

PREFACE

In a world of insecurity and a growing array of problems, an attractive and dynamic territorial mosaic, however, still persists, particularly within Europe. Its potential is manifold, inspiring strategies aimed at more responsible and inclusive development. The economic approach has been broadened to include the environmental and sociocultural dimensions, leading to policies focused on the conservation of landscapes, the safeguarding of heritage and endogenous specificities, as well as the revitalisation of social frameworks. This latter aspect, though, requires more urgent attention, given the rise in migratory flows throughout the continent, and the spread of territorial unbalances and inequalities, while antagonisms at several levels are being revived, of a predominantly political-religious and natural order.

These negative trends are, nevertheless, offset by a new focus on the social dimension in national and regional policies. New strategies are explored which include family convergence and the renegotiation of the conflicts that have given rise to the continuous migrations. It should be noted that the migratory flows are starting to be regarded as opportunities, particularly in terms of the structural rejuvenation of the European population. These issues should then be seen as a means to foster more responsible development, allied to policies aimed at preserving economic, cultural, religious and political diversity. The framework of development should be innovative, addressing for example, a circular economy or a bioeconomy, based on digital resources, on increasing literacy, on education and on knowledge. These measures will also lead to greater efficiency in the management of endogenous resources, rooted in more sustainable, innovative and comprehensive development and in territorial cohesion.

However, problematic situations continue to persist globally, which obliges us to continue to reflect on these topics. Thus, although focusing mainly on the European space, we find it is increasingly correlated with other spaces, such as the Lusophone, particularly Brazil, with which joint projects and aggregating synergies have been developed. Several approaches to a myriad of problems have continued to be explored in a multidisciplinary, interuniversity and multinational context, setting the path to effective social, cultural, economic and environmental revitalisation. The principals set out in the “Sustainable Development Goals” upheld by the UN are gradually implemented, by which global development should be structured over the coming years, covering areas ranging from climate change and technological inequalities to economic and social disparities, sustainable development and peace and justice. It is urgent to deepen our understanding of these issues, focusing on strategies that can contribute to their mitigation.

Publications such as “The Overarching Issues of the European Space – Society, Economy and Heritage in a Scenario Towards Greater Territorial Cohesion / Grandes Problemáticas do Espaço Europeu - Sociedade, Economia e Património num Cenário Tendente a uma Maior Coesão Territorial” are intended to contribute to this goal. It counts on the collaboration of specialists from several Portuguese, French, Bulgarian, Romanian, Galician, Croatian universities, as well as a growing number of universities from Portuguese-speaking countries, amongst which Brazil undoubtedly takes the lead. Synergies have consequently been created, highlighting the importance of disseminating studies such as those collected in this publication. They cover central issues and raise inclusive scenarios that highlight the importance of the social and cultural dimensions, which have long been pushed aside by the economic dimension.

This publication is structured into three parts. The first part focuses precisely on the social and cultural dimensions, called “Society, Culture and Education / Sociedade, Cultura e Educação”. Training

and education are undoubtedly key for enhancing development and innovation. Stella Dermendzhieva and Tamara Draganova (Veliko Tarnovo University, Bulgaria) focus on these topics in the Balkan countries, particularly on the teaching of geography, its objectives and curriculum in the different levels of schooling. The authors conclude that these countries are gradually moving towards synchronisation, given the importance of the geographical dimension in spatial planning. Furthermore, curriculum mutations/innovations accompany social evolution, as we can confirm in the case of Portugal, based on an analysis of the student's profile in the 21st century and their relationship with the "new" flexibility of the curriculum in secondary education, as highlighted by Felisbela Martins. Lígia Santos and Natália Ramos further highlight the pedagogical practices and technological choices affecting higher education. There is, thus, greater awareness of social issues in Europe, and the effects of technical, pedagogical and curricular innovations as effective tools in increasing social inclusion, through more widespread instruction, education, and the acquisition of more diversified skills, which are indispensable today.

Society has undergone profound changes, due to higher levels of training and culture. However, this sometimes occurs when traditional canons are abandoned, as noted by Paulo Jorge Santos, affecting people's sense of identity and class, especially when individuals distance themselves from their community of origin and integrate cultural groups that still seek coherence and identity. However, personal and social development is unquestionable.

On the other hand, the complexity of the world today and the conflicts that multiply, reflect the existence of clear vulnerabilities at various levels, further aggravated in times of crisis, as we have seen since 2008. And, although political responses favour financial restructuring, by restricting public investments in social services, they have affected a high percentage of very vulnerable people, as highlighted by Fátima Matos, Teresa Sá Marques, Diogo Ribeiro and Ana Catarina Oliveira Maia. In fact, these restrictive policies have been at the source of widespread discontent and protest in Europe, particularly in Portugal. This aspect is addressed by Célia Taborda Silva, correlated further with real estate and financial speculation, as well as with the intervention of the *Troika* in several countries and the consequent austerity measures that increased unemployment and precariousness. This has led to manifestations of dissatisfaction, amplified by the use of new communication technologies and, consequently, the spread of the public protest.

Likewise, corruption and lack of trust in democratic structures have heightened the crisis and the rates of violence, as the study by Eduardo Duque and António Calheiros shows in Portugal, a country that remains fragile in terms of democratic and civic values. Unfortunately, this scenario is internalised not only among the Portuguese but also at a European and global scale. It is a generalised problem, with serious consequences. Nevertheless, there are institutional initiatives aimed at controlling this issue, especially in the extent to which it interferes with the right to social security in a framework that covers several parameters, amongst which Ana Sofia Carvalho emphasises pension reforms and the extraordinary solidarity tax in Portugal, during the critical period from 2011 to 2016. Faced with this very weak framework, which can also be observed in the health sector, flu morbidity is also addressed, with different levels of danger and contagion, as reported by Dominic Royé and Pablo Hernaez in the Autonomous Communities of Spain.

Although territorial conflicts are always present, because of the destruction they carry with them, they have to be studied from other perspectives, because they also revive cultural identities, exacerbated in times of crisis, but which are still "submerged" under the guise of nationalisms, as shown by João Luís Fernandes in the case of Olivença. In fact, these identity issues, political in nature, are

more acute in Catalonia and elsewhere, highlighting the need for this dimension to also be repositioned in political and cultural terms. We are, in fact, facing times of unrest, where the social and cultural aspects must be present in the strategies to be implemented, associated with the economic and political ones.

Fortunately, there are a growing number of strategies intended to bolster development and territorial cohesion. In this publication, the importance of tourism, which is the driving force behind the recovery and enhancement of heritage in its many facets, is exemplified in a comprehensive manner (Portugal, Spain, Macedonia and Brazil) in the second part, called “Tourism and Heritage in Territorial Development / Turismo e Património no Desenvolvimento Territorial”. In fact, it is history, but above all, architectural heritage that is revived in the wake of the realisation of its real importance in these dynamics, because it is not only the building that is recovered and reused, but also the social and the immaterial culture: all aspects must be combined in a harmonious and holistic manner to achieve sustainable development, as these components reflect local identity, history and regional experiences. In this context, it is important to highlight the recovery of Bulgarian heritage, in particular, its religious heritage, as Athanas Dermendzhiev and Martin Doykov report, a strategy that has revived religious resources in Veliko Tarnovo, exploring its spiritual and historic dimensions, going beyond the national scale.

A similar perspective has been adopted in Macedonia, although Slavi Dimitrov and Tatyana Dimitrova, taking a more general approach, value not only the religious dimension, but also the multiplicity of resources, namely landscape and gastronomy. Such a perspective has been amplified by UNESCO, with the distinction of several sites, as is the case of the city of Ohrid.

Still within the sphere of UNESCO sites, two articles focus on the Douro Demarcated Region (NE Portugal), a World Heritage Site since 2001, where, in addition to the “living evolutionary landscape”, winegrowing heritage is valued, as highlighted by António Barros Cardoso, who describes a case full of history, that of the “Quinta do Noval”, and by Helena Pina, although, in this case, in a complementary perspective. At the heart of the development of the Douro region, the vineyard has in the last few decades been requalified, combining the economic dimension with innovation and the need to preserve this monumental landscape, its heritage and culture. There was also the need to question the impact of the crisis on this territory, as well as the strategies employed to overcome it. The author found that the creative and innovative capacity of the Douro is unquestionable, a region where a wide range of strategies have been used, albeit clearly favouring tourism, combining the landscape with the recovery of the built heritage, as well as the revitalisation of the region’s immaterial heritage, its gastronomy and wines, further bolstered by widespread advertising and aggressive marketing.

However, the impact of tourism is not always the most positive, as we can see from the perspective of the residents and the tourists, which is evident, even if differentiated according to their profile. Thus, the examples analysed show that in cases where the economic dimension has been strategically enhanced, the results were not always as expected, given the existence of exacerbated financial expectations, while undervaluing other aspects such as the immaterial, heritage and history, even though these comprise the distinctiveness and the very identity of a region. These less optimistic results were observed in urban areas as well, especially in heritage centres such as Santiago de Compostela, where Larissa Gabriel, Jakson Soares and Christiane Godoi put forward at times critical views, especially from residents, when they were approached about the manner in which their heritage is being used and how this has affected their daily lives.

A similar context is found in the extreme east of Europe, in Bulgaria, as shown by Milen Penerliev, when analyzing the behaviour of tourists, in this case, with a distinct, more unpredictable profile, which he calls “errant” or “misrepresentative”. This has arisen because the local population, in an attempt to respond to external motivations, has come to disregard the authentic, specific and unique, such as the gastronomy, for example, which is a paradox that fortunately is being (re)observed under other more realistic and sustainable parameters.

But let us return to Spanish space, specifically to Ibiza, based on the study by Maria Dolores Fernández, Daniel Bassi and José Cardona. Highly insightful, this article proves the valuation that residents and tourists make of 12 native products, a generalised aspect in Spain, although differentiated according to the profile of the tourist. The same happens on the other side of the Atlantic, in Punta Del Este (Uruguay), a less sought after location, especially by the group called the “Uninterested”, according to the typology of tourists used by the authors, which confirms the weak attention given to authenticity and the local identity. Fortunately, there are also the “Enthusiasts” who justify the investment made in tourism, by the way in which they value it and recognise it as a source of culture and a driver of local development.

An identical scenario is also found in Brazil, in this case, in Joinville (Santa Catarina), a predominantly industrial municipality. There, although the importance of tourism as one of the driving forces of the municipality is undeniable, negative effects can be detected, pointed out above all by women. Nonetheless, through awareness-raising campaigns among residents, as mentioned by Elaine Scalabrini, Paula Remoaldo and Júlia Lourenço, there is hope for better coexistence between tourism, industry and the local population, as well as healthier, more inclusive development.

In the third part of this publication, called “Environment and Cities in Spatial Dynamics / Ambiente e Cidades nas Dinâmicas Espaciais”, priority is given to environmental issues and the strategies aimed at their mitigation, both in natural spaces and in urban environments. However, environmental impacts on urban centres dominate, particularly in their historical zones, which become degraded without the appropriate legal protection, facilitating gentrification. There is a need to view these spaces in an integrating manner, the only way in which to maintain their identity, but in a peaceful and sustainable context, as noted by Maria Cristina Simão and Rosângela Cavallazzi in Brazil, or Murilo Fonseca, in Vila Nova de Gaia (Portugal).

But it is undoubtedly the Brazilian experiences that dominate the third part of this publication, as we can see in Seropédica (Rio de Janeiro), an example on which Leandro Dias de Oliveira focuses. This article highlights the problems associated with the implantation of the “sustainable city”, based on the installation of its associated industrial and logistic units. On the other hand, moving to the Amazon, more precisely to the municipalities of Santarém and Marabá, the situation changes, since access and transport networks, connected to an inclusive development plan, have provided a sensitive urban and regional dynamism, as Jader Ferreira and Júlia Lourenço note.

However, due to their diversity and gravity, it is the environmental problems that stand out in this chapter, namely in the city of Rio de Janeiro and its metropolitan area. This is the case of air pollution. There are multiple approaches to this issue, as are the methodologies associated to its measurement, such as, for example, “heat islands”. In this chapter, Andrews Lucena and Leonardo Peres discuss several of these methodologies and their results, comparing them critically, thus providing a very comprehensive urban climate study.

These problems are global, but there is obviously a great deal of interference from local and regional specificities. Thus, they can also be detected in European space, accompanied by other problems and mitigation / conservation strategies, such as those related to nature conservation and the creation of protected areas. Although they were initially observed from an individual, isolated perspective, they are today part of international networks. In addition, although more recently, spaces other than the European have awakened to this problem, such as in Africa, portrayed specifically in the case of Namibia, in a study by Daniel Franqueira, José António Vázquez and Ndapewa Nakanyete. This approach falls under the so-called “Conservationists”, as Namibia attempts to revitalise spaces and species of fauna and flora that have suffered wide-ranging devastation. However, the project managers have placed the endogenous population at the centre of these dynamics, as key agents for change. Thus, sustainable, harmonious development is envisaged.

On the other hand, environmental problems also multiply in the European space, as well as strategies to address them, as can be seen in the case of the Island of Hvar (Croatia). Human intervention in the last hundred years due to rural exodus and decline in agriculture led to the deterioration or even the elimination of native vineyards and olive groves. However, the recent recovery of these soils has served to halt the spread of maquis, revitalising these islands. The example presented by Antonio Moric-Spanic and Borna Fuerst-Bjelis bears witness to these dynamics.

Finally, another environmental problem is addressed, in this case, in the NW of the Iberian Peninsula: flooding. Betanzos (A Coruña, Spain), a town that developed along the river's banks, has during its history faced very critical periods due to river floods, but also invasions sustained by the entrance of maritime waters during high tides. However, mitigating strategies are emerging, as Alexandre Vázquez-Rodríguez specifies, as environmental issues gain increasing relevance, and, in a holistic perspective that combines environmental aspects with anthropic ones. Thus, flood studies and strategies to minimise this problem are increasing, of which Betanzos is an example.

In summary, despite the array of problems which we face each day and the predominance of the economic dimension, when seeking to resolve these problems, the environmental, societal and cultural dimensions are gradually emerging, and they are gaining greater acceptance from the decision-making powers. However, it is essential to continuously focus on technical training and strive for real, sustainable and multi-faceted development, which can deepen territorial cohesion and social inclusion. In fact, endogenous potential persists at several levels, but they have to be viewed in an integrated, dynamic and innovative manner, preserving the endogenous and distinctive elements, in a holistic, revitalising, and inclusive setting. Diversity and the identity of different cultures must be preserved, but without obstructing development.

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December 2017