

## OP. 166 THE RESILIENCE OF PORTUGUESE REGIONS TO THE 2008 CRISIS AND THE IMPACTS ON THEIR ECONOMIC STRUCTURES

Márcio Ferreira<sup>1</sup>, Teresa Sá Marques<sup>2</sup> Gonçalo Santinha<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>CEGOT/FLUP/Portugal

<sup>2</sup>CEGOT/FLUP/Portugal

<sup>3</sup>GOVCOPP/U.Aveiro

**Abstract:** In the context of regional development, territorial resilience has emerged as a central concept for designing economic policies. Within the context of the Portuguese regions, analysing transformative resilience makes it possible to identify structural changes throughout time. Transformative resilience goes beyond simply recovering from economic shocks. This transformative role is essential to ensure that regions are not just about coping with economic crises but are able to promote and thrive in a constantly evolving economic environment.

This study focuses on the transformative resilience of Portuguese regions and their interrelation with the economic structure during three crucial periods: 2004-2007 (pre-crisis), 2008-2013 (crisis) and 2014-2019 (economic recovery). The aim is to analyse the behaviour of Portuguese regions and to identify how the dynamics that occurred contributed to the change in the regional economic structures.

Identifying regional resilience during - pre-crisis, crisis and economic recovery - is important because it allows us to analyse their behaviour, i.e. whether they maintained their structural characteristics in terms of activities; whether they diversified their activities; which sectors underwent the most changes; which regions led the economic recovery and what structural changes occurred.

Methodologically we calculated indices of economic resistance and recovery in order to identify the regions with the greatest and least resilience, and then we calculated indices of specialisation and economic location. By intersecting these indices, it was possible to establish various conclusions about the resilience capacities of regions and their relationship with their economic structure. There is strong evidence that a more diversified economic structure, in most cases, is a determining factor in greater resilience to the impact of economic shocks and that there have indeed been different trajectories in terms of regional diversification or specialisation.

This analysis is crucial for guiding informed and more effective regional policies, as it identifies the regions that are most and least able to adapt to economic change. In this way, it provides valuable information to support the development of policies that are better adjusted to regional resilience capacities.

**Keywords:** regional resilience; economic structure; transformation; Portugal