

Editorial

Cidades, Comunidades e Territórios is starting a new period in its history. Issue 22 is thus a symbolic milestone that we would like to mark in all its different meanings.

At its inception, the founding of Cidades in late 2000 represented the culmination of a remarkable period of intense work on urban studies, which had begun twenty years earlier at ISCTE. This pathway was pursued by several generations of a team of highly qualified scholars, researchers and skilled technicians integrated in different public institutions who increasingly recognized Centro de Estudos Territoriais as the main centre of their scientific activities since 1991.

Cidades is open to the exchange of experiences with other institutions, it welcomes and disseminates their scientific production and always seeks to reveal Centro de Estudos Territoriais' nature as an interdisciplinary laboratory, one where there is a clear intersection and socialization of knowledge resulting from research, graduate studies and a close connection to the community.

Cidades, Comunidades e Territórios therefore became a reference publication in the national social sciences milieu. Throughout a decade, a wide array of urban studies experts, from sociologists to economists, geographers, anthropologists, architects and urban planners, amongst others, encountered Cidades as a particularly favourable setting for reflexion, a reliable source of information and an important means to improve their training.

The merger of the two Lisbon University Institute-based research units, which led to the foundation of DINÂMIA'CET-IUL – Centre for Socioeconomic Change and Territorial Studies, unveiled a new stage for this journal, too. In this new era, Cidades will seek to carry on with the scope, focus and pursuit of excellence that have defined it as a benchmark in Portuguese urban studies. The journal will continue to embrace and value its past trajectory and scientific knowledge heritage that all former issues bear witness to.

While guaranteeing this continuity, Cidades must also take on new challenges and substantiate ambitious goals. This ground-breaking agenda is translated into three concurrent aspects: the exponential growth of the journal's diffusion and potential audience; the internationalization of its brand and contents; and the scientific certification of its quality.

Cidades assumes, from now on, a new layout as an e-journal, selecting English as the main language for communication, albeit remaining open to the publication of articles and other contents in Portuguese, French and Spanish. It is based on an Open Journal System platform, granting open and free access to registered users who may submit papers, browse for information, download and read all available contents in a very simple manner.

This new publication channel is intended to enable a true scientific work imperative: to maximize its diffusion, dissemination, sharing of information and to boost general public acknowledgement and peer appreciation in particular. Additionally, this platform ensures a wider number and variety of authors, from different national contexts, subject areas and institutional backgrounds, which will lead the journal to an incomparably wider public recognition.

Whilst operating in an online platform throughout the complete submission through publication process, including double-blind peer review and editor-mediated communication, supervised by the executive Editorial Committee and the Editorial Advisory Board, it ensures high levels of transparency and scientific reliability that benefit both authors and the journal's scientific prestige.

The manifold constitution of Cidades' Editorial Advisory Board is a further guarantee of the utmost plurality, diversity, internationalization and outstanding quality, which are dear to us. Its members are reputed specialists and scholars in urban studies based in a number of national and international institutions, as their professional biographies clearly demonstrate. One of our goals is also to consolidate, to amplify and to increase the internationalization of the Board.

Our general internationalization challenge is also dependent on our peers' recognition as a reference journal on an international level, in terms of its main areas of expertise. That is also one of the expected advantages of adopting English as the prime language for communication, along with the e-journal format and the open access system through an online platform.

Finally, we would like to mention that Cidades is to this date indexed in *Latindex*, a well-known scientific publication database. It is also our goal to widen our indexation profile by improving our recognized bibliometric impact in a growing number of relevant international databases. Fulfilling this goal will represent the ultimate acknowledgement and certification of Cidades' scientific quality as a Portuguese journal of urban studies, in an international context.

Walter Rodrigues

Editor