

Communicate to prevent LoKSAND Project

A.C. Antunes⁽¹⁾ | P. Teves-Costa^(1, 2) | F. Ferrigni⁽³⁾ | L. Matias^(1, 2)
⁽¹⁾CERU- Centro Europeu de Riscos Urbanos, Lisboa, Portugal | ⁽²⁾Instituto Dom Luiz, Lisboa Portugal | ⁽³⁾CUEBC – Centro Universitario Europeo per i Beni Culturali, Itália



INTRODUCTION

Communities are often aware of the risks they are facing and would even like to contribute to their mitigation but they do not know how to do so. The LoKSAND project, through the construction of a platform where people can report risk situations that are then forwarded to the competent authorities, will allow the involvement of the population on risk mitigation. At the same time, the dissemination of this type of projects, in particular through schools and media, will alert the most unsuspecting people to the risks that exist in their region. Some aspects of the implementation of this project in Portugal and Italy are presented here, as well as a brief explanation of the contents of the website built for the municipality of Odivelas on the main risks that affect its territory.



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LoKSAND PROJECT



- Before the implementation of the LoKSAND project, the European University for the Cultural Heritage (CUEBC) started its work with a survey of all the natural disasters that affected the Amalfi Coast in the last 10 years.
 - In 2020, CUEBC built and implemented the Protect Your Territory (PYT) page for the Amalfi Coast (<https://www.tutelailtuoterrotorio.it>) (Ferrigni and Sorrentino, 2020).
 - This page presents the territory and its people, as well as the natural areas, the most important monuments and the protected areas, highlighting the existing risks.
 - Through this page, it is possible to collect reports from citizens and visitors about the risk situations that can be found in this coast, transmit them to the competent authorities and local media, and monitor the follow-up. With this purpose, the page contains a “Report Form” (RF).
 - The page was presented in several schools.
 - A publicity campaign was carried out with the local media.
- The project was dedicated not only to the school population but also to any citizen or visitor.
 - The pilot area is the municipality of Odivelas.
 - The page dedicated to urban risks in this area (<https://riscosurbanos.pt>) was built in 2021 to alert the population about the different urban risks that may exist and to motivate their reporting.
 - The page can be opened on any device, facilitating reporting situations (Figure 1).
 - It was presented at a high school in the municipality, encouraging students to use it in their home-school journey.
 - The importance of the motto “Communicate to prevent” was highlighted, the basis for the implementation of the page.
 - Contacts were made with the Civil Protection of Odivelas, to allow the future management of the page.
 - The reported situations can be easily entered into the municipality's accident database.

riscosurbanos.pt WEBPAGE

- The page was developed for the municipality of Odivelas and can be replicated in other areas or municipalities.
- One of the main concerns was to explain each of the potential risks existing in the municipality and exemplify how they can be identified.
- The page is written in Portuguese but allows automatic translation into 5 more languages (English, French, Italian, Spanish and Russian).
- In the Homepage, it is possible to immediately present a report concerning a risk situation. However, through the menu, or the scroll on the mobile phone, information can be consulted about what is the LoKSAND project and what are its aims (Figure 1).
- The presentation of the Odivelas area, includes the geotectonic characterization (Figure 2) and the presentation of places of interest (Figure 3) as well as the main risks existing in the territory (Figure 1).
- For each risk, a brief description and illustrative examples are presented (Figure 4).
- To present the report, a form is filled with the identification of the reporter (optional), identification of the type of risk (which can be other than those presented), location, description of the risk situation and, if desired, the upload of photographs.
- After reporting the situation, an automatic email is sent to the managing entity of the page, which will have to validate the veracity of the report for later publication and submission to the competent authorities.



Figure 1 - Riscosurbanos.pt homepage visualized on a mobile phone

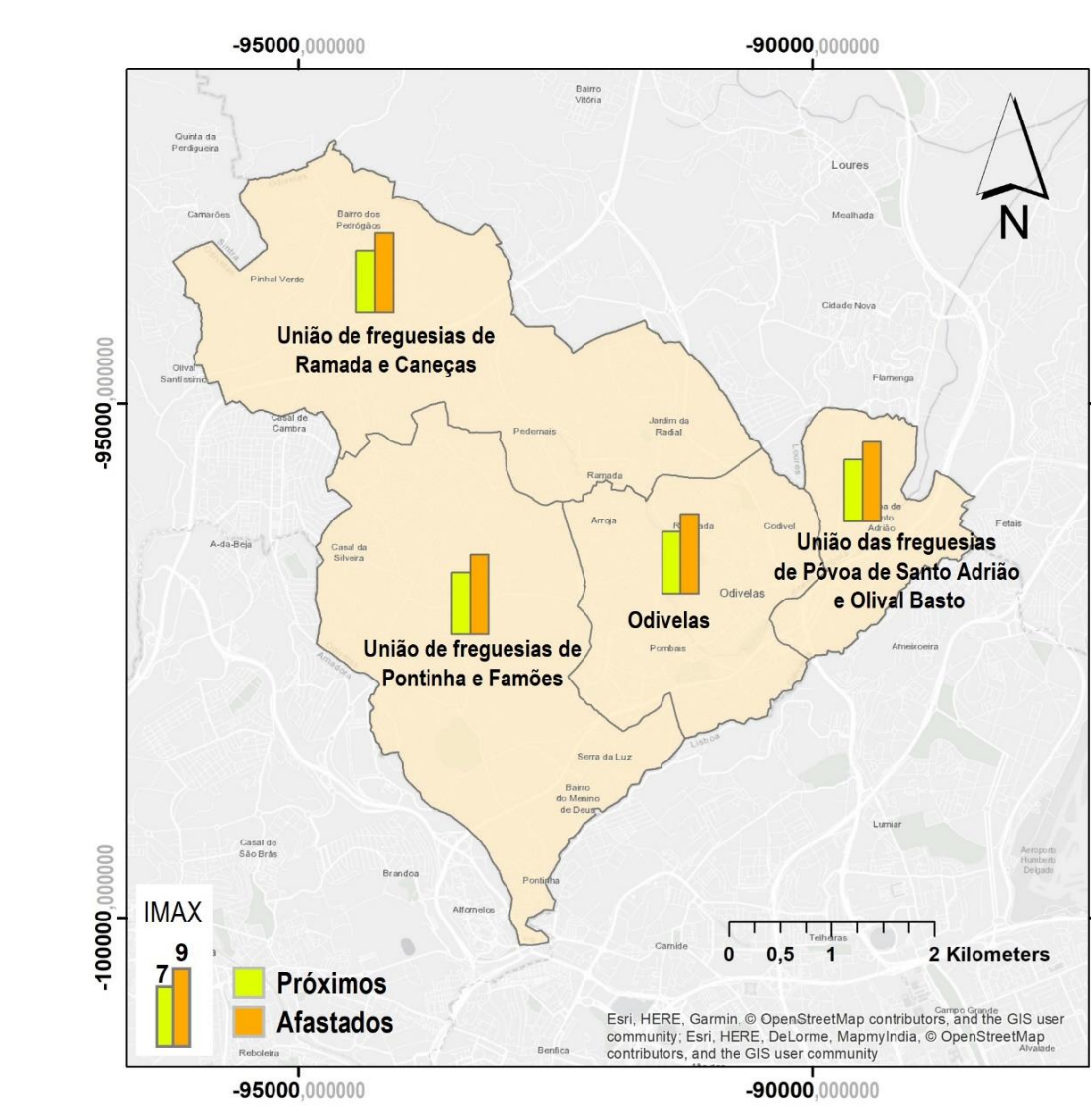


Figure 2 - Information on the maximum intensities recorded in the county (included in the geotectonic characterization)

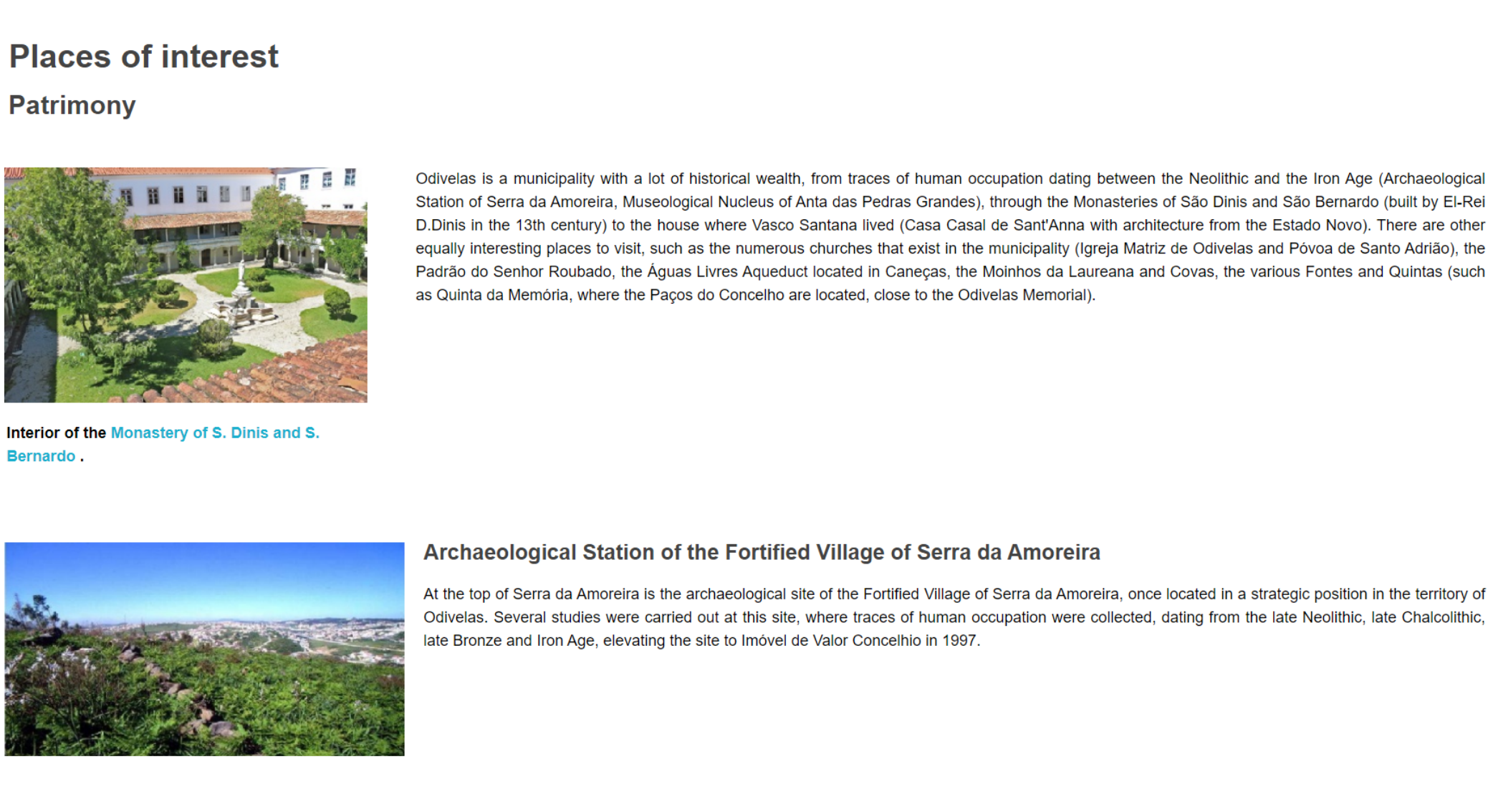


Figure 3 – Example of places of interest displayed on the webpage



Figure 4 - Example of urban risks (narrow streets)

CONCLUSION

With the growing expansion of urban centres, there is an increase on inherent risks, making their prevention and mitigation vital to avoid major disasters. The population is often aware of the risks in their region but does not know what to do to mitigate them. On the other hand, this knowledge is not used by local decision-makers. Projects like LoKSAND, developed in small communities, aim to present people with a simple way to contribute to the mitigation of existing risks in their region. In addition, contact with the local media is very effective in alerting the authorities and encouraging decision-makers to take mitigating measures.

The participation of schools in this type of project is very important, as it allows children and young people to grow up with an awareness of the risks they are facing and shows how they should report them to contribute to their mitigation. As it is well known, children are, of course, a vehicle for transmitting information to parents, grandparents, and other family members. In addition, young people are more familiar with new technologies and can easily pass the information to other generations. This makes the community more involved, from the youngest to the elderly, in its safety, allowing to prevent and mitigate urban risks, making it more resilient.

References:
Ferrigni, F., Sorrentino, M.C. (2020). Guidelines for the creation of PYT pages (Protect Your Territory). LoKSAND - Local KNOWLEDGE AND Schools Against NATURAL DISASTERS, CUEBC.

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