



LOOKING AT CRIME: COMMUNITIES AND PHYSICAL SPACES

RESEARCH REPORT OF THE LookCrim PROJECT

From Conceptualization to Practice

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I. INTRODUCTION

This report fulfills the purpose of presenting how the project *Looking at Crime: Communities and Physical Spaces (LookCrim)* - Universidade Fernando Pessoa, reference PTDC / DIR-DCP / 28120/2017 from the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), financed by national funds was carried through, which started on October 1, 2018, with the end date approaching, on December 31, 2021.

The project was publicly presented in February 2019, for the first time, at Casa do Infante, which the Porto City Council kindly made available. Subsequently, a year later, in February 2020, the first results were publicly presented in the auditorium that the Board of Parishes of the Historic Center of Porto was kind enough to make available for this purpose. Both local authorities have been partners in monitoring and supporting the development of the necessary studies to carry out this project. The role of another partner institution that has supported the project, the Metropolitan Police Command of Public Security (PSP) of Porto, should be highlighted, for it has contributed with decisive data in the execution of one of the pillars of LookCrim.

Recalling the three basic pillars of the project distributed in a triangular structure in which each vertex refers to data from different sources: official crime statistics, self-reported crime data obtained through a survey supported by questionnaires, characteristics of physical spaces as places that may be associated with criminal practice in that area of the city.

The main objectives that the project mentoring team proposed:

- i) characterize criminal occurrences, taking into account the type of crime, the geographic / spatial location and the social actors involved;
- ii) access to the crime not officially reported;
- iii) identify the indicators of crime, or crime risk in the school context;
- iv) identify / map the conditions of physical spaces that may be associated with criminal practice.

It should be noted that the urban area under analysis, the Historic Center of Porto, is central to the city of Porto, and developed along the banks of the Douro River, where boats transported wine to other places, like England and, later, Brazil. Houses, palaces, prisons were built around the river (Silva, 2015), giving shape to what we know today.

Since then, the city has developed from that central nucleus, the recognized Historic Center of Porto that is considered a World Heritage Site, with a unique architecture and a unique beauty, recognized as a masterpiece of creativity and human perseverance, in a grand articulation of streets and spaces overlooking the river (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2019).

Currently, this noble and picturesque area is part of the merged old parishes of Cedofeita, Santo Ildefonso, Sé, Miragaia, São Nicolau and Vitória. It is worth mentioning that there is a resident population of more than 40,000 people, with an aging population and residents progressively leaving the area, especially the younger ones, to make room for offices, commerce and other services (National Institute of Statistics, 2011).

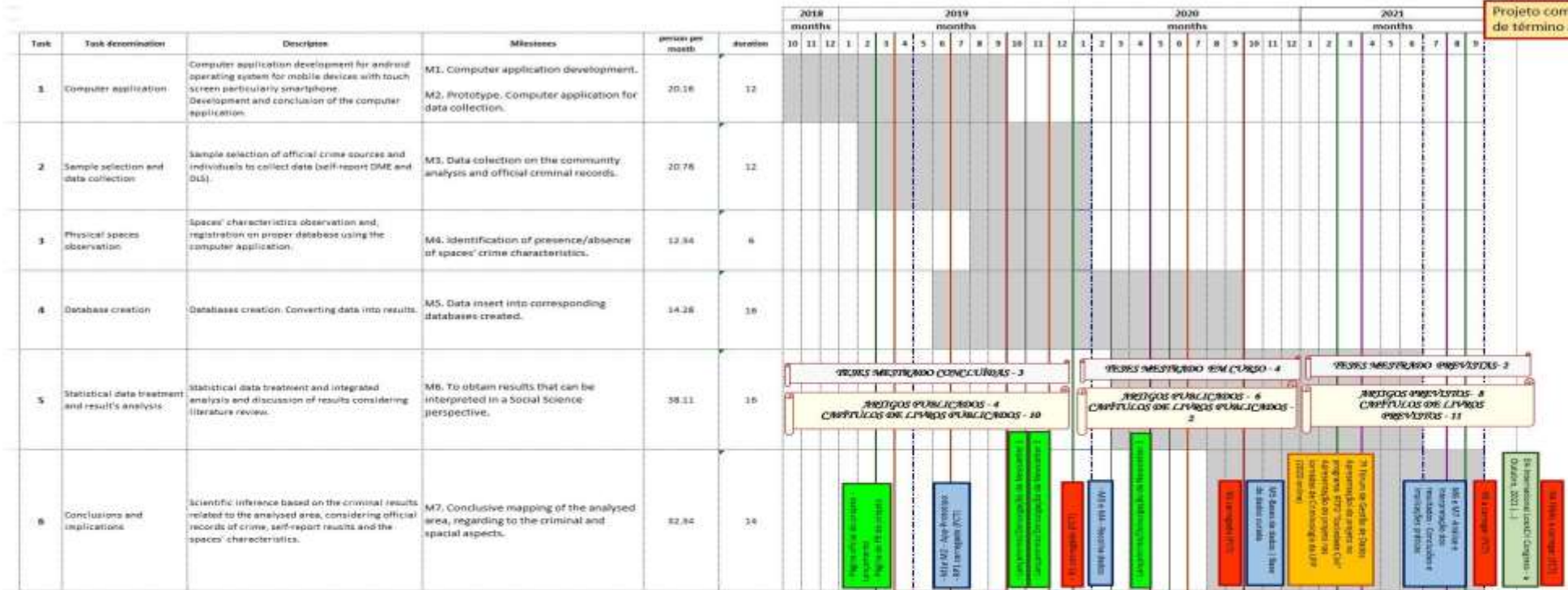
II. PRESENTATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The project that was designed at the beginning of 2017 started its implementation in October 2018, following a schedule with a clearly drawn timeline and which, naturally, was adjusted through deviations imposed by unpredictable events, such as the pandemic that crossed 2020 and entered the year 2021.

A scheme with notes of what was being carried out and what was being added or diverted from what was initially programmed is presented below.

Project reference: **C493392450-00090329**
 Acronym: **LookCrim**
 Project title: **Looking at crime: Communities and physical spaces**

Projeto com prorrogação de término até 31-12-2021



LEGEND
 Milestones: M1; M2; M3; M4; M5; M6; M7

Reports
 R1: 1st progress report
 R2: 2nd progress report
 R3: Final report

Events
 E1: Public presentation of the project at Oporto Historical Center – to be organized by the research team
 E2: LookCrim National Journeys – to be organized by the research team
 E3: Public presentation of the results already reached on the Oporto Historical Center – to be organized by the research team
 E4: International LookCrim Congress – to be organized by the research team

Extern Congress VERIFICAR
 EC1: 20th International Conference on Forensic Pathology and Criminology will take place in Copenhagen, Denmark, in June 2018 - organized by Waset
 EC2: III Encontro da Secção Temática de Sociologia do Direito e da Justiça will take place in Lisbon, Portugal, in September 2018 – organized by Sociedade Portuguesa de Criminologia with Research Committee on Sociology of Law Meeting
 EC3: XI Congreso (inter)Nacional de Psicología Jurídica y Forense will take place in Spain, predictably in first half of 2019 – organized by Sociedad Española de Psicología Jurídica y Forense
 EC4: 19th Annual Conference of the ESC will take place in Ghent, Belgium, in September 2019 – organized by Society of Criminology
 EC5: IV Encontro da Secção Temática de Sociologia do Direito e da Justiça will take place in Portugal, in September 2019 – organized by Sociedade Portuguesa de Criminologia with Research Committee on Sociology of Law Meeting
 EC6: The Stockholm Criminology Symposium will take place Stockholm, Sweden, in June 2020 – organized by Swedish National Council of Crime Prevention
 EC7: 20th Annual Conference of the ESC will take place in an european country [to be defined by the organization] expected in September 2020 – organized by European Society of Criminology
 EC8: V Encontro da Secção Temática de Sociologia do Direito e da Justiça will take place in Portugal, in September 2020 – organized by Sociedade Portuguesa de Criminologia with Research Committee on Sociology of Law Meeting

Outputs (minimum assured)
 APP: Crime App
 OB1: 1st LookCrim Book
 OB2: 2nd LookCrim Book
 OB3: 3rd LookCrim Book (manual)



2.1. FIRST YEAR

Considering the first year of the project as the time period between October 1, 2018 and December 31, 2019, the first task, related to the development of the computer application, was developed, and the corresponding *Milestones* were reached.

This task of developing the computer application consisted of creating a mobile application for *android* (smartphone) and, more than originally planned, also for *iOS* (apple) (M1). The test phase was also completed and the application was available for use within the scope of Activity 3, corresponding to the Observation / Registration of physical spaces, which will be referred to below.

During this period of time, the second task began, concerning the selection of the sample for later data collection, whose conclusion was only verified in 2020. This task included three different data sources: (a) official data, (b) self-report - teaching professionals - Diagnosis of the School Environment (DME) and (c) self-report - residents, workers, and students of the Historic Center of Porto - Local Security Diagnosis (DLS).

As for the official crime data in the Historic Center of Porto, the identification of the relevant entities for data supply was verified, such as the Public Security Police (PSP), the General Directorate of Justice Policy, the National Institute Statistics, PORDATA, UMAR and APAV, aiming to collect data about the region under analysis (Cedofeita, Santo Ildefonso, Sé, Miragaia, S. Nicolau and Vitória). Nevertheless, we ended up concluding that the available data were limited to the national, district and municipal fields, with no data at the parish scale. The institution that provided us with the data at the desired level of detail was the PSP, so it was this police force that provided us with such data for the years 2019 and 2020, with a compromise of providing more statistics over time.

With regard to the DME's, we identified school groups with educational establishments in the Historic Center of Porto, which include the Aurélia de Sousa School Group, Rodrigues de Freitas Group, Alexandre Herculano School Group and Carolina Michaelis Group. In this context, individual meetings were held with the respective school principals to present the study and obtain authorization and collaboration for data collection. It should be noted that the authorization from the Ministry of Education had already been obtained. In total, 12 schools from the 1st, 2nd, 3rd cycles and secondary

education were selected, involving about 376 teaching and non-teaching professionals who participated in the study. Data collection started by disseminating the online questionnaire and there were face-to-face sessions to raise awareness of participation in the project. At the end of the 1st year, questionnaires had been collected and answered by 54 participants.

As far as DLS's are concerned, we sought to capture the perceptions of (in) security and crime in the Historic Center of Porto, by the general population, consisting of residents, workers and / or students aged 18 or over years old. To that end, key locations were identified that allowed access to a large and heterogeneous number of participants. Data collection was preceded by training sessions aimed at employees - students - in the context of Criminology and Psychology of Justice. Data collection started through the questionnaire survey in a phased manner. In a first phase, developed in late 2018, information was obtained from 195 participants who participated in the completion of three master's theses in Criminology. Then, in a second stage, started in June 2019, there was access to more individuals, totaling 469 individuals surveyed. In this phase of collecting DLS data, two new master's students were involved.

Considering the observation and registration of spatial characteristics, it was only started in this 1st year of the project, since it is dependent on task 1, of building and testing the computer application designed for this purpose. This task, planned to continue in 2020 - 2nd year of the project - was preceded by training sessions (theoretical | conceptual | technical) directed to the team that would be involved, together with the fellow (BIC) of IT that provided technical support for the use of the application.

Also in this first year of the project, development of the database was started, which allowed to record data from different sources and of different natures. A methodology for exporting the data obtained by the computer application on the physical spaces, for the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software was developed.

During this 1st year of the project, actions leading to the production of outputs were developed, as presented in the following table:

Table 1.
Production of outputs in the 1st year of the project.

	Designação / Identificação	Previstos	Efetivos
A1	Books OR Book Chapters	4	7
A2	Articles in International Journals (with peer review)	4	1
A3	Articles in National Journals (with peer review)	2	2
-	Published <i>Abstracts</i>	0	8
B1	Communications at International Scientific Events	4	9
B2	Communications at National Scientific Events	4	4
C	Reports	1	1
D	Organization of Seminars and Conferences	1	1
E2	Advanced Training - Theses	3	3
E9	Others-Training given to Master's Collaborators	1	1
G	Computer Applications	1	1
N	Knowledge Integration in Higher Education Activities	1	1

It should be noted that there were some deviations from the execution, relative to the proposal initially presented by the project team. In particular, some of the predicted outputs have not been fully developed, although there have also been others that were not initially foreseen.

In fact, the start date of the project depended on the results of the tender launched at the time by the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), and was eventually moved forward for 10 months, leading to a rescheduling of tasks, with a consequent impact on all phases and achievements of LookCrim.

2.2. SECOND YEAR

In view of the objectives proposed in the project "LookCrim: Communities and Physical Spaces" (PTDC / DIR-DCP / 28120/2017), in the period between October 1, 2019 and September 30, 2020, corresponding to the 2nd year of research, tasks were developed, which included the completion of some previously started and the preparation and development of other tasks left to be developed and the ones planned for this 2nd year.

Thus, with regard to activity 2, relating to sample selection and data collection, the sample was defined for surveys for the DME and DLS questionnaires, as well as for the observation and recording of spatial characteristics. As for these latest data, the data collection team was removed from the streets, given the installed pandemic situation.

In view of the data provided by the PSP, the task is being developed in a phased manner, since that entity offered to send data regularly, until 2021, permanently updating the corresponding database.

However, the activity related to the development of the databases of the DME and DLS questionnaires was completed and, regarding the spaces, the data were exported to an IBM / SPSS Statistics software. With the databases under construction and improvement, results were extracted for the development of publications with the obtained partial results.

In addition, during this 2nd year of the project, actions were carried out leading to the production of outputs included in the following table:

Quadro 1.

Produção de *outputs* no 1º ano do projeto.

	Designação / Identificação	Previstos	Efetivos
A1	Books OR Book Chapters	4	7
A2	Articles in International Journals (with peer review)	4	3
A3	Articles in National Journals (with peer review)	3	3
-	Published Abstracts	0	11
B1	Communications at International Scientific Events	8	14
B2	Communications at National Scientific Events	4	0
C	Reports	1	1
D	Organization of Seminars and Conferences	1	2
E2	Advanced Training - Theses	3	0

Given the pandemic situation, there were indeed some deviations from the predicted project execution compared to what was previously planned. In particular, the early withdrawal of the data collection team and the predominantly remote work carried out had an impact, for example, on the completion of the masters theses, with three dissertations to be completed during the third and last year of the project.

III. FINAL NOTES

The report briefly describes the way in which the LookCrim project was implemented, from which some results lead to certain conclusions that will justify the development of the Good Practices Manual, whose writing has already started.

Regarding the third year of the project, it will be about completion, extracting all the results that will allow obtaining the last outputs from LookCrim. On the other hand, and throughout this last year, it will be convenient to consider the possibility of rethinking interventional actions in the Historic Center of Porto. So, preferably in partnership with the entities involved in this project, we will seek to discuss practical measures that make use of the results and conclusions extracted from the project. Thus, the heuristic value of this project will certainly imply the development of more practical work, for the benefit of the studied community.

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