



The importance of data science for Smart Cities

(Portugal, 10th of January 2024) Effective collaboration between municipalities, companies, communities, and other entities that search for better solutions to improve citizens' quality of life is a fundamental component in constructing a Smart City. The creation of operations centres and living labs allows decision-makers to develop practical and strategic plans supported by innovative technology that contributes to the development of more intelligent infrastructures and software capable of responding to the challenges of city life.

The concept of smart cities is increasingly present when thinking about the future, and governance has become more prominent in the requirements for cities to be considered Smart, including creating new policies and standards.

Several Portuguese municipalities, companies and universities have developed projects to effectively collect real-time data to provide decision-makers with the correct information and ensure fast and targeted services.

[Cascais](#), [Famalicão](#) and [Guimarães](#) are three examples of municipalities that created integrated operations centres, with specialized technicians, for the collection and analysis of data allowing for better planning and intelligent management of solutions that meet the challenges of the city and rapid action by the services, such as civil protection in disaster situations.

In Cascais, CO2 - Cascais Control Center - believes that the municipality, as a Smart City, is based on three major pillars: smart citizenship, environment and intelligent energy and mobility. It increasingly aims to establish Cascais as a national and international reference regarding smart cities.

In Famalicão and Guimarães, the operation control centres, like Cascais, seek to manage the territory intelligently, increase civic participation of residents and tourists, create professional opportunities, develop new sectors and invest in start-ups that operate in this area. Also, in [Boticas](#) far from the urban centres, the first steps are already being taken to make the town more intelligent and attract people from big cities. Intelligent management of urban waste and natural resources are two of the City Council's top priorities, as well as facilitating access to services through a platform called Autarquia24.

Universities, centres of growth and innovation, are increasingly investing in creating Living Labs to motivate new generations to understand and study the importance of developing sustainable solutions and projects supported by cutting-edge technologies, which aim to revolutionize and improve the quality of life for all.

The [Universidade Nova de Lisboa](#) developed the Urban Analytics Lab to quickly respond to the population's needs through measurement systems that facilitate city mobility and traffic flow.

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