂).

Tapadão VdA



Within the scope of its environmental sustainability programme, VdA has implemented its own carbon offsetting programme, developed through a protocol established with the Tapada Nacional de Mafra (Mafra National Wildlife Park). This protocol reserves an area of the park, designated the Zero Carbon Zone, for the development of measures aimed at offsetting the firm's emissions. This is a protected forest area with an estimated carbon sequestration capacity of 60 tonnes of CO₂. Through this protocol, VdA also contributes to the maintenance and afforestation of the area.

In order to contribute more effectively to its carbon offsetting objective, the firm continues to organise, on an annual basis, a tree-planting and bush clearance activity in its Zero Carbon Zone, known as the "Tapadão".





Electronic Billing Project

Reducing our paper consumption is one of the firm's constant concerns. In May of 2015, we implemented an electronic billing project (which is in its pilot phase) that reflects this concern. The project currently covers 32 clients, having permitted the saving of 17000 sheets of A4 paper in 2015, which corresponds to 1500 sheets of A4 paper per month.



Green Cork Protocol

At the end of December 2015, VdA signed a protocol with Quercus to join the Green Cork Project. This project, which links recycling to nature conservation, facilitates the recycling of cork stoppers and the application of the value of this cork to the reforestation of native species of Portuguese flora, through the Common Forest Project.

Through this partnership, the Green Project extended its recycling goals to include more materials, taking yet another important step toward VdA's sustainability, while also contributing to a circular economy. Both our Lisbon and Oporto offices participate in this project.



Case Study on energy efficiency in VdA

2015 saw the publication of VdA's Case Study on Energy Efficiency, entitled "Saving with Creativity". The study was conducted within the context of the working group "Action 7", of BSCD Portugal. The goal of this working group was to identify the hurdles to energy efficiency and the ways in which the member companies of BCSD Portugal tackled these hurdles. The case studies aimed to demonstrate the value generated by energy efficiency projects: namely, energy savings, cost-cutting and environmental impact.

VdA's project consisted in the organisation of an environmental awareness campaign, directed at its employees, on the importance of reducing energy consumption in our Lisbon and Oporto offices. Our staff was challenged to make a more rational use of office lighting and IT equipment. The initiative registered high levels of adherence and VdA achieved a reduction of 4% in its electricity consumption, in comparison to the year before.

"Para além de diminuir custos, uma maior eficiência energética traduz o nosso sentido de responsabilidade como membros da comunidade e, por essa via, serve como fator diferenciador no plano externo e como agregador no plano interno, na medida em que une os colaboradores à volta de objetivos que os motivam, orgulham e unem enquanto membros da VdA e como cidadãos".

João Vieira de Almeida, Managing Partner da Vieira de Almeida & Associados



"Na VdA a preocupação com a eficiência energética está bem presente na gestão quotidiana do escritório, com foco particular no seu impacto na estrutura de custos da firma, sendo os principais eixos de atuação a adoção de medidas que visam o menor consumo energético e a afetação de verbas específicas para programas que minimizem a nossa pegada ecológica".

José Sousa de Macedo, Administrador Executivo da Vieira de Almeida & Associados





Green Project Case Study: Integrating the Environment into Business (BCSD Yearbook)

Given that environmental sustainability is a goal that unites VdA employees, the firm accepted BCSD Portugal's challenge and presented a case study on its "Green Project", outlining the low carbon solutions adopted by the firm. The case study, entitled "Integrating the Environment into Business", was one of the 26 highlighted in the BCSD Sustainability Yearbook, launched on 25 November 2015 at the BCSD Annual Conference.



BCSD PORTUGAL
CONSELHO EMPRESARIAL PARA O
DESENVOLVIMENTO SUSTENTÁVEL



Declaration on Climate Change: the Papal Encyclical

In 2015, VdA accepted yet another challenge presented by BCSD Portugal. In November, VdA signed the Declaration on Climate Change, along with 93 companies from the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and from its global network. This joint declaration reinforced the climate change messages conveyed in the most recent Papal Encyclical. With this declaration, the private sector, without regard to religious issues, expressed its commitment to the environmental messages advocated by Pope Francis, highlighting that sustainability is a universal language.



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

ELIGIBLE HOURS

VdA lawyers devoted 5290 hours to pro bono legal assistance

TRAINING & CAPACITY-BUILDING

339 hours were dedicated to training and capacity-building at several Social Economy Organisations

VOLUNTEERING

VdA employees dedicated more than **319 hours** to volunteering activities



*It was an honour to receive the “**2015 Pro Bono Lawyer**” award!*

Although I wasn’t expecting this recognition, I felt it was well-deserved given that I have been working with the social sector for a few years now. More importantly, it is with great pleasure that I collaborate with these institutions, always striving to help advance their missions.

When I first joined VdA, I had no idea that a law firm could have such a positive and innovative Pro Bono and Corporate Social Responsibility Programme. However, based on my active participation in this fantastic programme, I now strongly believe that VdA couldn’t meaningfully exist without these initiatives.

I am grateful to VdA for encouraging me to exercise my duties as a citizen and, thereby, helping me feel fulfilled, both personally and professionally.

Ana Filipa Maia 2015 Pro Bono Lawyer

PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES

One of the cornerstones of our Corporate Social Responsibility programme is the provision of pro bono legal services. In 2015, VdA embarked on the mission shared by a wide range of non-profit organisations and it has continued to provide free legal assistance to the multiple organisations the firm has supported over the past years. These are just some examples of the extensive pro bono legal work VdA developed in 2015.

PAR | VdA

Within the scope of VdA's collaboration with PAR, the firm supported the project "PAR *Famílias*" by elaborating diverse legal documents aimed at regulating the relations between the various parties involved in the refugee welcoming process, defining their respective responsibilities and commitments.



PLATAFORMA DE APOIO AOS
REFUGIADOS



"Associação Pais 21" - Parents and Friends Support Group

The Pais 21 Association was created in 2015 with the active support of VdA, which provided legal counselling in the development of its statutes and relevant legal documents, as well as having assisted its members in implementing the legal procedures required to create the Association.

XXS Association

VdA offered legal advice to XXS in the execution of its projects "C.A.R.E." and "Sobreviver", which have received European and national public financing within the scope of the Human Potential Operational Programme.



ASSOCIAÇÃO PORTUGUESA
DE APOIO AO BEBÉ PREMATURO



IPSS Statute Adjustments

VdA has supported a wide range of associations, such as XXS - Portuguese Association for the Support of Preterm Infants and EAPN - European Anti-Poverty Network, in the revision of their statutes to guarantee their compliance with recent legal changes to the new IPSS Statute governing private institutions of social solidarity.

Pão com História (Bread with History)



The project "*Pão com História*", a startup social bakery created in 2015 by Pressley Ridge Portugal, was the winner of the Barclaycard European prize and one of the finalists of Barclays' 325th anniversary Special Prize at the global level. The goals of this project, which aims to be economically sustainable, include the creation of employment, the fight against early school leaving, absenteeism and truancy, and the fight against hunger through the construction of a bakery.

VdA prides itself on having supported the development of this project, namely, through the registration of the community trademark "Bread with History".



"Oikos Justo & Biológico" (Oikos Fair & Organic)

We advised the Portuguese NGO OIKOS - Cooperation and Development in the registration of their trademark "Oikos Fair & Organic" for the commercialisation of fair trade organic fruits and vegetables from developing countries.

Protocol with AJUDARIS

Under its Corporate Social Responsibility Programme, VdA signed a collaboration protocol with AJUDARIS, an IPSS from Oporto that engages in a daily fight against hunger, poverty and social exclusion.

AJUDARIS' mission is to enhance the quality of life of its users and beneficiaries by developing their autonomy, combating loneliness, and by promoting engagement with their families, social groups of varied ages, institutions and with the community at large.

Within the scope of this protocol, VdA has been providing pro bono legal support to AJUDARIS and has participated in various initiatives carried out by the institution.



ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SOCIAL INNOVATION

Social Innovation/ Financial Times



In 2015, VdA was named, by the Financial Times, one of the 10 most innovative European law firms (Continental Europe and UK) in the Social Responsibility category, having achieved 5th place among the most prestigious European organisations and law firms, as well as the recognition of being the only “Standout” Portuguese firm in this category.

Within the context of this award, VdA presented the social innovation project “Zero Waste”, implemented by the Association DariAcordar that actively fights against food waste and hunger in Portugal, guaranteeing access to meals for those in need. At the close of 2015, the movement counted 2,371,828 meals served.

Social Enterprises powered by VdA: Social Help | Touch Hub

We are very proud of the work developed with a view to creating the first two social enterprises powered by VdA: namely, Social Help and Touch Hub..

Social Help was founded in June with the aim of financially supporting (via part of the generated profits) and responding to the communication needs of social sector entities, promoted since 2008 by the Help Images Association.

As for Touch Hub, it results from the re-launch of the social design brands “Blindesign” and “Revolta das Embalagens” in the form of a social enterprise. Touch Hub asserts itself as a social innovation catalyst, through the development of products and services that seek to achieve innovative, impactful solutions and social transformation.

We believe that the constitution of these two social enterprises represents an important step toward the progressive recognition of the “social enterprise” entity as a real agent of change in the social economy.



Alliance for Social Impact Investment (ASII)



In 2015, we concluded the project Alliance for Social Impact Investment, started in 2014 in partnership with TESE, FSI-Finance for Social Impact, and *Sair da Casca* with the aim of developing a financing platform that would help promote an ecosystem favourable to the creation of social enterprises in Portugal, as well as creating the necessary framework and rules to ensure their successful functioning.

The project ended with a workshop, organised by the partners involved, on Social Enterprises and Social Businesses. Four case studies of social businesses, developed by social sector entities of recognised merit (namely, *O Século Foundation*, *Chapitô*, *Quinta Essência* and *CDI Portugal*), were discussed at this event and VdA proposed a working methodology for the development of these businesses.



FAZ - Ideias de Origem Portuguesa

VdA was the legal partner in the 4th edition of a social entrepreneurship initiative organised by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation: the DO IT – Ideas of Portuguese Origin competition.

In this context, we supported the establishment of two associations and provided the legal counselling necessary to launch the projects “TEIA” and “*Rádio Miúdos*”.

“*Rádio Miúdos*” is an online radio that was created to share Portuguese language and culture with Portuguese children in both Portugal and abroad.





TEIA



TEIA is an online marketplace designed to support Portuguese social entrepreneurs in the internationalisation of their businesses by tapping into the services and contacts of Portuguese immigrants already professionally established abroad. The project also allows these professionals based abroad to remain linked to the Portuguese business community.

YOGAN

Acredita Portugal Award Winner

Yogan was the winner of the START NOW award, launched by Acredita Portugal, a non-profit organisation devoted to the development and promotion of Portuguese entrepreneurship. VdA provided all the legal assistance required to establish Yogan, which created a cheese made from almond milk, using only natural ingredients an innovative and healthy business project.





THIRD SECTOR CAPACITY BUILDING

Another cornerstone of VdA's Corporate Social Responsibility Programme is the capacity-building of social economy organisations and of their employees. Toward this end, VdA regularly organises training sessions on legal topics relevant to the activities of these organisations. In a bid to implement this mission more effectively, VdA has established numerous partnerships, through which it promotes these training initiatives.

In 2015, in collaboration with Entrajuda, we promoted training workshops, held in Oporto and in Lisbon, on the following subjects:

- Management of Personal Data: Protection and Privacy
- Legal Framework of Private Institutions of Social Solidarity (IPSS)
- Labour Law and the Contributions Code
- Taxation and Patronage



Also in partnership with Entrajuda, VdA participated once again in its IPSS Management Training Programme, having contributed to the module on Legal Compliance. This training programme was created to support the executive officers responsible for managing welfare institutions.



VdA also collaborated with the Universidade Católica Portuguesa (Catholic University of Portugal) in its postgraduate course "Management of Social Economy Organisations", which has the purpose of developing the qualifications and skills of staff working in these organisations. VdA's participation was aimed at providing students with in-depth knowledge of the legal framework governing social sector entities.



CORPORATE VOLUNTEERING



GIRO Acessível ("accessible giro")

The GIRO Project, coordinated by our partner organisation GRACE, is Portugal's largest corporate volunteering initiative.. This project invites volunteers from GRACE partner companies, from across the country, to leave their desks and participate in a day out of the office devoted to a social or environmental cause.

In 2015, GIRO was "ACCESSIBLE". 15 VdA volunteers actively participated in the initiative aimed at raising awareness about mobility and inclusion through an orienteering activity to identify good practices and areas for improvement as regards accessibility.

VdA volunteers, in cooperation with the Lar de Cegos Nossa Senhora da Saúde Foundation and the Salvador Association, travelled the streets of Campo de Ourique with the objective of identifying what should be improved by the Lisbon City Council to promote greater inclusion and accessibility.



Tapadão

Within the scope of its environmental sustainability and carbon offsetting programmes, VdA annually organises the Tapadão, a tree planting activity carried out in the firm's Zero Carbon Zone at the Tapada Nacional de Mafra.

In March, VdA volunteers planted 300 cork and pine trees, which allowed us to capture about 60 tonnes of CO².



Junior Achievement Portugal

In 2015, our employees contributed once again to the implementation of Junior Achievement Portugal's (JAP) young entrepreneurship education programmes. From January to June, 20 VdA volunteers shared their time and experience with students of varying ages within a classroom context, encouraging and inspiring them to develop entrepreneurial skills.

VdA also participated in another JAP initiative, "*Braço Direito*" ("Right Hand"), which saw high school students accompany the volunteers in their workplace and participate in their daily activities for one entire day. Through this practical experience, the students acquired a greater understanding of work ethic, different work cultures, and the variety of career options available to them.

In 2015, JAP celebrated its 10-year anniversary and presented VdA with a "Founders Award", as a tribute to the companies that have supported the Association since the very beginning, and a member of VdA's Corporate Social Responsibility Committee received the "Interlocutor of the Decade" award.

Junior Achievement Portugal is a non-profit organisation, created in 2005 as the Portuguese counterpart of Junior Achievement, the world's largest entrepreneurship education organisation.



DONATIONS, DRIVES AND FUNDRAISING

VdAlpinismo: "The other side of the moon"

In 2015, the VdAlpinistas (mountaineers) team travelled to Chile to climb the 6980 metres of Aconcagua, the highest point of the entire southern hemisphere. We raised close to €6000, which were donated to the associations *Raríssimas* (the winner), *XXS* and *Filhos do Coração*, selected by VdA employees to receive this donation.



RARÍSSIMAS ASSOCIATION

Raríssimas – the Portuguese National Association for Rare and Mental Disorders is an IPSS working in the field of rare illnesses. The Association has developed unique projects both nationally and internationally, having succeeded in building the only Integrated Resource Centre for Rare Diseases: the *Casa dos Marcos*. More recently, *Raríssimas* also developed a project to support Lusophone countries. In 2014, it obtained the status of NGO.

In 2015, VdA provided legal support toward the establishment of the *Raríssimas* Foundation.



XXS ASSOCIATION

The *Associação Portuguesa de Apoio ao Bebé Prematuro* (Portuguese Association for the Support of Preterm Infants) is a private welfare institution dedicated to supporting premature babies and their families, by preventing and tracking premature births, and improving the living conditions of preterm infants. This improvement focuses on the health of premature babies and their integration in their family and in society, working closely with public and private institutions, namely, from the health sector and the scientific community.

FILHOS DO CORAÇÃO ASSOCIATION



The NGO *Filhos do Coração* (Children of the Heart) has the mission of eradicating child slavery in Ghana. The funds raised by the Association go mainly toward providing food, health, education and safety to children rescued from slavery, who live at the Kumassi Reception Centre. This is achieved through a partnership with a local NGO.

Filhos do Coração is currently responsible for financing the schooling of 65 children who live at this Centre.

VdA Champions League

For the third consecutive year, VdA organised the so-lidary football tournament known as “VdA Champions League”, at Foz do Porto Football Club.

This tournament seeks to promote conviviality between the participating companies and to encourage the practice of sport, with the greater aim of helping out a social economy organisation.

In 2015, the funds raised were donated to the *Associação Bagos D’Ouro*, which supports disadvantaged children and young people from the Douro region by monitoring their educational progress and by creating opportunities for the development of successful life projects.



Rock’n’Law 2015

In 2015, the VdA band participated in yet another successful edition of Rock’n’Law, which gathered 1850 people and raised a €70,000 donation for the Association *Mulheres Contra a Violência* (Women Against Violence).



Solidary Christmas!

In December 2015, contributions from all our employees allowed us to put together 19 Christmas Hampers for families in need from the *Quinta da Fonte da Prata* neighbourhood. These hampers, overflowing with goodies, certainly contributed toward a merrier Christmas for these 19 families.

The initiative was organised in cooperation with the Santa Rafaela Maria Foundation, which has implemented various projects in this neighbourhood, including the PAF (Family Support Programme) which assists the most deprived families in *Fonte da Prata*.

This targeted collaboration led to the establishment of a new partnership with the *Santa Rafaela Maria* Foundation, through which VdA is set to collaborate in another of its projects – TASSE – in 2016.









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