Artéria: the role of community in building local knowledge for artistic intervention projects

*Claudia Carvalho*¹, A. Nuno Martins²
¹Center for Social Studies, University of Coimbra, Portugal
²CIAUD, Research Center of Architecture, Urbanism and Design, Faculty of Architecture, University of Lisbon, Portugal

Arteria is a regional and international project which is developing both an artistic and academic initiative to work with a group of local agents (Municipalities, Universities, artistic agents and artistic schools) in order to develop a network of artistic, social and academic intervention in 10 cities (Coimbra, Montemor-o-Velho, Aveiro, Leiria, Guarda, Castelo Branco, Belmonte, Viseu, Tomar and Nazaré) of the centre region of Portugal to build local projects of artistic intervention in these urban sites. The main goal is to create a regional dynamic with a concrete local social impact, proposing a new paradigm of cultural relation of the region with the national and international territory. One of the main branches of this project is the creation of a web tool – an online platform – that enables a cultural mapping exercise at the regional level which compiles both a community-based ‘human’ approach to the use of participatory mapping technologies and a congregation of efforts of organization and compilation, both at institutional and individual level. The uniqueness of this effort of articulation between digital technologies and human based participatory approaches is the fact that artistic intervention projects are planned to happen in the different local communities, based on the information compiled in the online platform and on local research by multidisciplinary teams of artists and social researchers. The goal is to encourage community transformation and socio-cultural planning through the articulation between the construction of an online platform and the establishment of an engaged local community.

The Arteria project is important because it catalysis local community discussions and actions through artistic interventions, in order to better prepare and position communities and their residents to act within broader forces of change.

*Keywords: local knowledge platforms, artistic practice, cultural mapping, community participation*

*Presenting author*