

## PREFACE

In an increasingly more urbanised Europe, within a highly diversified and inspiring territorial mosaic, many obstacles remain to sustainable and inclusive development, underlying a deep-rooted sense of generalised uncertainty and crisis. Answers must be found for this debilitating context, exploring economic, environmental and social approaches. Policies should be developed aimed at the conservation of landscapes and heritage in their multiple dimensions, in which polyvalent urban spaces and multifaceted social settings should not be neglected. However, with the slowing down of the economic and financial crisis in view, we must also take into consideration the large migration flows and the influx of hundreds of thousands of refugees who are attempting to escape war-stricken zones, natural disasters or political and cultural conflicts. The social dimension thus gains greater relevance at this juncture.

We should strive therefore to build opportunities for sustainable development, preserving distinctive endogenous values. At the same time, structural and inclusive policies should be implemented, aimed at bolstering the social dimension, innovation and the digital society and, consequently, education and knowledge. Only thus can we make a more efficient use of the local resources. We intend to reflect on territorial, social and cultural diversity from several perspectives (geographical, historical, environmental, economic, social, cultural and legal), focusing on the European Area but expanding to include other geographical regions, such as the Portuguese-speaking countries, particularly Brazil, aiming to exchange experiences and analyse strategic frameworks that can serve to overcome the crisis. In order to do so, studies must be pursued that can catalyse society, and the scientific community in particular, or civil society with the ability to intervene in spatial management and planning.

Publications such as “The Overarching Issues of the European Space / Grandes Problemáticas do Espaço Europeu – Spatial Planning and Multiple Paths to Sustainable and Inclusive Development / Ordenamento Territorial e Múltiplos Caminhos para um Desenvolvimento Sustentável e Inclusivo”, are a contribution to these goals, highlighting a multidisciplinary, interuniversity approach, by inviting specialists not only from a number of Portuguese universities, but also from French, Bulgarian, Romanian, Galician, Croatian and Brazilian institutions to participate. The prime aim is to create and bolster synergies conducive to conservation and spatial planning, which can serve to promote social cohesion and social, economic and environmental recovery harmoniously. There is a need to reflect on development and spatial planning policies, bearing in mind spatial, social and cultural diversity and addressing different issues in which both European and non-European scenarios are the key focus.

This publication is structured into four parts, covering a range of important topics that open paths to sustainable and inclusive development. These new paths cannot neglect to address the social and cultural dimensions of society, the focus of the first part of this publication, “New Paths for Social and Cultural Development”. It includes papers by specialists from Portugal, Bulgaria and Spain, addressing problems such as population decline and its consequences, highlighting the Bulgarian coastal regions (Milen Perneliev), while Carolina Pimentel Correa focuses on ageing in Portugal. María Dolores

Sánchez-Fernández addresses a number of social responsibility practices in hotel establishments in Spain, while other authors focus on Portugal, examining strategies related to active ageing, safety and health at work (Maria da Conceição Pereira Ramos). Other issues focused on include the low literacy rates and their consequences in the Douro region (Helena Pina), even though this region boasts significant endogenous heritage and potential which can bolster new strategies for the territory, as explained by António de Barros Cardoso. Given their importance, other dynamics are also explored, such as associativism and the recovery of rural cultures in urban settings, which is the case of Bologna (Irene Serafino) and questions related to democracy in Portugal and Spain, an issue facing a number of challenges but also full of opportunity (Francisca Margarida M. S. Costa).

The second part of this book is dedicated to spatial planning from a sustainable perspective, “Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development”. Territorial development is a key objective in this publication, following old and new paths, with the collaboration of Brazilian, Spanish, Croatian and Portuguese specialists. Indeed, this critical juncture we are experiencing worldwide can only be mitigated within a sustainable context which favours the social dimensions, as highlighted by Carolina Pimentel Correa in her study on the relationships between power and sustainable development, or Fátima Loureiro de Matos, Teresa Sá Marques, Paula Guerra and Diogo Ribeiro, who focus on issues related to housing and social vulnerability in the urban milieu. Education also has an important role to play (Isa Dias Gomes e Conceição Ramos), as highlighted in a critical analysis of an example in Cape Verde, or the examination of the steady yet strong advancement of urban planning in Galicia (José António Aldrey Vázquez).

In a multifaceted and multidisciplinary setting, different themes are explored taking into account territorial diversity. This approach requires the environmental dimension, as specified by Leandro Dias de Oliveira, who analyses the evolution of those policies in Brazil in the last 25 years, a study complemented by José de Lucena and Leonardo Peres, who focus on the links between the “heat islands” and socioenvironmental segregation in Brazil.

Given how impressive forest regions are and the problems they are facing, especially in the Mediterranean, this topic is also explored in the Croatian coast by a group coordinated by Borna Fuest-Bjelis, whose members include Ivan Tekic and Anmarija Durbesic.

However, the economic sphere undoubtedly continues to dominate political bodies, as the third part of the book confirms, “The Economic Fabric: a Few Territorial and Social Dynamics”. Based on French, Bulgarian, Spanish and Portuguese examples, we can easily see how important this factor is in, for example, the North-Central Region of Bulgaria (Slavi Dimitrov) or in the analysis of urban areas in Spain, which have been digitally mapped and in which we can clearly see the evolutionary perspective (Ángel Miramontes Carballada). Also important are tourism and leisure in several dimensions, as highlighted by Dominic Royé who was inspired by the “tropical nights” of Faro, Lisbon and Porto, or the thematic parks with their recreation of/impact on European landscapes, as emphasised with the case of Disneyland Paris by João Luís J. Fernandes.

This third chapter cannot ignore the rural areas, given their importance in territorial terms and the severe problems they are facing, as referred to by Philippe Baumert, based on cases in the wine-

growing regions of the Douro and Champagne, as well as by Roger Dion on the Alsatian vineyards. Rural spaces are also the focus of an attempt to systematise rural indices, through an analysis of the state-of-the-art on this matter, as reported by Gustavo B. Braga, Paula Remoaldo and Ana Luíza C. Fiúza.

The importance of the social dimension and, particularly, of education and culture, cannot obviously be neglected when we talk of inclusive and sustainable development. The fourth part of this publication, "Education and Society: a Complex Scenario in Change", includes approaches to some research methodologies and models used in the educational sector in Bulgaria (Athanas Dermendzhiev, Stela Dermendzhieva and Martin Doykov). Their importance resides in the effect they have on the motivation and training of student-teachers (Felisbela Martins), while Carla Salazar Carvalho focuses on the building of geographical thought and the alternative conceptions offered by students, stressing the management of water resources.

In Romania, Ileana Constantinescu and Elena Dobre explore some of the problems facing higher education and the national economic terminology, which they complement with a legal perspective, aided by Adriana Motatu. They examine the effects of the existing diversity in this domain at European level and the need for harmonisation, a dimension that is still underrated but of unquestionable relevance in the pursuit of sustainable development. Innovation, namely cultural innovation in connection to creativity, is also addressed by Rute Teixeira, focusing on the case of Portugal, particularly the more attractive urban centres. Fortunately, creativity and innovation are becoming increasingly more generalised, bolstering local resources and improving the technical and professional training of the general population.

In summary, there are many exemplifying cases, diversified and representative of the connections between technical and cultural training, as well as the opportunities to broaden territorial and social cohesion. Clearly, the local potential exists and in a context where approaches to development multiply. There is, however, the need to frame them in an integrated manner, minimising the existing obstacles, while preserving the local specificities, society and culture, in an innovative and responsible manner.

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