

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 11 MARCH 2012

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RESEARCH CENTRE FOR TERRITORY TRANSPORTS AND ENVIRONMENT

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Marat-Mendes T, Oliveira V (2012) Urbanists in Portugal in the middle of the 20th century: Etiénne de Groer and Almeida Garrett, *Planning Perspectives*, 28(1), (forthcoming).

Oliveira C, Breda-Vázquez I (2012) Scale and Europeanization in Portugal and Italy: a cross-national comparison of territorial policies, *Policy & Politics*, 40(1), 89-105.

Oliveira C, Breda-Vázquez I (2011) Territorial Governance in Portugal: Institutional Change or Institutional Resilience?, *disP-The Planning Review*, 186(3), 64-76.

Oliveira V (2012) Morpho, a methodology for evaluating urban form, *Urban Morphology*, 16(2), (forthcoming).

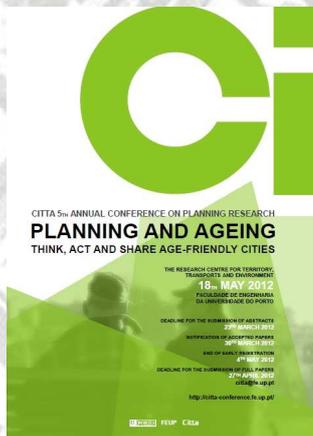
Pinho P, Oliveira V, Santos S, Barbosa M (2012) Metabolic Impact Assessment for urban planning, *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management*, 55, doi:10.1080/09640568.2012.657953.

Torres M, Pinho P (2011) Encouraging low carbon policies through a Local Emissions Trading Scheme (LETS), *Cities*, 28(6), 576-582.

PROPOSALS/RECENT CONTRACTS

NEIGHBOUR - Governing Urban Diversity and Social Cohesion through Mixing Policies and Practices. Application to FP7 Funds - Collaborative Project (FP7-SSH-2012-1).

ACCESS - A comprehensive approach to accessibility planning and management. Application to FP7 Funds - Cooperation Work Programme: Transports (SST.2012.3.1-1).



EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

With the present issue we complete five years of regular publication of our newsletter, as well as five years of our annual conference and of our website (in the current format). Over these years the development of CITTA went from a small, young and enthusiastic planning research centre within the scope of the Territorial Planning Division at FEUP, a seminal centre of planning education founded by Prof. Almeida Garrett, back in the 1960s, to the present structured and matured research centre, hosted by the Universities of Oporto and Coimbra, gathering more than 80 researchers. It is true that quantity does not mean quality, but in this case the size seems to matter, at least bearing in mind current Portuguese research policies and priorities that explicitly encourage the constitution of large research centres to compete at international level.

Under a new direction, the Portuguese National Research Foundation (FCT) is now preparing and opening the different financial packages to support, on a competitive basis, PhD programmes, R&D projects, research centres and the so-called associated laboratories. In the case of the research centres and associated laboratories this process involves complex, expensive and time consuming evaluation processes, carried out by external independent panels. With the present severe financial restrictions, resources are understandably scarce. To be fair and efficient, its distribution must follow the highest quality and productivity standards. Looking back to the experience of past financial allocations and evaluation practices, involving the general scientific fields of Planning, Environment and Transports, we would like to put forward two suggestions, one addressed to PhD programmes and research projects and the other to the evaluation of the research centres.

The first one is the recommendation to make explicit, in advance, the total financial envelope available to each tender with a breakdown by the different scientific fields and subfields. This is a standard approach in EU programmes. The advantages are obvious. Researchers are fully aware of the research priorities and can anticipate the level of competitiveness of each tender, gearing their efforts accordingly.

The second suggestion has to do with the evaluation of interdisciplinary research centres in areas such as Planning and Transports. Centres in these circumstances, often times similar in nature and objectives and with a long record of collaboration, but formally attached to different scientific institutions (in social sciences, humanities, engineering or architecture) end up being evaluated by different panels with different approaches, methods and criteria. The final results may be astonishing, as it was the case in the 2007 evaluations. Understanding the difficulties of establishing a specific panel to assess the planning (related) centres only, a simple and inexpensive solution would be to create an ad-hoc coordination body gathering the planning and transport experts dispersed by the main evaluation panels committed to harmonise the evaluation criteria and the consistency of the different centres' evaluation results.

Paulo Pinho

COMMUNICATIONS IN CONGRESSES

Barbosa M (2011) Metodologia de análise das praças da cidade do Porto, *As praças nas cidades de origem Portuguesa*, 14-15 November, Lisbon.

Conceição P (2011) As políticas de habitação face à diversidade e à mudança nos estilos de vida. *1ª Conferência de Planeamento Regional e Urbano, 11º Workshop APDR Território, Mercado Imobiliário e a Habitação*, 11 November, Aveiro.

Oliveira V (2012) Avaliação em planeamento urbano: planos, processos, resultados, *Território e Cidades do Norte Atlântico Ibérico*, 20 January, Viana do Castelo.

Serra M, Pinho P (2012) Emergent configurational effects of differentiated growth patterns at Oporto's urban fringe, *8th International Space Syntax Symposium*, 3-6 January, Santiago de Chile.

Sousa F, Conceição P (2011) Análise dos contributos das SRU para a reabilitação habitacional e o arrendamento: um estudo de caso e algumas propostas metodológicas. *1ª Conferência de Planeamento Regional e Urbano e 11º Workshop APDR Território, Mercado Imobiliário e a Habitação*, 11 November, Aveiro.

SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS ORGANIZATION

Planning and ageing .Think, act and share age-friendly cities, CITTA 5th Annual Conference on Planning Research, 18 May 2012, Oporto.

Urban Morphology in Portuguese-Speaking Countries, 2nd PNUM Conference, ISCTE, 5-6 July 2012, Lisbon.

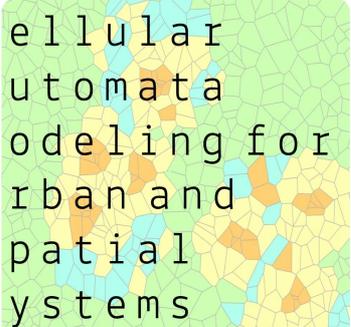
Members of CITTA are involved in the preparation of the conference.

CAMUSS - International Symposium on Cellular Automata Modeling for Urban and Spatial Systems, 8-10 November 2012, Oporto.

Members of CITTA are involved in the preparation of the conference.

International Symposium on

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November 8-10 2012

RESEARCH UNIT 2

The recent activities carried out in the Research Unit "Urban Planning and Housing" involve several projects, some cooperation activities, and the active involvement in conferences and publications . We now present some aspects of these activities.

The issues of institutional innovation and complex socio-spatial contexts notably those located in metropolitan regions provides a strong support for different research projects and activities, as well as the preparation of CITTA Conference on Innovation in Governance and Decision Making in Planning.

In this context is important to mention, first, the conclusion of a PhD research on territorial policy coordination. By exploring transition and change from different institutionalist perspectives, this research shows us, in particular, how a multi-perspective theoretical framework may strongly contribute to enlarge our knowledge of the relationship between institutions and planning. This research work has recently resulted in the publication of several papers in international journals and others are expected to come out in the next months. Metropolitan governance, territorial policies and institutional innovation is and will remain an important topic of study in this Research Unit.

At international level, the unit is cooperating with EMI - European Metropolitan network Institute (The Hague, Netherlands), which is working on a Knowledge and Research Agenda on Polycentric metropolitan areas in Europe. In January 2012, we welcomed Evert Meijers (OTB, Delft University) and Koen Hollander (EMI) and collaborated in the development of a case study of the Oporto metropolitan region.

Complex socio-spatial contexts are also the focus of a recent research project entitled SPUD - Spatial Patterns of Urban Disadvantage. The main objective is to explore how different kinds of urban problems take place on different spaces, in order to better suit urban regeneration policies to the diversity of local problems. The study involves the development of a typology of disadvantaged clusters provided by specific analytic techniques.

A few other ongoing projects (namely PhD projects) in this Research Unit deal with diversity and planning in urban areas, with topics ranging from collective learning in urban regeneration to organizational change in housing and welfare policies.

It is worth stressing that, as result of the integration in CITTA of a research group from FCTUC (University of Coimbra), three new researchers joined the unit: António Ferreira, Nuno Graça and Nuno Norte Pinto.

Isabel Breda Vázquez
Paulo Conceição