

# COMMON DIVERSITY

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SARDINIA



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## What is identity?

The dimension of this question is so vast, so intricate and eclectic, that it is not possible to find a formula to describe its equation. It is modern, as it is ancestral, existentialist, paradoxical, anthropological and psychoanalytical, sociological, relational, contemporary and immemorial, material, immaterial, collective and individual. Identity, in its perpetual heredity, in its timeless cells, permanently seminal, in its alchemy of essence, is probably the closest we can get to immortality.

Identity is subject to futuristic archaeology and speaks a universal language. It moves within borders that aren't, crossing the divine and the profane, order and disorder, conscience, prejudice, beliefs, differences, cultures, religions. It moves between dimensions in infinite geographies. It is a universe within an atom and its inverse. It is the web of all webs, the being of beings, in the lowest realities. We can only infer that it is not a single thing, nor does it fit into the etymology of solitude.

Although it sometimes may look like it, there is one thing identity is not: rigid. Its unity resides in its diversity, in which difference is its common ground. It is a marvellously unfinished construction, beyond life, across generations, as if inhabiting the cycle of nature instead of people. The UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) Cultural Spaces project of 2003 stems from UNESCO's formal recognition of Intangible Cultural Heritage as the identity heritage of people and communities — that which unites them as peoples, that which in multiculturalism unites us as Europeans.



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## Root of all roots

This project of the Network of UNESCO Cultural Spaces is funded by EU's Erasmus + Programme, and involves a partnership of seven countries, starting with Latvia, through the Ethnic Culture Centre Suiti foundation, which currently holds the leadership of the project. Estonia, through the Kihnu Cultural Space foundation and the NGO Setomaa Tourism; the Republic of North Macedonia, through the Macedonian National ICTM Committee; Georgia, through the Georgian Centre for Artli Studies; and the Open University of Otocac, representing Croatia. Portugal was represented by Idanha-a-Nova.

Intangible Cultural Heritage is no longer a stale medium for memory. It is no longer a quasi museological vision of culture, not even conceptually. Just like culture, root of all roots, it is living matter, territorial in its universality, where memory, traditions, secular practices and the native traits of a collective identity are preserved and regenerated, as a factor of sustainable development, of fixing and attracting populations, an antidote to isolation. The Network of UNESCO Cultural Spaces works as a pendulum, in this path made of infinite simplicities and infinite complexities, creating and improving links between the units that make up the whole, like a cross-border body in the purest process of life.

This highly educational project is based on intercultural dialogue. The functional essence of this network is its nomadic character. It is a journey of all, among all, travelling through the organic matter of the immaterial. Some of the partners in this initiative had already worked together, while others came together for the first time with the common goal of knowing different approaches, methodologies, acquired knowledge and the best examples of good practice in the preservation and development of Intangible Cultural Heritage, which is always a distinctive heritage of its place and, to that same extent, always the heritage of humanity.

Seven countries, seven *training events*, seven universes in transit, seven journeys of knowledge and sharing through more or less obvious routes of Intangible Cultural Heritage of those countries, stopping at the most diverse cultural ecosystems, lodging in their most disparate traditions, weaving new languages among the abundance of this network. Each organisation held debates and conferences, sharing knowledge and expertise from a wide range of specialities. The journey would not be a journey without the experience, the live feeling and gaze integrated into the ethnographic heart of each reality. Few riches are more tangible than this, when people open up to people, sharing their space as common space, making new journeys out of their paths, debugging processes, synthesising different approaches, developing the institution of those good practices in its broadest spectrum.

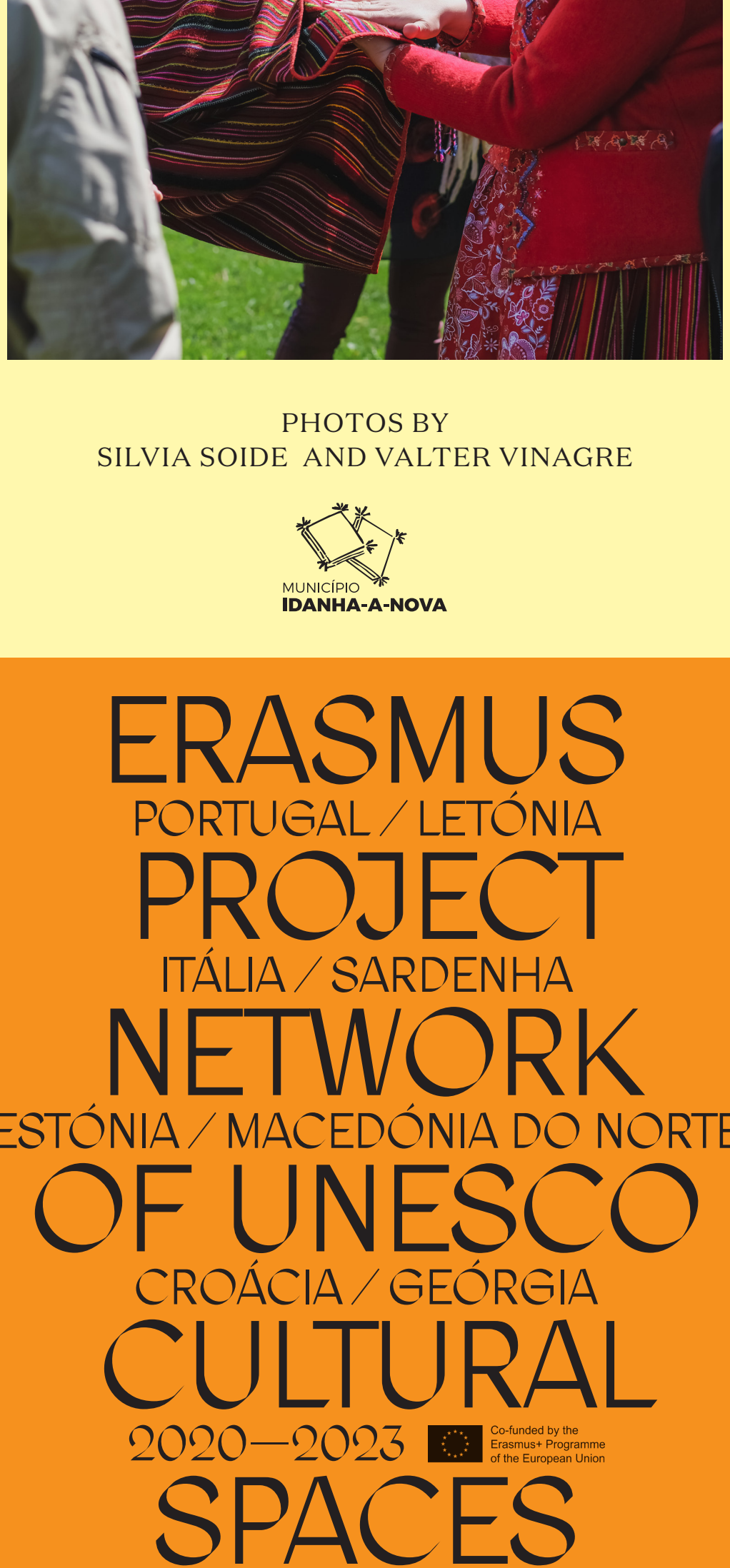
A multidimensional journey through the mesh of the Network of UNESCO Cultural Spaces, in a reciprocal relationship of learning through the geographies of Best Practices of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Europe, the guiding thread of this project, as wonders that unveil to the sensory heritage.



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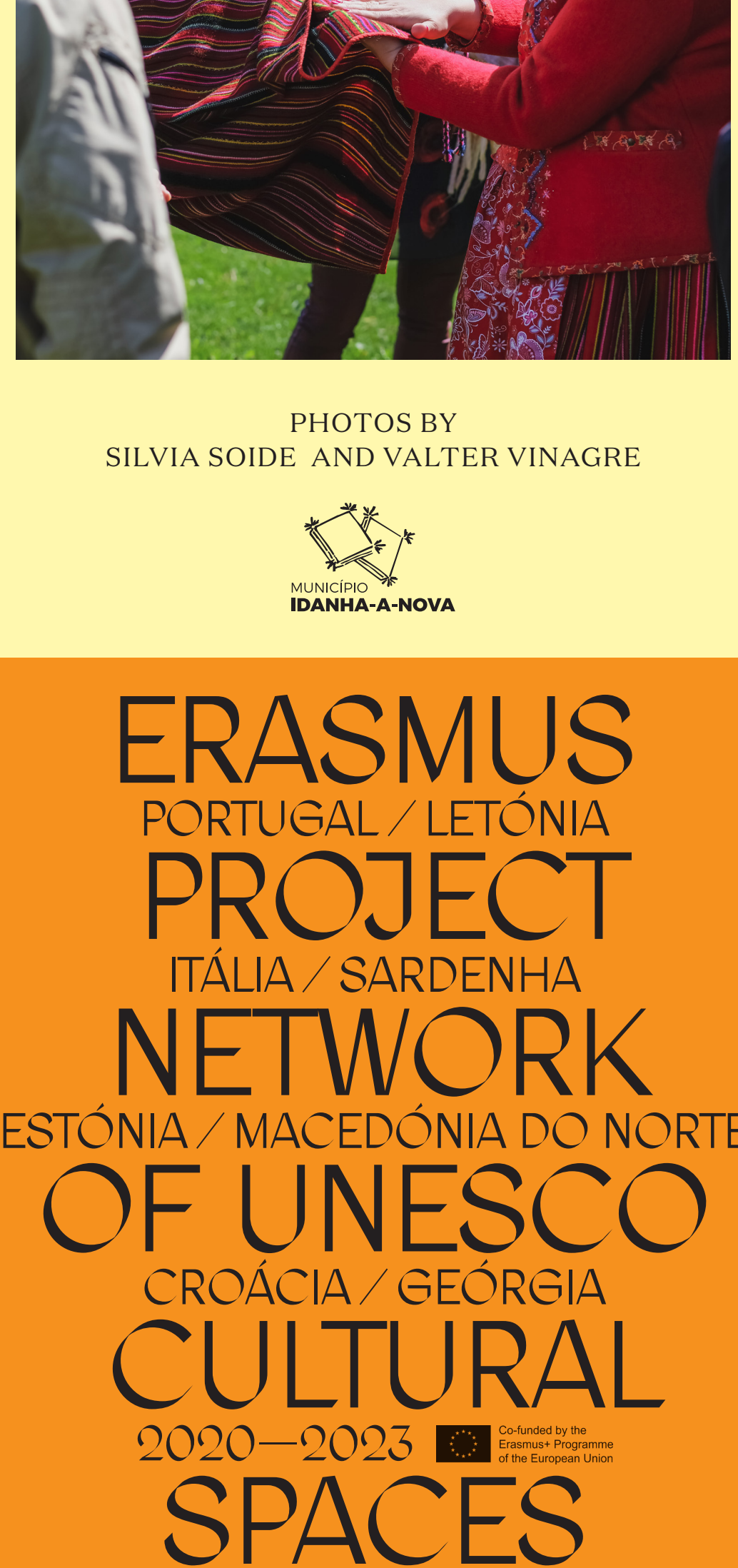
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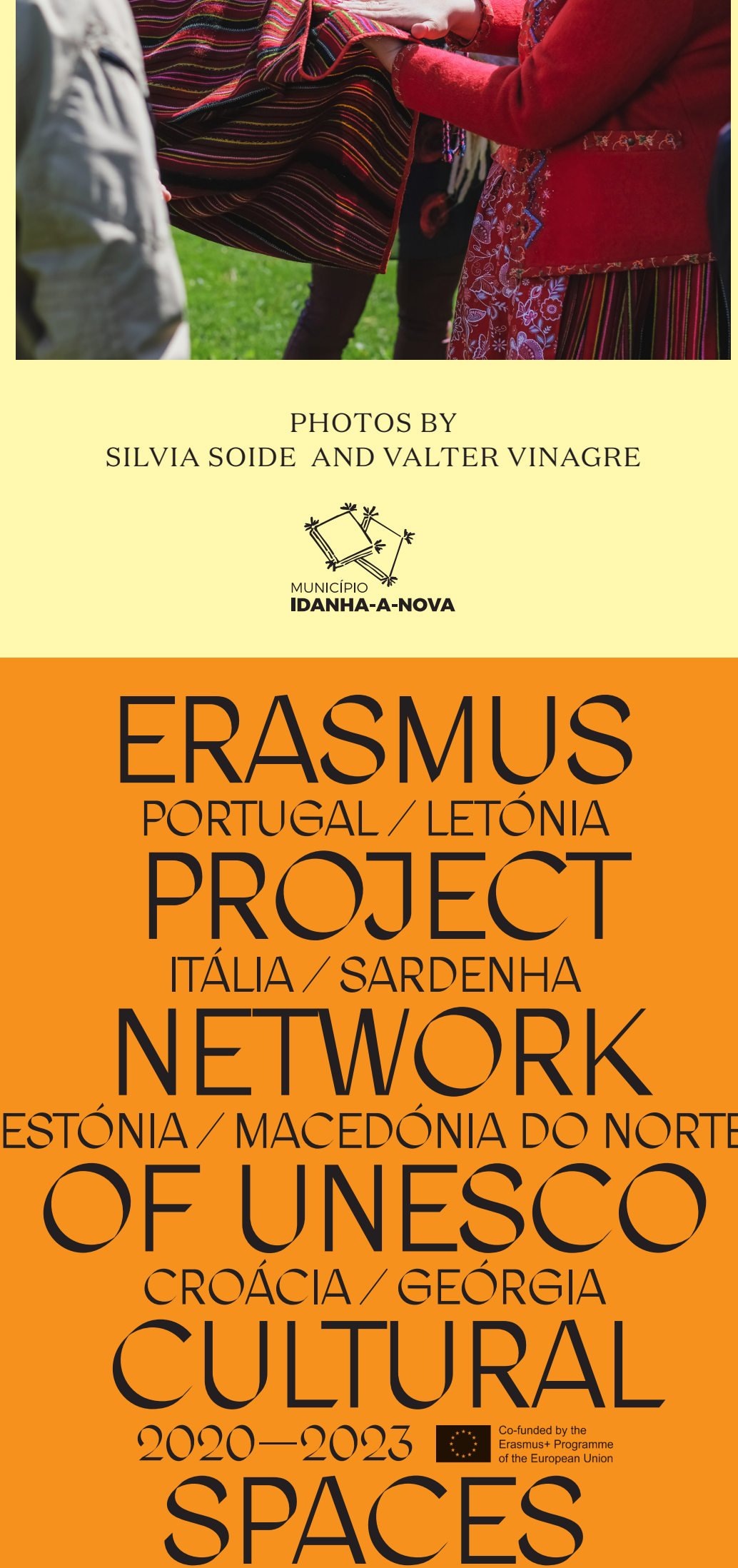
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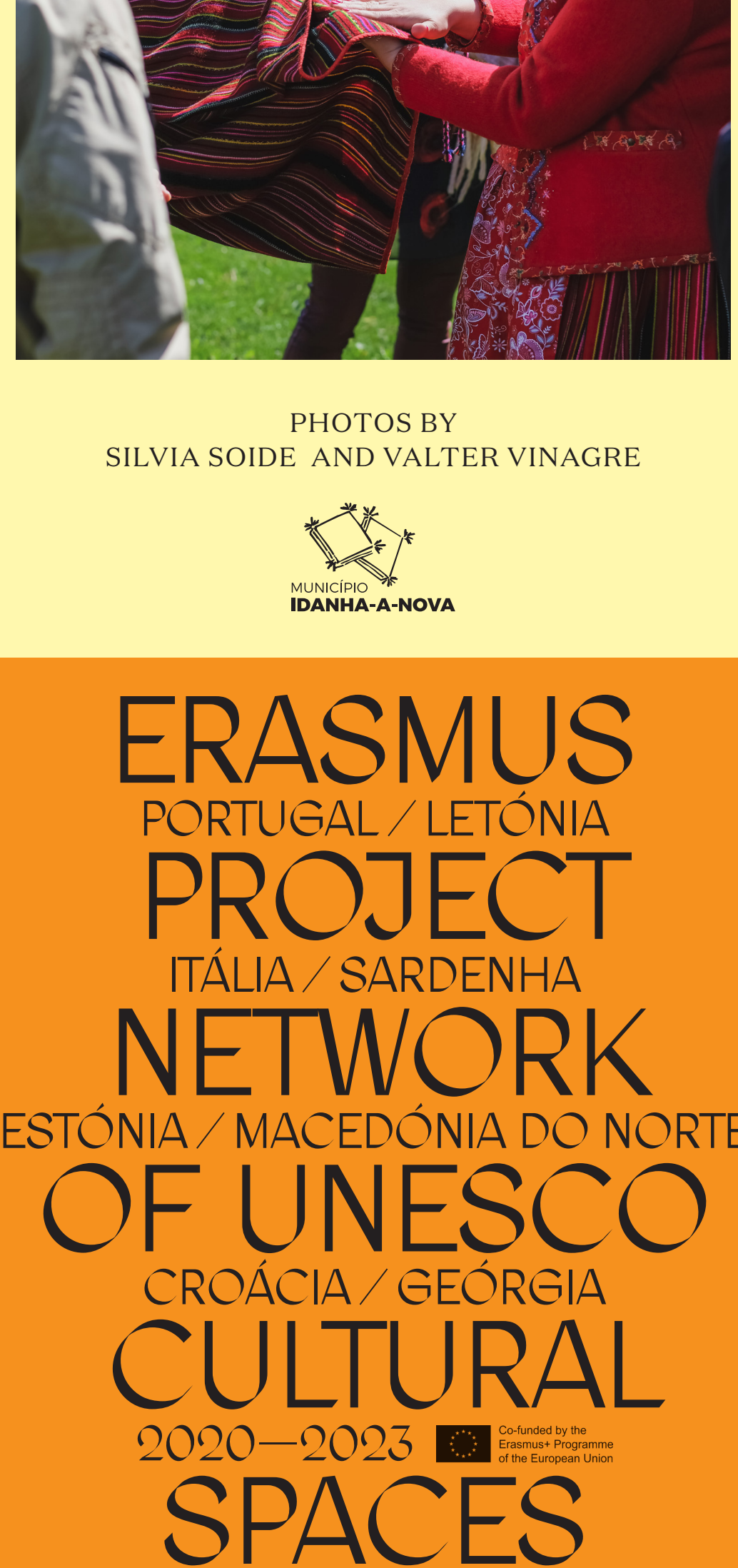
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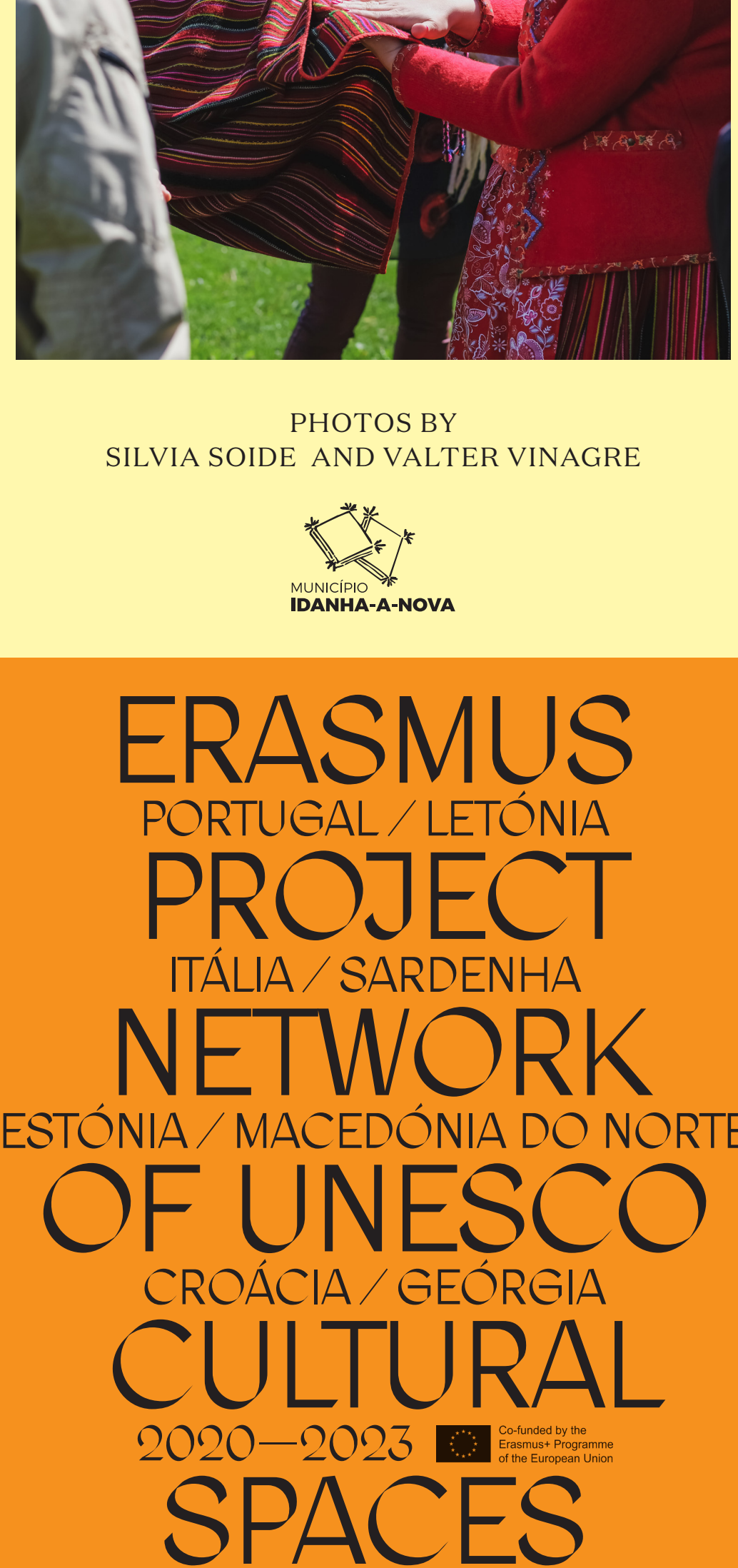
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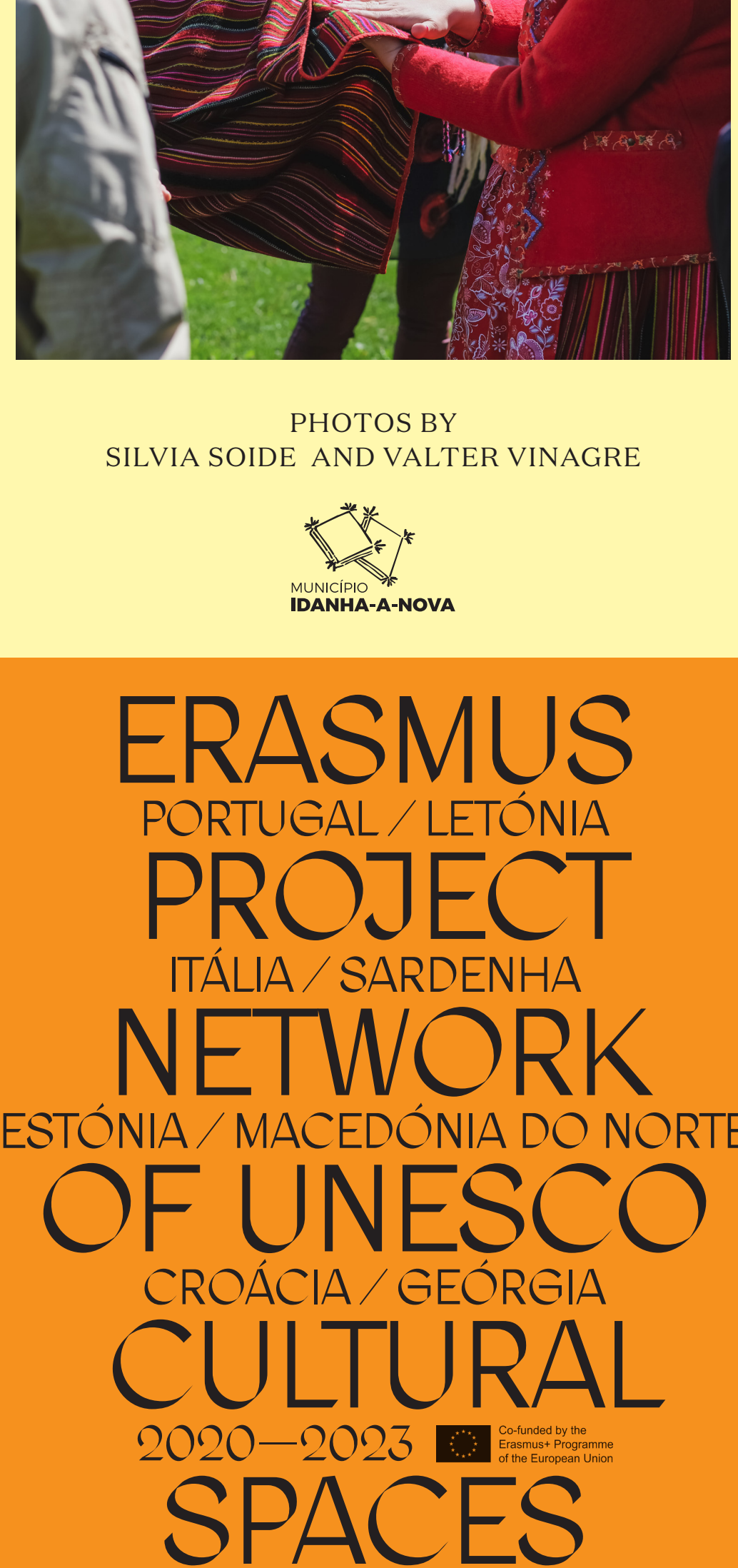
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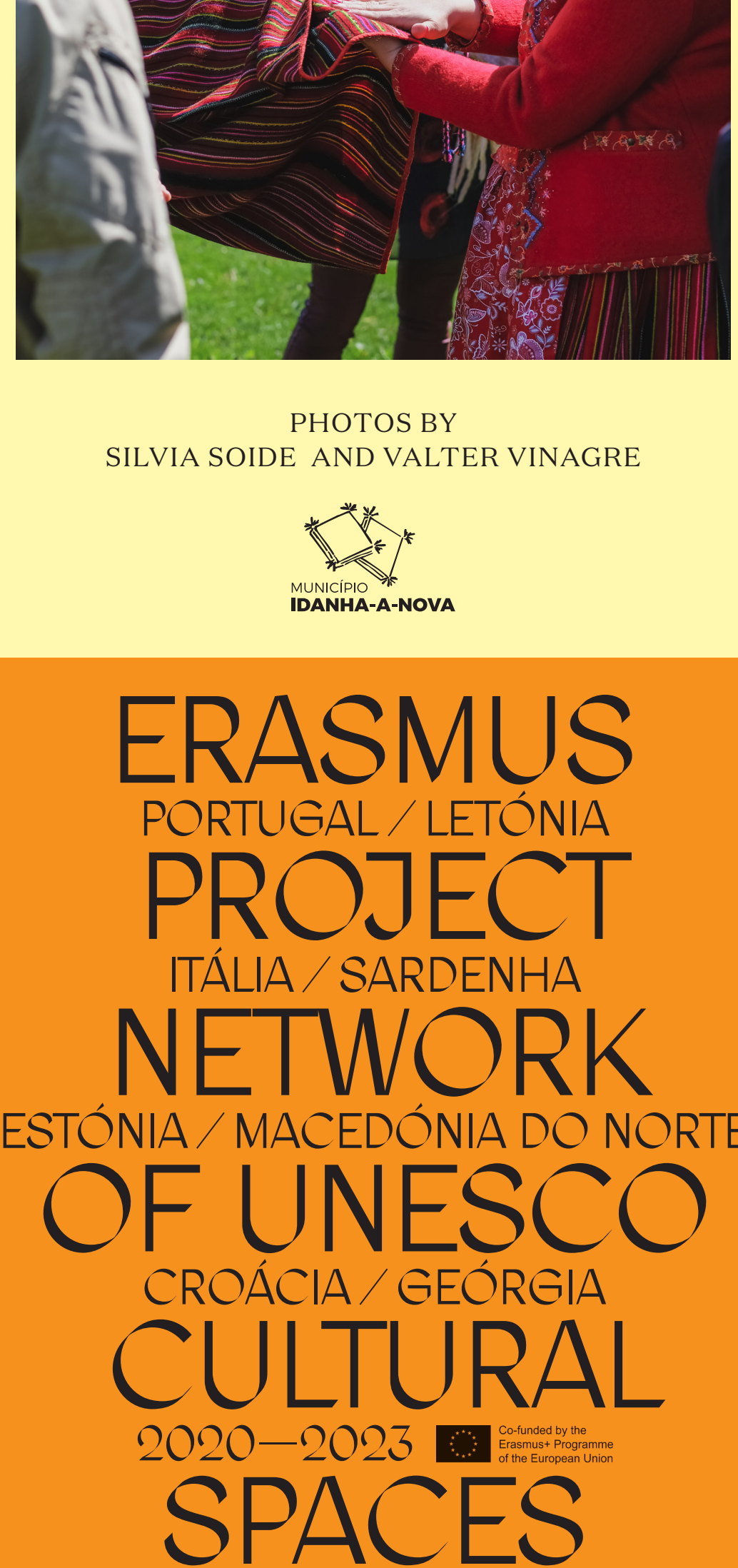
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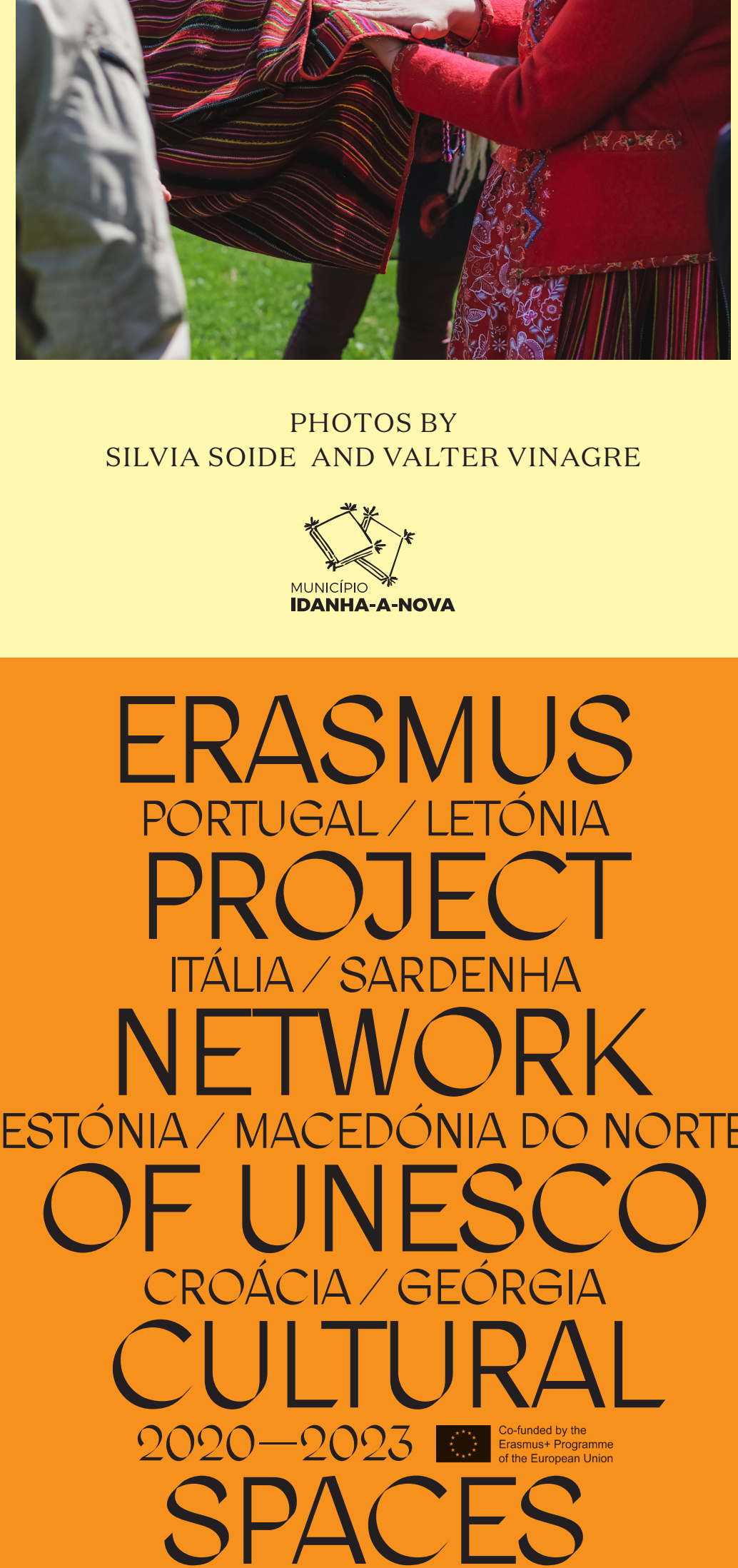
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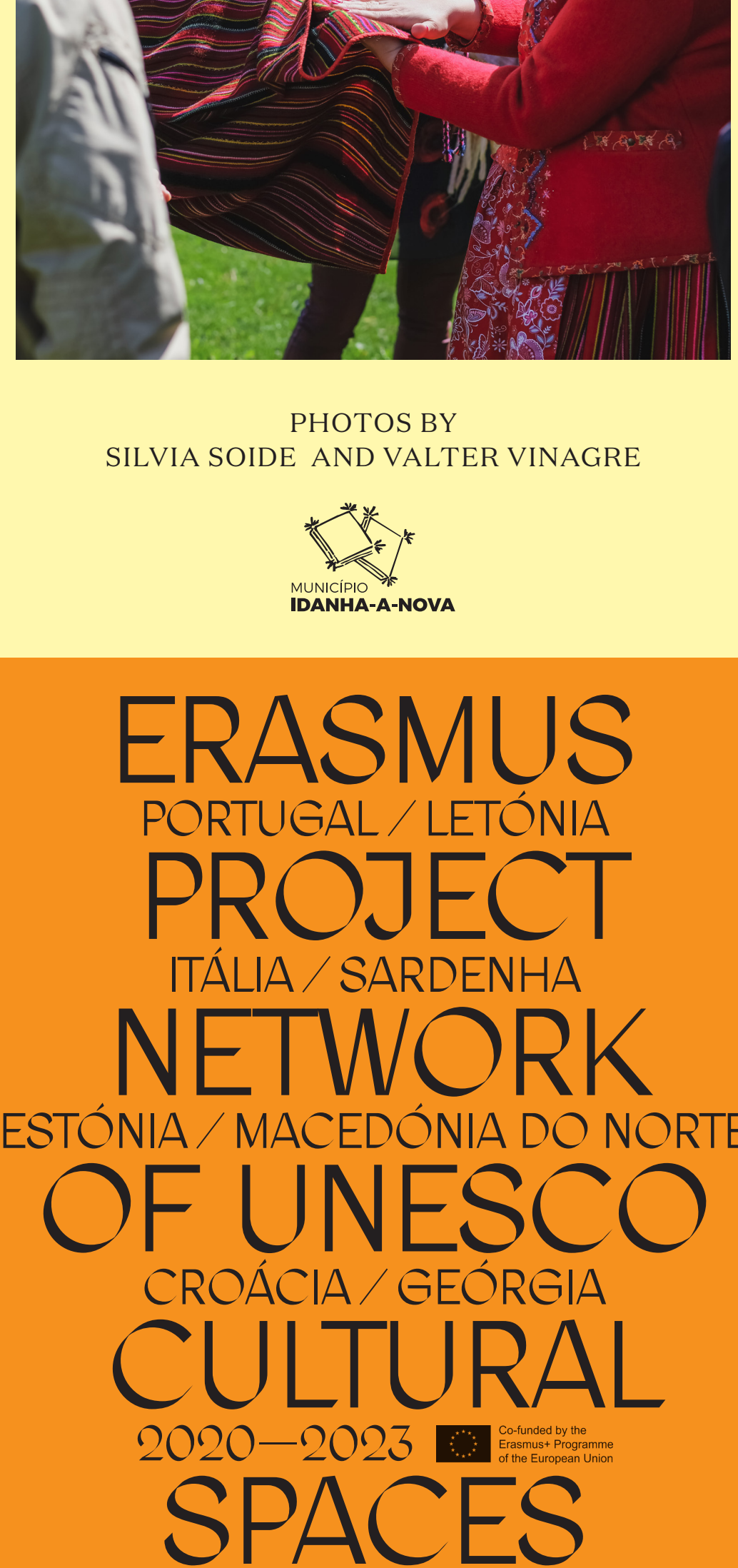
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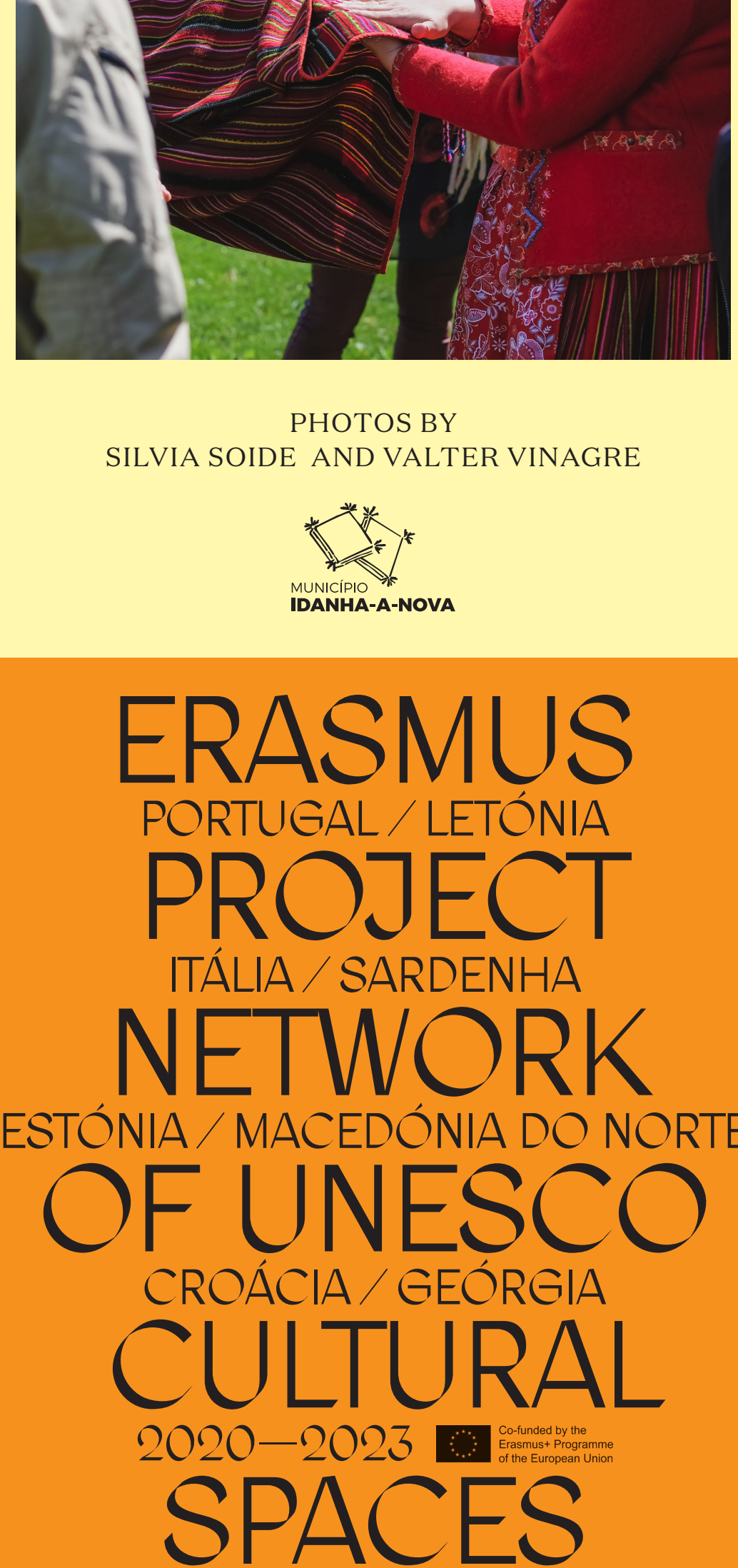
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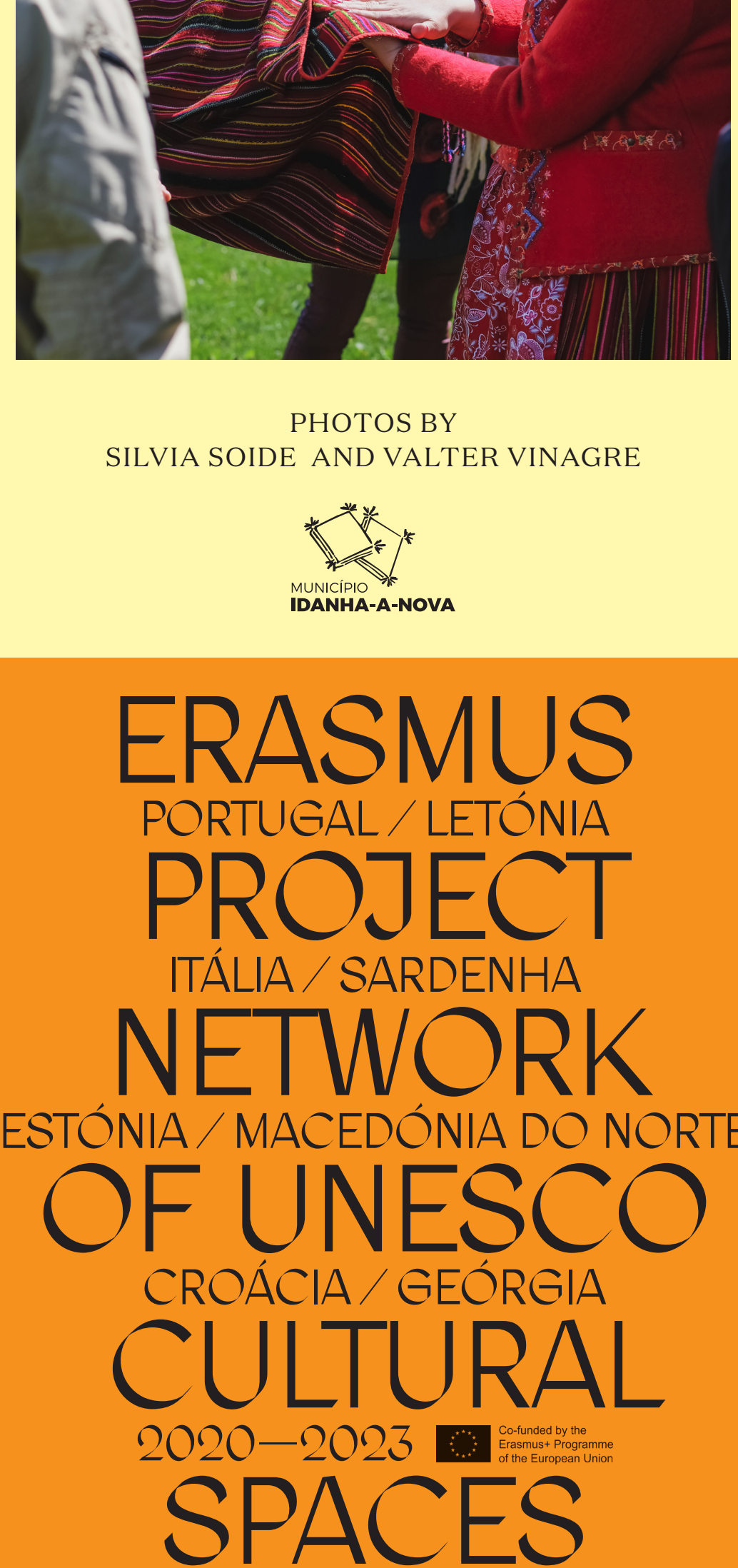
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