ÍA.Porto: an environmental qualification instrument for urban operation

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The *Porto's Índice Ambiental* (*ÍA.Porto*) was fostered, designed, and made to ensure Porto Municipality compliance of the Article 145 of Porto City Master Plan (2021). It is the first national initiative committed to create an unbiased and objective framework to assess the urban environmental performance of buildings and give incentives and other financial mechanisms according to the scores obtained in several environmental dimensions (energy, vegetation, water, materials, etc.) and fully set to be included in municipal land use planning process and regulations to promote climate change adaptation strategy. Like a growing number of cities, Porto intends to have a new policy instrument to promote, through the granting of incentives of different types, an environmental qualification of its urban operations. This is a *bottom-up* user-friendly tool, well connected to the pre-existing planning rules, set to disseminate environmental qualification practices at the scale of the urban planning operations with a positive cascade effect on smaller scales by promoting biodiversity, decarbonization or adaptation to climate risks. In operational terms, *ÍA.Porto* is supported by easy-to-apply tailored tool, consisting of a wide range of qualification solutions (e.g. vegetation cover, water mosaics, green roofs, storage solutions, treatment and reuse of rainwater, reuse of construction materials, etc.), which are scored differently according to the importance of the benefits they can bring to the balance of Porto's particular ecosystems. To this end, we did an accurate local climatological analysis, a review of ongoing experiences in several cities that have already implemented this type of instrument and maintained a constant dialogue with all internal and external stakeholders who are/will be end users of this tool. The outcomes obtained allow us to consider that it will be an eye-catching, well accepted, recognized and great step forward to achieve the municipality's goals in terms of adapting to climate change, both through the effects of concrete actions on the climate system and by increasing the climatological literacy of decision-makers, city builders and population.

Keywords: green factor; environmental qualification; urban operations; sustainability; climate adaptation