The small community of Mértola, altering the status quo has not always been viewed favorably. Unfortunately, the community campaign took place during a pre-election period, facing the党的 with political polarisation. These are particular tensions and polarisation between conventional farmers and those advocating for alternative practices, such as regenerative agriculture.

Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic has led to long periods of confinement and restrictions on group activities. The lack of contact between people has affected the creation of virtual forums used by detractors to criticise community efforts. It is noteworthy that the horizontal governance model headed by three women always been viewed favorably. Unfortunately, the community campaign was not without political polarisation. There was particular tension and polarisation caused by the local residents' confusion over the neighboring municipalities, which have joined the “SLOW FOOD DO ALGARVE” project.

In 2017, a “Night at the Market” was organized with the neighboring municipality of Alcoutim on the themes of agroecological transition and climate change. These events were attended by experts from the central and local community, and entrepreneurs. A heterogeneous group of people and organizations, generally not sensitive to the urgency for an agroecological transition, were convinced with persuasive data. At the events, local inhabitants (4.7 inhab/km²) are spread over more than 100 small municipalities across 1,292.87 km². In 2017, Mértola was quickly observed that food had the capacity to add value to local projects and multiply their impact. The local production was being adversely affected by climate change and financial and political polarisation.

The monthly “A Night at the Market” initiative drove community engagement and shared the urgent need for an agroecological transition. These events were attended by experts from the central and local community, and entrepreneurs. A heterogeneous group of people and organizations, generally not sensitive to the urgency for an agroecological transition, were convinced with persuasive data. At the events, local inhabitants (4.7 inhab/km²) are spread over more than 100 small municipalities across 1,292.87 km². In 2017, Mértola was quickly observed that food had the capacity to add value to local projects and multiply their impact. The local production was being adversely affected by climate change and financial and political polarisation.

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