

OP. 218 LESSONS OF RESILIENCE: THE CHALLENGES OF PORTUGUESE PHILHARMONIC BANDS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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Abstract: Wind bands are ingrained in Portugal's musical, cultural, and ethnographic landscape, playing an undeniable role in the dynamism of territories, especially in rural areas. The COVID-19 pandemic tested how we live and greatly affected us, as evidenced by the impact on Wind Bands, which experienced a total interruption during the sanitary restrictions (for over a year). This halt caused financial sustainability issues and disinterest among some musicians.

The main objective of this study is to understand the social, economic, and technical-musical impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic had on Portuguese Wind Bands. For this purpose, a semi-structured questionnaire was developed and directed to the management boards of wind bands across the country to assess the Social, Musical, and Economic impact. A total of 350 responses were obtained, covering the entire country, both mainland and islands.

The results demonstrate that the COVID-19 pandemic had colossal impacts on wind bands, not only from a financial perspective but also in terms of sociability, as the 'bond' with the institution was broken.

It is advisable for cultural public policies to support these institutions, as wind bands often represent the only cultural and social pillar in numerous inland localities, revitalizing a lost dynamism. It is from local authorities that these institutions receive the most support and recognition, notably from municipalities that seek to preserve local culture. Creating financial support lines and community involvement in these institutions is crucial for their survival and should be a national priority.

Keywords: Resiliência; COVID-19; Cultura, Associativismo; Bandas Filarmónicas