



Corporate
Social
Responsibility
Report

VdA

VdA's CSR Programme is founded on a global vision of sustainability and is developed through two main axes: Social Responsibility and Environmental Sustainability

Social Responsibility

Pro Bono Legal Services
with a focus on supporting
Investment, Innovation and Social
Entrepreneurship
Third Sector Capacity Building
Corporate Volunteering
Internal Drives & Donations

Environmental Sustainability

Green Project
Consumption and emissions
management
Reduction of carbon footprint
Adoption of best practices





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I.

Overview of 2017 CSR Programme

Over the last 10 years, VdA has developed an increasingly extensive and multifaceted Corporate Social Responsibility Programme (“CSR Programme”).

VdA’s establishment, in 2017, of the Vasco Vieira de Almeida Foundation represents a major step forward on this path, expressing the Firm’s determination to strengthen its social and environmental commitment to the community through the promotion of citizenship education and affirmation of the essential role of education and knowledge in upholding human rights and the rule of law.

In 2017, VdA joined the ranks of thousands of other organisations by adhering to the international movement of the United Nations Global Compact (and its Portuguese network), thus expressly formalising the support shown by the Firm, notably under the aegis of its Corporate Social Responsibility programme, for the 10 principles advanced by the UN for the private sector in the fields of human rights, labour practices, environmental protection and anti-corruption.

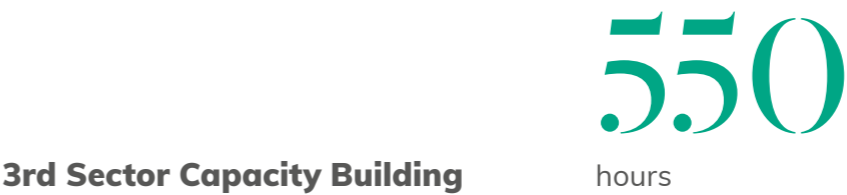
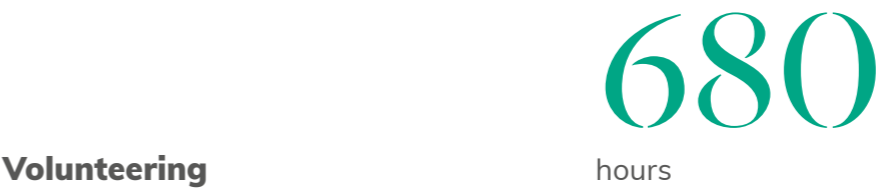
This Corporate Social Responsibility report outlines the activities that have reflected this commitment during our first year as a signatory to the UN initiative, identifying specific policies and projects, implemented either independently or jointly with other partners, aimed at fostering and disseminating the referred principles in our sphere of influence.

It is with a great sense of responsibility that VdA renews its commitment in 2018, with a view to contributing to the resolution of the main societal challenges currently faced globally and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in close alignment with the UN Agenda for 2030.

We appreciate the invaluable support shown by all those with whom we have collaborated on this path and shall always remain open to any suggestions or feedback that will help us evolve and further contribute to the private sector's playing an increasingly relevant role in the implementation of the United Nations Global Compact.

João Vieira de Almeida
Managing Partner

Facts & Figures 2017



VdA's CSR Programme in 2017: Main Highlights

VdA's Accession to the United Nations Global Compact



VdA's accession to the United Nations Global Compact – both the international movement and respective Portuguese network – stands as a milestone of the Firm's CSR Programme and one of the highlights of this institutional project in 2017.

The Global Compact is the United Nations' main proposal for the private sector in the field of corporate citizenship and recommends that the sector pledge its commitment to respecting, supporting and disseminating the 10 Fundamental Principles on human rights, labour practices, environmental protection and anti-corruption, which are based on universally accepted declarations.¹

In terms of **Human Rights**, it is expected that companies uphold and respect the protection of internationally recognised human rights, while also guaranteeing their non-involvement in the violation of such rights.

The protection of human rights – a mission traditionally assigned to countries and their governments – currently represents one of the key challenges companies face in terms of social responsibility. Over recent years, VdA has sought

out opportunities that allow it, on the one hand, to become more knowledgeable about its role in this context and, on the other, to promote respect for the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in which respect we highlight our continued support of the Girl Move project (further described ahead) in advocating the right to education.

In what refers to **Labour Practices**, the Global Compact recommends that companies support freedom of association, by effectively recognising collective bargaining; promote the abolition of all forms of forced and mandatory labour, as well as child labour; and actively contribute to eliminating discrimination in the workplace.

In this respect, we note that VdA's human resources policy actively promotes the elimination of all forms of discrimination in the workplace, which is recognised by all as an inclusive space where the respect for difference is upheld as a core principle.

In terms of gender diversity, the Firm is also aligned with best practices across all categories and levels of seniority, as well as those applicable to management responsibility.

¹ Namely, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Labour Organisation's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

With respect to **Environmental Protection**, the Global Compact proposes that companies encourage a preventive approach to the environmental challenges currently faced, implement initiatives that foster environmental responsibility and promote the use, development and dissemination of environmentally-friendly technologies.

VdA's Green Project (further described ahead) is one of the pillars of our Corporate Social Responsibility programme and has worked to minimise the environmental impact of the Firm's activities through the development of concrete preventive measures and of a growing number of initiatives.

This was one of the Firm's main concerns during its change of premises in 2017, which led to the implementation of measures aimed at improving the environmental sustainability indicators at VdA's new office.

The Global Compact also includes an **anti-corruption** proposal, urging the private sector to fight corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

VdA's Code of Conduct, widely disseminated among all, sets a high ethical standard and requires that its

lawyers and staff display irreproachable behaviour in various domains, including in terms of anti-corruption practices, and in all jurisdictions where the Firm operates.

Following its accession to the Portuguese network of the Global Pact, VdA has sought to participate in network meetings and to get actively involved in its main project – Aliança ODS Portugal, established as a platform to facilitate multi-stakeholder dialogue and focused on contributing, at the national level, to the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set forth in the Agenda for 2030, approved by the United Nations in September 2015.

VdA accepted the challenge launched by the Portuguese network to join the working group set up to pursue SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

In this context, it has cooperated with other relevant stakeholders in the pursuit of peaceful and inclusive societies that foster sustainable development, access to justice for all, and the creation of effective and accountable institutions.

TrustLaw Awards 2017

In 2017, TrustLaw presented VdA with its first international prize in the field of corporate social responsibility: the “Domestic Law Firm of the Year” award.

TrustLaw is the Thomson Reuters Foundation's global pro bono legal programme and network. This award celebrates the pro bono legal efforts of law firms from around the world in support of NGOs and social entrepreneurship projects. In 2017, TrustLaw recognised the dedication of a multidisciplinary team of VdA lawyers who, through this network, actively supported several social projects in Portugal and in other jurisdictions of VdA Legal Partners.

Recognition by Pro Bono Clients: Instituto Profissional do Terço

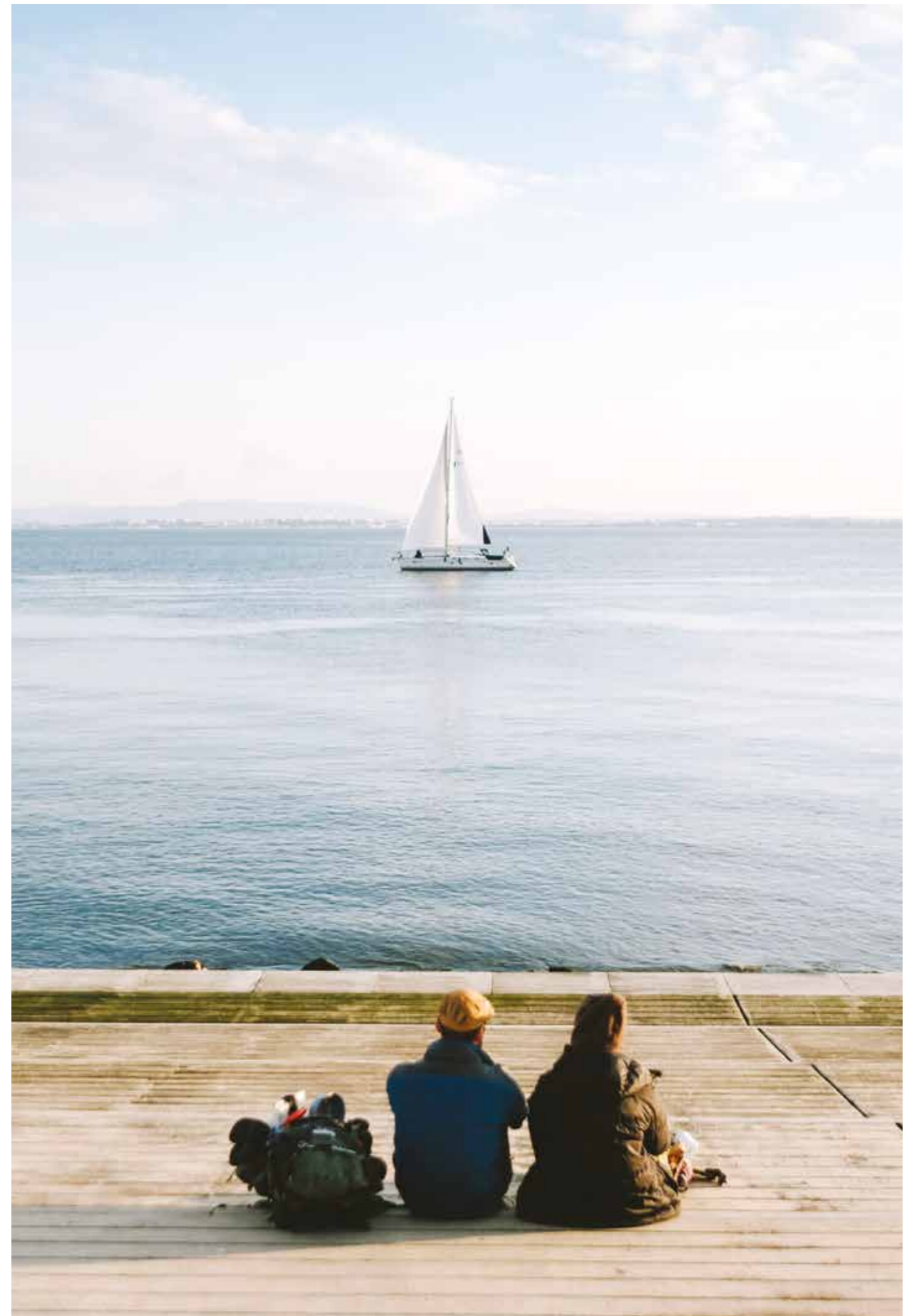
In 2017, Instituto Profissional do Terço, one of the Firm's long-term partners, appointed VdA as an honorary member in acknowledgement of the pro bono legal services rendered in advancing this institution's social mission.

VdA is honoured by this recognition and warmly thanks Instituto Profissional do Terço.

Luso-French Awards 2017

VdA was conferred the 2017 Jury's Award by the Luso-French Chamber of Commerce and Industry for its achievements in the fields of environmental sustainability, social responsibility and innovation.

VdA was also shortlisted for the Sustainable Development Award, which commends best practices in environmental and social sustainability.



Pro Bono Lawyer 2017

As a firm of lawyers, the main pillar of VdA's CSR Programme involves the provision of pro bono legal services to the third sector. This pro bono legal support expresses the shared commitment of our lawyers who, inspired by the vision of the Firm's Founding Partner, believe that facilitating access to justice and quality legal services among the most vulnerable segments of the population is part of their duty as citizens. VdA recognises the merit and commitment of those most actively involved in the pro bono component of its CSR Programme, annually awarding the Pro Bono Lawyer prize to the lawyer who made the most relevant contribution in that year. In 2017, this accolade was very deservedly awarded to André Gaspar Martins, Managing Associate at VdA's Public Law practice, for his earnest, discreet and exceptional contribution to the Firm's pro bono project.

“

It is a privilege to collaborate on the Firm's pro bono/corporate social responsibility programme, especially knowing that the services we provide have a real impact on the life of the people and institutions with whom we work, and that we render these services in a professional and committed manner (which, we must acknowledge, is largely due to the people responsible for running the programme).

Considering that we are, from a certain point of view, in a privileged position, it is gratifying to give back to the community through our work. And especially to people and institutions that would otherwise not have access to VdA's services.”

André Gaspar Martins



VdA's Participation in Relevant Sector Events

PILnet Global Forum 2017

PILnet, which gathers experts from all continents, is the largest and most prestigious global organisation devoted to promoting pro bono legal work and the rule of law as tools to protect and defend the public interest.

VdA participated in the 2017 PILnet Global Forum, which expanded its European focus by hosting, for the very first time, a meeting on the topic of access to law and justice, where leading activists, academics, pro bono professionals and defenders of the public interest discussed and identified concrete ways of effectively using the law to protect all members of the community, especially its most vulnerable populations.

Demos '17

In the framework of its Capacity Building Programme, the Centro Português de Fundações (Portuguese Foundations Centre) set up a Delegation of Portuguese Foundations to attend DEMOS '17. The Vasco Vieira de Almeida Foundation was present at this event, organised by the Spanish Association of Foundations (AEF) in partnership with some of its members, aimed at debating philanthropy and demonstrating the vitality and strength of Spain's foundations sector.

The participation of the Portuguese Delegation was intended to establish new contacts and foster increased interaction with Spanish counterparts, to analyse emerging trends, become acquainted with innovative projects, and identify potential partnerships and opportunities for developing joint projects.

III Forum of Ethical and Social Finance

VdA's Social Investment team was represented at the 3rd Forum of Ethical and Social Finances (FFES III) organised by FESCOOP - Cooperativa para o Desenvolvimento de Finanças Éticas e Solidárias, held at the Lisbon Campus of Católica University. This event provided a meeting space for the presentation of national and international projects, and for debate and reflection on the history, current reality and main trends of ethical and social finance, notably microfinance.

VdA partner Hugo Moredo Santos was a speaker on the panel devoted to Portugal's microfinance framework and lawyer Rafael Dias Almeida attended a workshop on "Building the Microfinance Industry in Portugal".

FT Investing for Good Europe

VdA was present at the FT Investing for Good Europe event, which brought together foundations, investors, managers, social entrepreneurs and other stakeholders to discuss the main opportunities and greatest challenges faced in the intersection between philanthropy and social investment.



2.

Focus on Impact

**through network cooperation
with our partners**

In 2017, VdA reinforced its network of partnerships in a bid to enhance the positive social impact of the projects implemented and to promote more solid results. In this context, we highlight the following national and international third sector entities with which VdA regularly collaborates in the implementation of several initiatives and activities.

Partnership for Impact — Junior Achievement Portugal

In 2017, VdA made its debut as a social investor – via the financing instrument ‘Parcerias para o Impacto’ made available by the public initiative Portugal Inovação Social – in a project promoted by Junior Achievement Portugal (JAP) and which aims to replicate, through a 1 to 3-year development plan, JAP’s social entrepreneurship programmes and institutional methodology in Portugal’s Alentejo region. This project is expected to benefit around 6000 students.

Girl Move

In 2017, VdA collaborated once again with Girl Move, an association that works to promote education and to equip Mozambican women with the tools of leadership.

In the context of this partnership, VdA once again provided and funded a professional internship at the Firm for a “Girl Mover”.

Etelvina Frederico’s internship at VdA was complemented by the opportunity to visit key institutions, such as the Portuguese Attorney-General’s Office and the Centre for Judicial Studies, and by a subsequent internship with the Pro Bono Association.

Centro Português de Fundações

VdA provides legal and strategic advice to one of its oldest partners, the Portuguese Centre for Foundations (CPF), on key issues for the foundations sector, organising workshops and ensuring regular legal updates of information relevant to its members’ activities.

Laboratório de Investimento Social

One of VdA’s most relevant partnerships is with the Social Investment Lab (LIS), through which it provides the pro bono legal support necessary for investment in innovation and social entrepreneurship projects, in addition to legal assistance in the context of initiatives promoted by this partner, among which we highlight the Impact Generator acceleration programme (further detailed below).

Pro Bono Association

The Pro Bono Association is the only organisation in Portugal dedicated, alongside its provision of public legal aid, to promoting access to quality legal representation among vulnerable populations, based on a model where lawyers and law students cooperate to achieve this goal.

Recognising that lawyers act as important intermediaries in the access to justice and believing in the mission of this Association, in 2017 VdA continued to provide it with financial and strategic support, seeking to promote synergies with other partners and more widespread access among citizens, from other areas of the country, to the services offered by the Pro Bono Association.

Impact Hub

Impact Hub is the largest global network of impact entrepreneurship and social innovation, with over 15 000 members in around 90 cities across the world. VdA has assisted in ensuring the compliant functioning of Impact Hub Lisboa, which represents this network in Portugal, and has also provided the necessary legal support to projects developed by this network of entrepreneurs.

TrustLaw

In the context of its partnership with the Thomson Reuters Foundation’s global pro bono legal network, we highlight VdA’s participation in an international study carried out by TrustLaw, in partnership with several law firms, aimed at clarifying, promoting and facilitating the pro bono legal work being developed by corporate lawyers across a range of jurisdictions.

VdA Academia and VdA’s CSR Programme: Spring School 2017

VdA organised, in partnership with VdA Academia and TESE – Associação para o Desenvolvimento (to which all proceeds from students’ registration fees are channelled), the 5th edition of its Spring School, the main objective of which is to develop the soft skills most valued by leading Portuguese law firms with a view to boosting the employability of the young participants.

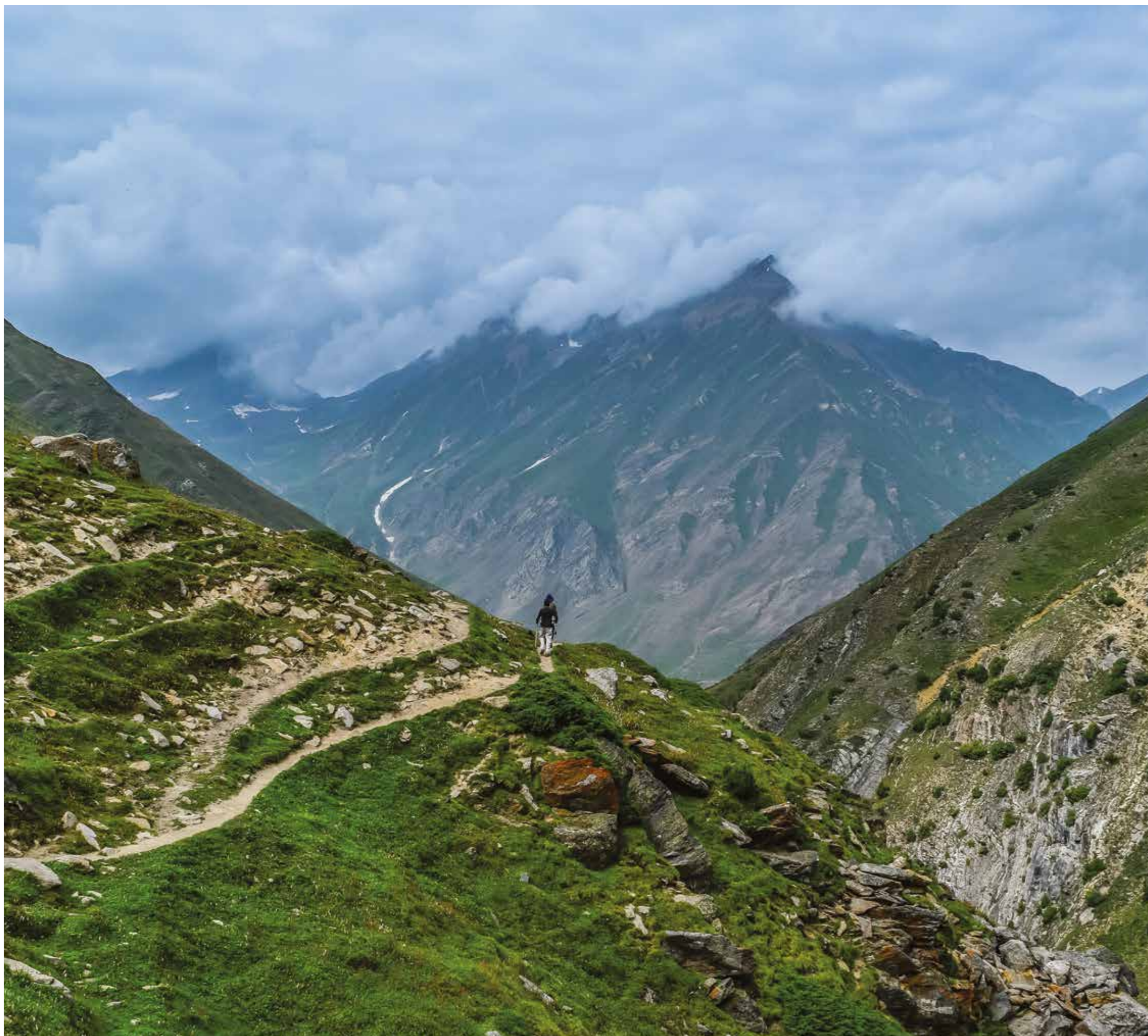
The 2017 edition explored the module on social responsibility and sought to convey to all participating law students the importance of the exercise of citizenship in the practice of law.

GRACE – Corporate Citizenship Reflection and Support Group

VdA is one of the 160+ member companies of GRACE, an association established in the year 2000 with the mission of supporting Portuguese companies in the promotion and development of socially responsible initiatives, and of fostering cooperation and the sharing of best practices among its members.

VdA regularly participates in initiatives and events promoted by this entity and, in late 2017, was elected President of GRACE’s Management Board for the 2018-2020 term.





3.

Social Responsibility, The Pillars

Pro Bono Legal Services

Third Sector Capacity Building

Corporate Volunteering

Internal Drives & Donations

Pro Bono Legal Services Focused on Supporting Investment, Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship

VdA provides non-remunerated legal services to several Social Economy Organisations (SEOs) and aims to contribute, in this way, to the strengthening of the Portuguese social fabric. During the 10 years of VdA's CSR Programme, more than one hundred organisations have already benefitted from its support and, in 2017 alone, almost 7000 hours were devoted to pro bono projects.

Whereas the first few years of VdA's CSR Programme were mainly focused on assisting welfare organisations, the Firm has since become increasingly dedicated to supporting innovation, entrepreneurship and social investment projects, in its bid to foster the growth and consolidation of this ecosystem in Portugal.

Regulatory compliance and support with the drafting of contracts

Advice on regulatory compliance and on the drafting / revision of contracts is the type of legal assistance most requested by VdA's pro bono clients. In this context, the Firm has worked to ensure that its pro bono clients operating in regulated sectors of activity understand and comply with all applicable legislation and obligations. Our lawyers' high level of expertise in the Health, Banking & Finance and Telecoms sectors, among others, has proved particularly important in providing the necessary assistance to achieve this goal.

Pro Bono in VdA Legal Partners jurisdictions

Propelled by its strong drive towards internationalisation, VdA provides growing pro bono legal support to non-profit organisations operating in the jurisdictions where the Firm is present through VdA Legal Partners. This support relies on the involvement and collaboration of the lawyers based at the various offices that make up the VdA Legal Partners network in clarifying all matters of local law.

Support to Investment, Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship projects: Highlights of 2017

In 2017, VdA supported several projects considered pioneering due to their innovative and entrepreneurial approach to tackling relevant social challenges, in such varied fields as education; capacity-building and empowerment of more vulnerable populations; integration of immigrants, refugees and other minorities in local communities; and ethical and social finance.

Support in the constitution of legal vehicles for the development of social projects

The non-remunerated legal services rendered by VdA include strategic consultancy and assistance with the constitution of the legal vehicle most suited to the development of any given social project. This support also includes, in certain cases, the provision of legal advice on the need / pertinence of the constitution of a 'social enterprise'.

Support in obtaining the granting of Special Status

In 2017, VdA also helped, on a pro bono basis, various SEOs obtain the granting of special status ("IPSS" – Private Institution of Social Solidarity, "NGDO", etc.)

Compliance with new Privacy and Data Protection legislation

In an increasingly information-based and computer-driven world, where citizens' privacy faces multiple challenges, it is vital to guarantee compliance with legislation protecting the personal data of users of non-profit organisations. In this context, VdA has assisted many of its pro bono clients in the drafting of privacy policies and has also provided them with all necessary legal support in the management of their user, staff and volunteer databases.

Main projects with strategic impact in 2017

VdA recognises the strategic value and impact certain legal-judicial contributions can have on specific areas of Corporate Citizenship and the Social Economy. In 2017, we highlight VdA's collaboration with some of its main partners and clients in the development of international studies and the drafting of legal opinions and memos, with a view to clarifying and defending, on behalf of these entities, key positions on strategic topics of relevance to their field or sector.

Third Sector Capacity Building

VdA realises that in addition to the provision of pro bono legal services, the capacity building of Social Economy Organisations is equally important for the emergence in Portugal of a strong and increasingly professionalised social fabric. For this reason, in 2017 VdA continued to promote, in partnership with some of the sector's main stakeholders, the holding of legal training sessions on topics of relevance to the life and functioning of these entities, counting on the essential contribution of lawyers from across the Firm's practice areas.

ENTRAJUDA

In 2017, VdA promoted 12 training sessions in cooperation with ENTRAJUDA and counting on the active participation of many of its lawyers. These sessions were directed to the management bodies of ENTRAJUDA's member IPSS and covered topics of relevance to these institutions, including the Portuguese legal framework for the social economy, taxation and patronage, privacy and personal data protection, public procurement and corporate business in Portugal, among other topics.

Impact Generator

Impact Generator is an impact acceleration programme sponsored by the Laboratório de Investimento Social and which helps prepare innovation and social entrepreneurship initiatives with the goal of capturing investment. VdA is the programme's legal partner, having ensured the organisation of several training sessions aimed at equipping participating project promoters with basic legal knowledge.

Universidade Católica Portuguesa

In 2017, VdA lawyers once again lectured the legal modules of the postgraduate course on the Management of Social Economy Organisations, offered at the Porto Campus of Católica University.

RedEmprega

In the context of the RedEmprega project, VdA held a training session on employment law aimed at clarifying the doubts of the unemployed and informing them about the rights and obligations related to the condition of unemployment. RedEmprega brings together several companies and institutions in a collaborative network through which these entities jointly develop social solutions to enhance employability in several target areas of the city of Lisbon.



Corporate Volunteering

Junior Achievement Portugal

In 2017, around 30 VdA volunteers participated in JAP's entrepreneurship education programmes, having contributed a total of 304 volunteer hours. These programmes were implemented at 23 schools, inspiring and equipping 634 children and young people for success in a global economy, through the promotion of citizenship and financial literacy, entrepreneurship education and skills for employability.

Tapadão VdA

With a view to offsetting the Firm's CO2 emissions, 31 of our lawyers and staff members joined forces to plant 500 pine trees and to prune and clean VdA's Zero Carbon Zone in the Tapada Nacional de Mafra nature reserve, which has an estimated annual carbon sequestration capacity of approximately 60 tonnes of CO2.

GIRO

20 VdA lawyers and staff participated in the 12th edition of GIRO ("In Defence of the Territory"), held in Barreiro at the Mata da Machada Nature Reserve. Trees were planted, invasive species were removed and a forest fire awareness-raising activity was carried out.

GIRO (GRACE, Intervene, Recuperate and Organise), promoted by GRACE on a yearly basis, is Portugal's largest corporate volunteering event and, in 2017, mobilised 850 volunteers from 57 GRACE member companies.

Serve The City

2017 saw the holding of the first VdA Community Dinner, which was served by more than 40 volunteers, including VdAs, their family members and friends. This is a volunteer initiative promoted by Serve the City, which organises fortnightly community dinners for more than 100 homeless and socially disadvantaged people who are invited to partake in a meal alongside volunteers from diverse backgrounds, in a spirit of sharing and inclusion.



Internal Drives and Donations

Donated Goods Bank

In the context of VdA's change of premises in Lisbon, the Firm donated around € 10,000 worth in furniture to the Donated Goods Bank, a project run by ENTRAJUDA, which will be distributed to Private Institutions of Social Solidarity. VdA believes this initiative has a very positive impact, not only from a social point of view but also an environmental one.

Gorongosa National Park

Through VdA Legal Partners, VdA signed a protocol with Mozambique's Gorongosa National Park within the scope of the Education of Vulnerable Children Project, with the goal of equipping five schools (during a period of 5 years) based in the Park's Human Development Zone. During the first year of the project, local carpenters manufactured 100 school desks and chairs for 200 children in one of the targeted schools, whose classrooms will also be fully remodelled. To fulfil this order of equipment, the local carpentry workshop had to be electrified. This protocol marks the start of the internationalisation of VdA's CSR programme (through VdA Legal Partners) and represents the Firm's support for a project that promotes education and environmental sustainability as a means of fostering the sustainable local development of one of Africa's most important protected areas, with highly disadvantaged populations.

OCP— JOP

The Portuguese Youth Orchestra (Jovem Orquestra Portuguesa, or JOP) is an initiative of the Portuguese Chamber Orchestra – Musical Association (Orquestra de Câmara Portuguesa, or OCP) which aims to uphold the artistic work of Portuguese youth, acting as an ambassador of excellence and of national identity, and inspiring audiences through the integrity and joy of its performances. Believing in the mission pursued by this association, VdA grants an annual donation to help further JOP's success.

Terra dos Sonhos Musical

VdA sponsored the musical commemorating the 10-year anniversary of Terra dos Sonhos ('Land of Dreams'). Inspired by the work this association carries out with chronically ill and hospitalised children and young people, the musical sought to convey and raise awareness about the tough reality lived by these children and their families. This initiative helped disseminate the association's mission to more than 4000 people and raised around €80,000 to continue supporting chronically ill or hospitalised children and young people.

2nd Edition of VdA's Christmas Bazaar

VdA organised a 2nd edition of its charity Christmas Bazaar with the goal of promoting and raising funds for some of its partner projects. 7 projects were represented at the 2017 Bazaar: namely, the NGO Filhos do Coração, BIPP/Semear, Terra dos Sonhos, Gonçalo da Silveira Foundation, Centro Bem-Estar Social de Coz, Leigos para o Desenvolvimento and Amal Soap.

2017 Christmas Campaign

In the aftermath of the catastrophic fires that devastated Portugal in 2017, VdA decided that its Christmas Campaign should be dedicated to supporting the victims of these disasters, in the form of a double initiative. VdA's support included, on the one hand, an institutional donation to one of its long-term partners, the Just a Change Association, which will be channelled towards rebuilding one of the houses destroyed in the forest fires. Alongside this donation, VdA's lawyers and staff members came together to help those who were at the front lines fighting the fires. The funds raised were enough to equip the firemen of Arganil with 19 sets of personal protection equipment, replacing those destroyed in the firefighting effort.

Rock n' Law

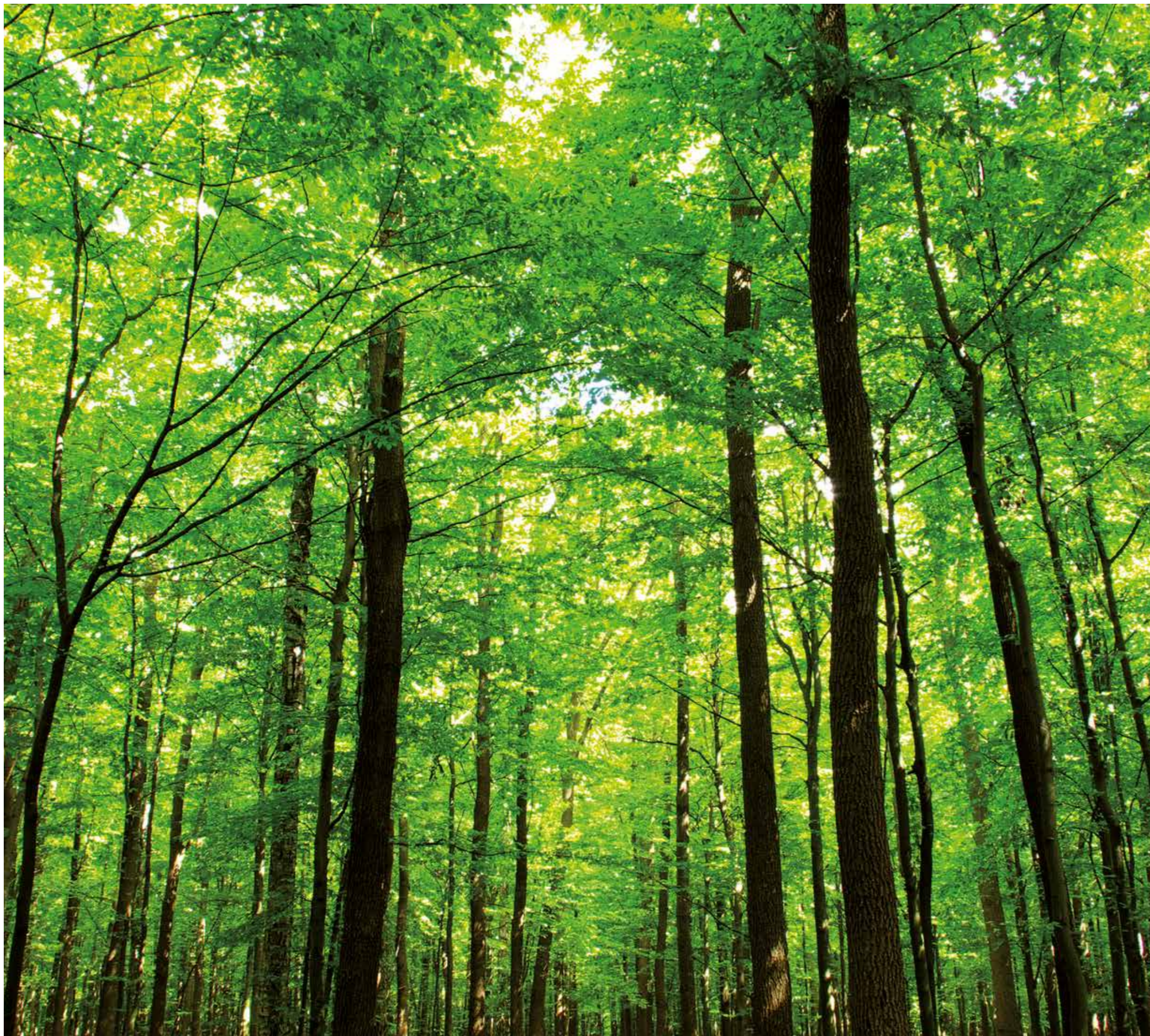
VdA's band participated in the 9th edition of Rock n' Law, an event that rallies the law sector around a joint social responsibility initiative. In 2017, this charity concert raised funds for the Casas Primeiro ('Houses First') project run by AEIPS – Associação para o Estudo e Integração Psicossocial, which will be invested in the provision of housing for 25 mentally-ill people who were living on the streets.

Comunidade de Vida e Paz

Every year, the Vida e Paz Community hosts a Christmas Party where guests and volunteers share festive, convivial moments. VdA makes annual donations to this institution to assure – in tandem with other companies, institutions and around 1000 volunteers – access to several support services throughout the three days of the party, as well as the hosting of a Christmas dinner for the homeless.

Pedrógão Grande Forest Fires

Following the scourge of the forest fires that hit Pedrógão Grande in 2017, VdA's lawyers and staff mobilised efforts to raise, in just 3 days, around €11,000 for the victims of this tragedy.



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Environmental Sustainability — Green Project

In line with VdA's commitment to the adoption of environmental best practices and to the promotion of environmental sustainability – and bearing in mind its ultimate long-term goal of achieving carbon neutral status – the Green Project promotes a range of measures aimed at ensuring alignment with the best practices on sustainability.

The Green Project's strategy is pursued through 3 axes:

Assess

Calculation of carbon footprint

Reduce

Consumption and emissions management

Raise Awareness

Promotion of best practices

Legal Sustainability Alliance

VdA is a member of the Legal Sustainability Alliance (LSA), an international movement of law firms committed to working collaboratively to improve the environmental sustainability of their practices and activities.

BCSD Portugal – Business Council for Sustainable Development

BCSD Portugal is a non-profit association and highly influential actor in Portuguese civil society, which unites and represents companies actively committed to the promotion of environmental sustainability. VdA is a member of BCSD's governing bodies, it provides the association with pro bono legal services and is also involved in several associated projects promoting sustainability, the circular economy, decarbonisation and energy efficiency, among other key issues.

The Natural Step Portugal

VdA rendered the legal assistance necessary to launch The Natural Step Portugal – Association for Sustainable Development and actively collaborated in the organisation of the event “Transforming Companies to Surf the Surging Waves of Innovation”, which sought to share inspirational experiences of processes of major change within iconic companies operating in traditional sectors of activity in Southern Europe.

Smart Waste Portugal (“SWP”) Association

SWP is a non-profit association with the mission of engaging all sector players in the leveraging and valuing of waste as an economic and social resource. VdA, a founding member of SWP, aims to contribute to this mission through the regular provision of updated legislation on the circular economy and of information on all legislation published in this field, which is made available to SWP members.

Carbon Footprint Report and Green Barometer

VdA's Carbon Footprint Report, prepared and published on a yearly basis, acts as the annual evaluation tool of the Firm's Green Project and represents one of its main eco-efficiency indicators. The results, determined based on international guidelines using calculation elements adapted to the Portuguese reality, are reported each year to the Legal Sustainability Alliance.

VdA measures its environmental footprint using the “Green Barometer” tool and sends out internal quarterly reports to its lawyers and staff with the aim of improving the Firm's performance in 5 target areas: energy consumption, transport/business travel, paper consumption, waste production and water consumption.

Carbon Offsetting Programme

VdA has implemented a Carbon Offsetting Programme through the signing of a protocol with the Tapada Nacional de Mafra nature reserve, which saw an area of 31 hectares (designated VdA's Zero Carbon Zone) set aside for the Firm's annual performance of offsetting measures and which has an estimated annual carbon sequestration capacity of 60 tonnes of CO₂.

Partnership with Amb3E

In 2017, VdA signed a cooperation protocol with Amb3E – Portuguese Waste Management Association for the collection of waste electrical and electronic equipment and of waste batteries and accumulators at VdA's offices, thus contributing to the Campanha Electrão Empresa (E-Waste Corporate Campaign) and to the reduction of the Firm's environmental footprint. The e-waste collected is converted into a monetary value to be granted to a IPSS of VdA's choice.

Green Cork Project

VdA continues to be an active participant in the Green Cork project, promoted by Quercus, which aims to link recycling and nature conservation efforts through the collection and recycling of cork stoppers, the value of which is channelled to the replanting of Portugal's forests. In 2017, 2000 cork stoppers were collected and sent off for recycling with the help of our lawyers and staff.



VdA's New Premises

VdA's change of premises in Lisbon, in late 2017, saw the adoption of a set of measures aimed at promoting sustainability and best environmental practices, among which we highlight the following:

Installation of solar panels: self-produced renewable energy

Smart lighting system

Generalised use of LED lighting: more energy-efficient and longer lifespan

Control of lighting in workspaces using presence detectors, thus ensuring that lights are switched off whenever the space is not occupied

Regulation of lighting in common spaces depending on amount of exterior light, and use of a central control system operated based on time of day, occupation of the workspaces and amount of exterior light

Energy-efficient exhaust heat recovery units (nominal recovery of up to 95%)

Variation of air renewal flow depending on level of occupation and of CO₂ (in spaces accommodating a greater number of people)







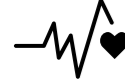



Integrated control units that guarantee the optimal functioning of equipment, notably in terms of air flow variation and energy recovery levels











Climatization system connected to a Centralised Technical Management system, promoting a more efficient use of all relevant equipment, the identification of any malfunctions, an analysis of consumption levels and benchmarking, leading to better performance measures overall

Waste separation, including the collection of used cork stoppers, batteries and lightbulbs

Use of rechargeable batteries

Elimination of plastic cups

Principles of the United Nations Global Compact				
Sustainable Development Goals	 Human Rights	 Labour Practices	 Environmental Protection	 Anti-Corruption
1 NO POVERTY 	End poverty in all its forms Associação Conversa Amiga Pão com História Comunidade Vida e Paz Serve the City O Terço L.P.		Banco de Bens Doados	
2 ZERO HUNGER 	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition ZeroDesperdício Dariacordar Smart Farmer			
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all, at all ages XXS LinQue Associação Cuidadores			
4 QUALITY EDUCATION 	Ensure inclusive, equitable and quality education for all Parque Nacional da Gorongosa Speak JOP Pão com História Academia do Johnson Girl Move Junior Achievement Portugal VdA - Spring School 2017	VdA Academia	Surf Social Wave	
5 GENDER EQUALITY 	Achieve gender equality Girl Move	Women on Boards		
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all JADE – Portugal RedEmprega TESE Associação Pão a Pão		Oikos	

Principles of the United Nations Global Compact				
Sustainable Development Goals	 Human Rights	 Labour Practices	 Environmental Protection	 Anti-Corruption
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	Reduce inequality within and among countries Girl Move Parque Nacional da Gorongosa ENTRAJU'DA Speak Rock 'n' Law WACT		Oikos A-F-Á-B-R-I-C-A Centro de Bem-estar Social de Coz	
11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 	Make cities and settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable Oikos Associação Vem Vencer Just A Change Plataforma de Apoio aos Refugiados Serve the City	“VdA Rio”	The Natural Step Centro de Bem-estar Social de Coz	
13 CLIMATE ACTION 	Combat climate change and its impacts		GIRO Tapadão 2017	
15 LIFE ON LAND 	Protect, restore and promote the sustainable use of land ecosystems A-F-Á-B-R-I-C-A		The Natural Step A-F-Á-B-R-I-C-A Green Cork Quercus Smart Waste Portugal Tapada Nacional de Mafra Ponto Electrão	
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions Associação Pais 21 Associação Pro Bono Impact Hub Lisbon Impact Generator Plataforma de Apoio aos Refugiados Associação Pão a Pão			VdA Code of Conduct
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development Associação Pro Bono GRACE Centro Português de Fundações ENTRAJU'DA Laboratório de Investimento Social Thomson Reuters Foundation			

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