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## **URBAN PUBLIC SPACES – SIGNIFICANCE, USE, APPROPRIATION AND ENVIRONMENT**

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## **URBAN PUBLIC SPACES – SIGNIFICANCE, USE, APPROPRIATION AND ENVIRONMENT**

### **RESUMO**

O presente relatório apresenta a componente científica do projecto de investigação *Espaços públicos urbanos – significados, usos, apropriação e ambiente* submetido à Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia no ano de 2008 no âmbito do Concurso de Projectos de Investigação Científica e Desenvolvimento Tecnológico em todos os Domínios Científicos.

## **ESPAÇOS PÚBLICOS URBANOS – SIGNIFICADOS, USOS, APROPRIAÇÃO E AMBIENTE**

### **SUMMARY**

This report presents the scientific component of the research project *Urban Public Spaces – significance, use, appropriation and environment – UPSig* submitted to the Foundation for Science and Technology in 2008 under the Call for Projects of Scientific Research and Technological Development in all Scientific Domains.



# URBAN PUBLIC SPACES – SIGNIFICANCE, USE, APPROPRIATION AND ENVIRONMENT

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## **Enquadramento**

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No âmbito do Concurso de Projectos de Investigação Científica e Desenvolvimento Tecnológico em todos os Domínios Científicos de 2008 promovido pela Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, o LNEC através do Núcleo de Ecologia Social, submeteu uma proposta de projecto de investigação intitulada *Urban Public Spaces – significance, use, appropriation and environment – UPSig* (Espaços públicos urbanos – significados, usos, apropriação e ambiente).

A referida proposta de projecto, que não foi seleccionada para financiamento, pretendia dar continuidade à investigação que tem vindo a ser desenvolvida no domínio da qualidade de vida urbana. A referida proposta visava abordar os processos de configuração de ambiências urbanas em espaço público de áreas residenciais através do estudo da relação entre os aspectos físicos, comportamentos e processos culturais. Os objectivos gerais deste estudo, de natureza marcadamente interdisciplinar, referiam-se à construção de um modelo integrado das ambiências urbanas e à definição de uma metodologia interactiva de abordagem do espaço público em áreas residenciais. Pelo que, para o seu desenvolvimento, se propôs uma metodologia interdisciplinar orientada para a análise de micro-espaços públicos de áreas residenciais urbanas. Para efeitos de delimitação do campo empírico, optou-se por circunscrever a pesquisa à cidade de Lisboa.

A responsabilidade científica ficou a cargo da Dr.<sup>a</sup> Marlucci Menezes (DED/NESO) (Investigador Responsável), contando a equipa com a colaboração da Dr.<sup>a</sup> Margarida Rebelo (DED/NESO) e da Arq. Isabel Plácido (DED/NAU). Como parceiros externos, a candidatura contava com o IMAR-Centro Inter-disciplinar de Coimbra (IMAR-CIC), Universidade de Coimbra, através da Arq. Lia Vasconcelos e da Dr.<sup>a</sup> Úrsula Caser, estando a consultoria do projecto a cargo da Dr.<sup>a</sup> Judith Allen da School of the Built Environment da University of Westminster (UK).

Considera-se vantajoso a reelaboração deste projecto de forma a ser submetida para apreciação num futuro concurso, dado que, para além de constituir uma oportunidade de aprofundamento do conhecimento no domínio da qualidade de vida urbana, o referido projecto cria uma oportunidade de consolidação de um eixo interdisciplinar de estudo. Este cenário é convergente com a filosofia subjacente à proposta de criação de protocolos integrados de investigação, designadamente no que respeita ao tecido edificado.

Nesta óptica, se considerou oportuno apresentar a componente científica do projecto então submetido, sendo esta componente apresentada no anexo deste relatório.



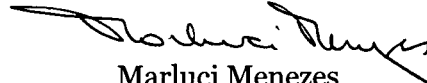
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## **ANEXO**

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## **1. Executive summary of project / Sumário executivo do projecto**

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### **1.1. Executive summary**

Framed by an integrated perspective, the present study proposal seeks to address the processes of shaping urban environments in public space of residential areas. The importance of the environmental context in design and urban planning is highly relevant and has a key role, mainly when the interest is to combine social, morphological, perceptual, visual, functional and temporal dimensions of space (Carr *et al.*, 1992; Carmona *et al.*, 2003).

The literature about public spaces shows that most of the studies on this topic assume a partial and/or single-discipline perspective, emphasizing psychological, or sociological, or anthropological, or architectural or planning and urban design perspectives, although a small number of studies incorporate an integrated approach based on an analysis of behavioural environments. Also are few studies highlighting the socio-cultural processes underlying the social and socio-spatial interactions inherent in urban public spaces (Low, 2000). Friedmann (2007) remarks that a comprehensive analysis of the notion of place and place-making has not been achieved by the disciplines referred to above. Using an ecological systems perspective, Bronfenbrenner (1979) emphasised long ago the role of the physical environment and the materials used in it in order to grasp individual behaviours.

The general goals of this clearly interdisciplinary study are to define an integrated model of urban environments as well as an interactive and varied methodology for approaching public space in urban residential areas. In terms of the specific goals, the main interests are:

- To identify and analyse the specific particularities expressed by (in?) the relations between social, morphological, perceptual, visual, spatial and temporal dimensions of space;
- To understand the driving forces which make some spaces more experienced and/or appropriated than others, as well as the influence of those forces in the dynamics of well-being and comfort, socio-urban integration and/or segregation, and the conservation and/or abandonment of specific urban contexts;
- To create a typology of studies of the urban environment and to identify the most significant models for understanding how individual behaviours and social practices influence the arrangement of urban environments in public spaces.

Using a comparative perspective, the study will be developed in Lisbon urban residential areas, selected by using two main criteria:

- Similar morphological, functional and temporal characteristics;
- Distinct perceptual, visual and social characteristics.

In this way, it will be possible to understand the different modalities of articulation between analysed environmental factors, as well as the relative importance of each of these factors in the configuration of urban environments. Thus, based on an interdisciplinary approach, this study aims:

- To collect and map architectural, urban, ecological and social data of selected public spaces representative of the main criteria mentioned above;
- To identify and develop a detailed study of urban environments by using multidimensional data;

- To identify the social and environmental elements contributing to environmental comfort, to satisfaction and safety, to accessibility and exclusion, and to environmental equity issues linking integration and socio-urban segregation;
- To typify urban environments within an integrated interdisciplinary approach.

Methodologically, this project is based on a variety of techniques of collecting and producing information, involving literature review and mapping, architectural and urban monitoring and characterisation, behavioural scenarios observation and mapping, walk-through interviews and surveys and dialogues with stakeholders, using focus group techniques. Opting for this multi-technique methodological approach is necessary to overcome partial perspectives and create a global and integrated view of how the analysed environmental aspects can contribute to the configuration of urban environments.

The expected results are:

- The development of guideline recommendations to facilitate the conception, intervention and management of public spaces in urban residential areas;
- The promotion of technical debate forums through didactic workshops;
- The construction of an information platform (website) specially designed to improve dissemination of the recommended guidelines, to gather lay and technical opinions, to motivate a dialogue between platform users and other participants in the process of designing plans and urban projects, and to explore proposals for action in public spaces in urban residential areas.

It is expected that knowledge produced around the theme of qualification and intervention in public spaces in urban residential areas will catch young researcher's attention and promote their advanced technical training.

## **1.2. Sumário executivo**

Numa perspectiva integrada, o estudo visa abordar os processos de configuração de ambiências urbanas em espaço público de áreas residenciais. A importância do contexto ambiental no desenho e planeamento urbano assume um papel fundamental, nomeadamente aquando do interesse em integrar as dimensões sociais, morfológicas, perceptivas, visuais, funcionais e temporais do espaço (Carr *et al*, 1992; Carmona *et al*, 2003).

Muitos dos estudos sobre espaços públicos assentam em perspectivas parcelares e unidisciplinares, enfatizando abordagens ora psicológicas, ora sociológicas, ora antropológicas, ora geográficas, ora arquitectónicas e/ou ligadas ao planeamento e ao desenho urbano e poucos são os que trabalham com uma perspectiva integrada de abordagem dos ambientes comportamentais. Poucos são também os estudos sobre os processos socioculturais que subjazem as interações sociais e socio-espaciais inerentes aos espaços públicos urbanos (Low, 2000). Friedmann (2007) salienta que a compreensão do lugar e do place-making não tem sido conseguida pelas disciplinas antes referidas. Numa perspectiva dos sistemas ecológicos, Bronfenbrenner (1979) já havia salientado o papel que o ambiente físico e os materiais utilizados nestes contextos detêm para a compreensão do comportamento adoptado pelos indivíduos.

Os objectivos gerais deste estudo, de natureza marcadamente interdisciplinar, visam a construção de um modelo integrado das ambiências urbanas e a definição de uma metodologia interactiva de abordagem do espaço público em áreas residenciais. Como objectivos específicos pretende-se:

- Analisar e identificar as particularidades manifestadas pela inter-relação entre as dimensões social, morfológica, perceptiva, visual, funcional e temporal do espaço;
- Perceber os vectores presentes em determinados contextos urbanos que levam a que sejam mais vividos/apropriados do que outros, bem como



a influência que podem ter nas dinâmicas de bem-estar e conforto, integração e/ou segregação socio-urbanísticas, de conservação e/ou abandono dos contextos;

- Criar tipologias dos ambientes urbanos estudados e identificar modelos que se configurem como mais particulares no entendimento da influência do comportamento e das práticas dos indivíduos na formação de ambiências urbanas.

Numa perspectiva comparativa, o estudo será desenvolvido em áreas residenciais urbanas da cidade de Lisboa seleccionadas a partir de dois critérios globais:

- Características morfológicas, funcionais e temporais semelhantes;
- Características perceptivas, visuais e sociais distintas.

Acredita-se assim ser possível compreender as diferentes formas de articulação entre os factores ambientais analisados, bem como a importância relativa de cada um destes factores na constituição de ambiências urbanas.

Com base numa metodologia interdisciplinar visa-se proceder:

- À recolha e sistematização cartográfica de dados arquitectónicos e urbanísticos, ecológicos e sociais sobre espaços públicos em áreas residenciais da cidade que sejam representativas dos critérios utilizados;
- À análise multidimensional e interpretativa dos espaços para a identificação e o desenvolvimento do estudo aprofundado das ambiências urbanas;
- À identificação dos elementos socio-ambientais que contribuem para o conforto ambiental, a satisfação e a segurança, a acessibilidade e a exclusão, bem como para a equidade socio-ambiental (questões ligadas à integração e à segregação socio-urbanísticas);
- À identificação de modelos integrados de abordagem e tipificação de ambiências urbanas.

O projecto baseia-se em diversas técnicas de recolha e produção de informação, envolvendo desde a análise bibliográfica e cartográfica, o levantamento e a caracterização arquitectónica e urbanística dos territórios, a observação e o mapeamento dos cenários comportamentais, o desenvolvimento de entrevistas *walk-through*, entrevistas semi-directivas com interlocutores privilegiados e a realização de *focus group*. Visa-se ultrapassar olhares parciais, de modo a projectar uma visão global e integrada sobre como os aspectos e factores ambientais analisados contribuem para a configuração de ambiências urbanas.

Os resultados esperados deste projecto são:

- Desenvolvimento de um guia recomendativo que auxilie a concepção, intervenção e gestão de espaços públicos de áreas residenciais urbanas;
- Promoção de fóruns de discussão técnica através de workshops de formação;
- Criação de um sítio na Internet para divulgar o guião recomendativo, recolher opiniões e estimular o diálogo entre potenciais utentes do espaço e participantes no processo de concepção de planos e projectos urbanos, assim como para explorar propostas de actuação em espaços públicos.

O conhecimento produzido no âmbito deste projecto auxiliará na captação e capacitação de jovens investigadores e na formação técnica avançada na temática da qualificação e intervenção em espaço público de áreas residenciais urbanas.

## **2. Literature review**

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Although it is recognized that urban public space is studied by different disciplines, Low (2000) notes that most of this work deals with behaviour by identifying the number, type of people and uses of space or have a more architectural approach through the description of physical and historical characteristics of built environment. (Carr *et al*, 1992) draw attention to the tendency to often minimize the role of people's needs in public spaces by emphasising the goals of space designers, managers and consumers. According to these authors, it is essential to understand the manifest complexity of the interactive relation between people and spaces and how this relationship affects behavioural contexts. They emphasise the importance of an integrated approach that includes natural and physical qualities, real and potential users, their cultural and demographic backgrounds as well as their underlying socio-economic status. They also consider that these important factors include development contexts, existing structures in the area (and in other public settings), as well as a place's history and socio-cultural traditions.

Thus, it is pertinent to focus on the relationship between environment and socio-cultural processes through a greater emphasis on the study of small spaces in the city and daily life (Friedmann, 1999; Low, 2000; MadaniPour, 1996). This concern characterises the work by Menezes (1992, 2002, 2004), initially within spatial anthropology, later evolving into an interdisciplinary and integrated approach framed by a socio-ecological perspective on small places and the analysis of daily behaviour (Menezes, 2004<sup>a</sup>; 2007, 2008, 2008<sup>a</sup>). Also, the inclusion users in different settings in the definition of

integrative intervention approaches to social problems in residential neighbourhoods leads to more effective results, significantly reducing social risks (Rebelo, 2006). As Friedmann (1999) puts it, the “micro-spaces of the city” are crucial “for the conduct of everyday life, social reproduction, and the construction of social meanings”, while recognizing how difficult is “to represent persuasively at the points of strategic decisions”. According to Carmona *et al* (2003) and Holland *et al* (2007), some gaps still remain in the study of urban public spaces, even though it is possible to detect a growing concern for a wider and more exhaustive analysis of these spaces, especially among Anglo-Saxon countries (where, for instance, we can point to the Project for Public Spaces – PPS in New York and the Green City Action Project in England). In this sense and contributing to these new challenges, a wide range of new policy practices has emerged among a number of public institutions as well as between them and civil organisations.

Informal networks gain more noticeable expression in European Union (EU), where specialists go so far as conceiving the EU as “a experiment field to find alternative forms of developing public policies” (Hajer *et al*, 2007). Several authors argue the importance of these informal agreements and networks in the sense that they produce solutions, as opposed to conventions, directives or authoritarian decisions (Hajer *et al*, 2007). One way of contributing to the assembly of these informal agreements is through the creation of open forums that promote the discussion of ideas between all participants (space users).

Even though understanding about how participation can be operationalised is still ambiguous and its role and format is unclear and inconclusive, relevant experiences demonstrate that when participation is effective, there is a larger potential for gaining an interesting public response which, in turn, has positive consequences for planning and urban governance. Framed by a perspective based on the micro-sociology of environmental issues perspective, the research conducted by Vasconcelos (2002, 2007, 2007<sup>a</sup>) has clearly contributed to clarify and guide the input of participation. Also, Allen and Cars

(2001, 2002 and 2004) has long experience in the field of planning and the cross-cultural analysis of neighbourhood processes, designing an integrated methodology for studying these issues across 14 European countries, and trying to look at space and social elements simultaneously (Allen, *et al*, 2008).

However, integrated and interdisciplinary approaches that seriously involve different disciplinary focuses are still scarce. Friedmann (2007) draws attention to the fact that what actually connects the different disciplines when analysing urban space is the “understanding that the city is humanity’s ultimate habitat”. For him, it is important to recognize that “place refers to socio-spatial patterns of affectively valued relations that are embedded in a physical environment”, while “place-making is thus a way of creating and strengthening place-bound relations” (Friedmann, 2007). Similarly, Pink (2008) develops the notion of emplaced sociality. In Portugal, generally, studies that focus on urban public spaces rarely analyse in-depth the complex relation between behavioural environments and socio-cultural processes and usually overlook issues like the communication of the information collected to the programme, project and socio-urban plan being studied.

The experience of communication and information regarding the architectural projects (Plácido, 1997) is, thus, an important contribution to the creation of interfaces between socio-environmental data and the definition of an integrated recommendation framework for approaching the design of a given urban environment.

Technicians working on interventions in urban public spaces are not sufficiently equipped to respond effectively to the demand of crossing different information, considering that appreciation of criteria which are integrated and adapted to specific aspects of social management and behavioural settings are scarce. This research proposal intends to contribute to reducing the gap between different disciplines and methodologies and to the improvement and implementation of integrated interdisciplinary methods for approaching public spaces in urban residential areas.



### **3. Plan and methods**

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Acquired knowledge can be used as a starting point for the construction of an integrated and integrative platform that could support design and urban planning, but how can we contribute to understanding the complexity of behavioural environments in urban public spaces? This is the point of departure for this project.

The aim of the “Urban Public Spaces – significance, use, appropriation and environment (UPSig)” project is to create an integrated model for addressing the relationships among environment, behaviour and cultural processes in small places. The most important of these underlying ideas is what can be learned from the relationships among physical environments, behaviours, experiences and values of individuals, settings, place histories, memories and traditions. Two ideas are central to achieve the purposes of this project:

- To invest in an interdisciplinary analysis in order to maximize the creation of integrated models of approach;
- To spatialise collected information and improve the development of communication interfaces between socio-environmental data and an integrated framework supporting the analysis and design of small places in urban residential areas.

There are four departing assumptions in this project:

- The understanding that public spaces can be considered as containers/social condensers, resource catalysers and symbols of unity, through the socio-cultural and physical differences.
- The crisis of conception, use and social significance of public spaces with consequences for altering and constraining them as a spaces in the public domain, processes which simultaneously increase exclusion, insecurity and socio-urban segregation.
- The importance of addressing urban public spaces in a differentiated and integrated way with a dynamics of its own, that is, as socio-ecological contexts composed by a variety of items and dimensions, that contribute to the development of specificities that are crucial to understand.
- The existence of gaps on addressing the relationships between socio-cultural processes, behaviours and environments as well as the transmission of this knowledge to the process of designing an urban project thus limiting the definition of more adequate responses to problems of urban.

The methods to improve our understanding of the relation between environment, behaviour and cultural processes are mixed and wide-ranging, combining qualitative and quantitative methodologies in order to address the "polysemic specificity" present in each small urban public space. This polysemism is multi-vocal where each space component (architectonic, morphological, demographic, social encounters, behavioural scenarios) contributes to it. In this sense, and by relating each of the particular components, this project also propose new typologies of the overall configuration of that "polysemism" required to understand what might be the "drivers of change" in small urban public spaces.

Such cutting-edge research requires sophisticated and specific methodological tools for data collection and analysis. These will on the team's expertise in everyday life in small spaces, the integrative settings of intervention, the



micro-sociology of environmental issues, governance, planning and cross-cultural analysis at neighbourhood level, as well as their expertise in the domain of creating interfaces between socio-environmental data and a platform for recommendations and support for the urban project.

The substantive part of the project will be developed through three main tasks, focused on the intensive and systematic collection of varied information, which will then be framed and analysed using an integrated approach (four tasks).

In order to meet the project's goals, information collection will be supported by the following methods:

- Review and systematization of literature on integrated and participatory experiences developed for public spaces in order to define a conceptual framework for developing perspectives on the relations between environment, behaviour and cultural processes, as well as on the experiences developed in public spaces (task 1).
- Architectural and urban survey and a characterisation of urban public spaces in urban residential areas of Lisbon, by using cartographical and historical sources, geographic information systems (GIS) and technical field visits to create a morphological, functional typology and historical characterisation of small places in Lisbon (task 2).
- Socio-demographic survey of population present in the typified and characterized territories, using statistical sources, socio-anthropological and geographic studies developed for the territories, GIS and technical visits to Lisbon's residential areas in order to define the territories to study in more detail the intersection of morphological, functional and temporal dimensions with perceptual, visual and social dimensions (task 2).
- Deeper architectural and urban surveys, ethnographic studies using visual methodologies (photos, behaviour mapping, movies, and drawings), participant observation of behavioural scenarios, walking

interviews together with interviews with space users and key informants, quantitative surveys and focus groups. This will enable studies of critical cases, thus obtaining an integrated characterisation of the studied scenarios, and an understanding of the driving forces that enhance the occurrence (or not) of certain behaviours and practices, exclusion situations and dynamics of welfare and comfort (task 3).

- Finally, an analysis and evaluation of information gathered through detailed studies of urban environments will be carried out, in order to create a representative frame of analysed scenarios and, then, to define an integrated model of urban environments in public spaces in residential areas of Lisbon (task 4).

The concern with the de-structuration of public spaces and with questions related of a socio-environmental nature establishes new conceptual and instrumental demands on researchers and technicians involved in urban space interventions. In general, there are theoretical and practical gaps in the definition of integrated frameworks due to their multidimensional and interdisciplinary nature. That is why so few orientations and instruments have been adapted complexity of socio-ecological contexts.

The interdependence of the work, resting within several disciplinary fields, is assured by team, combining different expertises and disciplinary fields, and working together to create a mixed methodological tool. The project seeks to consolidate an integrated approach and a knowledge methodology of urban reality, ensuring, at the same time, its continuity and impact on future work, especially through studies on the relationship between the physical organization of space socio-cultural organization, satisfaction, well-being and comfort; the definition of integrated criteria for analysis and evaluation; adequacy between built space and needs, interests and socio-cultural attributes; the creation of interfaces between socio environmental information and the project, bypassing the scarcity of studies that have an integrated view of urban environments.

Four main results are expected:

- The elaboration of recommendations guide to support an integrated analysis of public space in urban residential areas and to assist the process of reporting to the project;
- Promotion of technical discussion forums, especially enhanced by training workshops;
- Creation of an interactive web-site that, in addition to other expected results, also allows the participation of different social involved with urban public space qualification and an interactive work tools increasing the reproduction of integrated logics of analysis and helping the report to urbanism and architecture project;
- Diffusion of results will be performed mainly through the presentation of communications and papers publication (national and international journals).

The aspects related with the conception and consolidation of an integrated methodology of analysis and evaluation of urban environments implies a strong conceptual and operative innovation. In this sense, the research team includes Judith Allen as a consultant (School of the Built Environment - University of Westminster) and IMAR- Interdisciplinary Centre of Coimbra (IMAR research partner with expertise on participatory methodologies and on incorporating collected data in integrated models). LNEC Division of Social Ecology is the proponent, with the support of the Division of Architecture and Urbanism with expertise on addressing the relationship between behaviour and built environment.

The project comprises 4 tasks and the outlined methodology comprises several techniques as mapping, statistical analysis, urban and architectural ethnography surveys, interviews questionnaires, focus groups, and GIS techniques.



## **4. Tasks description and expected results**

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### **4.1. Definition of a conceptual inter-disciplinary framework (Task 1)**

Departing from state of the art deepening, the main purpose of this task is the definition of a conceptual framework sustaining research Project.

The specific goals of this task are:

- Organisation and systematisation of different approaches addressing the relationship between environment, behaviours and socio-cultural processes in urban small places;
- The identification of principles, dimensions, factors, vectors and indicators of analysis and the definition of links between specific disciplinary approaches;
- Identification of the principles and methodologies of action, of the results and the existing gaps about integrated and participatory experiences in small urban places (nationals and internationals);
- Definition of the principles and the criteria to be used in the following tasks (task 2: case studies definition; task 3: lessons learned from case studies of urban small places).

This will be done collaboratively, integrating and articulating the different perspectives of the team members, namely, by incorporating into our method a stage when representatives of different disciplines are "confronted" by the

study spaces and asked describe them to us from their perspective, in other words, including the problem of interdisciplinarity within the research problem, rather than just using it to frame the problem.

The following tools will be used to the definition of the conceptual framework of analysis: search and bibliography analysis, discussions with privileged interlocutors and research about integrated and participatory experiences in small urban places.

The expected results of this task are:

- The definition of a synthetic systematisation of theory and practice about urban small places;
- The definition of the principles and the criteria to be used subsequently.

This conceptual framework of analysis is the guiding structure of the project as well as the departure point for the definition of the study logic and the empirical field. Also, the conceptual framework will be used to settle on an integrated model of addressing the relationship between environment, behaviours and socio-cultural processes in urban small places. This task will engage all the members of the research team and it is linked with task 2 – at the level of the implementation of interdisciplinary criteria to the definition of the attributes of analysis (architectonic, urban, functional and socio-ecological) – with task 3 on the definition of a theoretical and methodological frame and with task 4 allowing the creation of a conceptual basis and by defining an integrated model of addressing urban small places.

## **4.2. Definition of an empirical framework (Task 2)**

The main goal of this task is to define urban settings for the completion of exhaustive case studies. In this sense, it shall be held assessment of architectural, urban, functional, temporal and socio-ecological characteristics of small places in urban residential of Lisbon.

The specific goals of this task are:

- Characterisation of morphological, functional, perceptual, visual and historical elements of small places;
- Socio-demographic characterisation of small places previously identified;
- Recognition of similar morphological, functional and temporal characteristics;
- Recognition of distinct perceptual, visual and social characteristics;
- Identification of development scenarios of detailed case studies.

Towards the definition of the empirical analysis framework several types of information will be crossed (morphological, functional, temporal, perceptual, visual and social) in order to identify common as well as different features of the selected small urban spaces.

For that, the following tools will be used: bibliography research, literature review, cartographical and historical sources, geographic information systems (GIS), and technical visits of recognition. A socio-demographic assessment of previous characterised small places will be produced by using statistical research and socio-anthropological and geographic studies of pre-characterised.

Our main concern in this task is to identify at least two urban settings for the development of a comparative analysis.

The expected results for this task are:

- Characterization of physical and social environments related with public spaces of urban residential of Lisbon;
- Identification of the development settings for detailed case studies;
- Production of technical progress reports with the information produced in tasks 1 and 2.

Regarding to implementation of some pre-outlined criteria in the conceptual analysis framework and connected with task 1, the extension and success of this task depends on the development of detailed case studies (task 3). This also contributes for the pre establishment of a set of characterisation and pre-identification attributes of socio-environmental specificities to be later framed the consolidation of an integrated approach model (task 4).

### **4.3. Lessons learned from urban small places (Task 3)**

Due to the interdisciplinary and multidimensional nature of this project, the main purpose of task 3 is to obtain a polysemic characterisation of urban small places.

The specific goals of this task are:

- To define typologies of the analysed urban small places;
- To contribute to the empowerment in participatory governance;
- To identify the vectors that enhance (or not) the occurrence a given behaviour or social practice, exclusion situations and comfort and well-being dynamics.

The central idea for this task is to use a combination of both quantitative and qualitative methods in order to catch the complexity analysed urban settings. The qualitative methods will be used to privilege reflexivity and flexibility, also accounting for disciplinary purposes and theoretical traditions: the ethnographic method on the description of micro-spaces of everyday life. Perceptions, discourses and strategies of key stakeholders will be investigated through interviews, analysis of documents and participant observation. Walk-through interviews and participant observation will be used to understand and register people's behaviour on public space, their rituals and preferences within the urban contexts. Visual methodologies (photos, behavioural maps and behavioural settings drawings) will be used.



Moreover, focus groups will be used. They are structured but flexible groups of discussion exploring a specific set of issues of research interests. The facilitator encourages interaction between participants, assures the possibility to further explore questions issues raised. This method is useful to explore experiences, opinions, wishes and concerns, to explore different perspectives regarding social network and the ways people interact with space. This method favours a better in-depth understanding about the participants perceptions in real life contexts, besides stimulating through interaction and debate the revelation of crucial ingrained (mis)understandings of the ones participating that otherwise would uneasily be spelled out. An attempt will be made to develop collaborative joint proposals to improve the space reproducing a specific positive experience identified by the actors.

The team will use questionnaires articulated with the participatory forums whenever thought relevant for additional information. This case, visual devices such as maps will be used. This will support the registration of people' spatial preferences.

Previously, a stakeholder identification and analysis will be carried out through interviews to local key informers. The forums conducted afterwards will involve the identified stakeholders, privileging diversity to account for and articulate different perspectives.

The quantitative methodologies, namely resident and floating population survey about the use, significance and appropriation of urban public space will supply GIS tool permitting the geographical spatialisation of collected data. In addition, an architectonic urban characterisation will be performed deepening the knowledge obtained by task 2 and connecting the information collected through above mentioned methods and techniques. A comparative analysis will be conducted to identify the vectors underlying specific urban environments.

The expected results are:

- Polysemic characterisation of the urban environments;

- Creation of a participative and interactive platform;
- Identification of a representative frame of the socio-environmental elements that better define social and ecological features of urban small places;
- Production of a progress report;
- Participation in scientific events and through paper publication.

This task is dependent from tasks 1 and 2 and is crucial to task 4. With this task it will be possible to consolidate and integrate interdisciplinary perspective. This information is essential for the creation of an integrated model and to the establishment of interfaces with the urban project.

#### **4.4. Definition of an integrated model of analysis (Task 4)**

The overall objective is to define an integrated model of addressing small places of urban residential areas.

The specific goals are:

- The analysis and evaluation of all collected information;
- The consolidation of types of socio-environmental settings in urban small places;
- The creation of interfaces among socio-environmental data and the urban project.

This phase will privilege a dynamic and stimulating debate among the team members, under professional facilitation and supported by a GIS tool, to collaboratively define an integrated and consensual model. This model will afterwards be presented to other experts for validation and will be made available in a website for expanded use by the technical community.

The results of this task are:

- The development of a recommendative guide that provides a methodological support to the improvement of integrated approaches

of public spaces in urban residential areas and contributes to the communication process reporting to the project;

- The implementation of technical discussion forums;
- The creation of an interactive website that maximizes participation, dissemination of information and increases the availability of the meanwhile produced working tools;
- Final report of the project;
- The dissemination of project results in periodic journals and scientific events.

A global evaluation of results obtained in tasks 1, 2 e 3 will be carried out and will inform the definition of an integrated methodology for the analysis urban small places. The conclusion of this task fulfils a primordial goal of this research project.



## **6. Description of the management structure**

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The project team is diversified in their scientific background and in geographic localization. Scientific backgrounds like Anthropology/Geography (MM, UC), Social Psychology (MR), Economy/Planning (JA – Consultant) and Architecture (IP, LV) will assure a range of approaches to urban small places study<sup>1</sup>. This is an important gain for the project' multidisciplinary goal, but also is an increased difficulty for coordination, especially because almost all the tasks need a combination of knowledge that require several areas of expertise.

The fact that most of the researchers involved have been working together in the past few years and having reached a good level of communication, will permit to overcome this difficulty. In particular, the PI has participated in scientific work with all of the scientists of the project team. Regular meetings also involving the consultant (Dr. Judith Allen) will place and in this sense at least two meetings will take place per year in Portugal and in the UK. Following, each task will be carried out by the team, coordinated by a senior experienced researcher.

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<sup>1</sup> The acronyms used to designate the participants are the following (Acronyms Full name partners - Institutions): MM Marlucci Menezes; Margarida Rebelo - LNEC; IP Isabel Plácido - LNEC; LV Lia Vasconcelos - IMAR-CIC; UC Ursula Canser IMAR-CIC; JA Judith Allen (School of the Built Environment - University of Westminster, England) (Consultant).

The project tasks are distributed by the three years foreseen the total duration of the Project, but there is considerable superposition of tasks in the last year (tasks 3 and 4).

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