

EDITORIAL

The last time an editor-in-chief of 'Revista Portuguesa de Estudos Regionais' (Portuguese Revue of Regional Studies) wrote an editorial was for the 50th issue of the journal, which dates back to May 2019. Since then, the editors are committed to keep the journal alive, and position it within the regional science scientific community. Although the road has not been easy, our aim has always been to have an increasingly better and more international journal. This is the way we can attract good papers dealing with regional, local and urban issues, either approaching them from a more theoretical or from a more empirical perspective, while also producing relevant socioeconomic territorial policies recommendations. This way, we have tried to remain competitive among the many other scientific journals that focus on the same subjects.

As we all known, the indexing of journals in the main scientific databases plays a significant role in their competitiveness. Keeping that in mind, we have never ceased to apply for new indexations, but we fought for better rates. We are pleased to have obtained Latindex, and we have also been working to achieve better ratings on Qualis(Capes), which has attracted more and more papers submissions from Brazilian authors. However, our aim to improve the positioning of 'Revista Portuguesa de Estudos Regionais' (RPER) on the Scimago/Scopus index has been hampered by the difficulty in attracting submissions from a wider range of countries around the world. According to Scopus, we need to perform better on that domain to acquire a better journal rating. We are working on this, but we recognize that results we aim to achieve will take some time.

In the process of consolidating RPER within the scientific community, we are providing open access to all the issues for our readers for a few years now. We have also increase the number of papers published in each issue, adopted a new web platform and we are in the process of attributing DOIs to all published papers. We hope to complete this soon. For supporting all the editorial management of the journal, since last November, two new editors (associate editors) were also appointed, Maria Conceição Rego and João Lourenço Marques. We hope that these improvements will benefit the journal soon.

If we look to the issues published during the year 2022 and to the one published in January 2023, we can see that has been changing in the subjects attracting the attention of the territorial research dealing with thematic. Not surprisingly, the COVID-19 pandemic had major impacts on social life and territories, whether urban or rural. Special issue 60, guest-edited by María de la Cruz del Río Rama, José Álvarez García and Amador Durán Sánchez, addressed this topic. Issues 62 and 63 also included papers reflecting on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, with contributions coming from Portugal, Spain, Mexico, Brazil, Malaysia and Ecuador.

In the RPER issues 61, 62 and 63 many other subjects were also treated, including gender employment (in)equality, tourist territorial impacts, access to land and strategic agricultural planning, governance, efficiency and regional deconcentration, and house price indexes, among others. We would like to make a special mention to a paper published in issue 61, entitled "Bibliometric Analysis of Three Decades of APDR Congress Proceedings: A Perspective on The Evolution of Regional Science in Portugal". This paper provides a comprehensive overview of the research performed in Portugal in the field of Regional Science, since the beginning of the activity of the Portuguese Association for Regional Development (APDR), the Portuguese section of the European Regional Science Association, as the organizer of scientific congresses. Of course, much of this research can be found in the papers published by 'Revista Portuguesa de Estudos Regionais' along the years, since the journal was launched in 2003.

In this regard, we would like to highlight that RPER has as its proprietary APDR, which makes the journal an essential instrument for the aims it is devoted to, namely: contributing towards innovation, the improvement and dissemination of knowledge on regional development; and ii) promoting the exchange of information and experiences among its members and professionals from various institutions (<http://www.apdr.pt/a-apdr/estatutos/> - retrieved 21/02/2023). Furthermore, it is a publication that promotes regional science written in Portuguese, while it welcomes other dominant languages in the academic world such as English or Spanish.

This issue 64 of the journal follows the recent trend of welcoming papers on multiple subjects which are a reflection of our current time realities and concerns, namely: public polices related to

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poverty, housing, innovation, entrepreneurship, urban mobility and territories governance; impacts of tourism on host communities; and territories trade competitiveness. The Brazilian airports network and labour mobility motivations are also present.

As mentioned in the editorial published in May 2019, we believe that journals like the Portuguese Review of Regional Studies play an essential role in promoting and making available the research being produced on regional, local and urban issues. They also foster connection between research and society, and, this way, provide policy recommendations and inspire policies.

J. Cadima Ribeiro (Editor-in-Chief); Maria Conceição Rego (Editor); João Lourenço Marques (Editor)