
Portuguese-language Network of Urban Morphology: President's Report

The formation of a Portuguese Network of ISUF (PNUM) was proposed in 2010, at the Seventeenth Conference of ISUF. It was at the ISUF Council meeting at that conference that a proposal for the Constitution was presented.

In my first report as President, I should like to acknowledge the work and energy invested in PNUM by my predecessor, Vítor Oliveira. This report is a résumé of the main activities of PNUM (conferences, workshops and publications) between July 2014 and July 2015, and a brief consideration of future activities.

It is most rewarding that this network has attracted so much interest, particularly from colleagues in Brazil. The recent change in the name of the network from Portuguese Network of Urban Morphology (*Rede Portuguesa de Morfologia Urbana*) to Portuguese-language Network of Urban Morphology (*Rede Lusófona de Morfologia Urbana*), as approved by the PNUM Scientific Council in July 2014, has reinforced the Portuguese-Brazilian alliance.

The Fourth PNUM Conference, 'Urban settings and the challenges of urbanity', which took place in Brasilia in June, was the first outside Portugal. It attracted 250 participants, of whom 85 per cent were Brazilians: a report appears elsewhere in this issue of *Urban Morphology* (pp. 171-2).

Currently PNUM has 865 members from 15 countries (Angola, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Cape Verde, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Mozambique, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and Vietnam). Much of its rapid growth is attributable to its annual conferences, which have served as important forums for debate on urban morphology. The Fifth PNUM Conference will take place next year in Guimarães, Portugal, and is being co-ordinated by Jorge Correia and Miguel Bandeira of the University of Minho.

This year PNUM organized its first Workshop. It was on 'Different approaches to the study of urban form', and is reported on in this issue of *Urban Morphology* (p. 172). A second Workshop is being prepared for 2016.

Apart from the organization of conferences and workshops, PNUM aims to continue to promote the study of urban form in Portugal through publications. Already in its fourth issue, the journal

Revista de Morfologia Urbana, edited by Vítor Oliveira, is a major channel for the discussion of viewpoints and research results among PNUM members. The inclusion in *Revista* of Portuguese translations of seminal papers originally published in English in *Urban Morphology* is a notable feature.

A major publication that will become available this year is the book entitled *The study of urban form in Portugal*, edited by Vítor Oliveira, Teresa Marat-Mendes and Paulo Pinho, with a foreword by Jeremy Whitehand. This book integrates the perspectives of fourteen researchers, mostly PNUM founding members.

It is the wish of the Scientific Council of PNUM to promote our activities among all those who recognize in the study of urban form in Portugal a common *cultural character* that deserves greater attention and focus. Further investigations between different countries are welcomed: for example between Spain and Portugal, whose historical backgrounds have endowed the Iberian Peninsula with a regional system of marked individuality. And we strongly support an open system of communication such as has been espoused by the notable geographer M. R. G. Conzen (2004).

I should like to invite all PNUM members and all those interested in the study of urban form in Portugal to visit our website (<http://pnum.fe.up.pt/>) and make further suggestions of activities that should be undertaken by PNUM.

Reference

Conzen, M. R. G. (2004) 'The historical urbanization regions of medieval Europe', in Conzen, M. P. (ed.) *Thinking about urban form: papers on urban morphology 1932-1998* (Peter Lang, Oxford) 197-235.

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