



PRESS RELEASE

“Autonomous Stores” Project Ends with Workshop Open to the Public for a Reflection on Findings

Lisbon, January 5, 2025 - The “Autonomous Stores” project (www.autonomoustores.net), which explores the sociocultural and technological transformations of stores without people and based on computer vision and AI, announces its closing workshop, scheduled for January 24, 2025. This public event will bring together project participants, experts and the general community to present and discuss the final conclusions of the research.

This project is funded by FCT – Foundation for Science and Technology under the reference 2022.02730.PTDC

Closing Workshop – January 24, 2025

The workshop, which will be hybrid and will take place at the FCSH premises and via Zoom, will be a unique opportunity to:

- Presentation of Project Findings: A comprehensive overview of the impacts of autonomous stores on the retail ecosystem, digital infrastructures and society.
- Dialogue with Experts and Participants: Discussion of the main findings with experts, stakeholders and the public.
- Moment of Reflection and Future Proposals: Debate on the next steps for the research and practical implications of the project.

The event will be open to the public without the need for prior registration, reinforcing the project's commitment to transparency and the dissemination of knowledge.

Highlighted Project Activities

1. Participation in International Conferences

The project team presented at four renowned conferences, including:

- European Sociological Association (ESA) Congress - Porto, Portugal (August 27-30);

- European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA) Conference - Ljubljana, Slovenia (September 24-27);
- Once Upon a Byte Conference - Italy (October 26);
- Spanish Congress of Sociology - Seville, Spain (June 26-29)

2. Participation in RTP2's "Civil Society" program

On February 8, the project took part in the "Civil Society" program to discuss the role of autonomous stores and new media as emerging infrastructures in contemporary cities.

3. Academic Production and Reports

- Book chapter accepted for publication: Analysis of the representation of autonomous stores in the media, to be published in a leading academic work.
- Interim Report: Published in March 2024, detailing the main advances of the research to date.

4. Data generation

- 18 interviews with national and international players in the autonomous store ecosystem.

5. Scientific Discussions

- Scientific discussion as part of the "Reading Group: Digital Technology & Society" in April 2024, addressing the role of digital infrastructures.

6. New Scientific Articles in Development

- Autonomous Shops and the Portuguese Innovation Ecosystem: A study on local innovation dynamics.
- Visions and Practices for Implementing Autonomous Stores: A comparative analysis of technological and strategic approaches.

7. Consultancy and Collaboration

- A face-to-face meeting with one of the project's consultants reinforced the integration of expert feedback into the analysis and strategies.

About the "Autonomous Stores" project

The "Autonomous Stores" project analyzes the impact of automation technologies on the retail sector, investigating the social, economic and cultural implications. Led by a multidisciplinary team, the project is an important contribution to reflection on the urban and technological transformations of the present and the future.

For more information, visit: www.autonomoustores.net

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