

## ANTHROPIC PRESSURE ON URBAN SPACE. MALFUNCTIONS AND RISKS

<sup>1</sup>*Carmen-Valentina RĂDULESCU, PhD*

e-mail: [carmen-valentina.radulescu@eam.ase.ro](mailto:carmen-valentina.radulescu@eam.ase.ro),

<sup>2</sup>*Constantin-Marius PROFIROIU, PhD*

e-mail: [profiroiu@gmail.com](mailto:profiroiu@gmail.com)

<sup>3</sup>*Florina BRAN, PhD*

e-mail: [florinabran@yahoo.com](mailto:florinabran@yahoo.com)

<sup>4</sup>*Sorin Petrică ANGHELUȚĂ, PhD*

e-mail: [sorin.angheluta@gmail.com](mailto:sorin.angheluta@gmail.com)

<sup>1, 2, 3, 4</sup> Bucharest University of Economic Studies

6 Piata Romana, 1st district, Bucharest, 010374 Romania

[www.ase.ro](http://www.ase.ro)

**Abstract.** The accentuated quantitative increase of the green spaces surfaces by conserving the existing ones and the realization of new green spaces in the deficient areas and in those of urban development, creates the possibility of establishing a green network with high degree of accessibility for all the inhabitants of the capital. quality of life. In the creation of the new green spaces, the ecological criteria must take precedence along with the aesthetic ones and at least three alternatives must be presented to the public for debate. Stopping the practice of considering "green space" cemeteries, squares, tree crowns, etc. and redefining "green space" as a space that can be used publicly, at any time of the day, will create the possibility of a correct picture of the relationship between urban green space and built urban space, which also creates the possibility of real-time monitoring of this report. of any abuses or deviations from the legal provisions in this field. The objective of this article is to present the dysfunctions and risks of human pressure on urban space.

**Keywords:** urban space, human pressure, risk

**JEL CLASSIFICATION:** O18, O13

### INTRODUCTION

A broad definition of urban space is: "Urban space is conceived as an entity that, together with rural space, composes the national geographical space, characterized by a high density of population and buildings, a special position in the process of value exchange. , with functions of concentration, transformation and redistribution of spiritual and material goods, with a strongly anthropized environmental environment " [Bran et al., 2018].

The city is considered heterogeneous, productive and complex of all spaces, it consists of a multitude of buildings, in which its citizens carry out their daily work through work, mostly in trade, industry, administration [Bran et al., 2019]. The urban space is with a higher level of the village, which is distinguished by the much larger population, by constructions, with a higher demographic yield, by the much more diversified economic activity [Alpopi et al., 2018].

Also, the cultural activity is more complex, there are specific constructions: libraries, schools, theaters, universities, museums, cultural institutions. The network of interurban means of transport is also developed, with the role of connecting the different parts of the settlement and, in particular, the peripheral areas of the center [Bodislav et al., 2019].

## COMPONENTS OF URBAN SPACE

The city is made up of connecting elements, following which the origin of the urban space is built (Bran et al., 2019). These are:

- *Natural environment* - through the meanings of the geological relief and substrate, climatic and hydrographic conditions, characteristic of natural vegetation;
- *Economic units* - respectively manufacturing, storage, opening enterprises;
- *Urban facilities* - marked by railway stations, passenger stations, depots, water purification stations. Which support urban aid;
- *Green spaces* - amusement and recreation area, sports areas;
- *Technical equipment* - drinking and industrial water networks, sewerage, gas, district heating, telephony, electricity;
- *The built and compositional framework* illustrated by the living area, various social, cultural and church utilities, monuments;
- *Traffic* (individuals and products) through road, rail and air networks in the area;
- *Housing* - the present livable environment, in terms of comfort and location sector;
- *Population* - through all its features: crowd, organization by age groups and sexes, socio-professional system;
- *Labor force* - in terms of labor resources, level of exploitation, travel;

## URBANIZATION

Urbanization means an action to increase the existence of cities and to increase, at a fast pace, the number of cities and urban people, which has essentially the socio-economic growth and political progress of the country (evolution of manufacturing activities, development and branching of services, expansion traffic and transport) [Burlacu et al., 2018]. Given the high rank of culture that the person of the present times offers and demands - urbanization is considered an effective phenomenon [Rădulescu et al., 2018]. It is flexible to the historical, social, economic, technological situations of each power and can be:

- *Extensive* - that phenomenon of urban evolution that takes place by increasing the land area of the city, requiring the expansion of urban areas;
- *Intensive* - the development action of the city by increasing the endowment rank of the present surface.

Urbanization involves not only the replacement of the destination of the land, but also the adequate endowment of that place in the conception of fulfilling some fundamental tasks, such as; housing, training, health care, production, services, protection of the atmosphere, which means:

- the penetration of companies in the industrial field;
- development of services and transport;
- diversification of health, education, culture networks;
- additional administrative and public facilities;
- housing construction and diversification of housing stock;
- changes in the social consciousness of the population.

The concept of starting in urbanization (in urban activity) is represented by the agricultural land, and the one of association the urbanized land, having effect in: (road construction, sewerage, endowment with water, electricity) and urban development (administrative units, shopping centers, community services) [Candea and Bran, 2001].

## **URBANIZATION FACTORS**

Particular factors:

- the historical framework from where the urbanization process begins;
- the economic system of production and the study of economic development;
- the political system and the divergences of opinion and conception generated by the political affiliation of the local authorities may mobilize different attitudes towards the process of urban expansion;
- a voluntary policy of peripheral "secondary poles", such as large shopping malls, universities, between administrative or offices, industrial platforms can influence the urbanization process, can guide urban expansion in the territory;
- the physical-geographical factors can be constituted, especially by the characteristics of the relief forms, in factors of favorability or restrictivity in the process of urban expansion, although the technical progress transforms the notion of improper for constructions into a relative notion. The continuous peripheral expansion can be interrupted, however, by various "obstacles" of a physical nature: rivers, mountain cliffs, sea or ocean coast;
- the particularities of the population from different subspaces reflected in needs, aspirations, behavior prone to certain urban lifestyles, the refusal of owners to sell their land, the will of the community to protect certain green or rural spaces.

*General factors*

- explosive population growth, determined by our own material increase or by the positive migratory balance and manifested (at the level of developed countries) until the middle of the sixth decade of our century;
- changes in the average structure of the population;
- strong economic development, sustained industrialization, especially after the Second World War;
- modernization of agriculture, which allows the release of a surplus of labor subsequently absorbed by the non-rural branches of activity;
- passivity and lack of local policies to stop population growth;
- the "mirage of the city" for the inhabitants of the rural area, which annually swallows a large number of population;
- the economic factor, represented by the value of the land. When the land enters the urbanization process, a real mutation takes place, which translates into the fact that its value will no longer be measured per hectare, but per square meter;
- the land factor - through the dimensions and shapes of plots and properties make urbanization more or less difficult and condition the size of buildings, and therefore the urban landscape (very small plots allow only constructions like "knife blade").

## **QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT**

Pollution, mostly caused by human activities, threatens the urban environment now and in the future and is a decisive factor contributing to the degradation of the quality of urban life [Manea and Mihai, 2007]. The progress of civilization, along with the development of industry, transport and the irrational exploitation of natural resources endanger the health of the population and lead to the depletion of resources [Chiriac, Humă and Stanciu, 2009].

Urban factors can favor or, more frequently, prevent self-purification of the air, depending on how it influences the urban climate and especially the ventilation of the streets [Bran, Căndea and Cimpoieru, 2006].

- in urban areas with higher population density and heavy traffic, the level of pollution with suspended and sedimentable dusts directly influences the health status of the population, its degree of exposure being higher;
- narrow and poorly ventilated streets, large congestion of tall buildings, the absence of green spaces are favorable conditions for maintaining and accumulating pollutants in the atmosphere, thus increasing the exposure of the population in these areas to pollution.

### **DYSFUNCTIONS AND SHORTCOMINGS OF URBAN LIFE IN BUCHAREST**

Bucharest, the Capital of Romania, has a history of five centuries in which the urban, social, political, economic and cultural evolution has been continuous and complex, sometimes downright dramatic. The essential feature of the old town is the configuration of the urban fabric specific to the fair. Its development was greatly influenced by the development of trade between the three Romanian countries and the network of roads that connected them. Today the main dysfunctions and shortcomings of urban life in Bucharest are:

- The standard of living and quality of life are significant lags behind those characteristic of the population of the major cities of developed European countries (GDP volume, income and final consumption per capita, endowment with durable goods, quality of human relations and services);
- Large industrial units are in a process of restructuring and privatization, and the creation of new jobs, especially in the SME sector, does not keep pace with the necessary changes in the population structure;
- Oversized transport routes, degraded infrastructure, with trends of advanced wear of the Capital and modern solutions for intensifying urban transport traffic;
- Insufficiency of parking spaces;
- Degradation and progressive diminution of green spaces. The municipality of Bucharest has around 5,664 ha of green spaces (parks, public gardens, squares, street alignments + housing estates, forests), which represents 24.9% of the administrative territory - at the level of 1999. The surface of a resident is 6.75, far too low compared to the norm imposed by the European Union (20);
- Carrying out commercial activities without complying with the rules of modern and civilized trade, including the presence on the market of counterfeit products;
- The access of the population to public services is still difficult, often marked by bureaucratic behaviors, which favor corruption;
- Intense traffic and congestion with direct effects on the relatively long time for travel, disadvantage a large part of the population of the Capital.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS RAISED BY A LARGE URBAN CONCENTRATION, SUCH AS THE CITY OF BUCHAREST**

Undoubtedly, the development of the city has unfavorable consequences on the space and the environment, on the quality of people's lives. In this regard, the following can be mentioned:

- space consumption with impact on the ecosystem through deforestation, drainage, erosion, changes in the relationship between population and habitat;
- unrestricted exploitation of natural resources, in particular non-renewable ones, raw materials, water, timber;

- the polluting effects of large cities related to the problem of urban waste, pollution and degradation of green spaces, climate change, influences on wildlife, etc.;
- effects on people's health by increasing the number of mental illnesses, increasing cardiovascular disease, etc.

The continuous explosion of the urban phenomenon has generated the increase of equipment costs for housing, traffic, health, education, leisure, etc. in parallel with the magnitude of the tendencies of cosmopolitanism and segregation, the increase of unemployment and poverty.

## CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, urbanism is nothing but the science of setting up and arranging cities, coming from human diligence in a certain land: the totality of civic activities, from the simple calculation of the indication of connecting arteries, to the total arrangement of large urban places. Green areas have an aesthetic role but they also contribute essentially to the attenuation of air pollution by: dust filtration, neutralization of pollutants, regulation of air humidity and temperature, thus contributing to the improvement of urban climate. The presence of green spaces on the territory of urban localities, intended to fill the deficit of natural habitats resulting from the occupation of the territory with constructions with various functions, is a necessity of mental comfort, satisfaction of aesthetic requirements and protection of human health and environment.

In order to avoid diminishing the areas of green spaces within the Municipality of Bucharest and to avoid increasing the anthropogenic pressure exerted on the urban green space, it is necessary to draw up a legislative system to further support the protection of green spaces, by applying severe sanctions to change the category of use of green areas in the urban perimeter.

It is also necessary to redevelop the lands that fulfill the function of green space, which are left in an advanced stage of degradation and the arrangement of areas that belonged to large industrial complexes in public parks and gardens, children's playgrounds or sports facilities. In order to save the parks, it is urgently necessary to stop the phenomenon of changing the category of land use with the function of green space by approving in initial form and applying GEO 114/2007. In order to achieve these desideratum, it is necessary that the realization and development of the city's infrastructure is no longer endangered by the surfaces of green spaces, and the population demands a greater responsibility for preserving these urban green perimeters, ceasing to transform them into areas of waste storage.

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