

Temporary Uses and Sharing Practices in the Adaptive City. From Experience to Prospective

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Keywords

Innovative Architecture and Urban Planning; Temporary Uses; Sharing Practices; Intermittent Practices

Partner Institutions

Municipality of Lisbon (CML); Start-up Lisboa; DLBC Lisbon Network; Direção-Geral do Território (DGT); Instituto Universitário de Lisboa (ISCTE-IUL); Universidade da Beira Interior (UBI); Universidade Nova de Lisboa (NOVA); Cooperativa de Formação e Animação Cultural, CRL (COFAC/ULHT)

Expected Future Partner Institutions

Gehl (<https://gehlpeople.com/>); City Space Architecture (<http://www.cityspacearchitecture.org/>)

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the Intermittent LX are:

- to understand, characterise and evaluate the opportunities and dangers of temporary and shared practices in the contemporary city;
- to encourage an adaptive city through the proposal of design tools to drive urban transformations using Intermittent Practices (IP).

Based on a comprehensive sistematization of case studies, which lead to operative initiatives (temporary installations, events and activities, networking or information production), the project explores the hypothesis that IP can catalyse new interventions capable of contribute to transformative actions, in a more experimental planning approach.

Intermittent LX is a call to action: it seeks to release the power of temporariness and sharing, already present within actual daily life, creating conditions rather than solutions to plan.

Thus, in a broader way, the project aims to contribute to:

- the debate on temporary and sharing practices at a European level;
- the critical assessment of IP in Lisbon regarding their framing under key societal challenges;
- to foster culture change in the planning community, through collaborative partnership between academics, policy makers, practitioners and civil society.

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ABSTRACT + IMAGES

Along with the political, socio-economic and technological changes that emerged in the new millennium, cities have been under significant changes in the use of its spaces and in the organisation of its functions. Values of temporariness and sharing have appeared with enormous expression in different dimensions of the public life, driving urban transformations and disrupting conventional relations between space, time, and use.

New and unconventional dynamics, with countless articulations, are taking shape: different expression of housing and living (co-living, temporary accommodation, home-exchange); new forms of working, workplace and worktime (co-working, homeworking, mobile working, part-time); different mobility dynamics (bike-sharing, car-sharing, pedi-bus); pop-up retailing phenomena (creative commerce, collaborative consumption, community food); sharing of services which replace goods (Netflix, Spotify, Timebanking); new forms of tourism (AirBnB, community tourism); unexpected uses in anonymous areas (parties in gas stations, artistic performances in abandoned structures, terraces in parking spaces, urban agriculture in vacant lots), etc.

All these forms of use of space, activities, expressions, and relationships that enable and empower temporariness and sharing in the urban spaces, are what we call Intermittent Practices (IP). Interfering with both public and private scope, IP emerge through transitory actions which define spaces, goods and services to be shared, replacing traditional practices, such as the full property or the permanent uses.

We are clearly facing a generational cycle of civilisational transformation, with expression in all areas of knowledge: in economy, with the emergence of new business opportunities and the decline of others previously stabilised; in society, with adaptation to new ways of life and the emergence of new forms of exclusion; in culture, with the modelling of creative practices to new tools. There is certainly evidence of the urgency to look at the underway transformations from the perspective of the city and architecture.

Recently, in the fight against Covid-19, many of these IP have become tools of experimentation and appropriation of urban spaces, both by individuals affected by the crisis, and the municipalities and government structures that came to use them as a low cost and immediate form of action.

All these phenomena give rise to new functional mechanisms with the potential to generate new architectures and new urban issues, but whose practices – occurring in a pulverised way, through diverse logics, and not always measurable by the conventional architectural discourse – prove the need to evolve more nuanced discussions on the nature of a city, the new opportunities and dangers that it poses, and the demand for new planning paradigms. Addressing this complex reality – not a fixed scenario, but a continuous and rapid ongoing transformation –, Intermittent LX will work on creating a bridge between research and action.

Based on the analysis of case studies, led to operative initiatives, the project will propose design tools and methods that drive urban transformations using IP – as catalyst and as urban resource –, encouraging an adaptive city.

To explore this argument, the project looks into IP in the Municipality of Lisbon as a research object to: 1) identify and systematise its features and rationales, 2) analyse and assess its structural components and impacts, 3) contribute with a design-oriented perspective on future urban transformations. The choosing of Lisbon as privileged laboratory is justified by its functional diversity, complexity and rich occurrence of different IP types in various sectors of urban life.

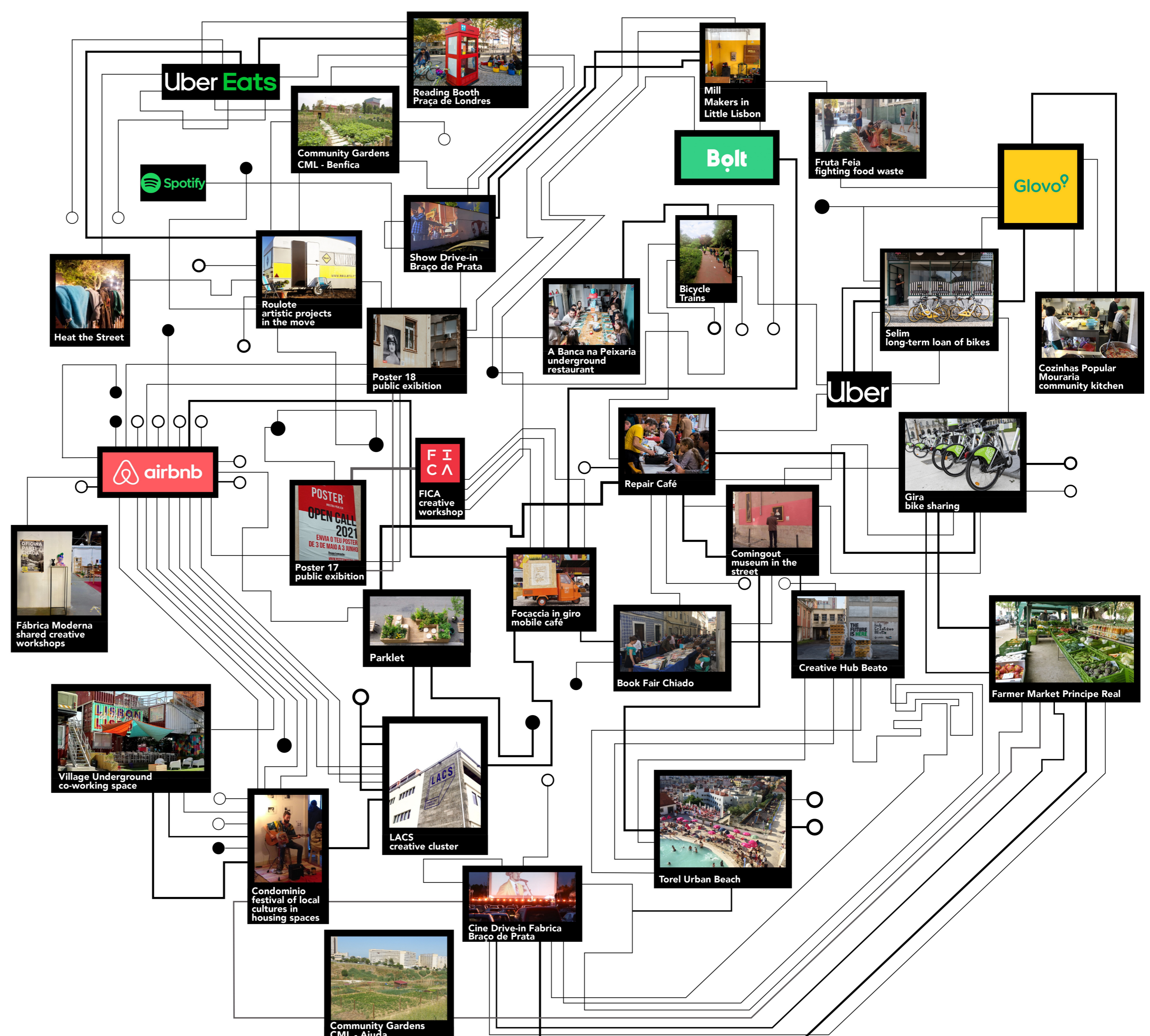
Consequently, the project is implemented through three stages:

- 1) SWITCH ON (Recognition and Mapping): a systematised open-access, online archive of Lisbon's IP with a focus on relevant case studies, its features and processes; forming the Intermittencies Circuit;
- 2) CONNECT (Analysis and Discussion): an interdisciplinary assessment of the intermittent case studies impacts, synergies and potential contributions to transformative actions in the city;
- 3) LIGHT UP (Future Scenarios and Forward-looking Tools): a design-oriented prospect in which future scenarios of urban transformation resulting from IP are proposed, tested, and incorporated in the creation of urban design tools.

Intermittent LX benefits from a long-lasting partnership between FA/ULisboa and the Municipality of Lisbon and the Directorate-General for Territory, coupled now with Start-up Lisbon and DLBC Lisbon Network, guaranteeing the immediate transfer of their contents to local, national urban policies and enabling a bridge with future European projects. In line with the multidimensional nature of the challenge, the project team brings together researchers from different disciplines and specialisations. This is further enhanced with the involvement of a diverse body of consultants with wide –theoretical and practical– experience on the subject.

This project is a pilot for urban innovation initiatives and reveals a direct practical impact. Cities are dealing with enormous e accelerate transformations, further drastically driven by the Covid-19 pandemic. Intermittent Practices definitively symptoms of the most recent urban reality, are at the center of the ongoing change. Systematisation is needed, as well a new production of knowledge and tools to face these new realities: which are its consequences? Which opportunities are we facing? Which new risks and exclusions might come with them?

Note: This application results from previous applications to competitive R&D calls, in 2020 (FCT, not funded) and in 2021 (FCT, waiting for results).



SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE FOR THE DISCIPLINE

The project is extremely scientific relevant, for:

- the development of a new concept, the Intermittent Practices, incorporating the emerging agenda of temporariness, and adding to it the topic of sharing;
- the importance of the subject to contemporary city's transformations: IP as a broad manifestation of the giant technological and societal changes underway with direct impacts on urbanism and architecture;
- its methodology: building a bridge between research and action, the project is a pilot for urban initiatives and has a direct practical impact, besides being prototypical for European solutions;
- its contribution to new disciplinary paradigms: it promotes different forms of planning which launches looser visions rather than idealised end states; it aims to be implementable through flexible phasing, in an open time frame and a tactical approach that can respond to changing conditions; it seeks to build on what already exists, through smaller projects, many of which will be temporary but with a cumulative impact over time.

Within this approach, the project will develop a cutting-edge research line, speculating on future scenarios and proposing design tools to drive urban transformations, better adapted to the contemporary challenges.

EXPECTED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT

Intermittent LX expects to boost societal and economic impact by:

- contributing to assume in the political agenda the phenomena of IP, its social and economic impact, its risks and opportunities;
- building a city capable of continuously adapting to changes – natural, climatic, health, social challenges, and economic restructuring;
- proposing expeditious forms, cost-effective methods and tools that contradict the rigidity, slowness, and high cost of conventional planning;
- integrating innovation on urban processes, favoring collaborations with the users, and promoting more socially aware practices;
- supporting sustainable responses, through the reuse and sharing of spaces, goods and services, promoting circular economies, and reducing CO2 emissions.

By all these assumptions, the project fits into the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, specifically to Goal 11 "Make cities and human settlements including, safe, resilient and sustainable". The "Intermittent City" creates value that can be harnessed to build resilient cities, which, in turn, can bounce back from the impacts of pandemics and improve the quality of life of its inhabitants.

RESEARCH PLAN AND TASKS

1 Topic and Challenges:

Worldwide, are emerging several forms of uses of space, activities, expressions, and relationships that enable and empower temporariness and sharing in the urban spaces: it is what we call Intermittent Practices (IP). The IP are generating significant changes on the urban context and new challenges to policy, planning, and governance. However, the awareness about those phenomena is scarce and their impact is far from straightforward.

Numerous questions arise: to which extend the interventions produced by temporary and sharing values are effectively contributing to transform our cities? Are IP tackling contemporary challenges as the creation of an adaptive city? Are their negative effects being addressed? How can we incorporate the emergence of the temporary and sharing practices in urban processes and public policies?

2 Research Object:

Intermittent LX intends to reflect on these key questions proposing the following two-fold research object: i) The concepts, rationales and processes that support IP occurring in the Lisbon's Municipality between 2011 and 2021; ii) The setting of strategies and design tools in which IP act as catalysts and urban resources for activating urban transformations.

Acknowledging a wider scope of the IP, demonstrated by the significant spatial and social urban changes emerged over the past years, Intermittent LX systematises a diversified set of IP, subsequently evaluated according to their urban transformative capacity, which will allow the definition of the design toolbox.

The project's temporal framework (2011-2021) and spatial focus (Lisbon Municipality) provide a rich and diverse ground to learn from. It is a period during which Lisbon faced a fast transition from a deep economic recession and social crisis to an economic renaissance and a regeneration-based planning model. During this period, new paradigms of action seem to emerge, through localised proposals and small initiatives, which unlocked the potential of places immediately, rather than in the longer term.

All this requires critical assessment for future adjustment, also at the light of the current pandemic crisis, seen as an opportunity to rethink the way we live in cities and design them.

3 Research Plan:

The project will be developed through a research flow in three linear steps:

- SWITCH ON_Recognition and Mapping;
- CONNECT_Analysis and Discussion;
- LIGHT UP_Future Scenarios and Forward-looking Tools.

Those stages are in permanent interaction between the research's object (Lisbon's IP), the conceptual core (IP's transformative capacity) and a continuous ring of open communication with partners, stakeholders, community and state-of-the-art scientific knowledge.

Crossed with this research flow, the project comprises six tasks, some including subtasks, as follows:

Task 1. Conceptual framework

Re-defines and updates the conceptual framework of the project, in line with international literature, makes the research's operational and methodological adjustments, and sets the basis to engage the international temporary and sharing practices knowledge network. Task1a. Literature Review and Critical Discussion; Task1b. Methodological Refinement; Task1c. Capacity-building Networking.

Task 2. Featuring the Intermittent Practices in Lisbon

Builds a comprehensive evolutionary archive of IP occurring in the Lisbon's Municipality between 2011 and 2021. This database will provide an open-access online map, allowing subsequent analysis and discussion. Task2a. Mapping the Intermittent Practices; Task2b. Characterisation and Discussion of Intermittent Practices.

Task 3. Evaluation of Impacts and Synergies of Intermittent Practices

Provides a multi-method assessment and critical discussion on the IP case studies' impacts, synergies and potential to transformative actions in the city. Task3a. Systematisation of Impacts and Synergies; Task3b. Contributions to Transformative Actions in the City (follow-ups of Tasks 2a and 2b).

Task 4. Projecting Future Scenarios

Develops a forward-looking perspective regarding the lessons learned from the Lisbon IP analysis. Throughout design-oriented exercises (Pin Competitions, Calls, Speculative Walk, In Situ Workshop), future scenarios of urban transformation resulting from IP are proposed, tested, debated, and framed in their key components, further systematised in a design toolbox. Task4a. Future looking, spatialised and design-oriented Exercise; Task4b. Toolbox for activating Intermittent Practices.

Task 5. Discussion and Dissemination

Promotes the project's discussion and the dissemination of the outputs, to facilitate information and knowledge exchange between the scientific community, institutions and society.

Task 6. Project Management

Secures the necessary management actions for the achievement of Intermittent LX's objectives, reporting and milestones.

4 The Embryo Project: Collecting the Lisbon IP

Intends to operationalise the start-up of the project – the "Switch on" step. As such, it develops primarily Task 2a (Featuring the Intermittent Practices in Lisbon) using Task 1 (Conceptual Framework), as a conceptual and theoretical basis.

Assuming Task 2a as the Project's pillar in terms of data collection, the Embry Project plans to recognise and map a diversified set of IP occurring in the Lisbon's Municipality (2011-2021), defining the chart of the Intermittencies Circuit (IC).

Considering the *modus operandi* of the IP that do not have a range of elements that simultaneously support their continuity and are not structured around a central purpose, IC organises the IP in clusters of cases configured in diverse taxonomies, according to four questions, where, who uses, who makes and why, referring to:

"Where?" realm of a taxonomy's action: Housing; Working, Leisure and Services; Culture and Art Action; Mobility; Activism and Community Use.

"Who uses?" type of IP users and their relationship to the established society: niche; society realm; starter.

"Who makes?" type of agents (lead organisation) of IP: Squatters/Citizen Activists; Community Group/Informal Organisation; Architects/Artist Collective; Small Scale Entrepreneurs/Developers; City Agency/Municipality.

"Why?" dominant motivation behind a taxonomy's action: Economic; Ecologic; Cultural; Political; Social.

To map the IP, it will be used sources and methods as: i) literature review; ii) interviews to key actors; iii) data and documental analysis available from partners, and from parishes, architecture offices or civic associations; iv) exploratory walks and in situ observation; v) photo-interpretation.

For the Embryo Project, the following outputs are foreseen: i) Website/Digital Platform; ii) Data folder for each case study (in the Website/Digital Platform); iii) Participation in an international conference; iv) 1 scientific article with indexation (ISI or Scopus) ("Mapping Intermittent Practices, a methodological contribution").

5 Project Team:

Facing the interdisciplinary nature of the challenge and the different dimensions of the problem, Intermittent LX gathers researchers – in an elected gender-balanced – from different disciplines and specialisations. Interdisciplinarity, and its combination of methodologies, from architecture, collaborative planning and social sciences, is one of the project's strengths we believe will be crucial for addressing its goals.

The team background and experience is further boosted with the involvement of the Institutional Partners (Municipality of Lisbon – CML); National Directorate-General for Territory – DGT; DLBC Lisbon Network (Community-Led Local Developments); Start-up Lisboa; and of the Advisory Committee (D. Patti (IT); Urban Catalyst (DE); M. Pestana (PT/UK); J.A. Rio Fernandes (PT); Vivero de Iniciativas Ciudadanas (ES), with high level international reputation and a wide experience in several fields related to the project's subject. The Advisory Committee's members will contribute to its achievements and to ensure its high academic standard of knowledge creation, brokerage and dissemination.

EXPECTED SCIENTIFIC RESULTS

Research-wise, Intermittent LX expects to contribute to the national and international debate on temporary uses and sharing practices, progressing the state-of-the-art. The project will also contribute to the reflection about the city's adaptation to the Covid-19 crisis, by supporting responses to create a more adaptive city.

Policy-wise, Intermittent LX aims to inform the temporary and sharing initiatives ahead of the EU programming cycle post-2020, as well as the municipal urban policies, contributing to foster culture change in the planning community.

In an educational plan, considering IP as a pedagogical tool, the project will help to overcome the idea of static programs, by reframing the project as a process of change.

Finally, assuming a collaborative partnership between the university, administration and civil society, one of the most important outcomes of this research is to offer a set of tools to activate urban transformations, the Toolbox for activating Intermittent Practices. Gaping the bridge between research and action, Intermittent LX expects to transform a theoretical study into a practical tool for intervention.

BUDGET: € 7.500,00

b) Missions

- Fieldwork and Networking | Cost: €1972,20 | Rationale: Objective/description: fieldwork and networking; dissemination of the project and participation in the international debate on temporary uses and sharing practices; discussion of previous results of Task 2 to be included in a scientific article ("Mapping Intermittent Practices, a methodological contribution"); Costs (Europe, 3 team members, 4 days): 3*(travel €300,00 + 4*(daily allowances at 100% €89,35)) = €1972,2

d) Acquisition of other goods and services

- Website/Digital Platform | Cost: €4500,00 | Rationale: Objective: information on the project development, database, events and results; Description: preparation of the digital support system to be functional as: website, month 1 (Task 1c); digital platform for mapping, month 4 -Task 2a -, (the call includes technical support in Informatics and Graphic Design); Costs: conception, design and launch of the platform €4500,00.
- English Review | Cost: €500,00 | Rationale: Website's English Review, month 1; digital platform's English Review, month 4.
- Current Expenses | Cost: €250,00m | Rationale: Current expenses, €250/year.
- Bibliography | Cost: €277,80 | Rationale: Acquisition of bibliography, €277,80/year