

METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT, PHASE IN THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract: *Metropolitan development succeeds chronologically, as well as structurally urban development, this means a new phase in the urban system development through the extension beyond its initial boundaries. Along with the cities' surrounding areas population growth, especially through emigration from the cities, but as well as through the attraction of population from other localities, the geographical and the administrative boundaries of the cities become inadequate for the definition of the urban agglomerations that emerge. This extension is generated as well by an ample endogenous process of local economic development that is forcing the association of several local communities around an urban center becoming a growth pole in order to develop its level of competitiveness. Metropolitan development represents thus an administrative and economical challenge regarding the management and the coordination of an increased palette of resources.*

Keywords: *Urban development, metropolitan development, metropolis*

URBAN DEVELOPMENT

The notion of urbanism was used it seems for the first time in the work of the Catalan engineer Ildefonso Cerda in the paper “General Theory of Urbanization”. The regulations regarding urban development have a recent history at global level¹, even if the discipline to which is made reference to is ancient, the first indications of such science was being highlighted from the antiquity. The urban modernization process can be made in an unconscious manner – randomly or conscious in an organized manner, having as main element the territory².

¹ In Europe, the earliest and the most accelerated urbanization is found in Great Britain, where, from the middle of the XIX h century, a balance among the urban and rural population has been achieved, 75 years earlier than France and almost 150 years earlier than the case of Romania.

² Territory is not reduced to the physical space, it represents the product and the producer of the later and this can be understood as an ensemble of relationships among the material and nonmaterial elements and

Territory is generated by space. In present days, two types of main territories can be highlighted: "institutional territory belonging to the state and to the citizen" and "the interlinked territory in accordance with the enterprise, the user and the inhabitant".

Institutional territory represents the territory of the modern state, defined by a frontier, containing the ensemble of living beings, the resources and the relationships that are strictly included inside this state. The interlinked territory must be analyzed in regard to its connection to the "market".

The term of urbanism was defined under various forms and it has been considered that it represents: "a complex ensemble of activities of design, advise, approval of several plans or the authorization of future buildings for any type of urban or rural locality" (Șăineanu, 1998: 1056).

Other opinions considered that urbanism constitutes: "an ensemble of political, administrative, financial, economic, social or technical measures destined to assure a harmonious development of a city" (Hubert, 1993: 1).

In accordance with the Romanian Language Explanatory Dictionary we consider that: "urbanism is the science whose object is constituted by the systematization of existing settlements and the design of new settlements, the word itself originates from the Latin word *Urbis* meaning city, and urbanism represents thus the science of the cities and settlements development" (Dex, 1996: 1138).

Urbanization can be understood as a continuous and complex process in which a series of phenomena related to the population concentration take place in the same time, as well as various modernizations and social changes. The urban center or the city can be considered an administrative area or a functional economical area.

Urban development can be regarded as well as a process of growth and amplification accompanied by a series of the qualitative changes generated by the application of strategies, policies and development programmes. Urban development represents a complex, interactive process, and these features are determined by the phases of the development projects like design, planning, implementation and evaluation, phases that involve a series of actors whose decisions determine the development trajectory.

The urban development policy constitutes thus a set of integrated (economic, social, cultural, environment, transportation and security) government (national, regional and local) measures that are addressed to the cities. The formulation of sustainable development policies has as purpose the improvement of the existing situation, elimination of the malfunctions, balancing future developments and consolidation of development directions. In accordance with the particularities of each city, the sectors covered by the development policies include: land management, the locative space, public services, environment protection, socio-economic development, and means of urban revitalization.

the actors of the physical space, representing in the same time the result of the historical construction of the society or of the community.

METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT

Metropolitan development, as a way of the city extension in the surrounding space and of the integrated evolution with the settlements from its peri urban area is known especially in the developed countries, as a feature of a new urban development phase, posterior to the phases of population concentration in the current city and the forming of the suburbs. The specialists have called these new socio-economic realities, metropolitan areas. In USA starting with 1980 these areas are registered for the census as Metropolitan Statistical Area³ comprising all the agglomerations formed from a city and its surrounding settlements that have a direct connection with the city and that have a total population of at least 50.000 inhabitants.

Therefore, the result of the metropolitan development process is represented by the apparition of the metropolitan areas. The process of the metropolitan development, called metropolization, represents the process of the metropolis constituting, construction and development. For a better understanding of its functioning, this process must be analyzed from the perspective of the factors that contribute to its development. Thus it is necessary to make a distinction regarding the used terminology in the characterization of this process, referring to the notions like *metropolitanian* and *metropolitanization*⁴, notions that are strictly related to the metropolitan development process. Following the same logic (Ricq, 1983: 122-123), when making the distinction between “*regionalism*” and “*regionalization*” and taking into consideration the fact that both notions are connected to the process of regional development, it can be affirmed that the *metropolitanism* is the equivalent of regionalism and the *metropolitanization* is the equivalent of regionalization in the process of metropolitan development. Thus *metropolitanism* is the result of a “bottom-up” process in which the communities become conscious about certain unbalances, about economic and ethnocultural underdevelopment, about the centralism of the state in which they live, while *metropolitanization* is the “top-down” process through which the state realizes the local unbalances with all their accompanying phenomena like economic underdevelopment, exaggerated centralism and it starts to decentralize the political-judicial system through a metropolitan level institutionalisation.

The constituting of the metropolitan areas answers a need or an opportunity determined by the organic evolution of the cities. The process of urbanization on the European territory has led to an interdependent development of the metropolis with the localities from their influence area, forming already primary metropolitan realities, which even if are not called metropolitan areas, function in fact as unitary areas, relatively independent. The first features of the metropolitan areas can be extracted as being distinct

³ In 1990 in USA there were 254 such metropolitan statistical areas, under the conditions in which the socio spatial integration of the cities is larger, including, in fact, a few metropolitan statistical areas, the Standard Metropolitan Consolidated Area is formed, this representing in fact the first official definition of the metropolitan area.

⁴ It can represent the process of nascence, of development of the element of the metropolis

systems of human settlements which comprise a large number of people that live in, or around a center of big density (Miles, 1970).

Several strategic problems of urban planning at European level can be treated directly only at the metropolitan areas level, facilitating thus production, exchange and consumption of goods development at the European Union level, avoiding in this manner the deterrents related to excessive localism as well as centralism at national level. In essence, it is about forming of the metropolitan areas as poles and regions of growth developed at European level and included in national and transnational strategies. The development of the metropolitan areas facilitates the integrated territorial planning at regional level, through this the unbalances between the center and the contiguous areas are decreasing. The unbalances are caused by the scattering or the marginalization generated by the isolation of the certain settlements lacking opportunities. Obviating or the decrease of such unbalances lead to the improvement of the population's quality of life.

Identifying the common development and cooperation tendencies of the settlements from the area, as well as the creation of new forms of institutional and administration organization, of representing their interests in foreign diplomacy, will enhance their capacity of facing competition. Hence the economic competitiveness growth of the localities from the metropolitan area as against neighboring regions will be ensured. Carrying out the development policies is usually made through a good cooperation among localities in the fields of territorial planning, locative, infrastructure, economic development, environment protection, human resources usage. The most performing actions are usually those related to public transportation, water supply, waste management and implementing projects with investments.

Political, social and economic life between the city and the regions surrounding it has always been connected. The symbiotic relationship among the compact city and the suburbs with low demographic density consists in the manner in which it influences the economic and political destiny of the suburban areas.

From the administrative point of view, metropolitan structures are dependent on the political, social, economic, historic and geographical elements and consequently cannot project themselves or be realized in a definite shape in a laboratory/ office. The administration of metropolitan areas can raise a series of challenges meaning a series of "changes from the development patterns of certain territories with low densities, through voluntary cooperation among existing local public administrations, through the intervention of the state in assuring certain urban services, through public-private coordination, the existence of regional supplementary regional agencies from the administrative structures and through the offering of public facilities having as purpose the stimulation of the regional institutionalisation" (Downs, 1994).

THEORY OF THE GROWTH POLES IN METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT

The metropolitan area represents a favorable environment for applying and development which Francois Perroux called "The theory of the growth poles". According to the theory of the growth poles, the apparition and the development of the metropolitan

areas appear as an unbalanced process, but hierarchized in the development region in the same time, in which a certain number of economic agents play an essential role, being thus pinpointed. These pinpointed agents are called “growth poles”. In the category of these agents can be found enterprises, industrial platforms, and important infrastructure elements like ports, airports that succeed through their mere existence to attract and to facilitate the apparition of numerous activities or even the apparition of an urban pole that has its own activity. It is assumed that the existence of these growth poles will engage the whole metropolitan area or even the whole economy. Acting like a magnet, the growth poles will be able to attract the whole existing innovation and development capacities.

However the quality of the diffusion from the poles to the areas of the center must be analyzed. In the case of metropolitan areas precisely the quality of these diffusion effects may lead to the generalization of the unbalances persistence and the cumulative growth of the development inequalities. Since at the level of growth poles there is a superior innovation and competition capacity, the developed areas can create a type of polarized continuous development. There is in the same time the possibility of the apparition of activities’ filtering phenomena that diffuse the development in the region, in this way the unbalances being persistent. The metropolitan area becomes thus a model of economic-administrative development based on the central places theory.⁵

Christaller considers that the main function of the city is to distribute goods and service for the space comprising it. By extrapolating, the metropolitan area can satisfy all these demands, necessary for satisfying the general metropolitan interest. The existence of the metropolitan determining⁶ is vital if it wishes for the metropolis to be functional. The existence of this market facilitates the apparition of a theory stating that each point from the theoretical territory (rural, homogenous, and in which the population is uniformly distributed) has access to all the possible goods and services. Nevertheless, the goods and services offered by the metropolitan area are not equally important, but they are hierarchized based on the consumers’ requests; daily, weekly, monthly, occasional needs. Their hierarchy is engaging the hierarchy of the central places as well as the corresponding areas of influence.

Metropolitan areas will accumulate elements of value having also the tendency to externalize inconvenient, embarrassing, unwanted activities that need brute, tiring and in decline work that need low levels of skills and ageing technologies towards the region’s less developed areas. The filtering these activities can be determined by ecological grounds or performance criteria.

In the absence of certain barriers for the population and workforce migration, the appearance of “growth poles” can be associated with significant population displacement, which constitutes another demographic-economic problem. In most situations, the direction of these displacements of population is from the poor developed areas towards

⁵ The theory of central places is one of the most elaborated models of space analysis. It is affirmed that without this theory “it wouldn’t have been possible to talk about a theoretical independent geography from other sciences”. Among the models of development based on the theory of central places are reminded the following – “Model of^{Christaller}, Model of Losch, Model of Zipf ”.

⁶ By determining it is understood the access to transport infrastructure, services supply, possibility of economic activities for private agents to take place.

the developed ones and it aims young and middle-aged population, as well as population with higher education/ skills. Thus all developed areas impose filtering processes of the workforce entry stream.

A qualitative depopulation of the poorly developed areas surrounding the metropolitan area occurs, influencing and modifying the rhythm of demographical, birth and nuptial rate evolution, emphasizing demographical ageing and implicitly a decrease of the region's competitiveness.

4. CONCLUSIONS

In the structure of metropolitan areas three major components can be identified: "cultural identity, an economic and social base necessary for supporting the development of the area and a form of power regarding decision making" these constituting only a few elements necessary for constituting public and private "development coalitions" (Keating, 2008:157) alongside territory, leadership, external connections and development strategies.

Metropolitan space must be analyzed from a complex perspective, including a series of aspects related to political organization, administrative procedures, territorial planning and ensuring of public services to inhabitants that are accounted for in different administrative-territorial units.

The functioning of the metropolitan area implies a careful analysis of the administrative implications regarding the metropolitan coordination as well as an analysis of the economic implications which a structure like this can generate. The role of the metropolitan governance is to establish from several forms of administration the expected results in the dynamic of the urban economy in the fields of economic strategies formulation and development, regulations for the land market, infrastructure development, and fiscal policy design.

As regards ensuring a sustainable development of the metropolitan area, this action implies a strategy that takes into account the social and economic needs of the population, based on that planning option that following the impact evaluation compensates in the best manner the loss of resources that cannot be immediately restored or replaced, not limiting the future development of the area. The perspective of sustainable development implies the existence of an overview regarding the environment status, evaluating the methods of urban framework quality improvement, of urban renewal and resources regeneration through which the negative impact of the area development strategies are decreased, the metropolitan sustainable development being assured.

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