

# Integrated urban regional development; Case study - Inter-communal cooperation within Bihor County

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# What is meant by Integrated Sustainable Urban Development?

- Various challenges facing urban areas – economic, environmental, climate, social and demographic – are interwoven and success in urban development can only be achieved through an integrated approach.
- Physical urban renewal should be combined with measures promoting education, economic development, social inclusion and environmental protection.
- The development of strong partnerships involving local citizens, civil society, the local economy and the various levels of government is an indispensable element.

# Urban Planning vs Europe 2020 Strategy

Given the seriousness of the challenges European cities currently face, urban planning is important because of:

- The range from specific demographic changes to the consequences of economic stagnation in terms of job creation and providing services, to the impact of climate change.
- Identifying effective responses to these challenges will be critical for achieving the smart, sustainable, inclusive society envisaged in the Europe 2020 Strategy.

# Integrated sustainable urban development - aims

Integrated sustainable urban development is part of different EU policies of which the most important are:

- Urban policy, addressing regeneration of urban centres and the revitalization of industrial towns;
- Regional policy, being a major catalyst for economic development;
- Spatial development policy, aiming at polycentric urban development

Aims of an integrated sustainable urban development:

- urban-rural relationship and structuring metropolitan growth;
- Cohesion policy 2014-2020 aims to foster integrated strategies which enhance sustainable urban development in order to strengthen the resilience of cities, and to ensure synergies amongst the investments supported by European Structural and Investment (ESI) funds.

# Elements of the new approach of integrated urban development

- Integrated urban development strategies with a more holistic approach
- Stronger focus on urban development at programming level:
- Investment priorities tuned to facilitate tackling urban challenges
- Improved tools to deliver integrated actions
- Increased responsibility for urban authorities
- Strengthened networking

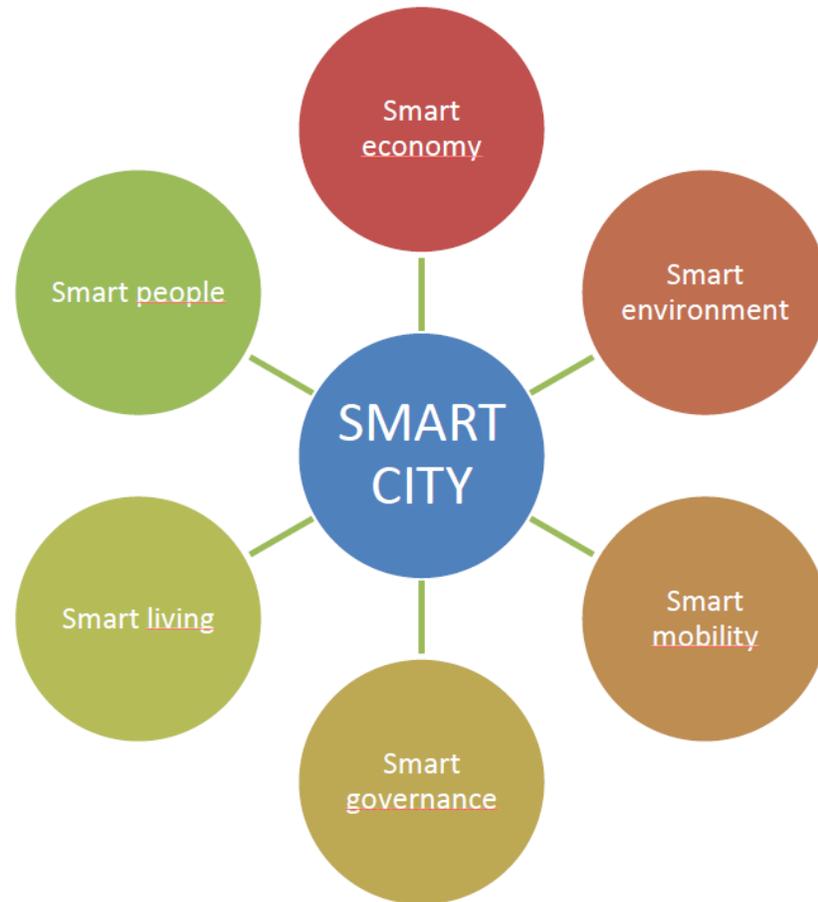
# Strengthened urban networking:

- The Commission will establish an Urban Development Network comprising urban authorities
- This Network will act as a forum for capacity building and exchange between the cities pioneering new techniques and developing integrated investments. The Network is not a funding instrument but a way for cities to share feedback on the use of these new approaches.
- European Territorial Cooperation (ETC) objective -networking opportunities
- In particular, cooperation between urban authorities will continue under a financially strengthened URBACT programmes.

# What are the practical effects of the new urban development approach?

Integrated sustainable urban development has become an integral part of the strategic framework of cohesion policy 2014-2020. This will have a number of practical effects on the various levels of governance concerning the preparation and implementation of programmes

# Dimensions of smart city – part of urban development policy



# The new approach in urban development - Learning cities

- incubators and drivers for the knowledge-based societies of the 21st century
- the concept draws on theories about innovation and systems that promote innovation.
- Networking and partnerships are key ingredients

# Learning by experience; region as a key element in the "supply architecture" for learning and innovation

- The German city of Jena offers the example of an economic and cultural transition
- The French example of a learning region is around Poitiers. This predominantly rural area has set its sights on development through communication technology, multi-media and a highly skilled work force.
- The Oresund region of Scandinavia straddles two countries and is poised to move from traditional to knowledge-based industries of the 21st century
- The Andalusia region of Spain offers another kind of development model.
- investments in communications, technology and research, combined with the presence of well-established universities and cities like Seville, Malaga, Cadiz, Cordoba and Granada should provide a magnet for new companies and enterprises
- One of the largest redevelopment projects in Europe is located in the Kent Thames-side area east of London; technology-driven decentralisation are strong.

# Globalisation makes cities, regions and countries more vulnerable to external shocks and economic restructuring

- All over the world, urbanisation processes are currently influenced by globalisation, as well as the technical and technological progress.
- In a learning society, and in the microcosm of a learning city or region, no institution has a monopoly of knowledge.

# Urban network in Romania

- The urban network is more densely populated in the Centre Region (57 towns and cities), because of Transylvania historically having a better-structured urban network and in the South (49 towns and cities), but this because the Region simply includes the highest number of counties (7). There is a relatively well-balanced distribution of large towns across the country. The largest regional urban centres, are: Iasi – 307,377 inhabitants (North-East), Constanta – 306,332 inhabitants, Galati – 298,366 inhabitants, Braila – 218,744 inhabitants (South-East), Ploiesti – 233,699 inhabitants (South), Craiova – 300,182 inhabitants (South-West), Timisoara – 303,640 inhabitants (West), Cluj-Napoca – 310,194 inhabitants, Oradea – 206,223 inhabitants (North-West), Brasov – 282,517 inhabitants (Centre) and Bucharest – 1,924,959 inhabitants (Bucharest-Ilfov).
- The big towns, with a much-diversified structure of economic activities, have managed better to overcome the shock of industrial restructuring, by reemploying dismissed labour force in the previously underdimensioned service and trade sector.
- **The small cities have the most economic, social and technical problem**

# Romanian Urban Picture

- According to official data, only 46% of the total number of cities in Romania recorded over 50,000 residents. The number of cities with over 100,000 residents, is 25 cities, comprising approximately 55% of the Romania's urban population. The rest of Romania's network includes only small and medium towns (which actually represents 90% of cities), which are characterized by a modest urban development. Small towns (less than 20,000 inhabitants) although are very numerous (about 209 cities) contain only 17.1% of the total urban population.
- In Romania, the new national conception by European inspiration, focuses on integrated urban development, and on that of metropolitan networks development.

# Small and medium towns in Romania – no network

Although Romania has many cities (Small and medium), these are not working as in a network, because there are no economic relations between them or between urban centers and surrounding areas. The development model of these urban centers has been designed independently of each other. There is even the danger that mono-industrial towns, to detach from the normal economic circuit.

# Integrated urban development plans

- Previous EU experiences (URBAN I and URBAN II) consisted in simultaneous support for the physical renovation of the urban environment, for the rehabilitation of basic infrastructure, and also for actions concerning economic development, increasing competitiveness and employment, integration of ethnic groups, taking into account environmental protection.
- The advantage of this integrated approach consists in the possibility of solving simultaneously many inter-dependent problems, which affect both the urban center and its surrounding areas.
- Local public administration along with all other participants involved in urban development should cooperate together and draw up coherent, participative, integrated and sustainable plans for tackling social, economic, and environmental problems which are becoming increasingly serious in towns and cities of the country

The integrated urban development plans should be implemented by projects addressing the following issues

- Rehabilitation of the urban infrastructure and improvement of urban services, including urban transport
- Development of sustainable business environment
- Rehabilitation of social infrastructure, including social housing and improvement of social services

# Integrated urban development plans

## Quantified objectives - Indicators

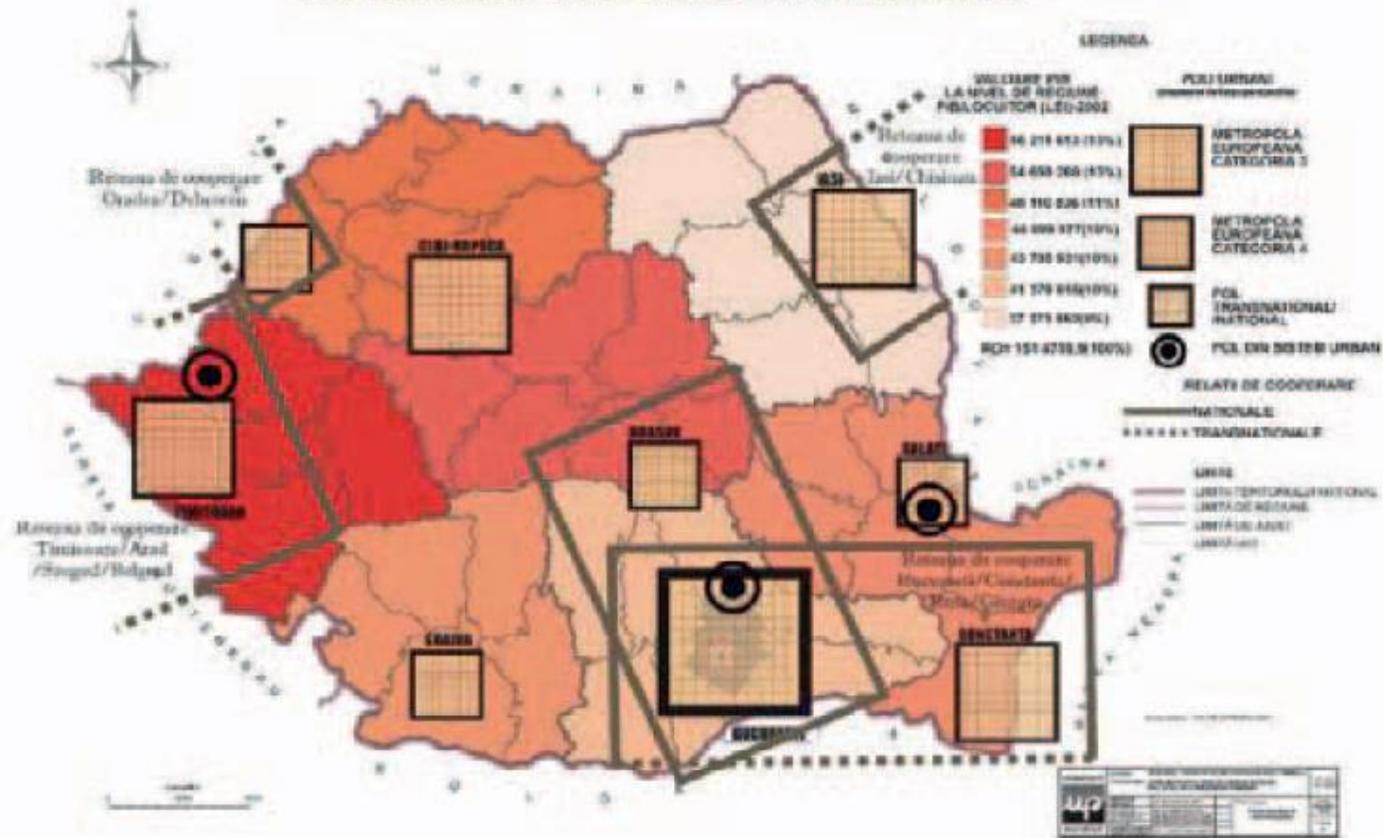
<b>Indicator</b>
<b>OUTPUT</b>
Integrated urban development plans implemented
Projects ensuring sustainability and improving urban public infrastructure within the integrated urban plans, in total budget allocated
Projects promoting businesses and entrepreneurship within the integrated urban plans, in total budget allocated
Projects offering services to promote equal opportunities and social inclusion within the integrated urban plans, in total budget allocated
Inhabitants benefiting from the implementation of integrated urban development plans
<b>RESULT</b>
Companies established in the “urban action zones”
Jobs created / saved in “urban action zones”

# Urban Management and development

- Enabling Environment for Economic Development
- Upgrading the Living Environment and Promoting social Equity
- Promoting strategic Urban Management Practices
- Fostering Public Finance Sustainability

## Recomandari pentru cazul romanesc

### POLI DE DEZVOLTARE DE NIVEL METROPOLITAN



Sursa: Urban Proiect

# Oradea – core of Bihor County

- Oradea – open gate to the Carpathian – region
- Regional center with an improved quality of urban life – through sustainable economic development and revitalization of its cultural identity
- Oradea is the tenth largest city in Romania with a total surface area of 11,556 hectares
- Metropolitan Oradea is experiencing new growth along development corridors: Bors towards the border (transport related) and Felix and the airport (housing an large commercial markets and the new southern ring road).

Oradea – regional center with an improved quality of urban life through sustainable economic development and revitalization of its cultural identity

Oradea was one of the first cities in Romania to adopt a City Development Strategy; Goals:

The strategy outlines five key development policies: Economic Development, Housing, Public Services, Environment and Urban Revitalization

# Oradea – Urban revitalization Policy

- Marketing programs for revitalization projects in specific zones
- Encourage public input and the participation of residents and business in developing programs
- Increase the attractiveness of Oradea by revitalizing the Citadel Zone, Republicii Street, and bank of the Crisul Repede River
- Guide the spatial development and exercise appropriate control on urban development activities to protect the built heritage and natural environment

# Oradea – Urban Planning

- Priority Urban Zone (PUZ)
- Citizen and business oversight committee
- Identification of key parcels or buildings that can be reconverted to alternative uses
- In cooperation with the communes, identify development sites within the surrounding communes available for economic development activities
- GIS support; mapping the priority zones
- Identification of brownfields

# Linkages among development strategies

- Building partnerships for regional development
- Strategic partnerships with the private sector
- Land management program
- Urban revitalization
- Local legal framework for economic regulations

## Metropolitan Development Corridor (1)

- Oradea and the adjacent seven communes of Biharia, Bors, Cetariu, Osorbei, Nohorid, Sanmartin and Santandrei are defining their long-term competitive position within the European and Romanian road corridors
- Oradea in cooperation with Bihor County has facilitated important activities to support this objective including the development of a cooperative agreement with the seven adjacent communes to increase inter-communal cooperation:

# Metropolitan Development Corridor (2)

- Create regional and local infrastructure investments
- Guide land development and cooperate on the provision of public services
- Provide coordinated access to information for marketing investments
- Tis new approach to formalizing cooperation at a metropolitan level among Bihor county, Oradea and the surroundings communes is a first in Romania

# Cooperation: Oradea – surrounding area

- Inter-communal cooperation by identifying linkages and areas of cooperation for common services
- With surrounding communes identify priority regional investments to support regional growth strategies
- Strategic partnership with private sector
- Agenda 21 – Oradea was selected to participate in the Local Agenda 21 Program to develop a comprehensive review of social, economic and environment issues for the municipality and the surrounding communes