BOOK REVIEW:

ATTRACTING VISITORS TO ANCIENT NEIGHBOURHOODS
CREATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE TOURIST-HISTORIC CITY OF PLYMOUTH, UK

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The Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP), via InPlanning PhD series, encourages the young scientist from the Schools of Planning, to publish the results of their PhD research as a book. Most of these books are published in open access format and could be accessed on the In Planning platform (www.inplanning.eu). Among the titles issued in 2016 in this series, we want to draw to your attention the book “Attracting visitors to ancient neighbourhoods. Creation and management of the tourist-historic city of Plymouth, UK”, written by Daniel Barrera-Fernandez, a young professor in the field of urban planning and heritage preservation, teaching at the Department of Architecture in the University of Guanajuato,. The book is available online at http://www.inplanning.eu/categories/1/articles/116?menu_id=34&section_title_for_article=InPlanning+PhD+Series.
Having in mind to analyze the specific framework of heritage preservation and management in the United Kingdom, the author selected as case study the city of Plymouth, an ancient port town on the south coast of Devon, whose history extends back to the Bronze Age.

The book is structured in four major groups of chapters, each one highlighting various aspects in relation to the heritage protection, management and development of urban cultural tourism in Plymouth.

At the beginning, the chapter “Approach to the city of Plymouth” presents the location and development of the city along the time, revealing to the author the history of one of the former largest naval base in Western Europe, with diverse urban and architectural features

In the next part, “Protection of urban heritage in Plymouth’s historic city” are presented the challenges issued in the preservation and management of the historic city of Plymouth. The analysis is focused on the current situation regarding conservation areas, listed buildings and local listing policies.

Tourism and leisure is an important driver of growth in Plymouth, although there is significant under-exploited potential. So, the chapter “Tourism in Plymouth’s historic city” highlights the importance of tourism in the development of the city, especially in relation to the use of heritage assets.

The last chapter presents the main actors involved in culture and heritage related initiatives. A well planned culture and heritage tourism together with adequate urban planning and economic development policies are considered important tools for stimulating the Plymouth growth.