

# NEWSLETTER NUMBER 9 MARCH 2011

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RESEARCH CENTRE FOR TERRITORY TRANSPORTS AND ENVIRONMENT

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## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

### Books

Melo S, Macharis C (eds.) (2011) *City Distribution And Urban Freight Transport - Multiple Perspectives*, Edward Elgar, Cheltenham.

Perdicoulis A (2010) *Systems Thinking and Decision Making in Urban and Environmental Planning*, Edward Elgar, Cheltenham.

Perdicoulis A (2011) *Building Competences for Spatial Planners: Methods and Techniques for Performing Tasks with Efficiency*, Routledge, London.

### Papers

Button K, Costa A, Costa F, Cruz C (2011) Problems of cost recovery by European airlines since market liberalization, *Transportation Planning and Technology*, 34(2), 125-138.

Oliveira V, Barbosa M, Pinho P (2011) The study of urban form in Portugal, *Urban Morphology*, 15(1), 55-66.

Oliveira V (2011) Our common future in urban morphology, *Urban Morphology*, 15(1), 77-79.

Silva C, Pinho P (2010) The Structural Accessibility Layer (SAL): Revealing how urban structures constrains travel choice, *Environment and Planning A*, 42, 2735-2752.

Breda-Vázquez I, Oliveira C (2011) Creativity and social innovation: what can urban policies learn from sectoral experiences?, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, (forthcoming).

Oliveira C, Breda-Vázquez I (2011) Scale and Europeanization in Portugal and Italy: a cross-national comparison of territorial policies, *Policy & Politics* (forthcoming).

## PROPOSALS/RECENT CONTRACTS

Three FCT Doctoral grants, starting in April 2011 (national grants) and October 2011 (international grant):

*Resilient territories: the case of Ave Valley Region* - Ana Martins, Paulo Pinho (s), Sara Santos (s)

*The publicness of urban spaces* - Miguel Lopes, Paulo Pinho (s), Sara Santos (s)

*The interaction of cities' structures and the resulting patterns processes. An emphasis on metrics* - José Pedro Reis, Elisabete Silva (s), Paulo Pinho (s).

## EDITORIAL

Dear Reader,

At the time of writing this editorial, the economic and social situation in Portugal, already extremely complex and sensitive, got worse, suddenly. There seems to be a generalized feeling in the air of astonishment and helplessness. Just a year ago the news then coming from Greece and Ireland seemed from another planet, Portugal was not part of. And now these same sad stories have knocked at our door. And there we are, waiting for the special 'aid' programme - a cocktail of EU and IMF funds coupled with drastic cuts and draconian conditions - and wondering if the cure will be harder than the disease. What have we done wrong? Yes, we were living above our means. We spent too much and what we did not have. In the meantime, others got the benefit, and from our own mistakes. How was it possible to accumulate such a high public debt? Surely, it was not the modest funds allocated to university budgets and, in particular, to academic research that were the cause of such a problem. We all know that. But we also know, for sure, that the significant salary cuts (up to 10%) we had already experienced in the beginning of this year will now be extended to all sorts of research funds and grants.

For a research centre like CITTA, deeply committed to applied research, the external search for alternative financing sources seems the only way ahead. Indeed, the chronic sub financing problems of our National Research Institute (the FCT) will get worse, inevitably. It is time to reassess some national research policies and priorities, in particular some ambitious and costly partnerships with prestigious US universities involving, in some cases, narrow scoped research programmes, either in terms of the selected scientific fields or in terms of the beneficiary institutions in Portugal. Given the sharp rise of academic research in Portugal over the last ten years - we have to acknowledge and appreciate - the likely sudden fall in available resources and funds poses a number of challenges to our national research system. One of these challenges has to do with the evaluation of the performance of research programmes and projects, as well as research centres and institutions which will surely become even more demanding and, definitely, of utmost importance to ensure global fairness and the continuous encouragement of good quality research.

In this respect, the evaluation of pluri and interdisciplinary research is certainly one of the major challenges, and a source of some past injustices and discriminations, it is time to overcome. Unfortunately, at CITTA we know what we are talking about and how hard is to live with these injustices. At present, in Portugal, Planning research is carried out by fourteen FCT research centres included in different scientific fields from civil engineering, to architecture, landscape architecture, geography or social sciences. In practice, these centres are subject to very different evaluation criteria implemented by different evaluation panels. There is an obvious need for a steady harmonization either through the establishment of a new FCT scientific field - Spatial Planning - or through a Scientific Commission for Planning whose main objective would be to harmonize and guarantee the adoption of similar evaluation criteria across these centres irrespective of their current scientific affiliation with the main FCT research fields.

Finally, I would like to stand out CITTA's next annual conference, on the 13th of May. This year the main theme of the conference is Innovation in Governance and Decision making in Planning. This theme covers a wide range of contributions on urban and territorial governance, on the complexity of current and foreseen institutional changes, as well as on the increasing diversity of policy tools and implementation mechanisms; our warm invitation to all our colleagues and researchers in Portugal and abroad that will join us for a timely and stimulating debate.

Paulo Pinho

## COMMUNICATIONS IN CONGRESSES

Breda-Vázquez I, Conceição P (2010) A avaliação de programas e políticas territoriais, em contextos de diversidade e fragmentação, *Ad Urbem Annual Meeting*, 26-27 November, Oporto.

Cortesão J, Alves F, Patterson J (2010) Bioclimatic urban renewal in compact urban fabrics, *XXXVII IAHS World Congress on Housing*, 26-29 October, Santander.

Oliveira V, Pinho P (2010) A avaliação do planeamento físico municipal, *Ad Urbem Annual Meeting*, 26-27 November, Oporto.

Palma V, Costa A, Melo S (2011) Avaliação dos efeitos de taxação nas autoestradas portuguesas, *8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Portuguese Transports Study Group*, 6-7 January, Esmoriz.

Pinho P (2010) Avaliação territorial em Portugal: estado da arte, *Ad Urbem Annual Meeting*, 26-27 November, Oporto.

Rangel B, Abrantes V, Alves F (2010) Gracefulness of constructive matter within contemporary architectonic conception, *XXXVII IAHS World Congress on Housing*, 26-29 October, Santander.

Restivo J, Alves F, Mendonça P, Ferreira J (2010) Public housing renovation in Porto: typology versus occupancy density, *XXXVII IAHS World Congress on Housing*, 26-29 October, Santander.

## SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS ORGANIZATION



*Innovation in Governance And Decision Making in Planning*, Citta 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on Planning Research, 13 May, Oporto.

*MyLand, Your Land*, 1<sup>st</sup> International Symposium on Mobility, Land Use and Environmental Impacts, 20-21 June, Oporto.

*Urban Morphology in Portugal: Approaches and Perspectives*, 1<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Portuguese Network of Urban Morphology, 8 June, Oporto.

8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Portuguese Transports Study Group, 6-7 January 2011, Esmoriz.

## RESEARCH UNIT 3

The research unit “Transportation Planning and Logistics” has been focusing on urban mobility, mainly on the appraisal of public transport networks, city logistics organization and on air transport regulation.

The objective of development of knowledge on urban mobility has been achieved through various types of projects relying on strong competencies on transport modeling, with topics covering public transport network design, pedestrian paths analysis and organization of city logistics. The focus has been on developing appraisal methodologies with appropriate indicators to evaluate mobility, efficiency, effectiveness and environmental impacts. Some of the projects correspond to PhD research (handling operations, airport regulation and city logistics) and others are projects funded by IMTT (network design and calibration). This research work has recently resulted the publication of two books: *Troleicarros do Porto, Quatro Décadas na Cidade* (Costa et al., 2010) e *City Distribution And Urban Freight Transport* (Melo and Macharis, 2011).

The unit has tried to establish partnerships both at a national and an international level, with the scientific community as well as with some major transport related stakeholders.

At a national level it is worth it to mention the effort that the LT has done gathering most of the transport research groups in Portugal in an annual meeting (GET) already for eight years as well as its contribution to the development of academic/scientific solutions to reply to the society demands. As an example of LT’s active role in creating added value to the transports arena in Portugal, LT concluded the calibration of the Portuguese National Transport Model and has evaluated the effects of pricing policies through SCUT’s in Portugal and the impacts of car-sharing networks in Porto and Lisbon, which results are summarily presented on the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Group of Studies on Transports by Vera Palma and on the Euro-NECTAR conference by Costa et al. (2011) and Melo (2011). LT recent research on air transport is also valuable both in academic and practical terms: a good example of that is the analysis of the handling delays in Lisbon airport (derived from Ayça Kolukisa PhD thesis) and of the airlines regulation in the new market context (Alda Mendes PhD thesis). At the international level, LT is now organizing an international workshop on Mobility, Land Use and Environmental Impacts to be held on 20-21 June 2011 in association with IST (Lisbon) and Universidade de Brasília (Brasil).

Álvaro Costa



*Evaluation of pricing policies effects in Portuguese roadways - the example of SCUTs*