

# NEWSLETTER NUMBER 5 MARCH 2009

Coordination Paulo Pinho, Edition and Design Vítor Oliveira



RESEARCH CENTRE FOR TERRITORY TRANSPORTS AND ENVIRONMENT

<http://citta.fe.up.pt/>

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Breda-Vázquez I, Conceição P, Fernandes R (2009) Partnerships Diversity and Governance Culture: Evidences from Policies for Urban Regeneration in Portugal, *Urban Studies*, 46(13).

Matos M, Costa A, Sochirca E (2008) Airlines performance in the new market context: a comparative productivity and efficiency analysis, *Journal of Air Transport Management*, 14(5), 270-274.

Oliveira V, Pinho P (2009) Evaluating plans, processes and results, *Planning Theory & Practice*, 10(1), 35-63.

Pinho P, Oliveira V (2009) Cartographic analysis in urban form studies: the GIS contribution, *Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design*, 36(1), 107-127.

Rebello E (2009) Land economic rent computation for urban planning and fiscal purposes, *Land Use Policy*, 26(3), 521-534.

Breda-Vázquez I, Conceição P, Mória P (2009) How to learn with urban policy diversity and complexity: evaluation and knowledge sharing in urban policy, *Planning Theory & Practice* (forthcoming).

Cardoso R, Breda-Vázquez I (2009), The Institutionalization of Just Decision-making: analysing planning practice in Portugal, *Environment & Planning C* (advanced online publication: doi:10.1068/c0781r)

## PROPOSALS/RECENT CONTRACTS

COST Action TU0803: Cities Regrowing Smaller - Fostering Knowledge on Regeneration Strategies in Shrinking Cities across Europe (CSO Approval date: 24/11/2008)



Photograph taken by Henrique Alves

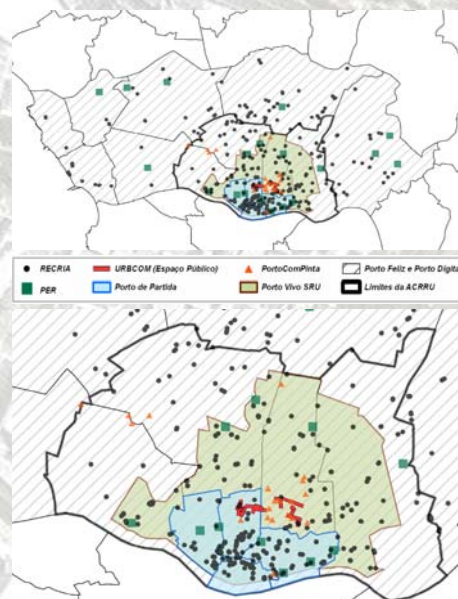
## EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

This fifth issue of our newsletter is dedicated to CITTA's urban planning and housing research unit (RU). Some of the most important research projects recently finished are outlined, emphasising the theoretical and practical relevance of outcomes and results so far achieved. A reference will also be made to new projects and research initiatives. The overall progress of this research unit can be appreciated revisiting our second issue, also dedicated to this RU, and dating back to October, 2007. The cyclical nature of our research activities and the need to keep the momentum moving forward with ambition and determination places a significant challenge to researchers and, in particular, to research managers and coordinators. There's no time to rest and contemplate our past achievements. The world of research never stops and moves with an increasing an astonishing speed. To keep in touch is already difficult enough, not to speak of aiming to sit at the forefront, opening the roads and avenues ahead. And this is the very nature of planning research, rather demanding but, also, enjoyable and rewarding.

Our second annual conference is approaching. The main theme is Planning in times of uncertainty, i.e planning in these present times of economic crisis and social instability. It will take place on the 15th of May, at our Faculty. This year the programme includes an afternoon dedicated to three thematic sessions, in correspondence to CITTA's internal structure made up of three RUs. These sessions are open to all participants willing to submit papers in advance and then share with us their concerns, design methodologies and research results. Two plenary sessions will cover the morning, which will be divided between the presentations of four prestigious keynote speakers and the presentations of two major international research projects by their respective team leaders (for a brief summary of these projects, entitled SUME and MOPUS, see our Newsletter 4). The reader is warmly invited to join us and to actively participate in our annual meeting and research conference.

Paulo Pinho



Breda-Vázquez I, Conceição P, Mória P (2007) *Avaliação para a integração de programas e políticas urbanas*, Relatório FCT

## COMMUNICATIONS IN CONGRESSES

Cruz S, Oliveira V, Sousa F, Pinho P (2009) A morphological approach to assess the impact of closed condominiums, *5<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Research Network Private Urban Governance & Gated Communities*, 30 March - 2 April, Santiago.

Oliveira C, Breda-Vázquez I (2008) Europeanization of urban policies in Portugal and Italy: a cross-national comparison, *ISA-RC21 Conference: Landscapes of global urbanism: power, marginality and creativity*, 17-20 December, Tokyo.

Rebello E (2008) How knowledge on land values influences rural-urban development processes, *International Conference Knowledge in Small and Medium Sized Towns*, 4-5 December, Faro.

Brandão-Alves F, Abrantes N, Abrantes V (2008) Getting profits through the freedom of use of public spaces, *XXXVI IAHS World Congress on Housing - National Housing Programmes-New Visions*, 3-7 November, Kolkata.

Cortêsão J, Brandão-Alves F, Corvacho M, Rhodes M (2008) The climatic skin of urban spaces, *XXXVI IAHS World Congress on Housing - National Housing Programmes-New Visions*, 3-7 November, Kolkata.

Restivo J, Mendonça P, Brandão-Alves F (2008) Standard housing: economic concepts and future research in Portugal, *XXXVI IAHS World Congress on Housing - National Housing Programmes-New Visions*, 3-7 November, Kolkata.

## RESEARCH UNIT 2

The projects developed in Research Unit 2 (Urban Planning & Housing) continue to explore the main focus of our research: urban policies and their institutional landscape. This orientation emerges from the complexity of models and instruments of action in the urban context. It is acknowledged that planning professionals are working in an open, heterogeneous and complex institutional space, where different agents, with different ways of defining and understanding the problems, influence policy agendas and city planning.

In particular, the research tries to understand the challenges associated to: i) the complex interaction between modes of intervention and modes of "problematizing" urban problems; ii) the need to frame the diversified and flexible role of several urban policy instruments, actors and governance modes; and iii) the need to integrate new values and processes in the "construction" of urban change.

This is the context of the on-going PhD projects. Two of them explore the decision making processes at metropolitan level, the roles of new institutions and coalitions, and the strategies for the coordination of urban (and spatial) policies. One PhD project is dedicated to the problem of the inter-municipal articulation of territorial policies. It analyses the complex institutional "instrumentation" of those policies, their qualities and their dynamics. A significant number of papers in journals and in international conferences have been published. Another PhD project is dedicated to the study of the relationships between different governance modes, analyzing the possibilities of institutional convergence between territorial perspectives and sectoral based perspectives (transportation). This project, which is in its initial phase, is developed in cooperation with CITTA's Research Unit 3 (Transport Planning & Logistics). Finally, a third PhD project is being developed, under the main heading of the rehabilitation of the historical and patrimonial city, aiming to contribute to the production of new models for its integrated regeneration.

Our research framework is also developed by other projects. One project conducts a discussion on the social justice concept, as part of a new frame of reference for urban policies, sensitive both to the processes and to the values which must inform urban policies. Several papers have been published on this topic. Other project, which is now concluded, was directed to evaluation methodologies of urban policies and programmes, in contexts of institutional fragmentation. Its main results are now being published. A more recent example is a FCT funded project dedicated to the creative city and to the role of urban policies. The acknowledgment of important tensions in "competitiveness/cohesion" relations - what is being labelled as its "vicious" and "virtuous" circles - justifies the attention given to innovative urban policies and its role in urban resurgence.

Isabel Breda Vázquez  
Paulo Conceição

## SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS ORGANIZATION

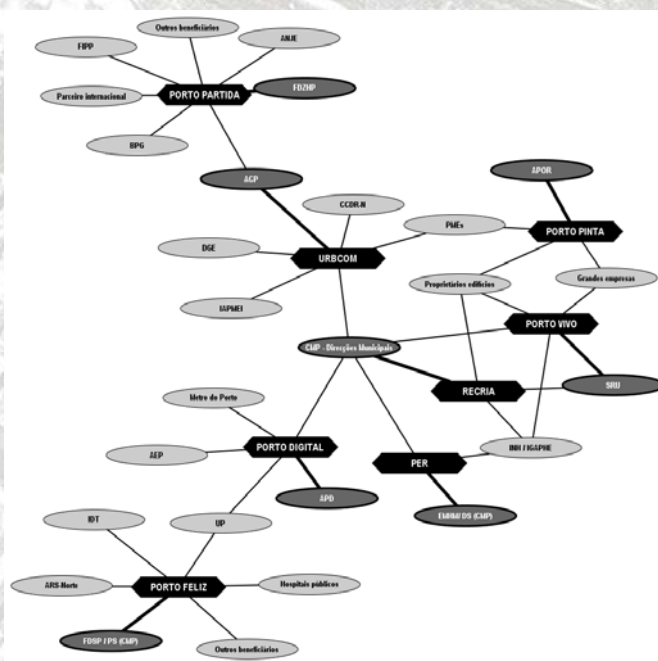


45<sup>th</sup> ISOCARP International Congress, Oporto, 18-22 October 2009.

CITTA 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference on Planning Research, Oporto, 15 May 2009.

Special thematic session on City Logistics and Urban Freight Transport - 1<sup>st</sup> Transatlantic NECTAR Conference, Arlington, 18-20 June 2009.

6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Portuguese Transports Study Group, Mira, 5-6 January 2009.



Breda-Vázquez I, Conceição P, Mória P (2007) *Avaliação para a integração de programas e políticas urbanas*, Relatório FCT