

# *Journal Cedoua*

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The Journal Cedoua (*RevCedoua*), published in digital and open-access format, is an annual journal edited by the Center for Urban Planning, Land Use, and Environmental Law Studies of the Faculty of Law at the University of Coimbra. The journal is dedicated to the publication of original scientific works, either legal or interdisciplinary in nature, that reflect advanced research on issues related to spatial planning, urbanism, and the environment, aiming to identify and propose solutions to relevant problems in these fields.

Upholding the principles of impartiality and scientific-legal rigor, the *RevCedoua* accepts submissions in Portuguese, English, Spanish, or French, authored by professionals, researchers, or academics working on these topics within their respective areas of expertise. The journal publishes three types of scientific texts: doctrinal articles, case law commentaries, and book reviews. Through a rigorous process of selection and scientific peer review, the *RevCedoua* seeks to promote the expansion of knowledge in the field of spatial planning, urbanism, and environmental studies.

## **Call for Papers:**

### **Urbanize rural land or renaturalize urban space?**

The “urbanization of rural land,” or more precisely, the reclassification of rural land as urban land to enable its development as a direct response to housing shortages, runs counter to the urban planning and development models that have been evolving in Portugal—particularly in major metropolitan areas—since at least 1998. These models were conceived to reverse past trends of territorial occupation characterized by oversized urban perimeters—far exceeding actual building and urbanization needs—without any coherent municipal strategy to justify them. The consequence was a dispersed pattern of development and infrastructure, leading to significant inefficiencies and waste. These outdated paradigms have been gradually replaced by a new focus on containment, infill development, and urban regeneration, prioritizing the optimization of existing urban areas.

In fact, the issue in Portugal is not a lack of urban land, but rather its availability on the market at accessible prices. This is where municipalities must act by utilizing existing land policy instruments to mobilize and bring such land to market.

Therefore, the reclassification of rural land as urban land—which has always been legally permissible—should be guided by clear and strict criteria that limit it to truly exceptional cases. These include situations where there is either no available urban land or where the existing urban land is inadequate for the proposed project, as well as cases that ensure proper location and effective consolidation of the urban fabric. Furthermore, it must come with

solid guarantees of execution: specific timelines, identification of responsible parties, and secured financing. It must also be accompanied by procedural simplification that is operational, legally enforceable, and administratively swift.

Only through such rigor can we avoid the risk that reclassification will lead to the destruction of habitats, loss of biodiversity, and worsening of climate change. It could also hinder compliance with the new European Union Nature Restoration Law (Regulation 2024/1991), which requires that 30% of degraded land and marine areas be restored by 2030. While there may indeed be cases that justify reclassifying rural land as urban, this should not overshadow the growing importance of renaturalizing urban space, a movement strongly supported by EU environmental policies.

In urban areas, the Nature Restoration Law promotes the creation of green spaces and other natural urban zones, alongside the preservation of aquatic, forest, and agricultural ecosystems, as well as river renaturalization. This restoration movement not only combats biodiversity loss but also enhances the quality of life in cities by offering leisure spaces that contribute to mental health and overall well-being. Moreover, new land-use pressures—such as intensive greenhouse agriculture, large logistics platforms, renewable energy projects, and the development of recreational landscapes like golf courses and resort complexes—further complicate the land-use debate. These factors stretch far beyond the traditional urban-rural divide.

Thus, the choice between “urbanizing rural land” or “renaturalizing urban space” demands a broader vision and a careful, balanced approach—one that considers housing needs and economic pressures in the long term, without losing sight of the urgency of environmental preservation.

Above all, these paths should not be seen as inherently contradictory but as potentially complementary strategies within a sustainable land-use framework. Such strategies must address the needs of both current and future generations and support more ecological development models capable of confronting the mounting challenges of climate change.

In this context, the 51st edition of *RevCedoua* will be dedicated to exploring how these issues are shaping the planning and development of urban and rural spaces. The journal aims to foster a comprehensive reflection, particularly around the following thematic axes:

### **(1) Spatial Planning Policies and the Urbanization of Rural Land**

- Analysis of urban development models in Portugal, the European Union, and other parts of the world.
- Criteria for the reclassification of rural land and its impacts on territorial management.

### **(2) Sustainability and Environmental Impact of Urban Expansion**

- Challenges and solutions to prevent habitat destruction and biodiversity loss.
- The role of cities in adopting urban renaturalization policies.

**(3) Housing and Access to Urban Land**

- Mechanisms to make urban land accessible at fair prices.
- Alternatives to combat real estate speculation and ensure equitable access to housing.

**(4) New Land Uses and Pressures on Rural Territories**

- The expansion of intensive agriculture, logistics infrastructure, and energy developments.
- Balancing economic development with environmental protection.

**(5) Sustainable Development and Urban Planning**

- Land management policies that reconcile urbanization and environmental conservation.
- Innovative models for sustainable and resilient cities.

**(6) Governance and Regulation of Land Use**

- The role of land policy instruments in territorial management.
- Regulatory mechanisms for defining urban perimeters and environmental protection zones.

**(7) Climate Resilience and Urban Adaptation**

- Urban planning strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change.
- Sustainable territorial planning in the face of increasing extreme weather events.

**(8) Circular Economy and Urban Land Reuse**

- Urban regeneration models based on the reuse of existing infrastructure.
- Strategies to reduce the ecological footprint of urban expansion.

This call for papers from *RevCedoua* welcomes submissions in the following sections:

**(1) Full articles:** original doctrinal and/or theoretical-practical texts, approximately 6,000 words (equivalent to about 9–10 pages, including spaces and references), with a legal or interdisciplinary focus. Submissions should reflect advanced research on issues related to spatial planning, urbanism, and the environment, and contribute to the identification and proposal of solutions to relevant problems in these areas.

**(2) Book reviews:** texts of approximately 1,500 words (about 2–3 pages, including spaces and references), focusing on recent monographs, preferably published in a foreign language, with a legal or interdisciplinary approach. Reviews should address one or more of the following themes: spatial planning, urbanism, or the environment

in a broad sense. The review should begin with a physical description of the book, followed by a concise summary of its main points. It may include a brief biographical note on the author, as well as the reviewer's critical appraisal of the work..

- (3) **Case law commentaries:** texts of approximately 3,000 words (about 4–5 pages, including spaces and references), analyzing judicial or administrative decisions, whether national or international, that are relevant to the fields of spatial planning, urbanism, and the environment. The analysis should go beyond merely presenting the facts and legal reasoning, offering a critical reflection on the decision's normative and practical impacts. Commentaries should include: (a) contextualization: Introduction of the case and its legal background; (b) legal discussion: identification of the central legal issue, the underlying controversy, and the resolution provided, with detailed analysis of the legal arguments used by the courts and their consistency with applicable legislation and doctrine; (c) critical assessment: agreement or disagreement with the decision, evaluation of its impact on the legal framework and on urban and environmental practices, including relevant precedents and future trends; and (d) conclusion: summary of key points and final reflections or proposals..

Interested authors must submit, **by May 2, 2025**, a **proposal abstract for an article, case law commentary, or book review** with a **maximum of 250 words**, accompanied by a brief biographical note of up to 150 words per author, including institutional affiliation and ORCID ID (<https://orcid.org/register>).

Authors whose abstracts are selected will be notified by May 7, 2025 and must submit their full manuscripts by July 31, 2025. Final acceptance is subject to the outcome of the peer-review process.

#### Important dates up to the publication of issue 51:

Date	Action
May 2, 2025	Abstract submission deadline
May 7, 2025	Notification of accepted abstracts
July 31, 2025	Full paper submission deadline
September 15, 2025	Notification of accepted full papers
September 30, 2025	Deadline for final revisions and adjustments
October 31, 2025	Expected completion of final editing

#### Abstract submission guidelines:

- The proposal for the original work to be developed must be summarized in an abstract of up to 250 words, using Times New Roman, font size 10, with 1.5 line spacing.
- The title (maximum 100 characters) must appear above the abstract, in Times New Roman, font size 14.

- c. Above the title, the author must indicate whether the submission is for a doctrinal article, a case law commentary, or a book review.
- d. The author's name(s) must appear below the abstract, followed by a brief biographical note of up to 150 words per author, including institutional affiliation and ORCID identification (<https://orcid.org/register>).
- e. Both abstracts and full papers (articles, commentaries, or reviews) may be written in Portuguese, English, Spanish, or French.
- f. Abstracts must be submitted by May 10, 2025, to [rcedoua@fd.uc.pt](mailto:rcedoua@fd.uc.pt).

**Guidelines for Full Paper Submission (after abstract acceptance):**

- a. Authors whose abstracts are accepted must submit their complete manuscripts in an anonymous file (with no identifying information) by September 30, 2025, via the Impactum platform.
- b. Submitted texts must be original or not previously fully published elsewhere.
- c. Word count (including spaces and references): 6,000 words for full articles; 1,500 words for book reviews; or 3,000 words for case law commentaries.
- d. Texts may be written in Portuguese, English, Spanish, or French
- e. Submissions must be in an editable file format (.doc, .docx, .odt, or .txt), with consistent formatting. Use Times New Roman, font size 10, 1.5 line spacing in the body of the text, and single spacing for footnotes. All four margins should be set to 2.5 cm on A4 paper.
- f. Titles and subtitles must be written in lowercase and be presented in at least two languages (Portuguese and English), or three languages if the main text is in Spanish or French.
- g. Include an abstract of up to 250 words, in the language of the article, in Portuguese and English, along with five keywords.
- h. Bibliographic references should follow this format: Last Name, First Name, Title of the publication, City, Publisher, Year of publication. For journal articles or periodicals, also include the date of publication.
- i. If bibliographic references are provided in footnotes, it is not necessary to include a final bibliography.
- j. A separate file must be submitted with the title of the work and full identification of the author(s), in no more than five lines per author, including name, institutional affiliation(s), email address, and ORCID. Templates for the full paper and this identification page will be sent to selected authors.

*RevCedoua* does not charge any fees for the processing and publication of articles.

The content of the texts is the sole responsibility of the authors.

Any questions can be sent via email to: [rcedoua@fd.uc.pt](mailto:rcedoua@fd.uc.pt).

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