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FEUP FACULDADE DE ENGENHARIA UNIVERSIDADE DO PORTO

Critical analysis of building codes and legislation to support built heritage rehabilitation

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2016

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Topics

1. Research aims

2. Building codes and legislation to support built heritage rehabilitation

- The case studies of:
  - Italy
  - Spain
  - Portugal
- Critical analysis

3. Conclusions

1. Research Aims

This study aims:

- Comparing building codes and regulations of three Southern European countries with similar cultural approaches: Italy, Spain and Portugal
- Underlining the importance of this analysis and its contribution for the creation of an assessment methodology

2. Building codes and legislation to support built heritage rehabilitation: the case studies of Italy, Spain and Portugal

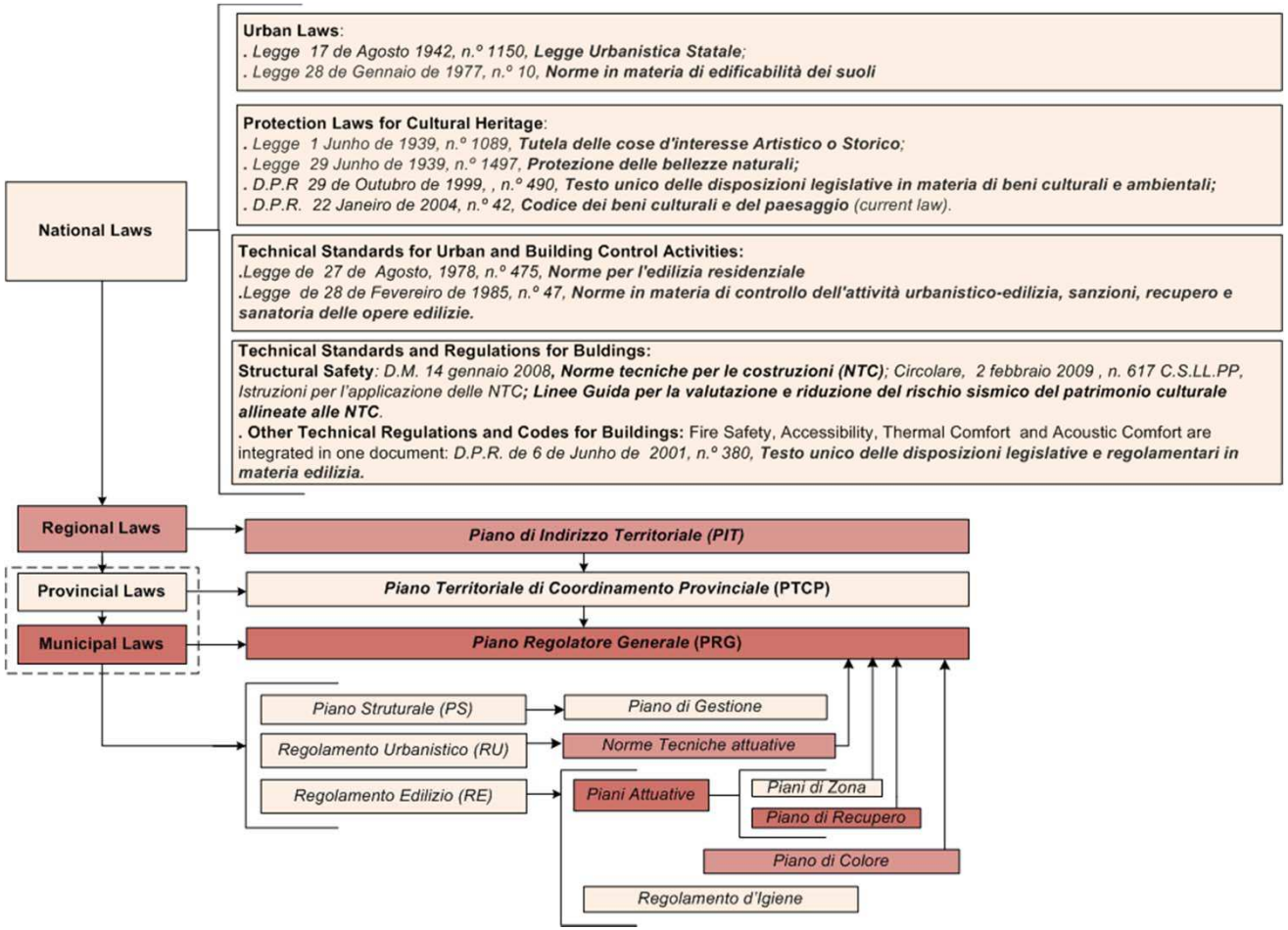
This analysis:

- Compares the codes and regulations criteria related to classification, safety and housing conditions, and their application within built heritage interventions
- Discuss the different perspectives concerning classification of built heritage and application of safety and housing conditions criteria
- Confronts the application of these criteria with technical expertise views from governmental, academic and municipal institutions of the three countries

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The case study of Italy

- Classification, safety and housing conditions criteria



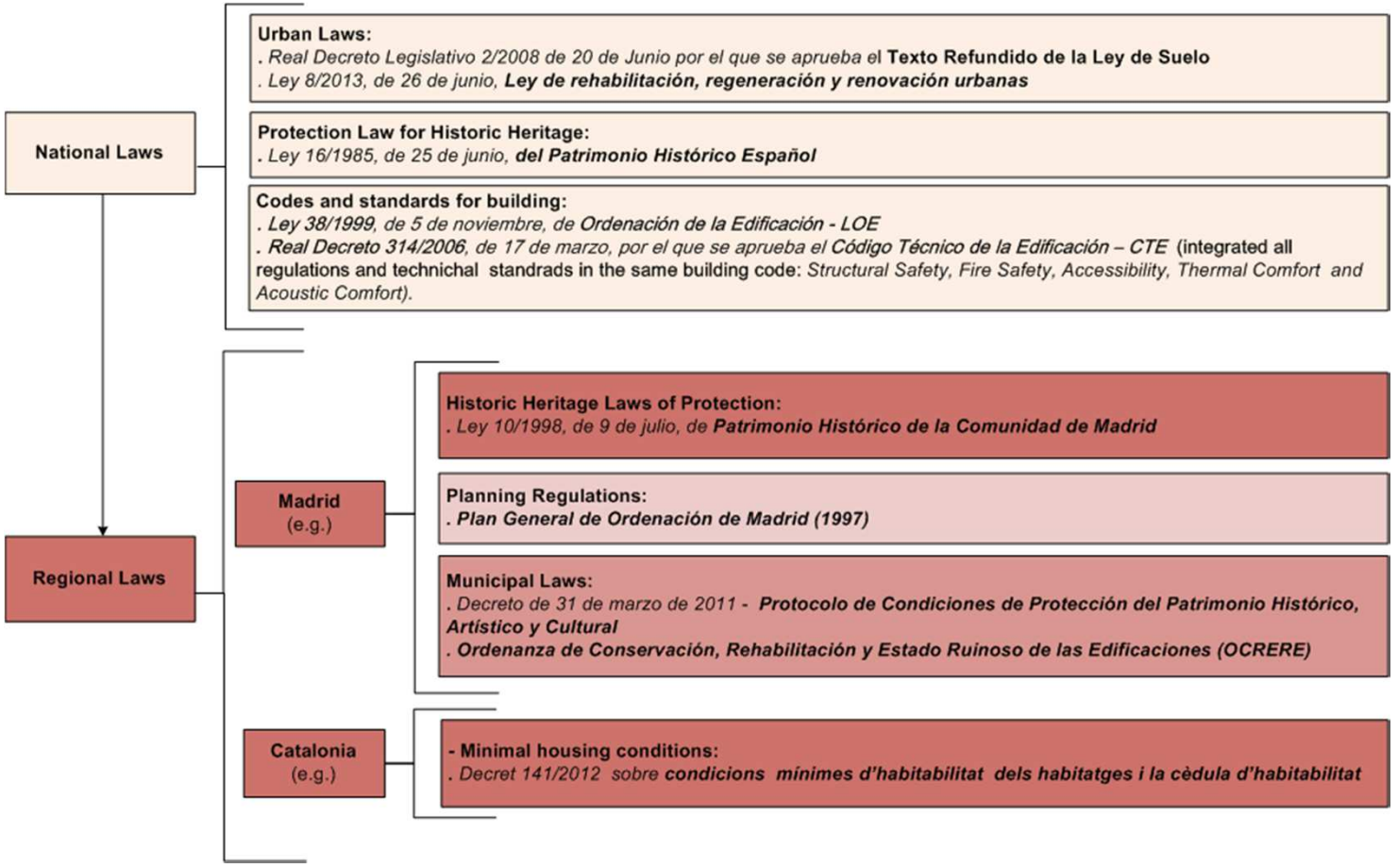
Critical Analysis

- The Italian building codes and regulations:
  - Define general and homogeneous guidelines that are adjusted to regional laws
  - Provide uniform and flexible criteria that are adjusted at municipal level plans
  - Establish strong links between local built classification and measures and levels of interventions, and includes technical standards related to heritage features
- The Italian experts views:
  - They converge in the awareness that national legislation is properly designed and adequate for the different territorial scales
  - They point out that national and regional laws have embedded flexible criteria, allowing a flexible adjustment of the criteria at municipal/local level
  - They assure that inventory, cataloguing and classification procedures are the first and main step for a weight-oriented application of legislation on built heritage

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The case study of Spain

- Classification, safety and housing conditions criteria



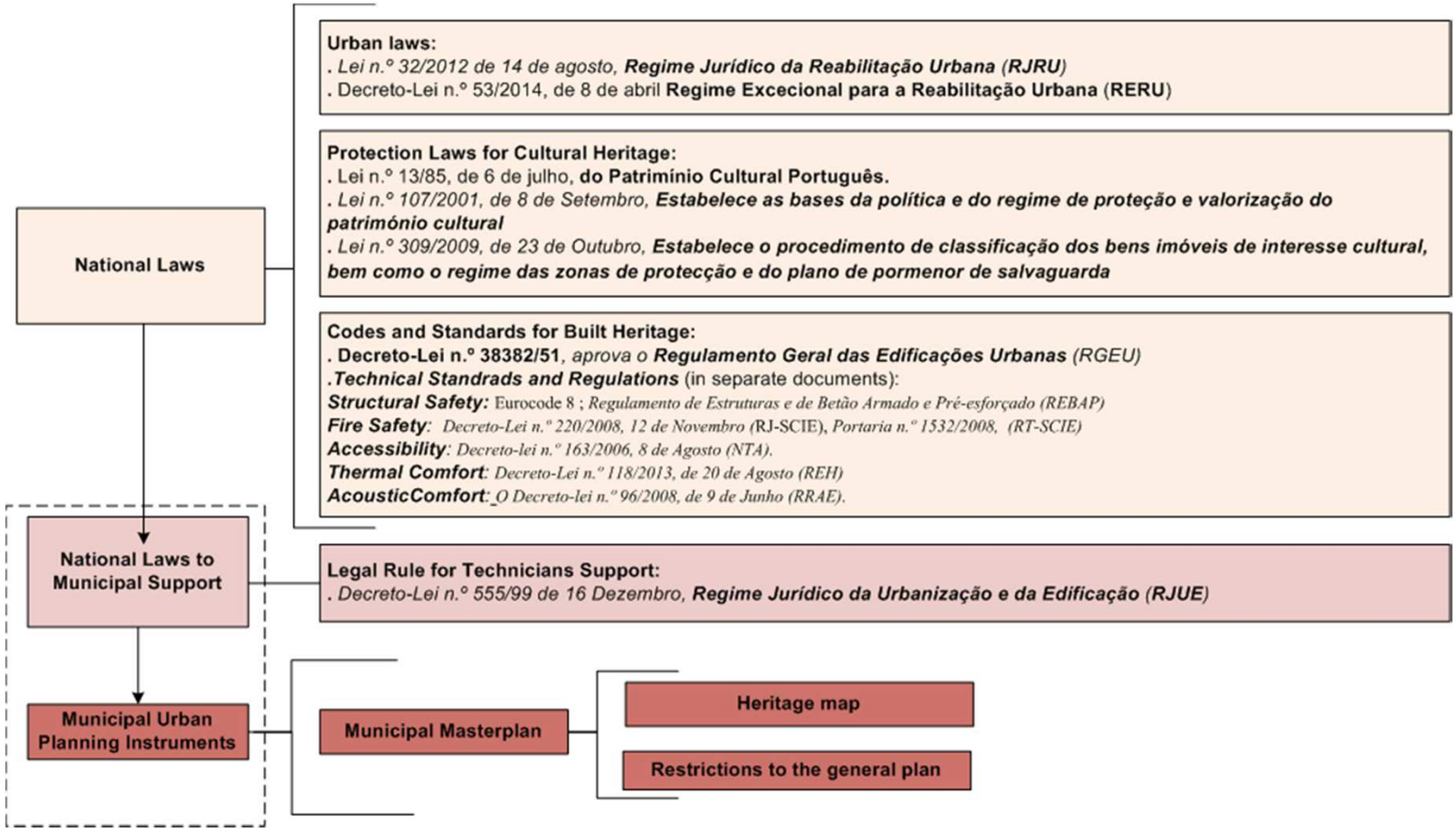
Critical Analysis

- The Spanish building codes and regulations:
  - Establish procedures of classification that are not uniform for the whole country; each region creates their own laws concerning specific criteria for cataloguing and classifying built heritage
  - The building code introduces flexible and proportional criteria when applied to built heritage, allowing the decision to depend on the patrimonial value of the buildings and the technical and economic aspects of the intervention
- The Spanish experts views:
  - They recognize the need for a more uniform criteria and procedures for cataloguing and classifying built heritage
  - They approve the efforts made to incorporate flexible criteria in the code application, but call for an even higher adjustment
  - They apply for a more careful assessment of the built heritage characteristics and conservation state

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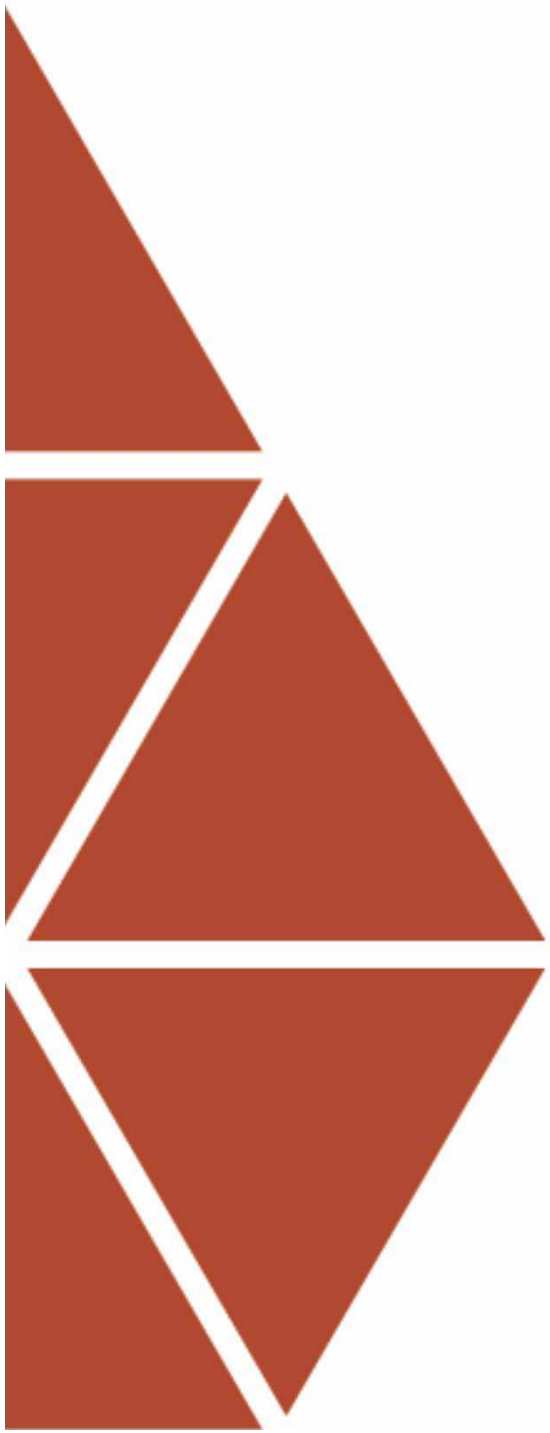
The case study of Portugal

- Classification, safety and housing conditions criteria



• Critical Analysis

- The Portuguese building codes and regulations:
  - The legislation concerned with protection of patrimonial value is discrete and diffuse and doesn´t establish unified criteria to inventory and catalogue
  - The application of technical requirements (safety and housing conditions criteria) are not based on any inventory and cataloguing process or technical procedures
- The Portuguese experts views:
  - Their views about the application of actual buildings codes and regulations are not convergent and vary
  - The governmental and academic experts highlight the need to establish inventory and cataloguing processes; municipal experts do not question the lack of these procedures
  - The academics point out the need for a multidisciplinary assessment of built heritage



3. Conclusions

- The three countries define similar patrimonial value and safety and housing conditions criteria
- Inventorying and cataloguing is essential to sustain a weight-oriented code and its application
- Experts converge on the recognition of the importance of incorporating flexible criteria on code application, and the need of a more comprehensive assessment of built heritage

This research points out the need of an integrated assessment methodology that includes homogenous criteria to assess patrimonial and technical dimensions of built heritage