

Overview of Romanian Planning Evolution

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The paper aims to present a brief overview of more than one century of urban planning development in Romania. Its historic evolution is split into four different stages, starting with the first roots that can be found at the end of the 18th century and in the first part of the 19th, when first urban plans and regulations were elaborated. The four stages refer to the predecessors (before 1900), the basics (the 1st half of the 20th century), the totalitarian age (the communist decades), and to the transition one (post 1990 decades). The analysis emphasises the main characteristics of each stage and the elements attesting continuities or discontinuities. The method of the author is chronological and comparative. The investigation is placing, whenever possible, the evolution of the Romanian planning within the European context. The planning knowledge and instruments have been inspired over the time by the Austrian-Hungarians or Russian Empire during the first stages, by the French or German schools later on, by the Soviet Union during the communism and most recently by the different trends that can be seen within the European Union, of which territorial cohesion becomes important. However, the paper mainly insists on the last 100 years, as being the most relevant interval, starting with the major theoretical gains of the inter-war period, going through the major transformations of settlements and territories during the authoritarian regime and ending with the decades of radical shift and reconstruction of a system under a liberal political and economic system. The significance and relevance of the paper stands in its comprehensiveness and synthetic perspective at the same time, providing information about a country with an important experience in the field, yet still looking for recognition and positioning at European and international level. The first comprehensive monographic studies of Ionescu de la Brad, in the 2nd half of the 19th century, the contribution of eng. Cincinat Sfantescu to development of spatial planning at macro-territorial levels in the early '30s, or the complex systematisation plans of the 6th and 7th decades leading to development of new towns, large touristic areas, or industrial zones (yet marked by functionalism and radicalism of the interventions), are some significant achievements. During the last decades, Romania has done several steps in order to catch up with the evolutions of planning education, instruments and methodologies, legal and institutional framework. A consistent and continuous process started after December 1989, leading to setting up a new planning system, a specific higher planning education and in defining the objectives and professional standards for the profession of urban planner in Romania. The approach is critical and based on various professional opinions as well as on own personal views. The paper is a follow-up of a recent issue on the same topic, of the planning magazine

“Urbanismul-new series”, and can be used as a start for a planning course on recent urban planning history in Romania.

1. Introduction

Romania has a history which is specific for the Eastern part of Europe. It is a rather new state, which was born after the second world war in 1918. The setting up of the modern Romanian state, was the result of bringing together 4 different regions with 4 different administrative rules and models of organisation: the Romanian kingdom an independent state since the mid of 19th century, Transylvania an autonomous voivodship under the Hungarian and Austrian influence, Basarabia a region which was part of the Russian Empire and one small Northern region called Bucovina, part of the Austrian – Hungarian Empire at that time. It is obviously difficult to analyse the planning system evolution before 1918, as it was quite different in the 4 regions. In general all Romanian regions have suffered from different influences along previous centuries as they have been most of the time under the authority of the bigger powers, empires which were dominating the area: the Austrians to the West, the Ottomans to the South and the Russians to the East and North.



Figure 1. Romania in 1925. The 10 historic regions can be noticed. Muntenia, Oltenia and Moldova joined together in 1859 and formed the Romanian Kingdom. Dobrogea was added in 1878 (map by Ana Maria Petrescu, 2012)

Until the unification of the 20th century the history of planning is quite different in the West compared to the East and South and has specific features in the North or in the South-eastern parts between Danube and the Black Sea. Historic evolution left its traces if one looks at the structure, shape and development of human settlements, of towns and villages, traces that can still be noticed in spite of the last 100 years of attempts of a more homogenous development and also, mainly, in spite of the more than 4 decades of communism which tried to uniform and diminish the gaps and differences between regions, between rural and urban, or between towns.

However, it must be noticed that a solid tradition started to be created in the field beginning with the 2nd half of the 19th century. The modernisation of the so called Old Kingdom (Moldavia + Walachia) and the orientation towards the Western European models set up a path that will be further developed in the 20th century. Until the '50s, the new Romanian state set up new institutions and laws and developed a planning policy which was following very much the modern European and international trends of that time. The 2nd part of the century and specially the last decades meant a new fracture in relation to these trends and for a short period of time lead to isolation, stagnation and peculiar evolutions determined by an increasing authoritarian political regime.

The political shift occurred at the end of 1989, meant a new return to the Western European models and reconnection to the international trends and changes in general and in planning policies and approaches too. The last 2 decades are characterised by a continuous attempt to improve and adapt the legal and institutional framework, the planning instruments and procedures to the new political and social-economical context. A particular emphasis has to be mentioned in respect to the important steps done in the planning education system and in defining the profession of urban planner in accordance to the European principles promoted by organisations such as the Council of European Planners (CEU), but not only.

2. Analysis

The following lines will present the main characteristics of the 4 stages of evolution and development of the Romanian planning system. The first stage refers to the period before 1918, basically the 19th century, the 2nd one to the inter-war period ending with the change of political regime in 1947, when Romania became a republic, the 3rd interval represents the 4 decades of communism followed finally by the present period of transition which began in December 1989 with the fall of the totalitarian regime and the setting up of a new democratic society and a market economy.

2.1 The predecessors (before 1918)

The first territorial planning regulations can be found during the feudal period, since the XVI-th and XVII-th centuries. The use of lands owned by the landlords were subject to certain regulatory planning actions concerning the efficient use of the land resources such as forests, waters or agricultural land. The development of small rural settlements for the peasants who were living on the landlord property and worked the land were also sometime the result of a planned activity. As a public policy of a general interest first traces can be found in the Western part of the country, which was part of a process of modernisation of the territory initiated by the House of Habsburg, aiming to a better protection and administration (Gheorghiu, 2010, pp.17-23). The setting up of a more balanced settlements network, of a number of fortified

towns, were part of such a process, which was also accompanied by colonisation of people of various nations: Germans, Serbians, Bohemians, Slovaks, Hungarians.

The German and Austrian influence can be noticed in the specific design and volumetric developments of the "burgs" in the Western part of the country which became more urbanised and industrialised in the 19th century. The rest of the country remained mostly an agricultural one by the end of the century, when the Old Kingdom led by a German King (Carol the 1st), began a process of modernisation and capitalist development. The Ottoman influence remained however strong especially in the Southern part of the country along the Danube and in Dobrogea region. A certain indirect or direct French influence can be noticed after 1830 and the so called Organic Regulations. At that time, the Eastern and Southern part of the country were under Russian authority and were governed by these new rules of French influence. The Russian Governor of that time, general Pavel Dmitrievich Kiselyov (or Kiseleff) began a process of reconstruction of towns especially of strategic importance such as some Danubian harbours (Brăila, Giurgiu, Turnu Măgurele) (figures 2,3). The circular form, the radial street system and the peripheral boulevard were some common characteristics of such urban planning interventions. The general was also an initiator of some first works of urban modernisation of Bucharest by cutting some of the first large boulevards in its Northern part.

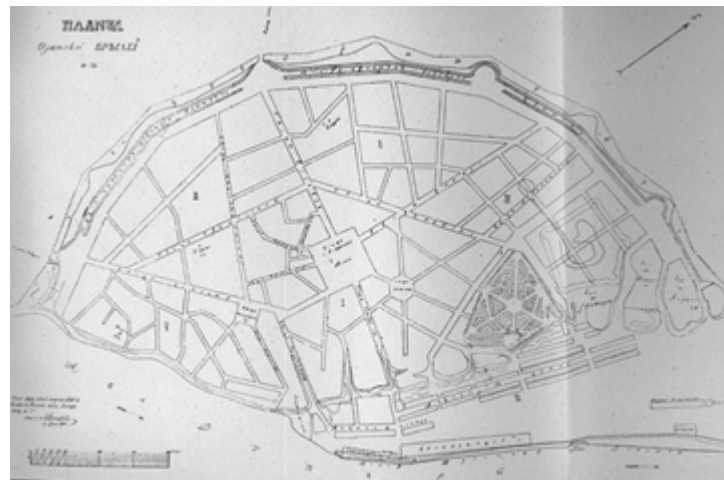


Figure 2. The Plan of Brăila in 1836

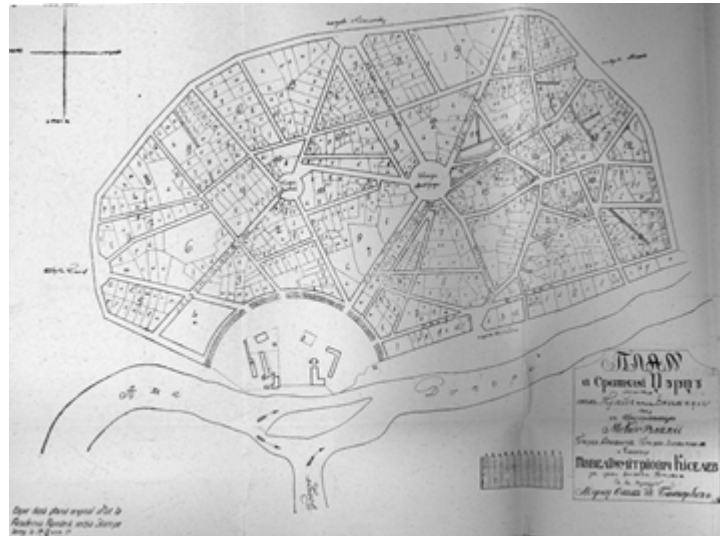


Figure 3. The Plan of Giurgiu around the mid of 19th century

The first traces of a modern planning system can be related to some legal initiatives of the beginning of the 19th century such as: the development of a cadastre, regulations for development of rural areas, first alignment plans and first accurate topographic maps for towns and cities. Bucharest gets its first complete topographic and cadastral map in 1847 (the Borroczyn plan). The 2nd part of the century is also characterised by a growing interest for urban infrastructure and embellishment works: public gardens and parks, larger and better urban streets and boulevards, social and cultural endowments are developed as well as water distribution and sewage systems. By the end of the 19th century, in 1894 the law for organising the urban communes was issued setting up rules for controlling the chaotic sprawl and creating conditions for a hygienic and secure development. The first development and regulatory plans for the capital city of Bucharest were elaborated around 1900.

At territorial scale there is a raising concern about the development of rural areas and of the large territorial infrastructure. During the 2nd part of the 19th century, the activity of Ion Ionescu de la Brad, specialised in agronomy, was significant. Besides the organization of the agricultural land use, he initiated some original research methods for better knowledge of rural life, which led to the elaboration of the first counties' monographic studies.

The unification of Moldavian and Walachian voivodships in 1859 was also the beginning of the construction of the modern state. The setting up of a ministry of public works was among the first measures taken by the new leadership. It was an important step for the development of the communication infrastructure at the level of the territory. The development of a railway network connecting the main cities and the Saligny's bridge over the Danube, followed by the development of the harbour cities on the Black Sea were important achievements of the time. One of the representative figures of the time is the engineer Elie Radu who had a major role in the development of engineering works from railways to aqueducts, bridges or water reservoirs.

It must be also mentioned the development during the last decades of the 19th century of education in the field of architecture and civil engineering. This was another important step as by then the main public works and urban plans were done by foreign engineers, architects or landscape planners, or by few Romanians who graduated in Germany, France, England or elsewhere in Europe.

2.2. The inter-war period – 1919 - 1947

The 3 decades of the first half of the last century played an important part in the history of modern Romania. In spite of the troubled times of the last part of the interval, the social and economic progresses were remarkable. The role of spatial planning became important as modernisation of towns and cities and the further development of territorial infrastructure were major targets. The after war reconstruction, the land reform and the administrative reorganisation, the necessity to develop the capital city accordingly to its new status and in general the increasing role of the state were an impetus for a fast development of a spatial planning system.

Significant aspects can be mentioned such as: the setting up of the Town Planning Institute of the Union of Towns and Cities, the development of the education in the field and the development of an interdisciplinary approach to urban and regional planning, the issuing of a specialised publication – the magazine "Urbanismul" and of a collection "The Urban Planning Library", the master plan for Bucharest.



Figure 4-5. Covers of "Urbanismul" magazine from 1933 (5-6) and 1934 (3-4)

Relevant contributions to developing new approaches to study and research of the territory and human settlements were coming from fields like geography and sociology. The development of a Romanian "School of sociology", by Henri H. Stahl and Gustav Gusti and of the human geography one by Simion Mehedinți and Vintilă

Mihăilescu led to an increased knowledge of the social and economic development of the country in general. The research of the rural areas continued the initiatives of the previous decades by elaborating detailed monographic descriptions. Architects, such as Florea Stănculescu, developed a kind of a rural planning and initiated at the Faculty of Architecture in Bucharest a course of "ruralism"

A critical overview of that period reveals significant evolutions such as: elaboration of general urban plans for a number of cities including the capital, urban plans for new resorts, and successful participations of Romanian architects in international urban competitions, cultural and editorial activities. Shortcomings are related mainly to precarious and incomplete legislation and weak quality of the administrative staff as well as a weak awareness of the general public for "systematization" (Marcu, 1930). The basis of higher education in urban planning is set up at the Faculty of Architecture and at the Polytechnique School (both in Bucharest) as well as in the Schools of Administrative Sciences (courses of urban legislation, civil engineering, urban hygiene or aesthetics).

The most important contributions to development of urban planning theory and practice belong to the engineer Cincinat Sfințescu, who left a vast written work including volumes for "General Urbanism" and "Special Urbanism" (in original "urbanistica") or "The Superurbanism". His books and articles were based on the European knowledge of that time and touched most or the problems of spatial development from the details of urban design to the problems of organising the national territory. The concept of "superurbanism" was presented as an original contribution at the international urban planning congresses held in Rome (1929) and Berlin (1931) and speaks about the necessity to manage regional and national territories. Among the new concepts he speaks about urban agglomerations and their area of influence.

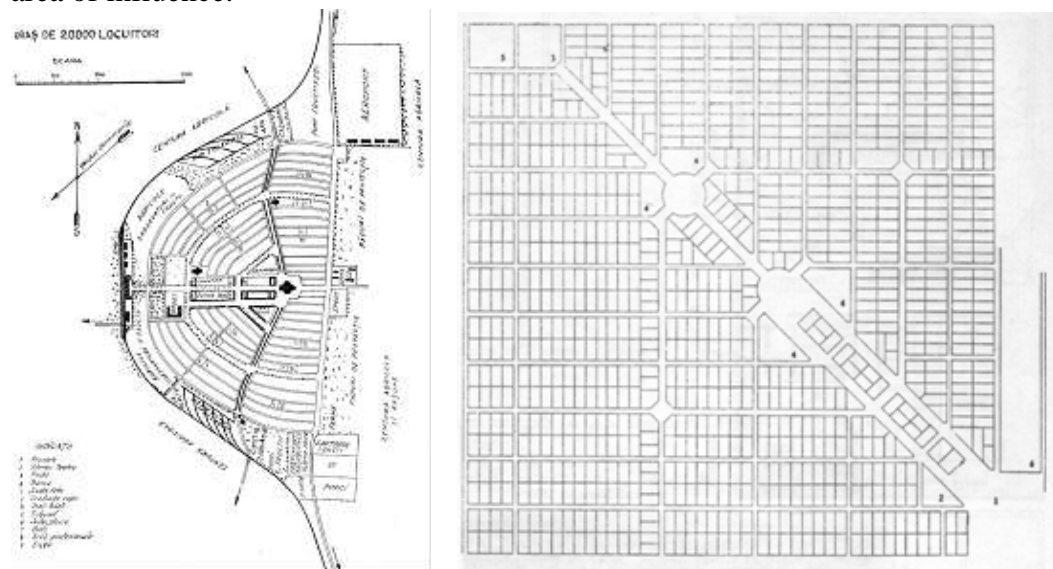


Figure 6-7. New town project by Sfințescu (left) and project for a new village by Stănculescu (right)

One of the most important achievements of the period remains however the Directory Plan of Bucharest elaborated between 1934 – 1939, comprehensive master plan based on a long term strategy accompanied by a detailed urban regulatory framework. Due to the events that followed in the '40s it could not be put into practice effectively but remained a valuable source of inspiration for the next decades.

2.3 The communist period – 1948 – 1989

This interval is characterised by at least three different stages. A first one, which lasted until 1960, is related to a period of intensive reconstruction and major structural changes at all the levels of social, economic and cultural life. A second one lasted for another 15 years, by mid of the 8th decade and can be seen as period of consolidation of the new state and relationships. According to the official documents of that time it was a period of "achieving the economic basis for the socialist society". The third and last stage of the period is marked by an increased power of the Communist Party and its leader evolving to a totalitarian regime.

Spatial planning was much influenced by the political changes, but in general it was a good time for this domain as it became increasingly important for the regime, which used it as a political "tool" to module the society by transforming and reshaping the human settlements and the territory. During the first after-war decades, regional and large scale studies were developed and new master plans for towns and cities were elaborated. They were meant to prepare the ground and support the fast process of industrialisation and urbanisation which was a priority of the new political regime. Planning in general became important due to the fact that the whole society became centralised, coordinated and planned by a central authority. Most of the land became state property or was somehow managed by the state authorities.

The '60s were a time for complex studies of the settlements network, prognosis, developing the legislative and institutional framework. Spatial planning became an institutionalised activity, organised at national level within a network of public architectural design and territorial and urban planning institutes. These ones were quite large in size, counting tens and hundreds of professionals from various fields. They were pluri-disciplinary public companies where architects, engineers, geographers, economists, sociologists and others were working in inter-disciplinary teams. In the capital such institutes became really big, counting over 1000 employees. Spatial planning became a public policy of strategic importance, as it was a framework for most of the public investments. It cannot be denied the fact that during the first 2 decades there have been major achievements in developing public infrastructures, residential quarters, tourism and others (Lăzărescu, 1977). It may be mentioned:

- the regional plans done for areas rich in energetic resources (coal especially), followed by development of new towns and industrial areas,
- the studies and plans done for the touristic area of the Black Sea followed by the development of new resorts,

- the large scale regional and national studies for water management followed by the construction of numerous hydro-electric power plants and artificial accumulation lakes,
- the plans for large residential areas in big cities, characterised by high densities and collective housing,
- the development of new and large industrial zones especially in the Eastern and Southern parts of the country which were less developed before.

It has to be also mentioned the interest for some central areas of cities and some significant achievements regarding renovation and regeneration of some historic areas (Baia Mare, Brăila, Bistrița etc.). However only in a few cases the interventions were paying consideration to the heritage. In general, renovation meant reconstruction and was aiming to develop new monumental and representative public spaces under the expression of "civic centres". In some cases (Giurgiu, Suceava, Piatra Neamț etc.) the interventions were significantly changing the traditional pattern.

In 1974, in the second half of the interval a new planning law was issued "systematization law" which introduced a number of very restrictive provisions. The most important one was the so-called "built-up perimeter", which meant a very strict containment of the growth of rural and urban settlements. The new generation of urban plans were supposed to limit as much as possible the expansion of the localities and even reduce their size whenever possible. This approach was affecting mainly the rural areas where localities were traditionally quite spread along valleys and roads. The concept of "regrouping" of the inhabitants was used and in some cases localities were supposed to slowly vanish and people relocated in a limited number of villages better placed geographically and better equipped.

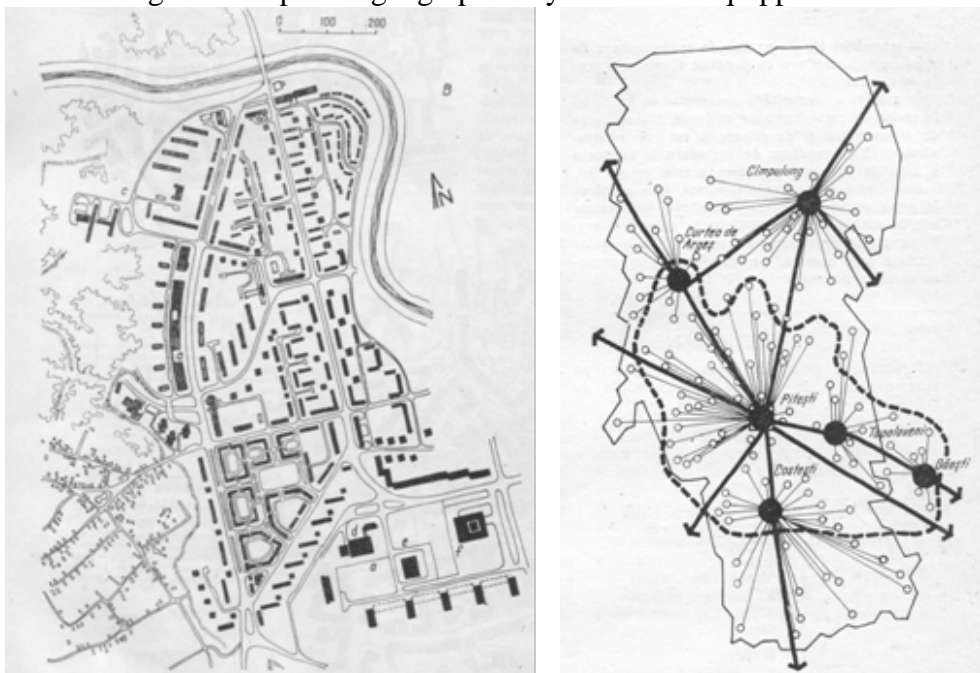


Figure 8-9. New town scheme (left) and development of a periurban area (right)

Another provision with significant consequences was related to the "liveable area". Minimal density indicators were set up by law, in relation to the average heights of a residential area. The law provided a minimum of 4,000 sqm for a 3 stories residential area up to 12, 000 sqm for areas going over 9 stories heights.



Figure 10. The new residential areas of collective housing

The last part of the period was characterised by studies at national scale aiming to a large restructuring of the human settlements network by rapid transformation of hundreds of rural settlements into urban ones (fig. 10). The terrible earth quake of 1977 opened the way to the radical restructuring of the central part of Bucharest and the construction of a new large boulevard of 3km long heading to the monumental House of People.



Figure 10. Large scale national planning concerning the development of the urban settlements network

2.4 The transition period – post 1989

2.4.1 A new legal framework

Systematization was perceived by the Romanian society but also by the Western ones as one of the most powerful symbols of the communist regime, responsible for the destruction of a large part of the built-up heritage of towns and villages and for the brutal reshaping of the urban environment. Important historians as Dinu Giurescu, describe systematization as being responsible for "the destruction of the traditional urban constructed area almost in its entirety and its replacement by tenement apartment buildings and the resettlement of the entire rural population" (Giurescu 1989:68). In December 1989 "Systematization Law" (58/1974) is abolished and systematization becomes overnight urbanism or territorial and town planning¹. Its replacement and the reconstruction of the legal framework proved to be difficult and lasted longer than expected. Until 2001 the legal framework for spatial planning was rather fragile and regulations in the field were mostly coming from other areas: constructions, transports, environment and human health. The setting up of the legal system can be divided into three stages: the first decade of transition, the '90s, when some preliminary "bricks" were added, the first part of the 2nd decade, the 2000s', when a number of important laws were issued and the last few years, characterized by attempts to reforming and improving the system. During the first stage, after a short legal void, in 1991 the Law 50 for issuing of the building permit is approved. References to urban plans and to urban permit are made. Shortly after the law was issued, in November 1991, the 91st Ministerial Decree (MD) defines the new planning instruments at local and territorial levels and their content. Although during the first half of the decade a draft of a new Planning Act was prepared its discussion for approval by the Parliament was continuously postponed.

During this first interval, a General Urban Regulatory Framework is issued by Government Decree (GD), which defines some general rules for urban planning. Planning activity is also influenced by other laws concerning the land restitution (1991 Land Law), quality of constructions (1995), expropriation for public utility (1994), public property, cadastre and publicity (1996). It is characteristic for this period of time the associated status of spatial planning to the building sector. By the end of the decade the activities meant to set up a new and comprehensive framework for urban and territorial planning increase. Guiding documents for the elaboration of urban plans (general, zonal, detailed) are published and the concern for protected areas and heritage in general is also proved by legal documents: a Governmental Ordinance for the protection of historic monuments (GO 228 / 24.11.2000) setting up specific areas of protection and a law for approval of PATN Section III – Protected areas (law 5 /2000).

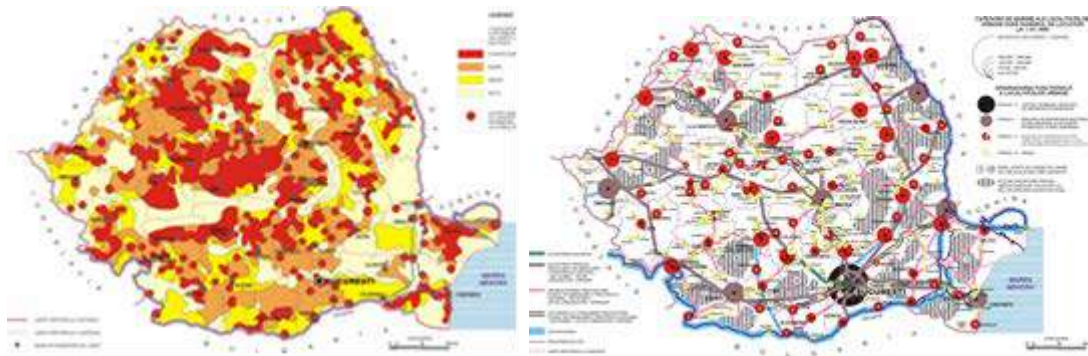


Figure 11. National Physical Development Plan. Sections III and IV concerning the built-up heritage and the human settlements network

The accumulations of the first decade of transition and the steps forward in view of European integration led to a better definition of the domain at the beginning of the new millennium. The new Territorial and Urban Planning Act issued in 2001 clarifies and enforces the planning instruments and public responsibilities. The new law provides an independent status for spatial planning which is no longer seen as subsequent to the construction sector. In the field of the heritage protection, also in 2001, the previous GO becomes a full law (Law 422 for the protection of the historic monuments), in 2002 the Parliament ratifies the European Landscape Convention (Law 451 / 2002) adopted in Florence in 2000 by the Council of Europe and in 2004 a complete list of historic monuments is published in the OJ (MD 2314 / 2004)ⁱⁱ. The legal framework is completed with a new and stricter environmental legislation, due to the European Union (EU) requirements, with a significant influence on spatial planning activities too. General urban plans, regional plans and sections of the national plan are elaborated and approved. In general the planning activity is very intensive and has a very dynamic rhythm.

Although the legal framework develops and becomes more complex it cannot keep up with the dynamism of the transformation of the Romanian society. Its shortcomings are becoming obvious during the second half of the decade and attempts are made for improving, correcting or reforming the system. Significant debates, relevant studies and even an audit of the legal system are done in view of elaborating a comprehensive Code of Urbanism. By 2008 revisions of the Planning Act are made, mainly aimed to raise its effectiveness and reduce the derogatory procedures. It also provides new planning instruments and specific responsibilities for the protected areas. The influence of the EU structural Funds for urban development becomes important too.

2.4.2 Institutional changes

The institutional framework for spatial planning can be followed at two levels: central and local as well as in two different social environments: public and private. It may be also discussed and analyzed in relation to decision-makers, professionals and communities. During the last two decades opposite processes can be observed: dissolution of the old structures and relations and construction and reconstruction of

new ones. Whereas the process of dissolution was much too faster due to the rapid and brutal changes of the social, economic and political environments, the construction and reconstruction proved to be more difficult and not necessarily continuous and ascendant.

At central and local level new institutional responsibilities were set up since 1991, based on the principles of local autonomy and decentralization. The importance of spatial planning as a public policy is recognized and clear attributions were set up by the laws for local administrationⁱⁱⁱ. Urban and territorial development should be done according to plans that have to be approved by the local authorities and implemented accordingly. Within the Mayoralties at all territorial levels (county, town, and commune) special planning departments or offices were created, usually subordinated to a chief architect supported by advisory technical commissions. Full responsibilities for approval and implementation of planning schemes are given to local authorities (some particular areas of international, national or strategic importance being exempted). At central level, spatial planning remained an important sectorial policy and was part of specific in-line ministries.

As elaborators of the plans, professionals who were grouped until 1989 in big public institutes, as part of large multidisciplinary teams were forced to shift towards smaller private consultancy and design companies mainly mono-specialized, as the old structures were dismantled during privatization processes. The former multidisciplinary teams were slowly replaced by networks of small specialized firms. At central level one National Research Institute for spatial planning – Urbanproiect – was actively involved in the restructuring of the field especially during the first 10-15 years. Later on it was affected by a slow decay and become a part of one larger national research institute for constructions, architecture and planning^{iv}.

Although a great deal of effort was made to replace the old system and set up a new and functional one, the results were not satisfactory. The fragility of the institutional building is often seen as being one of the main problem of the whole planning system as "institutionalization is in fact the mean which ensure the control within the process of using and respecting the legislation" (Urbanismul 2010^v). The weak involvement of state control in planning process, the low level of urban culture of the administrative staff, the lack of institutional cooperation, the overlapping of competencies are among the identified weaknesses of the responsible public institutions. At central level it can be noticed that along the two decades there has been a diminishing importance of the domain, which started in the '90s to be represented by a National Commission for Territorial and Urban Planning and then by a Ministry of Public Works and Territorial Planning. After being initially represented by a Commission of ministerial ranking, then by a Department within a ministry in the '2000s the domain was represented by an ever smaller Direction in Ministries whose major focus was Transport, Housing, Public Works, Constructions, Tourism or more recently Regional Development^{vi}. As other fields developed and EU directives were also implemented, planning responsibilities were shared among

several central bodies such as Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

The institutional system, which is seen as key element for the good functioning of spatial planning in general, is weakened by fragmentation of tasks, lack of cooperation, sub-financing and corruption: "Public bodies are eroded and infiltrated by <<ambassadors>> and <<mauls>> of the private sector and as a consequence is put to work for private interests. There is no culture of public interest..." (Urbanismul 2010^{vii}). As most of the tasks concerning the elaboration of development plans at all levels are externalised, a big responsibility belongs to the professionals who are to be found within private firms but also in research units belonging mostly to universities. In this sector there is an uneven territorial distribution of professional competencies as well as among companies, which sometime deeply affects the quality of the planning documents. In order to provide a better control in this area, in 2005 the Register of Romanian Planners (RRP) was set up.

2.4.3 The Planning Instruments

The last but not the least important piece of the "puzzle" of the planning system is represented by the planning instruments. They are in fact the legal mean leading from conception to concrete development, via the planning and building permit issued on the basis of the plans. The new system was put into place in the early '90s and remained practically unchanged by now. It provides two main categories of plans strongly related to territorial levels. The so-called urban plans refer to local and sub-local levels whereas the territorial ones refer to upper administrative levels. Whereas territorial plans have a guiding / strategic character the urban plans are regulatory /operational and are accompanied by urban regulations, which once approved by the Local Councils can be enforced as a local planning law. Due to their operational character, the urban plans have a much stronger influence as the territorial ones in the reshaping of the built and unbuilt environment. However, territorial plans are also important as they set up and identify the main development objectives and the potential conflicts between development and protected areas. The basic principles of the system of planning instruments as it can be deduced from figure 12 is that provisions set up at upper levels are compulsory for the lower levels. Horizontal and sectorial correlations are also mandatory.

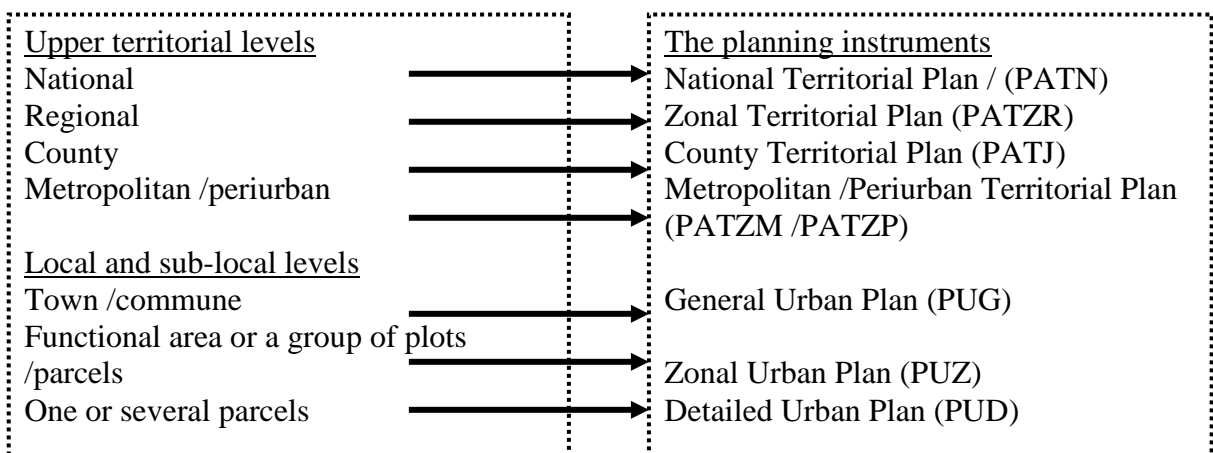


Figure 12. The planning instruments in relation to the different territorial levels

3. Conclusions

The short overview of the evolution of planning system in Romania shows a rather long tradition coming from the 19th century and before. Yet, the various changes of political regimes and at administrative level hampered a normal and sound continuity and effective use of the knowledge and experience accumulated in time. By the end of the first half of the last century, Romania was connected to the evolutions and trends at European level, but after the 2nd World War it has been disconnected and influenced by the new communist ideology and approach to spatial planning. The evaluation of the situation after more than 20 years of transition to democracy and market economy is not encouraging at all, indicating major weaknesses of the spatial development at local and regional levels. The reconstruction of the system, which began during the first years of the post-communist era, achieved to setting up a new legislative framework, specific instruments and procedures, yet was not able to generate an adequate institutional one and a sufficiently large and well qualified corpus of professionals in the field. The present state of general discontent against the aggressiveness of actions against the built-up and natural environment, in connection to the recent recommendations and actions of the EU to developing a sound and sustainable spatial policy, create the opportunity for a substantial reform in the field and a change of paradigm concerning the role of the spatial planner in the society (Pascariu, 2011). It can be concluded that Romanina planning system was much influenced over time by various other systems coming form abroad. Nowadays the most important influences come from the European Union and are based on general documents such as the 1983 European Chart of Spatial Planning up to most recent Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion.

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ⁱ Mostly inspired by the French model "aménagement du territoire et urbanisme" and also close to the Italian form "pianificazione urbanistica e territoriale".

ⁱⁱ Up to then a List of Historic Monuments have been issued by the National Commission of Historic Monuments, Piles and Sites in 1991-1992.

ⁱⁱⁱ A first law is issued in 1991 (Law 69), which is later revised and replaced in 2001 (Law 215 /2001).

^{iv} Since 2010 the institute was part of a unification process of several institutes and became URBAN-INCERC.

^v Comment of prof. arch. Alexandru Sandu.

^{vi} During the last decade there have been the following succession: 2001-2003 - Ministry of Public Works, Transports and Housing, 2003-2007 – Ministry of Transports, Constructions and Tourism, 2007-2009 – Ministry of Development, Public Works and Dwellings, 2009–2010 - Ministry of Regional Development and Housing and since 2010 the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism.

^{vii} Comments belong to prof. arch. Doina Cristea, prof. arch. Peter Derer, arch. Sorin Gabrea, arch. Andrei Luncan, arch. Simona Munteanu.