

Editorial

With the publication of this issue, the 'Revista Portuguesa de Estudos Regionais' (Portuguese Revue of Regional Studies) has reached its 50th issue. It was a long and hard road for its editors to reach this point. In this regard, my part was quite easy since I have only been in this position, as Editor-in-Chief, since May 2016 and, by that time, the journal had already firstly been accepted as a member of EconLit, and, later on, as a member of Qualis and, especially, of Scopus data bases. This allowed it to attract the submission of a large amount of papers from both Portuguese and foreign researchers. Most recently, we have also succeeded in becoming a member of Redalyc (Network of Scientific Journals of Latin America, Caribe, Spain and Portugal), which has enhanced our visibility, namely, in South America.

Naturally, there is always the need to advertise the journal among the scientific community and to make it evident that we are providing a journal that publishes high quality papers, and which address subjects that really matter, either by their empirical relevance, innovative theoretical and/or analytical approaches or by their policy contribution. The competition among international journals has increased a lot in the last few years, therefore no one should rest on their past achievements.

This 50th issue has arrived 15 years after the launching of the journal in 2003, an editorial project of 'APDR - Associação Portuguesa para o Desenvolvimento Regional' (Portuguese Association for Regional Development), the Portuguese section of the European Regional Science Association. APDR, itself, was born in 1984, by the initiative of a group of senior and junior academic researchers of Regional Science and related fields, which included A. Simões Lopes, generally considered the founding father of Regional Science in Portugal. I, myself, had the chance to be a member of this founding team as a junior researcher, developing my master's thesis under his scientific supervision.

Regional science was only introduced in Portugal in the 1970s, that is to say, it was only then that Portuguese researchers began to pro-

duce more consistent and theoretically supported studies on regional and urban subjects. In this regard, it is worth mentioning that the 1979 book from A. Simões Lopes on *Regional Development – Problematic, Theory, Models*, published by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, has long been used as the main academic textbook to support the teaching of Regional Science in Portuguese universities.

As stated in its rules, some of the main goals of the Portuguese Association for Regional Development were (and still are): 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 24/11/2018). Therefore, editing a scientific journal was, and still is, one of the best ways to achieve these goals.

The 50th issue includes eight papers, two more than we usually publish. By doing this, we wanted to give the issue a well-deserved special meaning, not only through the amount of papers included, but also through the diversity of fields of research these papers are focused on, going from location factors, urban logistics, wine sector performance and sustainability, higher education and regional development, to smart specialisation strategies, market behavior in regional press, social entrepreneurship and cultural heritage.

Normally, the contributors of this journal are from different parts of the world. In this case, and in celebrating its 50th issue, we wanted to give Portuguese researchers centre stage. In this issue, from outside of Portugal, either working alone or in partnership with Portuguese researchers, we also have contributions from English and Croatian researchers.

In this regard, in the paper from Croatia (Cvecic, Sokolic and Mrak), I would like to present the following idea from its abstract: "As Europe features significant regional disparities in employment, education and economic prosperity, the support for science and technology, including HEIs [Higher Education Institutions]

and their outputs, is crucial for regional development, especially among ‘peripheral’ regions”. Among other things, this tells us that regional disparities are still a major concern in many of our economies, just as they used to be, long ago, when Regional Science was born as an autonomous field of research. Additionally, it tells us that knowledge and Higher Education Institutions still have a role to play in Regional Development, either by providing education and training, or by providing research on products and services and advice on ways to deal with regional problems and resources.

Bearing this in mind, journals like the Portuguese Review of Regional Studies have an unquestionable role in acting as part of a network of researchers on regional and urban issues, and in establishing the connection between research and society, as a whole, providing knowledge on different issues and inspiring policies.

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(Editor-in-Chief)