The study presented in this abstract focuses its attention on the rehabilitation by the technological point of view of traditional architecture that belongs to historical city nucleus. There is lack of studies about the outcomes of rehabilitation practice regarding building technology. After the rehabilitation intervention which building technology characteristics are usually preserved and which are innovated? Are theoretical criteria applied? How have they been applied in relationship with practical implementation constrains? Which are the motivations behind these choices? This study tried to answer those questions.

The applied research methodology was qualitative and inductive, based on an evaluative-comparative case study strategy. Three rehabilitation process of historical nucleus were analyzed: Genova in Italy, Guimarães in Portugal and Santiago de Compostela in Spain. They were chosen on strength of being each one managed by applying systematic approach, so their relative homogeneous approach makes them comparable. It was analyzed how three building details are processed: windows, floors and roofs. Different sources of information were considered: local planning legislations, published literature such as local manuals of rehabilitation, open interviews to local experts involved in the rehabilitation process, documental and field analysis about rehabilitated buildings.

This research should contribute to further develop the rehabilitation discipline by providing descriptive information about current rehabilitation practice. This study is essentially an analysis of good practices. The criteria applied to manage the coexistence between conservation and innovation of the building technology were systematized. Useful information come from the conformity test between theoretical criteria and practice. Furthermore, beyond the technological criteria, additional criteria were highlighted, as indirect useful elements for a successful rehabilitation process.