



RHGT, Vol. XV, Issues 29-30, pp. 145-146

BOOK REVIEW

POSTDECEMBRISM ȘI DEZVOLTARE TERITORIALĂ (POSTDECEMBRISM AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT)

Oana-Ramona ILOVAN (coordinator), Editura Presa Universitară Clujeană, Cluj Napoca, Romania, References, Annexes, 162 pages.

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The literature dealing with post-socialism has continued and still continues to emerge, considering the multiple shifts that occurred in the Eastern European countries, regions and cities and the main post-90 transformation, and their spatial consequences will continue to attract attention in the field of post-socialist geographies of regional and urban spaces. Against such a background, three decades after the key moment that marked the state-socialist collapse in Europe, back in December of 1989, the specialized literature still fuels attention on these specific questions with relevant echoes in the regional and urban research. In this regard, Romania – as a relevant country in the contexts of the communism breakdown – remains a fertile research background for assessing the main post-socialist transformations in terms of regional development and urban spatial planning. The book *Post-Decembrism and Territorial Development* is a work that unveils some case studies on post-socialist transformations and their consequences both in the urban contexts and in the regional development of some specific regions. Coordinated by Dr. Oana-Ramona Ilovan, the book is structured in five chapters, each of them being oriented on particular issues on post-socialist changes at the urban and regional scales.

The first section speaks about post-socialism as an unfinished problem in the Romanian urban space. The research is focused on a specific case study of the city of Cluj-Napoca, one of the most dynamic cities in Romania, which is investigated in depth through the lens of the most important post-socialist changes, most of these being ongoing processes with relevant consequences at the local and regional scales.

Passing from the largest Romanian urban habitats to the medium-sized municipalities in the same context, the second and third sections highlight the most important post-socialist transformation in the town of Hunedoara, a town that encountered multiple problems under post-socialism due to deindustrialization and its

outcomes transposed in the local ways of life of this community. Based on its post-90 evolution accompanied by significant changes as a consequence of local urban restructuring these chapters provide, beyond a critical examination of these multiple post-90 shifts, some appropriate solutions for reviving the local development of this town. From a different perspective, the mental space of this town is analysed using the local perception of the residents.

In the same vein but with a specific approach, the fourth section deals with the same features applied in a regional context with Petroșani region investigated in depth through the lens of demographic issues. The analysis spans the entire post-socialist period from 1992 to 2019, based mostly on a statistical investigation.

Increasing the local levels of resolution in the selected study areas of this book, the last chapter speaks about social welfare as a relevant indicator of local development. Against such a background, the authors of this section sampled as a case study a rural area, with the commune of Săvinești investigated in depth. The results highlight that social capital could be an important tool in designing some feature development perspectives in rural areas. These chosen case-studies, as well as their post-socialist debates, are key works that have to be considered in the local regional development to adjust the post-socialist urban and regional identity formation to the European models of urban and regional development.

This book represents a collection of relevant works on the post-socialist urban and regional restructuring in Romania with a variety of case studies, each of them providing critical examinations of the post-90 transformation. The appearance of this book is more than welcome in the context of the contemporary issues in Romanian post-socialist urban and regional restructuring and its re-adjustment to the European models of development. We encourage the coordinator of this volume to continue this work in the future with other relevant case studies from the Romanian post-socialist background that provide fertile opportunities to investigate the post socialist Romanian realities, both in urban and rural areas, which are nevertheless of high interest for different further research.
