

## **A Methodology to Delimit and Characterize Local Scale Territorial Units**

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The study of Local Scale Territorial Units uses two complementary concepts:

- "Piece of Territory", morpho-typological reality, homogeneous in terms of physical fabric (public space + lots + buildings + biophysical elements).

- "Base Land Unit" (BLU), functional and experiential reality.

Its delimitation and characterization uses a set of attributes, whose recognition requires the use of complementary analysis methods; the following were considered:

- Use of Statistical Data;
- Identification of Buildings by Digital Method;
- Identification of Landscape Patterns on Aerial Photography;
- Empirical Knowledge on Cartography;
- Identification of Neighbourhood Networks through Questionnaire.

The "Identification of Buildings by Digital Method", developed within this research, consists of a digital aggregation of buildings and roads, which distinguishes three types of building ensembles: "continuous", "dispersed" and "rarefied".

The results of this method are very useful, particularly to identify dispersed Basic Land Units using an indicator called "degree of urbanisation", which considers:

- The quantity of dispersed building ensembles within a territorial unit.
- The "degree of disaggregation" of their continuous building ensembles.

This communication presents the results achieved through the application of this methodology to our case studies: Aveiro-Ílhavo and Évora.

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