

## Alfama Smart Sustainable District (alfa-AMA SSD) Project

With an existing aging population facing a high influx of young professionals, with old deteriorating buildings standing next to luxuriously refurbished developments, and new businesses competing with long established trade, the historic Alfama district has many faces. The goal of the Alfama Smart Sustainable Districts (alfa-AMA SSD) Project is to overcome these challenges and create a “sustainable and healthy Alfama for all”, focusing on the implementation of sustainable integrated solutions regarding climate change and innovation in the district.

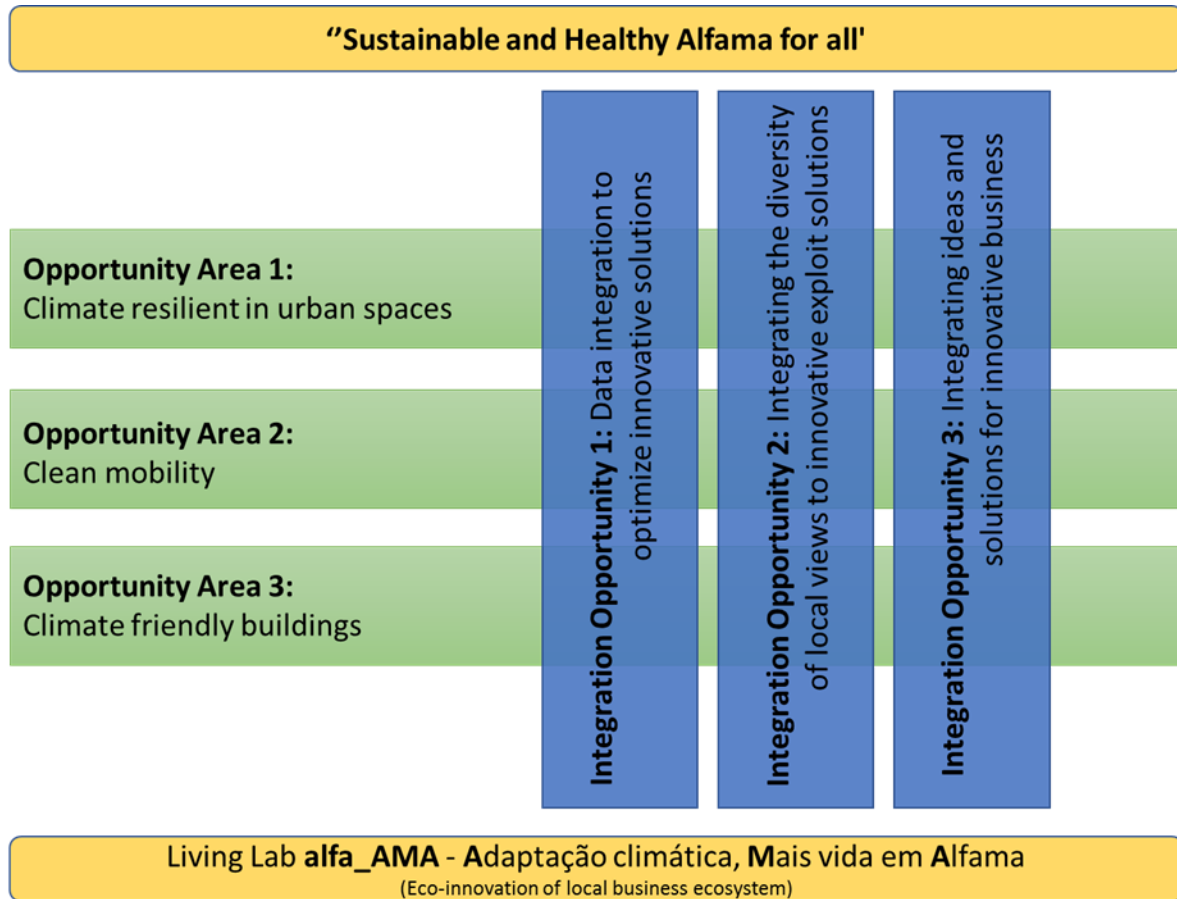


Figure 1 - Potential opportunities for alfa-AMA SSD project supported by an integrated approach.

This will be achieved by identifying and supporting the development of innovative and entrepreneurial solutions in Alfama, relying on a comprehensive approach with a strong emphasis on social innovation as an outcome of a social interactive process, in which the solutions are defined in co-creation with local citizens and stakeholders. Within this context, three priority axes have been identified:

<b>Priorities</b>	<b>Why?</b>
<b>Climate resilient public spaces</b>	Public spaces are critical to support life in any urban area. In Alfama, they are particularly important since the enjoyable use of streets, and public spaces in general, is a popular practice that has crossed the centuries and still constitutes one of the main features of the district's identity. Therefore, their requalification is imperative to improve adaptation to climate changes, attract new residents, develop local commerce, while reinforcing the sense of belonging and the empowerment of the local economy.
<b>Clean mobility</b>	Due to its orography and narrow streets, Alfama is very limited in terms of public and private transport system, presenting serious mobility issues. The project goal is to identify the best solutions to improve mobility and boost social inclusion of elderly people by focusing on low carbon and clean transportation modes and encouraging residents to use active and healthy mobility options.
<b>Climate friendly buildings</b>	Despite the rehabilitation policy being at the forefront of Lisbon priorities, considerable challenges have risen in the last years. Generally, Alfama has poor housing conditions which, together with the current real estate speculation, results in a decrease of life conditions and resident population. The aim of αAMA SSD project is to anchor current population and attract new one through buildings' refurbishment and energy efficiency improvement to reduce local fuel poverty and improve thermal comfort.

Therefore, the rationale of the project is to address the needs of those who live and visit Alfama in a systematic approach converging into integrated and complementary solutions. To reach this cross-cutting results, three key integration opportunities were identified:

<b>Integration Opportunity</b>	<b>How?</b>
<b>Integration of data</b>	Data Integration from different sources will help to better understand the problems, overcome barriers, improve synergies and achieve a greater collaborative potential between users. This collaborative environment will enhance and support the identification of innovative solutions, and bring more business value, while it has the ability to create new start-ups.
<b>Local user needs</b>	One of the most important characteristics of Alfama population is their deep neighbourhood relationship. This strong rooted sense of community will be an advantage for the co-design of participatory processes. The integration of local user needs regarding buildings, public spaces and mobility aims to improve social inclusion and

	foster innovation processes by adjusting the identified solutions to the local demand and capturing new opportunities.
<b>Ideas to empower local economy</b>	The integration of ideas and solutions for local economic empowerment is the most complex and ultimate integration opportunity, being strongly related to the previous ones. The goal is to prepare a structure to support local entities, residents, investors and other stakeholders to continuously develop the integration of ideas within a context of shared economy, and supporting its transference to the local market.

During the first stage, that will occur until the end of 2017, the **alfa-AMA SSD** project aims to develop an overarching agenda nurturing the implementation of sustainable solutions, taking climate change adaptation and resilience, as well as other environmental problems, as opportunities. Relevant experts from the SSD network will join local experts to identify key opportunities in the district that will lead to long-term projects tackling integrated local district challenges. The key component of this stage is the involvement of up to 30 Alfama stakeholder entities, which are expected to contribute to the identification of integrated solutions, opportunities and challenges that will be the basis for project workstreams regarding climate change and innovation.

The overall coordination of the project will be assumed by Faculty of Sciences and Technology (FCT NOVA), the EIT climate KIC hub for Portugal. Lisboa E-Nova will be responsible for the operationalisation of most of the tasks, due to its privileged position regarding Alfama local stakeholders and the required expertise, namely on buildings energy efficiency, clean mobility and public spaces.

Financially, the project is being funded by Climate KIC, under the Smart Sustainable Districts (SSD) flagship programme. This programme works closely with ambitious city districts across Europe to identify integrated solutions to their climate and sustainability challenges, and intends to be a catalyst for districts that want to go the extra mile - empowering district stakeholders to build innovation capability. Climate-KIC is one of three Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) created by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). It addresses climate change through innovation to build a zero-carbon economy, across four priority themes: urban areas, land use, production systems, climate metrics and finance.

The **alfa-AMA SSD** project is then a great opportunity to approach such a complex ambition, and simultaneously empower local economy, address the needs of elderly and vulnerable residents, attract new residents, and find a balance with sustainable tourism practices.