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**DATA:** Junho de 2018

**TÍTULO DA TESE:** Extinction of Civil Governments? Of the (des) necessity and (dis) legitimation of the same.

### **Abstract**

Taking into consideration the latest decision to "extinguish" civil governments, insufficient studies on the subject, and the political agenda in the Portuguese society in the last few years concerning the administrative reform of the Country, this research work aims at bringing to light the framework of the so-called "extinction" of civil governments, so as to understand the relevance, meaning, necessity and legitimation of the existence and functioning of Civil Governments. In order to do that we carried out an analysis in three different dimensions - historical-cultural, administrative-territorial, and legal-constitutional - within the framework of the decision of the "extinction" of the Civil Governments and the respective closure process, without neglecting the study of the competencies and functions credited to Civil Governments.

As far as the empirical analysis is concerned, a quantitative methodological approach was used, supported by a questionnaire survey. The target population was constituted by the universe of the Ministry of Internal Administration and by the former Civil Governors, current deputies and presidents of municipal councils, with a final sample that includes 97 respondents. Afterwards, follow the presentation, analysis and interpretation of the results and further discussion of the results.

If, on the one hand, the results show the unnecessary and de-legitimizing of the Civil Governments in the administrative-territorial domain, in the sense that they must evolve and give rise to administrative reform and regionalization, on the other hand, that already seems ambivalent in a juridical-constitutional dimension due to lack of political and democratic legitimacy of its existence and functioning regarding its maintenance and relevance.

In the future, it urges to correlate and articulate conclusions of the study with the constitutional prognosis of the Government Representative, the comparative legislation in the EU countries where the Civil Governors or equivalent entities still subsist, and the limits of municipalism.

**Keywords:** Civil Government; Extinction / Closing of Civil Governments; Administrative Reform; Government Representation; Municipalism; Matter of Constitutionality