

Urban revitalization and Transport: local factors and driving forces from a stakeholders´ view

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Urban revitalization has been the center of attention during the last decades as a means to tackle the city- or neighborhood-wide decline problem, which is evident in many worldwide urban environments, through its serious implication in all aspects of human life (physical, environmental, social, economic, health, historical and cultural). The roots of this urban decline should be searched within a wide spectrum of combinations of macro drivers and/or location-specific factors. In the framework of the “Strategic Options for Integrating Transportation Innovations and Urban Revitalization” (SOTUR) project of the MIT Portugal Program, we defined urban revitalization as a process that comprises of a set of urban management strategies to facilitate economic, social, environmental, cultural and historical (re)development of problematic, deprived and derelict urban areas. It is evident that urban revitalization cuts across many public policy areas, but our perspective is primarily transportation- and land use-oriented. In this context, the objective of this paper is to present the process and outcomes of a the “Imagining Urban Futures” Stakeholders Workshop, aiming at the identification of driving forces and local factors that implicitly and/or explicitly have an impact on urban revitalization policies in Portugal, and namely in Lisbon, Porto and Coimbra. This initiative is embedded in a greater participatory scenario planning exercise, comprised of a series of Workshops that, on the one hand, capitalize the knowledge and expertise of a variety of urban revitalization-related stakeholders, and on the other hand, promote the development of a participatory culture, and its consequent learning effects, in Portugal.

Keywords: Urban revitalization; Transportation; Land use; Scenario planning; Stakeholders