

EDITORIAL

This current issue of *Revista Brasileira de Estudos Urbanos e Regionais* appears at a moment of transition, both in terms of the ANPUR board, elected at the last National Meeting and presently chaired by our colleague Eduardo Nobre, and also of the editorial board for which it is responsible. It is an even greater responsibility today, given the recognition and visibility acquired by the journal over the last few administrations, and especially that which has just taken its leave, under the leadership of our colleagues Ana Cristina de Almeida Fernandes and Norma Lacerda de Melo, with major support from the young researcher, Tiago Cargnin .

Since RBEUR was first launched in digital format, it has reached an audience far beyond its previous circle of readers and collaborators, and therefore its potential impact on research within the multiple range of fields that constitute urban and regional studies in Brazil. In addition to this, in 2011, operations began with the Open Journal Systems (OJS), in order to control the submissions and evaluation processes, and to maintain the already extensive database and articles' collection, thereby ensuring invaluable efficiency and accessibility to the journal. Its recent association with various specialized and regional collections of electronic periodicals, as well as the journal's systematic performance within the complex universe of social networks, has even more facilitated its circulation and influence.

More recently, having established a clear editorial policy, improved peer review system and efficient monitoring of flows and impacts, RBEUR has attracted international contributions at multiple levels, becoming a significant platform for the publication of a number of articles in foreign languages (English and Spanish). Not by chance, it has entered a quite demanding network of scientific indexers. Indeed, last August, the journal joined the Redalyc digital library, one of the most extensive, qualified networks of scientific journals in Latin America, the Caribbean and Iberian Peninsula; and completed a long adaptation process to the requirements for admission to Scielo, whose parameters are considered the gateway to the most select scientific indexers in the world.

This process, wilfully pursued by the previous editors, has greatly increased not only the number of times the journal has been accessed, but also the number of submissions it has received, which increased from 120 to 186 submissions/year between 2014 and 2016, reaching in December 2017, a total of 171 submissions/year, coming from multiple institutions and fields of knowledge, and authored by both Brazilian and foreign researchers.

The introduction of computerized management systems, the diffusion of specialized production through digital platforms and networks, as well as its inclusion in very competitive scientific database indexes, has certainly contributed to the qualification of knowledge produced within the area, and to the exchanges between the different disciplines, institutions and researchers that take part of it. Today, these achievements, with the tremendous benefits they have brought, would seem to suggest us a set of new challenges considering the current pace of expansion, fluidity and fragmentation within the universe embraced by RBEUR: how may we ensure a good balance between quantitative and qualitative achievements? How to balance, for instance, the consistently wider range of proposals coming from young researchers and steady contributions by reference authors in the field? How may we gauge the inevitably high scientific standards maintained by the journal while rigorously administrating the flow of articles, which has become ever more intense? How may we coordinate the plurality of the fields of knowledge involved in the area and establish common bridges and agendas among them? How may we resist to the

pressing day-to-day management and guarantee a propositional strategy to RBEUR in the field in terms of emerging agendas, problematics and discussions?

The composition of the present issue of the journal has largely resulted from the previous work conducted by Ana Cristina, Norma and Tiago, to whom we extend our thanks for their generosity and commitment in this transitional moment we are now facing.

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