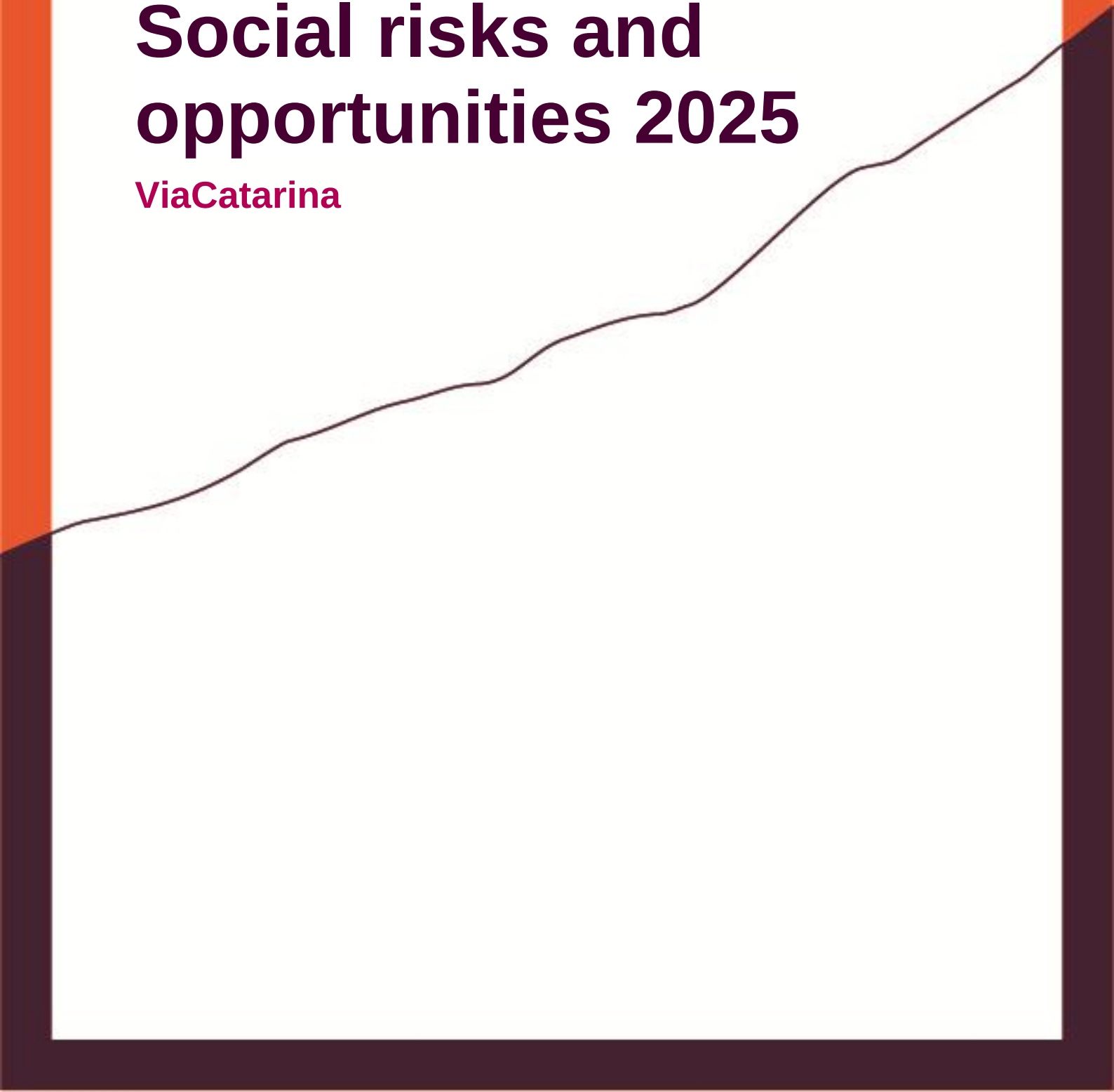


Social risks and opportunities 2025

ViaCatarina



01. Introduction

The Social Risks and opportunities study aimed to analyse and evaluate the Social Risks and opportunities, to which ViaCatarina Shopping, located in the city/municipality of Porto, Portugal, is exposed to.

According to the BREEAM In-Use International scheme, the RSL 08 criterion aims to assess both the social risks to which an asset may be exposed and the opportunities it may generate to enhance social well-being, particularly for underrepresented or vulnerable groups. This assessment evaluates how the asset interacts with its surrounding community and supporting infrastructure, considering both the potential impacts it may have on the community and the risks it may face, due to community-related factors. Special attention is given to vulnerable groups, examining how local vulnerabilities could be amplified or mitigated by the assets' presence and operations.

Ultimately, this assessment supports a more socially resilient approach to asset management, encouraging actions and strategies that not only mitigate risk, but also enhance community well-being, inclusivity, and the long-term social value of the asset.

02. Social risks and opportunities

The assessment considers specific indicators related to the surrounding socio-economic, demographic, and institutional context, as well as health, safety, security, and climate risks. These factors are analysed to provide a comprehensive and structured understanding of the risks and opportunities associated with the asset.

The main social aspects identified in this assessment include:

- **Population & Aging:** Portugal's population in 2023 was 10.64 million, with 1.8 million in the Porto Metropolitan Area (16.9%). Porto, in particular, has 248,769 residents. The aging index was highest in Porto (215.2), compared to 188.1 nationally and 185.4 regionally.
- **Birth Rate & Active Population:** Portugal had a low crude birth rate in 2023 (8.1‰), slightly lower in the Porto Metropolitan Area (7.4‰) and 7.8‰ in the city of Porto. The active population in 2024 was 5.28 million nationally, with 1.82 million in the North Region.
- **Migration Trends:** Portugal in 2023, registered permanent emigration rose by 8.8%, while immigration increased by 13.3%. Porto's foreign resident population grew from 50 238 in 2020 to 55 473 in 2021.
- **Security:** Portugal scored 0 on the Global Terrorism Index, indicating no recorded terrorist activity. Nationally, the crime rate declined to 33.4% in 2024. However, Porto reported a significantly higher rate of 61.5%, with a total of 15

310 crimes reported. The majority were property-related (66%), followed by offences against individuals (18%).

- **Education & Literacy:** Illiteracy has declined. In 2021, the national rate was 3.08%, the Porto Metropolitan Area 2.32%, and Porto 1.87%, all showing significant improvement since 2011.
- **Poverty & Social Support:** In 2023, 20.1% of Portugal's population was at risk of poverty or social exclusion, slightly better than the EU average (21.4%). The North Region reported a higher rate (22%). Additionally, the number of Social Insertion Income beneficiaries dropped by 8.27% from 2022 (240 841).
- **Labor & Modern Slavery Risks:** Average working week in Portugal was 37.5 hours in 2024 (above EU average, 36.1 hours). Illegal immigration and undeclared work are still issues, especially in agriculture, though illegal immigrant numbers have declined.
- **Economic Indicators:** Portugal's minimum wage in 2024 was €870, earned by 20.8% of the population. Unemployment stands at 6.4% nationally and 6.5% in the North Region. Inflation dropped to 2.42% in 2024, down from a peak of 7.83% in 2022.
- **Public Health:** Life expectancy in Portugal is 82.5 years (85.3 for women, 79.5 for men). The country ranks mid-range in mental well-being. The Porto Metropolitan Area had 11 061 specialized doctors in 2023, with 43.9% based on Porto.
- **Climate Change Risks:** ViaCatarina faces physical risks like heavy precipitation and cold waves/frost.

03. Our impact

ViaCatarina Shopping has implemented a comprehensive set of measures to ensure the safety, well-being and inclusion of everyone who uses the space, as well as to minimize risks. Through a comprehensive process of risk analysis, we anticipate the main hazards and implement preventive measures that allow us to prevent incidents in our facilities. One recent example is the escalator safety awareness campaign, which main goal was to inform the building users, especially children and elderly visitors, about the precautions needed while using escalators.



Figure 1. Escalator safety awareness campaign

Security is a top priority, with high-quality CCTV cameras, trained personnel on-site, and a detailed emergency response plan in place. Additionally, specific procedures are in place to handle terrorism threats, supported by regular drills and training for building workers, reinforcing preparedness across all scenarios.

Health and wellness are also key focuses. The centre partners with a gym to support staff fitness and promotes healthy eating through food court options. Regular health screenings are offered to all building users, while indoor air and water quality are continuously monitored. Occupational health appointments and access to first-aid support, including a defibrillator, to ensure prompt medical attention when needed. Mental health is supported through training sessions, awareness campaigns, and professional medical advice, creating a holistic approach to health.

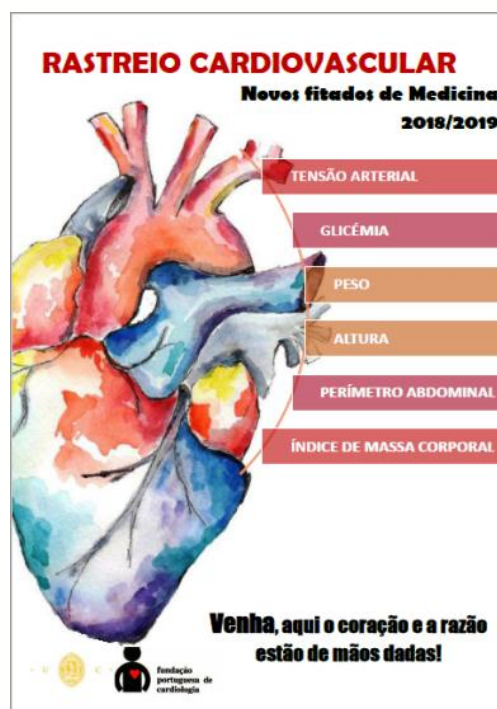


Figure 2. Cardiovascular screenings

Fair labour practices are central to the site's operations. Direct staff receive fair wages and benefits through a formal Remuneration and Compensation Policy. Service providers are also expected to comply with national wage standards and are included in benefits plans. Contracts with tenants and suppliers mandate full compliance with labour and social security legislation, and explicitly promote human rights, adequate working conditions, and fair remuneration policies.

Inclusivity and accessibility are reflected in various aspects of the shopping centre. The space is fully accessible to people with disabilities and the elderly, with ramps, wide aisles, and multilingual signage. Digital tools such as apps and touchscreens provide interactive maps, promotions, and access to events, enhancing the user experience for all visitors.

Community engagement is encouraged through the promotion of local businesses via pop-up shops and cultural events such as live music performances. There are spaces dedicated to affordable retail or social enterprises serving low-income customers. In addition, the centre fosters a sense of belonging through programming for different demographics, youth, seniors and families, making it a welcoming place for relaxation and social interaction. Feedback and suggestions are encouraged through a clear complaints procedure, promoting a responsive and community-centred environment.

Environmental responsibility is also integrated into daily operations. The site has assessed climate risks and developed strategies to build resilience. A certified Safety, Health and Environmental Management System guides efforts to reduce energy and water consumption, promote recycling, and ensure sustainable sourcing. Visitors are encouraged to use public transportation, and electric vehicle chargers are available. The shopping centre is also recognized with respected sustainability certifications such as BREEAM, ISO 14001 and ISO 45001, demonstrating a long-term commitment to environmental stewardship.



Figure 3. Environmental awareness sessions

Overall, this set of integrated initiatives reflects a responsible, inclusive, and sustainable approach to managing a modern shopping centre—one that prioritizes safety, health, human rights, community connection, and environmental resilience.