

Brahim Djebnoune, Houcine Boulamaiz, Inasse Messaoud

Laarbi Tébéssi University, Department of Earth Sciences and Universe, Route de Constatntine, 12002 Tébéssa, Algeria; e-mail: brahim.djebnoune@univ-tebessa.dz; houcine.boulamaiz@univ.tebessa.dz; inessmessaoud97@gmail.com

Urban nights where cities sleep early (case study of Tébéssa city, the Extreme East of Algeria)

Djebnoune B., Boulamaiz H., Messaoud I. **Miejskie noce, podczas których miasta wcześniej śpią (badanie przypadku miasta Tébéssa na północo-wschodzie Algierii)**. Dlaczego większość algierskich miast wcześniej zasypia i stają się one mniej aktywne i dynamiczne w przeciwieństwie do dużych miast na całym świecie? Próbowaliśmy zbadać miasto graniczne, które mogłoby być bardzo aktywne w nocy, jako centrum tranzytowe dla sąsiedniej Tunezji. Aby zaprezentować pracę, zaczynamy od przedstawienia, percepcji i aspiracji mieszkańców pięciu dzielnic Tébéssy, a także zasadne było oddanie głosu dzielnicom wraz z lokalną społecznością, aby wyrazić powody, dla których ludzie nie chcą wychodzić z nocnych powodów historycznych.

Miasto ma stary powód: historyczny związany na przykład z ubezpieczeniami społecznymi lub ekonomicznymi, ponieważ nie ma wsparcia i zachęty dla handlowców i rzemieślników do otwierania swoich sklepów w nocy (celem jest zmniejszenie rachunków za energię i podatków dochodowych). Badania te pozwalają na lepsze zrozumienie sposobu funkcjonowania miejskich nocy. Kładziemy nacisk na przypadek miasta Tébéssa, analizując nasz przedmiot badań z perspektywy symboliki, reprezentacji, organizacji przestrzennej i czasowej, a także z perspektywy jego działalności i usług.

Диебноуне Б., Боуламаиз Г., Мессаоуд И. **Городские ночи, когда города спят рано (на примере города Тебесса, крайний восток Алжира)**. Почему большинство алжирских городов рано засыпают и становятся менее активными и динамичными, в отличие от больших городов мира? Мы попытались изучить пограничный город, который мог бы стать очень активным ночью, как транзитный центр для соседнего Туниса. Для того, чтобы представить работу, мы начнем с представлений, восприятия и чаяний жителей пяти районов города Тебесса; кроме того, была проведена работа с местными заинтересованными сторонами, чтобы дать голос городским компонентам, чтобы выразить причины, которые стоят за нежеланием людей выходить на улицу в ночное время, например, исторические причины.

У города есть старая причина, историческая, связанная с социальным обеспечением, например, или экономическая, потому что нет поддержки и поощрения для торговцев и ремесленников открывать свои магазины ночью, например, с целью уменьшить счета за электричество и подоходные налоги. Это исследование предлагает лучшее понимание того, как функционируют городские ночи. Мы делаем акцент на примере города Тебесса, анализируя объект нашего исследования с точки зрения его символизма, его представлений и его пространственно-временной организации, а также его деятельности и услуг.

Djebnoune B., Boulamaiz H., Messaoud I. **allayali alhadariat 'aw almudun alati tanam bakiran, halat madinat tebassa alsharq aljazayiri**. limadha tanam muezam almudun aljazayiriat mubakiran watusbih 'aqala nashatan wadinamikiatan ealaa eaks almudun alkubraa hawl alealami. laqad hawalna dirasat madinat hududiat yumkin 'an takun nashitatan lilghayat fi allayl mithl markaz eubur lilijarat tunis. min 'ajl taqdim aleamal, nabda bitamthil watasawurat watatalueat alsukaan likhams 'ahya' min madinat tabisat; kama tasharaft mae 'ashab almaslahat almahaliyiyn bi'iieta' sawt limukawinat almadinat liltaebir ean al'asbab alati taqif wara' eadam raghatalnaas fi alkhouruj lyalaan li'asbab tarikhiatin.

walilmadinat sabab qadim watarikhiun yataealaq bialdaman alaijtimeaeii ealaa sabil almithal 'aw aiqtisadii li'anah la yujad daem watashjie liltujaar walhirfiyn lifath matajirihim lyalaan mithl altaqlil min fawatir alkahraba' wadarayib aldakhli.

yaqtarih hadha albahth fhman 'afdal likayfiat eamal allayali alhadariati. nuakid ealaa halat madinat tabisatan min khilal tahlil mawdue bahathna min manzur ramzi watamthilatiha watanzimiha almakanii walzamanii waydan min 'anshitatiha wakhadamatiha.

Key words: Tébéssa, city, urban night, nocturne, activities, services

Słowa kluczowe: Tebessa, miasto, miejska noc, nocny, działalność, usługi

Ключевые слова: Тебесса, город, городская ночь, ночной, деятельность, услуги

alkalimat almiftahiatu: tabisat, almadinat, allayl alhadariu, almusiqa allayliat, al'anshitat, alkhadamatu

Abstract

Why do most of the Algerian cities sleep early and become less active and dynamic unlike the big cities around the world. We have tried studying a border city that could be very active at night like a transit center for the neighbor Tunisia. In order to present the work, we start with the representations, perceptions and the inhabitants' aspirations of five districts of Tébéssa city; also it was privileged with the local stakeholders to give the voice to the city components to express the reasons that stand behind the unwillingness of people to go out at nightlike historical reasons.

The city has an old reason, historical related to the social security for instance or economic because there is no support and encouragement for traders and artisans to open their shops at night likepurposefully to reduce electricity bills and income taxes.

This research proposes a better understanding of how urban nights function. We emphasize on the case of Tébéssa city by analyzing our research subject from its symbolism perspective, its representations and its spatial and temporal organization and also from its activities and services.

Introduction

The theme on urban nights of Algerian cities stimulates the desire of researchers who consider the night as a new subject of scientific research. This manifests in the number of books, theses, articles and conferences worldwide attempting to understand the specifics of this hidden face of our cities. Our first intuition is that "the ur-

ban night is a source of opportunities" (CHAUSSON, 2017).

In the middle of territories, night seems first of all a source of economic opportunities. This latter sounds like an interest of a growing national internationalized number of activities. It is equally a temporality that employs many workers in the pursuit of daytime activities.

Night seems to be a source of social opportunities by being a temporality in which certain values of the contemporary individual are expressed (GWIAZDINSKI, 2002):

- In a constant search for intensity, this latter seems that they find night as a new playful space in which they can dive in social activities separate from the values and codes of diurnal life.
- For this reason, it is necessary to change our perspective about this subject.
- To make this change, we suggest to analysis the nights of our cities through several economic, social and cultural factors, and three concepts of sustainable development.

Attempts of definition

Night is a natural phenomenon; its duration varies constantly depending on the timing of the year and the geographical reference used to indicate it.

Dictionaries define the night primarily:

Night: "the time space that follows evening twilight until morning twilight".

It is the darkness resulting from Earth rotation, when it steals a spot of its surface from sunlight (Time when it is dark).

It is the time space that passes from sunset to sunrise (*Le nouveau petit Robert...*, 2020).

The natural night: astronomical definition in astronomy, night is theoretically the interval between sunset and sunrise. The succession of day and night is determined by Earth rotation.

The inequality of its duration is due to the leaning of axis around which this rotation takes place. It is variable for the different points of the globe in accordance with the positions occupied by Earth in relation to the Sun which enlightens it, doing alternately in light and in shadow in uneven paths. Therefore, night means the darkness reigns during this time (GWIAZDINSKI, 2002).

The urban night is a time space and life style; it is a time of social and economic activity in urban agglomerations.

Whatever are the dictionaries and encyclopedias used, night is constantly defined through the natural mechanism related to Earth rotation. Thus, night (*nox* in Latin) defines the time between sunset and sunrise in which the latter cannot be seen it means subsequently the darkness greater or lesser that accompanies this duration (*Larousse online dictionary*, 2020).

Night in geography: The nocturnal geographic approach in the urban environment allows defining "the nocturnal zones" from the point of their spatial organizations and their nature (GWIAZDINSKI, 2002).

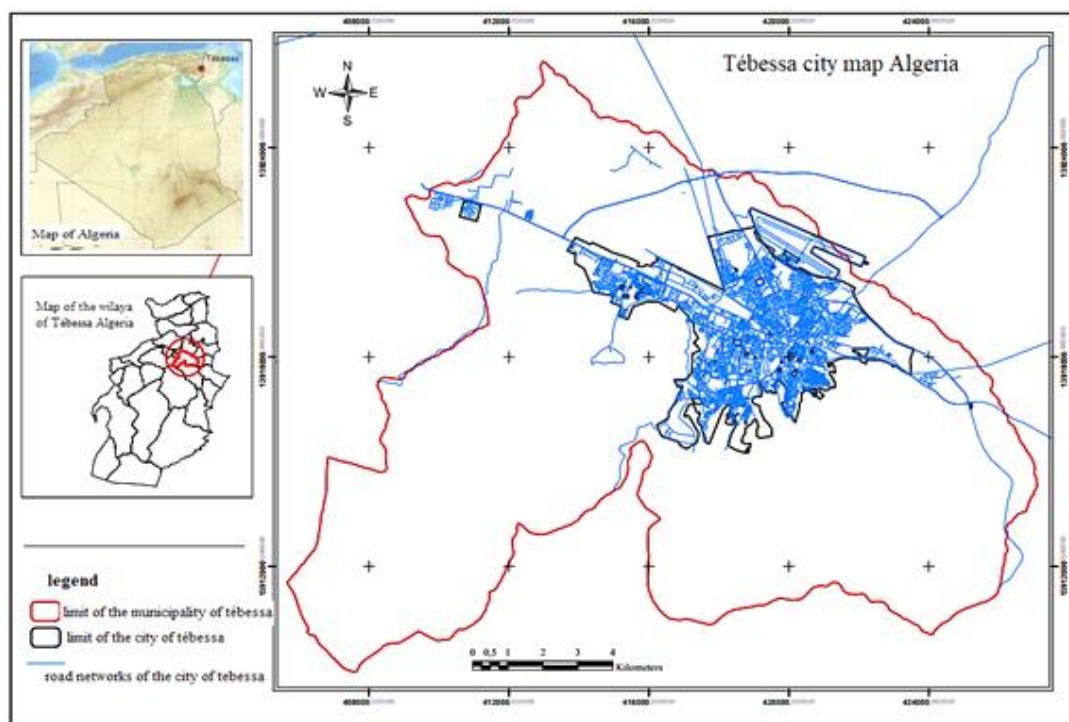


Fig. 1. The geographical location of Tébessa city (Algeria)

Rys. 1. Położenie geograficzne miasta Tébessa (Algeria)

Рис. 1. Местоположение г. Тébесса (Алжир)

Objective of work

Our research will focus on Tébessa city nights. There are several reasons that motivate our selection. First, the city location as an intermediary and a border what made it special in our subject.

On this basis and according to the previous conditions, we were able to identify specific objectives:

- To know the existence of activity during the urban night in the city.

- To explore the night urban system from the questions asked to local inhabitants and stakeholders, and to create observation networks during the city nights.
- To shed light on the cases and issues which accompany the conquest of night to launch activities and services.
- The objectives set required the search of information, and some are related to the activities and services.

To give the word to local inhabitants and representatives to express themselves in the urban nights.

The presentation of study area

The city in the extreme east of Algeria is a part of Tébessa province that covers 138 hectares and 237 273 inhabitants in 2019. It is located in the north-eastern part of the state (fig. 1).

Methodology

Investigation and interview protocol: visions cross the urban nights of Tébessa city online investigations on social media (Facebook).

Definition:

An online investigation is a device to collect and process responses to web-based questionnaires. This questionnaire may cover the satisfaction measurement, the consumers' use (for instance in the context of market survey), or the respondents' opinion in various fields.

The biases of face-to-face client investigations: Investigations are traditional tools well known in marketing.

Generally, they are conducted in two ways:

- Through a paper questionnaire to be filled by the respondent alone.
- Face to face, with a physical person who questions the respondent.

Processing the online survey on a social medium (Facebook), period: February, 05–20, 2021

In order to show the inequalities inside the Algerian cities, we conducted an online questionnaire on Facebook.

This part aims to present the questionnaire's results, which has been developed during the period of Feb 05–20, 2021.

A sample of 164 participants collaborated to make this online questionnaire.

This is an evaluation of the results that will be used largely to come out with the final results later.

Results and discussion

Reasons of the absence of nocturnal activities and services in Tébessa city

In order to get a better understanding of the respondents' perception, we asked them the reasons which prevent from everyday nocturnal practices (services and activities) (CHADULE, 1997) (fig. 2).

After directing the questions on the required criteria, it is necessary to know the experiences and habits of each one.

Inquiring about the practices and behaviors of the interviewees allows then to match the representations. This is why we investigated the inhabitants about the rarity or the absence of open shops and everyday nocturnal services. The majority of respondents believe that the indifference of city dwellers predominates with 41%.

The presence of costumes and traditions contributes largely to the everyday life enjoyment of the city inhabitants with 40%. Therefore, the feeling of insecurity seems a distinctive element for the lack of nocturnal activities and services with 35%. This absence depends also on historical reasons which go back to the black decade with 22% (fig. 2).

In order to have a better understanding of the representations of inhabitants, we intended to know the point of view of respondents online (Facebook) about the most important elements that contribute to re-launching night activities and services. The findings below cla-

rify the importance of elements: safety, public lighting, and transports at night to revive night

activities and services with 91.40% and 90% and 75.30% respectively (fig. 3).

The reasons for the non-existence of activities and night services in the city of Tébessa?

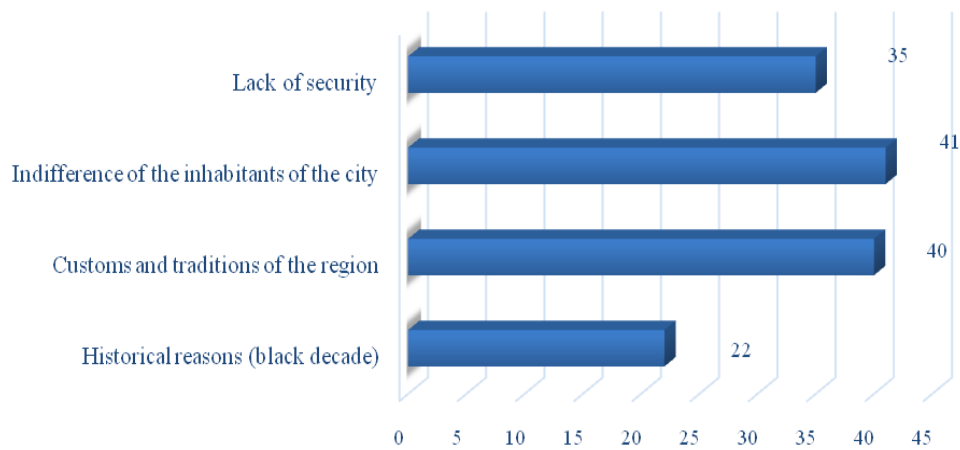


Fig. 2. The reasons behind the absence of nocturnal activities and services in the city (source: Djebnourne Brahim based on 2020 data survey)

Rys. 2. Przyczyny braku aktywności nocnej i usług w mieście (źródło: Djebnourne Brahim – dane z badań w roku 2020)

Рис. 2. Причины отсутствия ночной деятельности и услуг в городе (источник: Djebnourne Brahim – по данным исследований 2020 года)

Les éléments importants pour relancer les services nocturnes

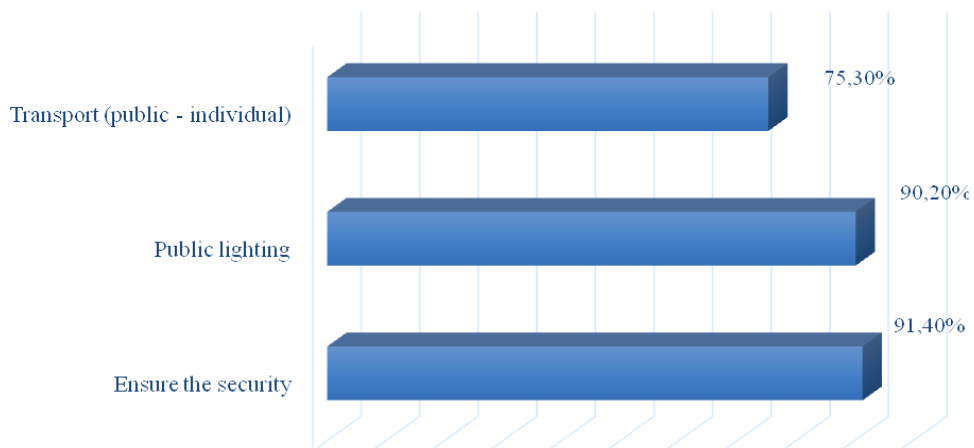


Fig. 3. Elements important to re-launch night services (source: Djebnourne Brahim based on 2020 survey data)

Rys. 3. Czynniki istotne do wprowadzenia usług nocnych (źródło: Djebnourne Brahim – dane z badań w roku 2020)

Рис. 3. Факторы существенные для развития ночных услуг (источник: Djebnourne Brahim – по данным исследований 2020 года)

Relationship graph for the symbol of significance

Relationship graphs allow to explore the relationships between variables quickly and automatically in order to identify their most important.

The following fig. 4 of relationship graphs – identification of structural variables – the main relationships for nocturnal practices in so-

me areas of Tébessa city shows the importance of variables behaving the primary role of local stakeholders in the revival of nocturnal activities and services in very significant relationships; significant with other questionnaire variables such as noise disturbances of some shops open at night, what represents or lead to an embarrassment and discontent for some residents of the city (DJEBOUNE, 2018) (fig. 4).

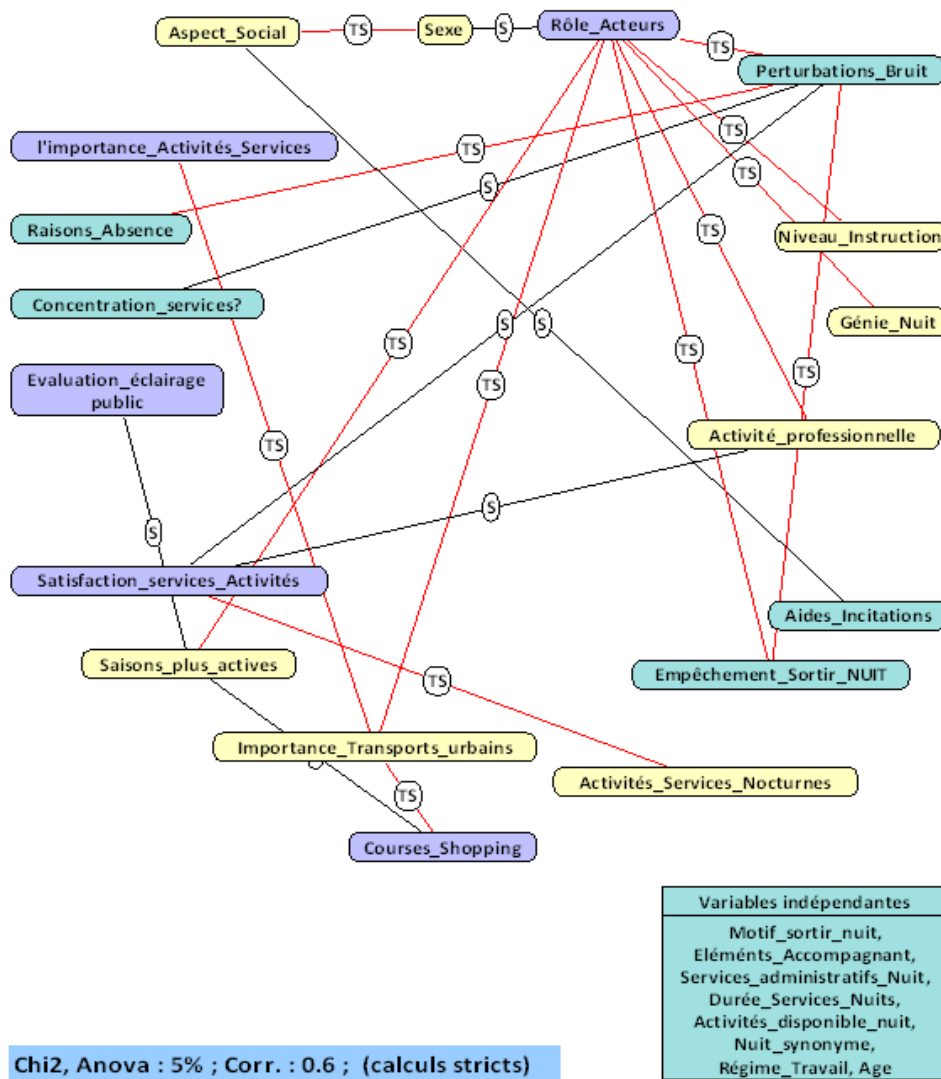


Fig. 4. Graph of symbol relation, of significance. Example of the relationship between the questions on the nocturnal urban practices in Tébessa city (source: Djebnourne Brahim based on 2020 surveys data – produced by Sphinx plus2 software 5.5.)

Rys. 4. Wykres relacji między symbolami, znaczeniami. Przykład relacji między pytaniami o nocne praktyki miejskie w mieście Tébessa (źródło: Djebnourne Brahim na podstawie danych z 2020 roku – przy użyciu Sphinx plus2 software 5.5.)

Рис. 4. . График отношения между символами, значениями. Пример взаимосвязи между вопросами о ночных городских практиках в г. Тебесса (источник: Djebnourne Brahim на основании данных 2020 года – с использованием Sphinx plus2 software 5.5.)

The dominant relations in this graph (fig. 4) are qualified by an abbreviated symbol which indicates us in the relation graph by:

- TS: relations which are very significant, for $p < 1\%$, sure to 99% or more.
- S: significant relationships, for $1\% < p < 5\%$, sure to 95–99%.

This reflects the fact that nocturnal activities a double-edged sword, on one hand positive for the revival of night activities and services in the city and on the other hand is annoyance for some citizens.

Interview with local stakeholders of the city:

a. Processing the interview with word cloud:

Word cloud is an idea for making in form the results of an open question. Word cloud is a means of representation visually the prevalence of certain words (or themes) in a speech, in individual's responses to an open question, etc. Its principle is based on a method of analyzing texts which allow us to emphasize the keywords that are frequently used in a paragraph of the texts. Word cloud is also called tag cloud. The creation procedure of word cloud is very simple with Sphinx Quali software if you know

the different steps of execution. The tm package (text timing) and word cloud (to generate the cloud of keywords) are available in Sphinx Quali to help us in analyzing texts and visualizing quickly the keywords in word cloud (BOUGHZALA1 et al, 2014).

b. Reasons to use word cloud to present your texts:

- Word cloud is an effective way to analyze texts. It adds simplicity and clarity. It highlights the keywords the most used in a better way.
- Word cloud is a strong communication mean. Easy to understand, to share and to effect.
- Word cloud is visually more enjoyable than a text-filled data table.

Keyword cloud of the interview with local stakeholders

Thanks to Sphinx Quali application we have created the most frequent word cloud.

Through word cloud for a local lexical and semantic synthesis, we can say that these elements are important to re-launch nocturnal activity. We also notice in particular that the most frequent words in large size are "City", "inhabitants", and in less size "activities,"



Fig . 5. Keywords cloud for interviews with local stakeholders in the city of Tébéssa (with Sphinx Quali application) (source: Djebnune Brahim based on 2020 survey data; realized by Sphinx Quali software)

Rys. 5. Chmura słów kluczowych do wywiadów z lokalnymi zainteresowanymi stronami w mieście Tébéssa (z aplikacją Sphinx Quali) (źródło: Djebnune Brahim na podstawie danych z 2020 roku (realizacja z Sphinx Quali software)

Рис. 5. Облако ключевых слов для интервью с местными заинтересованными сторонами

в городе Тебесса (с помощью приложения Sphinx Quali) (источник: Djebnune Brahim на основании данных 2020 года; с использованием Sphinx Quali software)

In more or less clear size, we can distinguish the most repeated words are the indifference of citizens, lighting and transport are clear ele-

ments for the revival of nocturnal activity (fig. 5, 6).

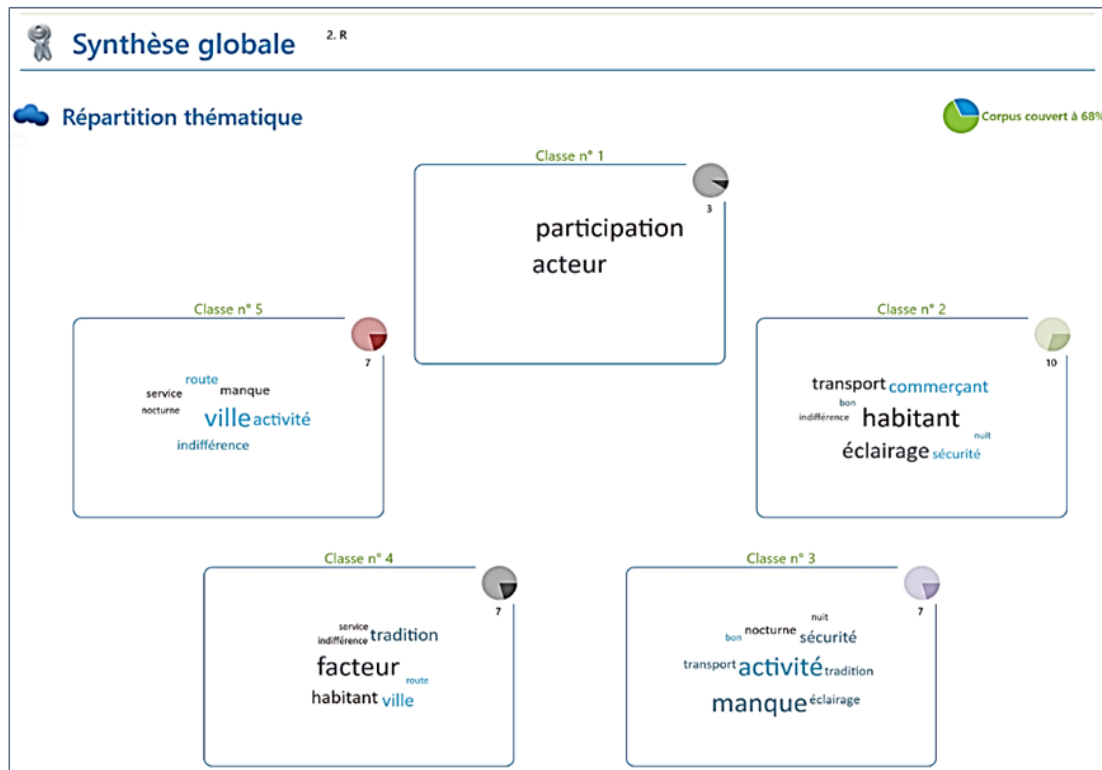


Fig. 6. Keywords for each stakeholder’s interviews and common words (with Sphinx Quali) (source: Djebnour Brahim based on 2020 survey data – realized by Sphinx Quali software)

Rys. 6. Słowa kluczowe dla wywiadów z zainteresowanymi stronami i wspólne słowa (z Sphinx Quali) (źródło: Djebnour Brahim na podstawie danych z roku 2020; realizacja za pomocą Sphinx Quali software)

Рис. 6. Ключевые слова для интервью с каждой заинтересованной стороной и общие слова (с помощью Sphinx Quali) (источник: Djebnour Brahim на основании данных 2020 года – с использованием Sphinx Quali software)

The blocks represent the subsets of the corpus established by a descending hierarchical classification. It divides the observations (sentences, respondents, observations, etc.) into homogeneous categories according to the keywords and concepts they contain. Clouds present the specific (over-represented) words of each class. Their size is proportional to their frequency.

The classification is in accordance with the Alceste procedure. The elements taken into consideration (nature of words and or concepts, stop criteria) can be parameterized. The display of cloud words is also configurable (nature of words, specificity test). Classes can be renamed based on your interpretation.

Observation and SWOT matrix for a territory

Observation: consists of a careful monitoring of the phenomena, with no desire to modify them (or to influence them), and with using surveys.

It is an approach that allows quantitative and qualitative data to be collected, created and processed in order to gain a better knowledge of the field.

Five steps could be identified in the construction of an observation approach: (ARBORIO, FOURNIER, 2015):

- Set the framework of the process;

- Define the scope of the observation;
- Define appropriate methods for information collection;
- Observe, analyze and interpret observations;
- Analyze data: points of observation.

After collecting information with the observation method by walking in the points indica-

ted on the map (fig. 7), all the information obtained has been planned in a SWOT matrix which is a strategic analysis tool: it combines the study of the strengths and weaknesses of an organization, a territory, a sector, etc., with that of opportunities and threats of its environment.

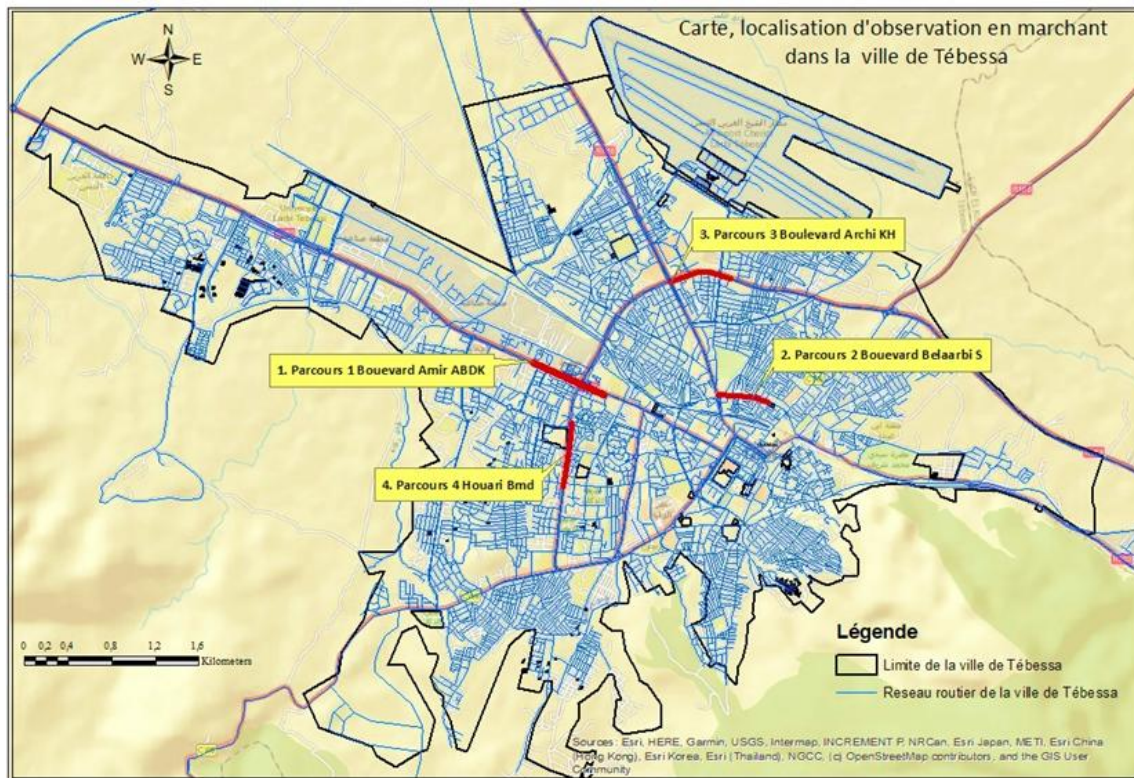


Fig. 7. Observation location map walking in Tébessa city

Rys. 7. Lokalizacja obserwowanych miejsc w trakcie pieszych wędrówek w mieście Tébessa

Рис. 7. Карта мест наблюдений во время пешеходных прогулок в городе Тébесса

Table 1. The potential of Tébessa city according to SWOT matrix

Tabela 1. Potencjał miasta Tébessa według macierzy SWOT

Таблица 1. Потенциал города Тébесса в соответствии с матрицей SWOT

SWOT ANALYSIS	
STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Historic city which can play an important role in the exchanges. 2. A place of relaxation and recreation and nightlife activities and services. 3. Availability of vacant spaces and closed shops 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Insufficient security during night 2. Low public lighting in some districts of Tébessa city 3. No transports at night

OPPORTUNITES	THREATS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transit zone due to its location as an intermedium and border town 2. Possibility of outsiders' investment 3. High citizens' traffic at night and provision of entertainment facilities for fun 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Possibility of being assaulted at night. 2. Deserted city for passengers during the night. 3. Difficulty of moving to areas that work at night

Source – źródło – источник: Djebnoune Brahim 2020

Conclusion

Urban Nights, a newly emerging research subject, a topic that has appeared in recent years, with urban nights gradually becoming a focus of scientific research and a public action theme. It arouses the curiosity of researchers, politicians and local stakeholders who see the night as a source of opportunities and potential for the development of their city.

This growing interest is fueling the urban night movement that we have seen for many years. Throughout our process, Urban Night turned out to be a complex research subject to understand, across the case of a border town with Tebessa city.

We have presented our truth about the urban night. In spite of partial or incomplete protocols, we were able to reveal certain characteristics of the city. We have also largely emphasized the general idea saying the night is another side of the city. This is called the capital of night already indicates, other spaces, other activities, other residents, other practices, other cultures, etc. It is the capital of today; this gives it all its unique character.

In fact, the night view in the city is regularly oriented and filtered by visions of dysfunctions; thus it is necessary to suggest it in order to control and regulate this dark side of the city.

First, we tried to get to know the urban night as a concept and practice, listing the knowledge already acquired on the subject.

Night is considered often like a place conducive to create and incubate new forms of ur-

ban cultures such as seminars, colloques or scientific groupment of creation and research.

In this regard, we put forward these suggestions attempting to revive the city at night:

- Revive the city center (the beating heart) at night and exploit the archaeological sites in projects related to tourist facilities to highlight the historical side of the city what brings financial income and boosts the economy.
- Activate the works of night lighting and ensure security to protect citizens from assaults and thefts at night.
- Upgrade the transports network and activate the 24-hour public transport system to facilitate travel.

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