

# NEWSLETTER NUMBER 1 MARCH 2007

Coordenation Paulo Pinho, Edition and Design Vitor Oliveira



RESEARCH CENTRE FOR TERRITORY TRANSPORTS AND ENVIRONMENT

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## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Oliveira, V (2006) The Morphological Dimension of Municipal Plans, *Urban Morphology*, 10(2), 101-113.

Oliveira, V, Pinho, P (2006) Study of urban form in Portugal: a comparative analysis of the cities of Lisbon and Oporto, *Urban Design International*, 11(3-4), 187-201.

Pinho, P, Maia, R, Monterroso, A (2007) The quality of Environmental Impact Studies: the case of small hydropower projects, *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*, 27(3), 189-205.

Breda-Vázquez, I, Conceição, P, Alves, S (2006) The University of Oporto and Urban Change: an ambiguous relationship, in Perry, D et al (Eds.) *The University, the City and the State: comparative cases of university land development policy*, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Massachusetts (forthcoming).

Breda-Vázquez, I, Oliveira, C (2006) Coalitions Building in Portuguese Spatial Planning: Is There a Southern European Context?, *European Spatial Planning* (forthcoming).

Button, K, Costa, A, Cruz, C (2007) Ability to recover full costs through price discrimination in deregulated scheduled air transport markets, *Transport Reviews* (forthcoming).

Cardoso, R, Breda-Vázquez, I (2006) Social Justice as a Guide to Planning (Theory) and Practice: Analysing the Portuguese Planning System, *International Journal of Urban Planning and Research* (forthcoming).

Oliveira, V, Pinho, P (2007) Urban form and municipal planning in Lisbon and Oporto: 1865-2005, *Planning Perspectives* (forthcoming).



Fragmentos utópicos na cidade caótica: condomínios fechados no Grande Porto

## EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the first issue of the Research Centre for Territory, Transports and Environment (CITTA) Newsletter. I am very pleased to address to all of you, potential readers and, in particular, to those who are engaged in research in the scientific areas of Planning, Transports and Environment. As we know, most planning researchers come from a variety of disciplinary areas such as Engineering, Architecture and Landscape Architecture, Geography, Law Economy, Sociology, Psychology, among others. Our goal is to contribute to a greater understanding about the complex and diverse realities that make up our cities and, in a more general way, our urban and metropolitan areas. Unfortunately, as we all know, scientific knowledge is not enough to ensure a sustainable environmental development, socially coherent and economically competitive. Therefore, the preparation of plans and projects to support sensitive and efficient policies that will accomplish these goals is absolutely necessary.

Recently, the public debates about certain issues like: Heavy Structural Infrastructures, Urban System, (un)organized territory, development of rural areas or even about the quality of life offered by the urban spaces are getting an unquestionable impact and visibility in Portugal. This visibility is in part, a result of the growing importance the Portuguese society is giving to these matters. However, this importance hardly holds together with the practice, despite the areas involved, whether private consulting or Central, Regional and Local Authorities management. In the majority of the cases, this practice is still based on empirical approaches leaving behind not only a sound theoretical support but also research. Usually, research does not take part on the formulation of practical solutions. This attitude highly inhibits the process of innovation and promotes the repetition of past mistakes. Consequently, it will not stimulate change and the adoption of higher standards, characterized by solutions technically more solid and socially more sensitive.

Thus, with this initiative, it is our goal to draw the attention of the readers to the importance of research in the areas of Physical Planning and Transports and Environment. It is also our aim to share the main activities of our research centre, as well as to promote the exchange of ideas and experiences with other centres elsewhere, both national and international. For this reason, we have chosen to present this Newsletter in a bilingual format Portuguese/English with a semestrial update. We are planning a small periodic Newsletter with only two pages (two columns per page). We are aware that the most difficult task is not the launch of the first issue but rather to sustain the momentum and we hope the subsequent issues will follow naturally with the contributions of all.

The structure of the Newsletters to follow will be similar to this one. The contributions will be organized in four transversal thematic spaces. Each issue will dedicate a special space where activities of one of our investigation units can be presented in a more detailed manner. On this issue, that space is devoted to the Research Unit One: Planning and Environmental Evaluation.

To close, I would like to personally thank Professor Arnaldo Sousa Melo who has coordinated, since the beginning of CITTA, the research unit of Transports and Infrastructures. We are certain that his fruitful and kind collaboration, particularly in the area of Transports and Infrastructures shall not be affected due to his voluntarily retirement.

Paulo Pinho

## PROPOSALS/RECENT CONTRACTS

Proposals submitted to the National Science Foundation:

MOPUS-Mobility Patterns and Urban Structures

BAVIMOB-Benchmarking in real estate evaluation

## COMMUNICATIONS IN CONGRESSES

Alves, F, Corvacho, H, Marques, B (2006) The Influence of Urban Design on Microclimate. Results of a Simulation Work, *XXXIV IAHS World Congress on Housing Sustainable, Housing Design. Emphasizing Urban Housing*, Naples, Italy.

Carvalho, P, Abrantes, P (2006) Identification of mobility patterns through homogeneity and cluster analyses, *XIV Congresso Pan-americano - Ingeniería Tráfico & Transporte*, Las Palmas, Spain.

Melo, S, Costa, A, Teixeira, E (2006) Evaluation of urban goods distribution initiatives, *XIV Congresso Pan-americano - Ingeniería Tráfico & Transporte*, Las Palmas, Spain.

Oliveira, V, Santos, S, Côrte-Real, B, Sousa, F, Pinho, P (2006) The impact of closed condominiums in the urban form - a methodological approach, *International Seminar on Urban Form*, Stockholm, Sweden.

Ribeiro, P, Costa, A P (2006) A Sustentabilidade Aplicada à Classificação de Vias Urbanas, *2º Congresso Luso-Brasileiro para o Planeamento Urbano, Regional, Integrado e Sustentável*, Braga, Portugal.

Rodrigues, C, Seco, A, Ribeiro, P (2006) Caracterização do Estacionamento da Cidade do Porto: Instrumento Base de Apoio a uma Política de Mobilidade, *2º Congresso Luso-Brasileiro para o Planeamento Urbano, Regional, Integrado e Sustentável*, Braga, Portugal.

Silva, C, Pinho, P (2006) A methodology to assess the contribution of the land use and transport systems to sustainable urban mobility, *European Transport Conference 2006*, Strasbourg, France.

## SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS ORGANIZATION

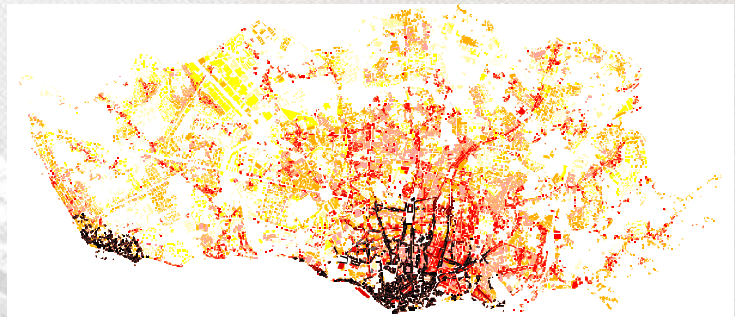
*Workshop Track for High-Speed Railways*, October 2006. Three researchers in the area of Transport Systems were part of the Organising Committee.

*4º Encontro do Grupo de Estudos de Transportes*, Leiria, January 2007. This meeting brought together research groups interested in the area of Transport Systems in Portugal.

## RESEARCH UNIT 1

CITTA's research unit one aims to articulate Planning and Environmental Assessment. This unit includes, at present, eleven researchers, three of whom are Ph.D., and share the responsibility for carrying out seven research projects; five of them financed by the National Science Foundation (four are Ph.D. scholarships and one is integrated in the so-called POCI Programme). This last project is wider in scope and multidisciplinary in nature. Basically it aims to study and evaluate the impact of closed condominiums on the urban form and structure. This research topic had its origins in a Ph.D. thesis about Closed Condominiums and in a Master's thesis about the Evolution of the Urban Form of the Cities of Lisbon and Porto. Apart from these, we would also like to reference the existence of additional on going research projects covering the following themes:

- . Plan Evaluation and Urban Morphology;
- . Articulation between Local Planning Tools and Environmental Policies;
- . Importance of Cultural Equipments on Urban Development;
- . Integration of Landuse Planning and Transports policies;
- . Strategic Planning and Urban form in the City of Porto;
- . Urban Policies for Low Carbon Cities. This Project is, still, in its initial phase.



The planned and unplanned city. Strategic planning and the urban form of the Porto city.

Based on partnerships previously established with some American and European Universities and Research Institutes, this research unit has taken part in international research projects since the beginning of CITTA. The strengthening of the institutional cooperation and enlargement of contacts and partnerships gave origin to a new Action: the C23 of the COST Programme, headed jointly by the University of Cardiff, the University of Dublin and our Centre. This action looks at the Low Carbon Built Environment and our responsibility is to conduct the global management of the WG2 which deals with urban structures.

At present, all contacts are being mobilized to elaborate two proposals which will be presented at the 7th Framework Programme of the EU. As far as the first proposal is concerned, the partners of CITTA are: the OIR (Austrian), the Newcastle University (United Kingdom), the Nordregio (Scandinavian), the TUDelft (Dutch) and the Forth Foundation (Greek). As far as the second proposal is concerned, the partners of the CITTA are: the VTT (Finnish) and the Urban and Territorial research Centres of the University of Trento, Oslo and Aalborg. At a scientific level, these two initiatives are the main focus of the on going research projects in this unit touching subjects like: Urban Energy Efficiency and Urban Morphology and Sustainable Mobility.

To close, a word about a significant group of applied research projects. Although not conducted by CITTA but rather by the Planning Laboratory, these projects do result in the involvement of some of the CITTA researchers who are integrated in this unit of research. As in the past, these projects may constitute a base to further scientific publications. We are referring to the contracts recently signed with the Metro do Porto (Porto Light Rail System) who's purpose is the design of the second phase of the LRS; with the Environment Institute who's purpose is to elaborate five local plans for Sustainable Mobility and with the Porto Metropolitan Junta who's purpose is to update the Atlas of the Metropolitan Area of Porto.

Paulo Pinho