

Submitted Abstract

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Abstract

After 1990, the surroundings of the post-communist cities registered multiple transformations under the impact of political and socio-economic radical shifts from centralized planning to free-market capitalism. The changes were felt both in terms of shape and structure of the settlements, as well as in terms of the type of houses, building materials, and their comfort level. A defining feature of the post-communist period, which led to the creation of a fragmented territorial pattern, is the unplanned expansion of built-up areas, fostered by the lack of sustainable national policies in the urban planning field and by a weak regulatory framework.

Brasov represents one of the largest and most dynamic cities in the Carpathian Mountains, located in the historical region of Transylvania. The Brasov metropolitan area covers a surface of over 1500 km², overlapping besides Brasov city another 17 territorial administrative units and comprising a population of over 480,000 inhabitants. In order to evaluate the built-up area expansion over the last decades, Corine Land Cover dataset was used along with several indicators calculated on the basis of relevant statistical data. Through these analysis, the stages of transformation, the driving forces which triggered the changes, and the different types of spatial patterns are highlighted. The results show an explosive growth of the built-up area and a decentralisation of the economic functions into the territory, with the emergence of some more attractive areas and the reconversion of several former industrial sites, mainly for residential and logistic purposes.