

Telmo Faria | Biographical Note

Telmo Faria was elected Mayor of Óbidos in December 2001, at 30 years of age, having received 49% of the votes. The profound changes, which took place while he was in office, gave way to his re-election, in 2005, having obtained 69% of the votes. In 2009, his work was once again evaluated and he was voted in for another term with 65% of the votes.



Born and living in the municipality of Óbidos, he is presently thirty eight years old, married, and with three children. He has a degree in History, from the University of Coimbra, a post graduate degree in International Relations and a Master's Degree in 20th Century History from the Universidade Nova, in Lisbon.

As a college professor, he integrated the Department of Political Science and International Relations of the Lusíada University. He also collaborated with the Universidade Aberta, where he authored various documentaries on Contemporary History. He is currently part of the research team of the Institute of Contemporary History, which is part of the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences, Universidade Nova, in Lisbon.

As the author of *Debaixo de Fogo*, Telmo Faria has been distinguished with various awards. Aside from being one of the coordinators of the book *Eleições de 58* (Elections of 58), he also published various articles in journals and scientific dictionaries, participated in the collective work about the Presidents of the Republic, and is the author of the photo biography of Oscar Carmona.

He is mentor and executor of the Creative Óbidos Strategy that has transformed the municipality of Óbidos and its town in a prominent cultural and tourist destination. The dynamics and versatility of the Óbidos Agenda includes the International Chocolate Festival, the Baroque Music Season, the Contemporary Art Month, the Medieval Fair, the Opera Festival, the Harpsichord Season and the Annual Christmas Event. These events drastically revolutionized the perception of the museum town making it now a centre for creativity and innovation consolidated by the Technology Park of Óbidos, by the ABC network (an incubator for creative industries located in the Convent of São Miguel in Gaeiras), by the new school complexes and through the occupation of vacant public spaces by creative industries. This development strategy is strongly connected with the European Debate on Creativity and Innovation, as Óbidos furthermore acts as lead partner in the project "Creative Clusters in Low Density Urban Areas". He has written articles on this subject in renowned national newspapers, as well as in the *Europa Novas Fronteiras* Journal, published by the European Information Centre Jacques Delors. He has additionally been invited by European entities to speak at different conferences.

Other positions:

Telmo Faria has been part of the Municipal Assembly since 1993 and headed the Social Democratic Party list, in 1997.

From 2002 to 2005, he was also member of the National Political Commission of the Social Democratic Party.

He is currently part of the National Board of Social Democratic Mayors and was elected by his peers to preside ADRO (Western Region Development Agency), a position he has held since 2002.

He was honoured with different awards and distinctions, among them:

- “Gold Medal of Tourism Merit”, awarded by the Portuguese Government
- “Marketing Award”, given by the Portuguese Association of Marketing Professionals
- “Tourism Personality of the Year 2007”, awarded by the Portuguese Tourism Journalist’s Association
- National Defence Award, awarded by the Ministry of National Defence
- *Victor Sá* – Portuguese Contemporary History Award, given by the Minho University.
- Personality of the Year, awarded by the Região de Leiria newspaper
- Honourable Mention in Contemporary History by the Mário Soares Foundation
- He also received, in the name of the Municipality of Óbidos, the recognition of “Óbidos, one of the Seven Wonders of Portugal”, in 2007, as well as the “Autarchies 2009” Award, given by the Salão Imobiliário de Lisboa (Lisbon Real Estate Exhibition).