

Abstract

Virtual Museum of Santa Margarida da Serra

The small and centuries-old village of Santa Margarida da Serra faces a process of human desertification that could lead to the disappearance of both its community and cultural heritage. In these circumstances it is essential to develop a project that calls the attention to the gravity of such situation and allows the gathering and preservation of this population's memories. Therefore, the creation of a territory's virtual museum would be the best means to accomplish that purpose, for it, on the one hand, wouldn't require high financial resources to be implemented, and on the other, would be a powerful divulging tool.

The present paper aims to define the characteristics, the structure and the contents of such museum, whose purposes would be to research, study, register and diffuse the material, immaterial and natural heritage of the locality, as well as to be a means to sensitise both individuals and organisations to the somewhat urgent necessity of planning and implementing projects for revitalising and developing this territory.

Keywords: virtual museum, human desertification, heritage, identity, preservation, museology, development.