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URBAN REGENERATION: A CELL AS DISSEMINATION UNIT

Miguel P. Amado^{1(*)}, Inês Ramalhe², João C. Freitas², António Ribeiro Amado²

¹CERIS, Departamento de Engenharia Civil, Arquitectura e Georrecursos, Instituto Superior Técnico
Universidade de Lisboa, Rovisco Pais Av. 1, 1049-001 Lisbon

²GEOTPU.LAB, Instituto Superior Técnico, Rovisco Pais Av. 1, 1049-001 Lisbon

(*)*Email*: ma@fct.unl.pt

ABSTRACT

The faster urbanisation in developing countries is producing an unyielding pressure on existing urban hubs, which is leading to the formation of informal settlements, as there are no alternatives for low-income migrants. Sub-Saharan African Region still showing the worst scenario where 55% of the population still lives in informal settlements in 2014, according to the United Nations data. Different approaches and strategies have been applied but the scale of the problem, lack of financial resources and political instability are the major constraints for its success. In the majority of the cases, regeneration is fully dependent on the Governments decisions and resources, which delays the process and, sometimes, show inadequacy to local conditions (Werna 2001; Ogunshakin and Olayiwola 1992; Shannon, Meulder, and Lin 2014; Abbott 2002). On the other hand several authors and data from empirical approaches have shown that an incremental process, supported by self-determination, is essential to provides some transformation (Huchzermeyer and Karam 2006; Shannon, Meulder, and Lin 2014; Keivani and Werna 2001; Ogunshakin and Olayiwola 1992; Wekesa, Steyn, and Otieno 2011; Mukhija 2004; Abbas M. Hassan 2015; Blaustein et al. 2014; Greene and Rojas 2008). This paper presents a methodology for an incremental urban regeneration to be applied in a pilot project to the Luanda metropolitan area, in Angola. The methodology presents an approach where urban cells can work as dissemination units for regeneration, considering a self-empowerment of the investors and the population in a framework of partnership. The issue of the research relies in two main scopes: the definition of these urban cells, considering the State's objectives and initiatives; land tenure forms (land titles, former occupancy) and local features (social, economic and environmental); the autonomy of the stakeholders, regarding a process where the State is a supporter and the regeneration operations are made by the private sector and the population. Thus, a criteria framework for the definition of these urban cells is presented, based on literature review and empirical evidences, supported by GIS Database. Furthermore, a set of mechanisms is presented in order to support the self-empowerment process. The conclusions focus in the research for a methodology based on a regeneration process that combines policies and its spatial dissemination within the territory.

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