

# Evaluation for Integration of Urban Policies: a Methodological Proposal

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The issue of articulation/integration in urban policies, in a context of institutional diversity and fragmentation, is a challenge to evaluation tools and practices. The main aim of the paper is to discuss and present a methodology directed to the evaluation of interaction capacities between different policy instruments and different agents and to the enhancement of collective capacities associated with that interaction. The proposed methodology, which takes into account several contributions to this debate by Innes and Booher (2003), is based on four main dimensions of inquiry, related to: i) diversity of actors; ii) interaction by actors; iii) development of selection mechanisms, based on the accumulation of knowledge and reflexive capacities; and iv) normative framework(s) that inform policy strategies and initiatives. The methodology is applied to the study of eight urban policies initiatives developed in the municipality of Oporto, Portugal. The analysis is based on documental research and semi-structured interviews with actors involved in that initiatives. The main result of the study – and the main test to its relevance – is the identification of factors that inhibit (or promote) reflexive learning and collaborative capacities, in contexts of fragmentation of urban policies.

**Keywords:** evaluation; urban policies; learning processes.