

SPONTANEOUS URBANIZATION IN ALBANIA BETWEEN FORMALLY AND INFORMALLY

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Abstract

In the last two decades in Albania the cities and non-urban territories have an intense displacement of population. This rapid urbanization unfortunately was not accompanied by intervention in the public networks, but every time they were adapted and regulated by its own according to circumstances.

The absence of planning or bad planning that resulted in the urban centers of the new residents living in bad conditions in the residential complex built with low cost or no basic services. Other people are stowed in public and private territories illegally. Such a type of urban development makes extremely costly the intervention in public services after the spontaneous urbanization.

This research will present the need for urban retraining of the spontaneous suburbs which should start with the hygienic intervention type and with reduction of stress and discontent of the lifestyles. Second, is the problem of connecting with the existing part of the historic urban centers.

Keywords: *spontaneous urbanization, informally, unplanned urbanization*

Introduction

Informal and unplanned urbanization in Albania is the biggest problem that has occurred with the territory after 1990. Intensive relocation of people to the cities came after a blockage obliged by the communist system in the years of the dictatorship. Initiatives undertaken by the communist system to maintain with force the demographic distribution resulted incorrect.



Figure 1: Symbol of historic change in 90-is

The idea to keep unchanged the demography of Albania brought the complete ruin of residents who lived in villages or towns in areas without good living conditions. After the

collapse of the communist system had a vigorous urbanization of major cities for two main reasons: - First, the urgent need of autochthonous residents for housing. - Secondly, the migration within Albania, from rural areas and small towns to the big cities.

Tabella 14.9.1 Migrimi i brendshëm: prefektura e origjinës dhe prefektura pritëse

Shprehendurj në përqindje të migrimit të brendshëm sipas anëtarëve të punës dhe asaj të origjinës, Shqipëria 2008/09

Prefektura e origjinës	Prefektura pritëse														Total	Numri
	Berat	Dibër	Durrës	Dhër. an.	Fier	Gjiroka-der	Korçë	Kukës	Lezbe	Shkoda-der	Tirana	Mirë	Total			
Berat	44.5	0.0	3.4	5.3	7.1	2.4	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	27.4	3.3	100.0	257		
Dibër	0.0	26.7	14.1	0.7	0.5	7.2	0.0	0.7	1.9	2.1	49.5	2.0	100.0	111		
Durrës	0.6	1.7	78.1	2.0	1.5	0.0	0.4	0.3	1.2	0.5	5.6	3.8	100.0	364		
Dhër. an.	1.7	0.0	4.5	47.6	5.4	0.1	7.2	0.4	0.5	0.0	19.2	2.4	100.0	229		
Fier	1.7	0.0	1.5	3.8	70.0	0.3	0.8	1.1	0.0	0.0	17.8	11.7	100.0	489		
Gjiroka-der	0.0	0.0	2.7	0.0	4.9	57.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	28.2	5.1	100.0	261		
Korçë	0.6	0.0	3.4	7.3	7.1	0.7	60.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	17.4	3.4	100.0	243		
Kukës	0.0	0.7	7.5	0.2	0.5	0.0	0.0	18.4	1.8	13.5	60.5	3.0	100.0	80		
Lezbe	0.0	0.0	13.3	0.0	1.5	0.0	0.0	0.7	10.0	9.0	79.5	1.5	100.0	144		
Shkoda-der	0.0	0.0	18.3	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	12.0	61.7	7.0	100.0	42		
Tirana	0.3	0.7	6.7	1.5	7.2	0.0	1.0	0.3	0.0	0.2	86.5	1.0	100.0	252		
Vloër	1.2	0.0	1.3	0.0	8.2	7.1	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	19.3	7.6	100.0	292		
Total	5.2	1.4	11.5	6.2	11.7	0.9	8.7	0.8	1.0	7.6	12.6	11.3	100.0	2,762		

Figure 2: Demographic statistics from 2008-2009, INSTAT, USAID, UNICEF

Referring to studies conducted by INSTAT, USAID and UNICEF in the years 2008-2009 on the state of the Albanian population in major cities, we can clearly see demographic Setbacks to Tirana and coastal cities expressed in percent. The largest influx of internal migration is concentrated in the territory of Tirana and Durres. Our discussion will focus only on informal areas in these two cities.

PARALEL CITIES??

The displacement of people in these perimetral territories of cities created a new border between the existing city and informal urban areas. However, it can be seen that although in the same territory of the city we can distinguish two totally different urban units.

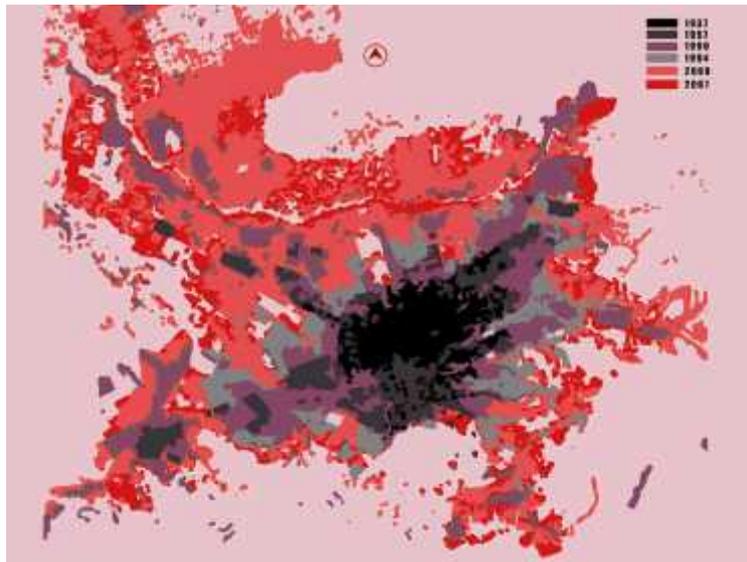


Figure 3: Demographic development of Tirana

In the case of Tirana, we can clearly see urban development over the years. Informal areas of last 20 years are already stretching in an area comparable to existing city before 90 years. In

aerial photos these urban areas can be easily distinguished. Their extension goes around the city of Tirana but more in the north and west part of the city.



Figure 4: Aerial photo of Tirana with informal areas



Figure 5-6 : Bathore area in 1994

Residents of informal zones were established illegally and unplanned in agricultural territories on the outskirts of the city by building flats with a very low cost. One of these areas is the agricultural territory of former Bathore. Situation differs clearly from photos of buildings in 1994 where on the agricultural territory were combined a storied buildings and barracks firmly together forming a chaotic BARRAKOPOLI ..



Figure7-8 : Bathore area in 2014

Over the years the place of the barracks filled by three-four storey buildings which even today are still not finished. These buildings with all investments made by the inhabitants increased the chaotic distribution on the territory. The same problematic presented even in Durres. We compare the layout of the city in 1990, and nowadays we can see filling the territory with informal urban areas. In the city of most of the area is concentrated in the informal former marshes and in this case the problems are the same with Tirana.



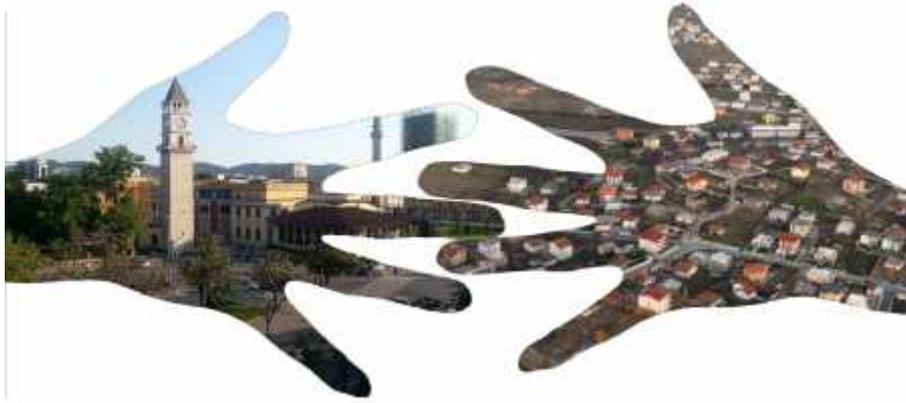
Figure 9: Demographic development of Durres



Figure 10-11 : Keneta area (Durres) in 2014

Urban conditions that are not guaranteed:

- regular traffic systems of different categories of roads
- public and private parking spaces
- public structures of educational, cultural and administrative
- parks and green spaces
- Constructions are chaotic and not respected the minimum insolation conditions, airing and good neighboring



How to integrate these areas with the existing city?

Referring to cases occurring in many Latino Americans cities, and states in transition or in Italy:

Stages of necessary intervention to guarantee the Urban Conditions:

The first stage	legalization of housing
Stage two	supply of basic services
Stage three	de-ghetto and requalification of the city

The first stage > legalization of housing

Recognitions of ownership of the land and the construction made against basic urbanization costs, calculating generally the low living standard of these residents.

These urbanization taxes together with the public funding will be used for the second and third stage

Stage two > supply of basic services

- New regular traffic systems of different categories of roads
- The supply network of drinking water, waste water discharges and the electrical network etc.
- Flood protection of the wetlands



Figure 12: Urban project in Caracas, Venezuela

Stage three > de-ghetto and requalification of the city

- new public structures of educational, cultural and administrative
- new parks and green spaces
- new constructions respected the minimum insolation conditions, airing and good neighboring
- social intervention for reduction of stress and public frustration
- guarantees of the residents security with the presence of state



Figure 13: Urban project in Caracas, Venezuela



San Paulo, Brasil
Parque Novo Santo Amaro V



Figure 14: Urban project in San Paulo, Brasil



San Paulo, Brasil
Parque Novo Santo Amaro V



Figure 15-16: Urban project in San Paulo, Brasil

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