



MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS 2022

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR HOSTING MARIE CURIE FELLOWS

HOST INSTITUTION

NOVA FCSH | School of Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Unit: CICS.NOVA

RESEARCH GROUP AND URL

RG3: Cities, Environment and Regional Development
<https://www.cics.nova.fcsh.unl.pt/research/research-groups/3-cities-environment-and-regional-development>

SUPERVISOR (NAME AND E-MAIL)

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SHORT CV OF THE SUPERVISOR

Iva Miranda Pires is Associate Professor at NOVA School of Social Sciences and Humanities, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa; she has a PhD in Human Geography, from the University of Lisbon. She is the coordinator of the PhD program in Human Ecology. She is member of the WG to implement at NOVA University the Seal of Excellence "Healthy Food in Higher Education". She is a senior researcher at CICS.Nova, the Interdisciplinary Centre of Social Sciences. Since 2018 she is member of the Advisory Board of the National (Portuguese) Commission to Combat Food Waste. She was involved in the coordination or as team member of several research projects funded by the Portuguese Science Foundation (FCT) as well as international projects. She coordinated two projects funded by FCT (2006-2013) and the project Making Science work in Society (2010-13), Acções Integradas Luso-Britânicas Luso- financed by CRUP. She co-coordinated a project on food waste in Portugal, PERDA (Project on the Study and Reflection on Food Waste) a Green Ideas Award 2011, the first study on food waste and the first estimate on food loss and waste in the FSC in Portugal. She was the scientific coordinator of FELOW Mundus (2013-2017), an Erasmus Mundus mobility program led by UNL, joining 17 Universities, 6 European and 11 Latin American universities. She was the coordinator of the Portuguese team in an Erasmus+ project With Nature to Mutual Understanding (2016-2019). Presently she is coordinating an EU KA2 Erasmus+ project Read4Succeed (2019-2022) and is member of an Erasmus KA220-HED project A new academic path for EU Project managers: narrowing the gaps to enable better project design and management in Europe (EUPM) (2021–2024). She is a team member (as an expert) of the project European Consumer Food Waste Forum (2021-2023), coordinated by the Joint Research Center (JRC) with the support of DG SANTE that aims to gather data and identify a variety of evidence-based, practical solutions to reduce food waste at the consumer level, including household and food services.

Her main scientific areas of research are human ecology, sustainable development, food systems and food waste, social and economic geography. As regards her academic experience she has several publications on these topics, including books, book chapters and academic papers. She was visiting professor at Brazilian as well as European Universities. She organized and participated in seminars, symposia, conferences, and national and international congresses and workshops. She also supervises several master and PhD thesis. She has experience and skills on science communication, namely on food waste. She works practically with schools on activities for food waste prevention, with consumer engagement to create awareness for sustainable consumption forms, food waste and solutions and with various stakeholders to reduce food waste and to increase public awareness on it.

5 SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Pires, I.; Machado, J.; Rocha, A.; Liz Martins, M. (2022). Food Waste Perception of Workplace Canteen Users—A Case Study. Sustainability, 14 (3): 1324. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su14031324>

- Pires, I., Fernandez-Zamudio, M., Vidal-Mones, B., Beltrão-Martins, R. (2020). The Impact of COVID-19 lockdown on Portuguese household's food waste behaviors. *Human Ecology Review*, 26 (1):59-69.
- Pires, I. (2019). Sustainable food transitions, moving from visions to practices: World Agendas on Sustainable Development and Local initiatives, paper presented at the Conference Learning from Transformative Action and Thinking, 16-18 Outubro, Santiago do Chile
- Pires, I. (2018). Desperdício Alimentar. Série Ensaaios, nº86. Lisboa: Fundação Francisco Manuel dos Santos. Depósito Legal nº444169/18
- Lorena, D; Pires, I. (2016). Combating food waste in Portugal: a case study of a civil society initiative, in I. Anna S. Olsson, Sofia M. Araújo and M. Fátima Vieira (Ed.) *Food futures: ethics, science and culture*, 9789086868346 (e-book -online only), 618 pag, Pages: 107 – 112. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.3920/978-90-8686-834-6_15. Wageningen: Wageningen Academic Publishers. eISBN: 978-90-8686-834-6 ISBN: 978-90-8686-288-7.

PROJECT TITLE AND SHORT DESCRIPTION

Creating food security systems to cope with unexpected Crises

Globally, about 1/3 of the food produced is lost or wasted. In the EU 88Mt of food is lost or wasted every year with associated environmental, economic, and social cost. At the same time globally 822 million people are food insecure, the COVID-19 pandemic has pushed 135 million more into that situation and the impact of the war in Ukraine is still to be assessed.

Food insecurity is a complex and dynamic social phenomenon that affects families that at some time during their lives and due to several circumstances lack access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs. Food insecurity can be found in various degree and can be associated to economic and social inequalities, enhanced by COVID Pandemic that caused a chain effect by affecting the main food donors, namely restaurants and canteens, that reduced food donations. According to the study “React-covid inquérito sobre alimentação e atividade física em contexto de contenção social”, conducted by Direção Geral da Saúde in May 2020, 8% of interviewed reported financial difficulties to access food (DGS, 2020). The changing situation of vulnerable families in the Covid 19 pandemic cannot be answered from prior knowledge or research: the pandemic created a situation that did not exist before and a change that came unexpectedly, for which neither the families nor the social institutions have been prepared. The pandemic caused changing behaviour and practices of actors providing food security, especially actors that act in economic roles and suffer from financial losses through the pandemic (farmers, food producers, donors). Details about the new attempts of the vulnerable families to get access to food in the unexpected crisis are not yet known. It is only known that the institutional support for the families was affected temporarily or for longer time (as, for the example, the support for health care for many elderly and sick people in the pandemic).

Food donation although not being the solution plays a key role in the relief of food insecurity. The research is required to build new resilient food donor systems, created through joint learning from the crisis. Ideas should be collected through from all actors involved to build food security systems that are better prepared for unexpected, connected crises of which the crisis of food donation is an important part. The research is also required to study the food security-food waste nexus as reducing food loss and waste holds great potential for enhancing food security. The vulnerable families and the weak social groups that cannot sufficiently act by themselves to improve their situation (children, poor, elderly, unemployed, socially excluded) are in focus in the research.

SCIENTIFIC AREA WHERE THE PROJECT FITS BEST*

Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC)