

# Evaluation in urban planning: from theory to practice

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The first part of the paper addresses a number of key issues of the debate in planning evaluation. The second part focuses on the design of the Plan-Process-Results (PPR) methodology and on its application to the current planning process in Oporto. After the identification of the main contributions from the literature review, the fundamental elements of this methodology are made evident – the generic and specific criteria, the evaluation questions, the assessment techniques, and the data sources. Oporto planning process, built around its land use plan, is appraised according to rationality, conformance and performance, and a number of proposals are presented to improve it. The paper is concluded highlighting the idea that it is possible to design and apply a planning evaluation methodology, with an emphasis on urban form analysis. The assessment results contribute to enhance the quality of the urban plans, as well as the local planning processes and the built environments they are expected to shape.

**Keywords:** planning-evaluation; evaluation methodologies; plan; planning process; city.