

## EDITORIAL

This issue of *Revista Paranaense de Desenvolvimento* (RPD) presents the second part of the Planning and Urban and Regional Dossier, organized by Rosa Moura, researcher from the Instituto Paranaense de Desenvolvimento Econômico e Social (IPARDES), geographer, doctor in Geography by the Universidade Federal do Paraná (UFPR), and member of Metropolis Observatory – “Territory, social cohesion and democratic governance” project, INCT/ CNPq.

The dossier compiles articles that analyze the theme, organized in two consecutive sets, published on RPD’s issues 119 and 120. The first issue congregates articles approaching the evaluation of planning and urban and regional administration experiences, implemented on different states of the federation; the second one compiles articles suggesting a reflection about the limitations and possibilities of planning and urban, metropolitan and regional development administration, emphasizing theoretical and conceptual approaches. They also highlight process analysis towards the production of urban space – and its conditional elements, as well as criticisms on the current state of planning and urban and regional administration. Both issues present an unequivocal contribution for the knowledge-deepening about urban and regional contemporary dynamics and their insertion on the country’s planning practices. They also present relevant resources for the formulation of public policies in accordance with such dynamics.

This RPD issue initiates with a message from Carlos Brandão, critical and optimistic at the same time, in the article “The search for regional planning utopia”. He conclusively observes that “regional planning in the present context seems to be considered utopic, but one should always look for utopia”. The regional planning of the State of Santa Catarina also receives a critical analysis by Ivo M. Theis, Luciana Butzke, Iara L. K. Rischbieter, Mariana C. Linder and Diego B. Vargas in the article “The trojan horse and its “green belly”: regional planning and socio and spatial inequalities in Santa Catarina”.

The critical tone is accentuated by Víctor Ramiro Fernández and María Belén Alfaro, who expose theoretical formulations of capitalism diverseness in the article “Ideas and policies of regional development under varieties of capitalism: contributions from the periphery”. Through a latin american position, they diagnose and formulate insertion strategies for regional development policies. The purpose is to overcome the limitations from the approach used in central countries, emphasizing the periphery’s ability to operate changes. The reflection is directed towards the national territory in the article “Management of regional development and strategies for support policies to Local Production Arrangements: traditional and new generation APLs, or territorial production systems”, by Mariano de Matos Macedo. The support policies for

APLs is examined counterpointing the predominating approach - “administrative” and/or “localist” – and some strategic matters, in order to strengthen the territorial dimension and to transform its present pattern.

The urban and metropolitan contemporary thematic emerges from the following articles. Based on international studies, Carlos de Mattos draws significant conclusions about the range and limitations of urban competitiveness in the text “Santiago, competitiveness in the global cities network – elements for a critical analysis”. Quality of life improvement in the competing cities, through the implementation of such policies, is questioned. Sandra Lencioni makes a particular analysis of a macro metropolis in her article “The metamorphosis of São Paulo: the evidence of a new world of dispersed agglomerations”. She examines the role and the logic of mobility, information and communication networks – and how they are configured in this enormous, complex, expanded territory.

Two articles dedicated to Brazilian metropolitan regions, analyze the metropolitan phenomenon diversification, the complexity of urban networks and the concept of metropolis. Renato Nunes Balbim, Maria Fernanda Becker, Marco Aurelio Costa and Miguel Matteo emphasize the “Contemporary challenges in the management of metropolitan areas”. The article debates the advance of metropolization process, the anachronistic increase in the number of metropolitan regions in the country, the fragmentation of metropolitan administration, and the theme’s nearly absence from the national political agenda. One of the contemporary challenges is to face simultaneous processes of concentration and dispersion with proper public policies. Luiz César de Queiroz Ribeiro, Érica Tavares da Silva and Juciano Martins Rodrigues, with the article “Brazilian metropolises: diversification, concentration and dispersion”, analyze these properties based on information about urban mobility, population growth and distribution.

A counterpoint to the concentration of large metropolitan spaces is found in “Municipal autonomy in the Brazilian federative context”, by Angela Penalva Santos. The article focuses on the political autonomy of municipalities. Small municipalities financially benefited from the Constitutional Amendments that affected their autonomy, but intergovernmental cooperation did not consolidate a federative pact.

The urban planning sphere is approached by Hoyêdo Nunes Lins in “Cultural economics and urban space in Florianópolis: terms of discussion and analysis effort”, regarding the association between the expansion of cultural activities, employment generation, income creation, and urban environment revitalization. Alberto de Oliveira discusses, without optimism, “The economics of mega events: sectoral and regional impacts”. He concludes that this strategy, assumed as adequate to economic development, is not based on solid theoretical foundation. The strategy merely reproduces

models from central countries, disregarding the risks – especially when applied to underdeveloped countries.

Two international perspectives about the Brazilian urban space appear in the succeeding articles. The first one, “The (un)sustainability of urban development in the United States: what Brazilian cities can learn from American cities”, by Joseli Macedo, also presents a critical attitude towards the reproduction of models. It shows that urban development trajectory and results impose challenges for these cities to overcome unsustainability tendencies. Renata Parente Paula Pessoa, in “Towards a definition of urban polycentrism for Brazilian metropolises”, based on international literature and European cases, proposes a typology for Brazilian urban areas.

IPARDES expects the contribution from the articles that comprise this issue may amplify the debate, emphasize the Planning and Urban and Regional Administration theme, and insert it in the agenda of researchers, policy makers and public administrators.

We wish all a pleasant reading and invite you to examine the previous issue of *Revista*, in which the first part of the *Planning and Urban and Regional Administration* Dossier is found.

Dr<sup>a</sup> Rosa Moura

*Planning and Urban and Regional Administration* Dossier Organizer

Dr<sup>a</sup> Silmara Cimbalista

*Revista Paranaense de Desenvolvimento (RPD)* Editor