

Creativity, Urban Resurgence and Urban Policies: Exploring Policy Implications of Creativity Spatial Patterns

Isabel Breda-Vázquez, Carlos Oliveira, Rita Guimarães, Henrique Alves, Filipa Gomes

Citta – Research Center for Territory, transports and Environment

Faculty of Engineering, University of Porto, ivazquez@fe.up.pt, carlosol@fe.up.pt, ritalobo@fe.up.pt,

halves@fe.up.pt, fegomes@fe.up.pt

Phone/fax numbers: 00 351 225081903 - 00 351 225081486

Creativity and urban resurgence are now main issues in the literature dedicated to urban dynamics, according to which cities that want to attract talented people and flourish economically, need to generate a favourable and distinctive “atmosphere”. The qualities of cities centres – namely social diversity, functional mix, heritage and attractive public space - are seen as crucial issues to creative location decisions and urban revival. Consequently, urban strategies are strongly committed to the improvement of physical, social and cultural conditions in inner-cities. However, these approaches are also criticized for promoting a limited vision of urban renaissance and of urban policies. Location decisions of creative activities and their employees do not always necessarily rely on such soft factors. Some research stresses the negative effects of creative cities policies too, particularly those related with gentrification and social mix. This paper aims to contribute to these debates. It analyses the creativity spatial patterns of Porto Metropolitan Area and addresses, subsequently, significant policy implications regarding city-centre regeneration.

Keywords: creative cities, urban resurgence, creativity location patterns, regeneration