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Different speeds of various erosion processes in a Submediterranean river basin (SW Slovenia)

Measurements of different geomorphic processes were conducted in the years 2005 and 2006 in the Dragonja river basin: rockwall retreat, movements of debris through erosion gully, interrill soil erosion and chemical denudation. Rockwall retreat in flysch badlands has an erosion rate of $84 \text{ kg/m}^2/\text{year}$ (almost 5 cm/year). In badlands we also measured movements of debris through an erosion gully. A gully (average 46° slope) with a catchment area of approximately 1000 m^2 was dammed. Almost 20 t of material was accumulated in fourteen months. Interrill soil erosion was measured on eight 1-m^2 plots: on bare soil in a young olive grove (2), in an overgrown meadow (2) and in the forest (4). Surface runoff from each of the plots was collected in reservoirs. Samples were taken weekly and dried in a laboratory, where the concentration of undissolved particles was determined. Measurements (May 2005–April 2006) show interrill soil erosion rate of 9013 g/m^2 on bare soil in the olive grove (5.5° slope), 168 g/m^2 on the overgrown meadow (9.4° slope) and in the forest with between 391 g/m^2 (7.8° slope) and 415 g/m^2 (21.4° slope). Measurements of chemical denudation in the Dragonja river basin show chemical denudation rate of 0.066 mm per year.

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Spatial Organizing of Suburban Territories and Urban Development. Case Study: Bistrița Municipality, Romania

The spatial organizing of the suburban territories of municipal cities and towns in Romania has become a priority in the context of their accelerated economic growth. Previous to the integration of Romania into the European Union in 2007 the rhythm of economic growth of these municipal cities and towns was rather slow, registering subsequently a quite accelerated rhythm. Under these circumstances the urban spaces have become overcrowded in terms of new investments, therefore an expansion of these cities in the adjacent areas – the suburbs becoming inevitable. The inefficient exploitation of the suburban areas as well as of the perspective ones of the cities, without establishing priorities for the categories of use according to the actual necessities, becomes a damaging practice. Both the unorganized occupancy of the fields with non classified uses and the perpetuating of individual, group and political interests for suburban territorial spatial organizing may lead to the blocking of urban development. In order to surpass this obstacle and place the urban development on the coordinates of sustainable development it is compulsory to previously elaborate studies of territorial arrangement for this category of geographical space as well. Our research, having as a study case the area of Bistrița Municipality constitutes a first attempt in the field, establishing the highlights of application of the sustainable spatial organizing method to this category of geographical space. The novelty lies in the fact that this category of territory has not yet been the subject of the urban

and territorial planning. This suburban territory, placed between the limit of the urban area and the administrative limit, appeared to be the most adequately approached as an object of either urban planning (General Urban Plan, Zonal Urban Plan, Detail Urban Plan) or territorial planning (Inter-Communal Territorial Planning, Zonal Territorial Planning, County Territorial Planning). This aspect determined that the authorizations for different types of works and constructions would be the issue of the County Councils for a territory that is organically part of the locality as well as its administrative propriety. This is the reason that made the urban localities lose their interest in this territory, thus its development becoming quite discordant than in accordance with the interests of the city. Therefore, we notice a degradation of the communication and transport infrastructure, an uncontrolled spreading out of constructions, a degradation of agricultural activities, and significant excesses over diverse environment factors. Based on the Law of Local Public Administration, No. 215 in April, 23rd, 2001, it was clearly established the affiliation of this territorial category (art. 4, align. 2) by which the local public administration (the Local Council) becomes autonomous with regard to “*organizing, functioning, competencies and attributions, as well as management of resources that, according to the law, are parts of the commune, city or county, in any case*”. This judicial aspect reveals a new side of this territorial category that, unexpectedly, becomes very interesting and attractive for the urban development. Previously, the fight for the development of cities in Romania was only at the level of the urban areas, but consequently the interest in urban development has extended to the suburban areas, as well. This moment stands for an almost exponential growth of interest towards the fields, resources, environment factors in the suburban area thus

constituting the active factors of a sustainable development. Nevertheless, at the moment, the major issue is reflected by the lack of methodology and a model of planning this category of territory at a national level. This study represents a first attempt in the field, which tries to combine a territory of dichotomy in a single study, whose final goal is to establish the rules of developing this new category of territory – *the suburban territory*. Furthermore, this study stands for the synthesis of a project established for and applied to Bistrița Municipality in between 2007-2008 entitled “*Delimitation of the Suburban Area of Bistrița Municipality*” and which is the first of this kind in Romania, elaborated by urban geographers, mainly aiming at the unblocking the process of urban development and coordinating it towards sustainable development. The proposals for both urban and territorial planning were successfully put into practice; hence, the first results were soon obvious (i.e. unblocking the urban traffic, stopping the uncontrolled enlargement of the city, setting the right locations for industrial parks, stopping the degradation of environment, the optimum management of the territory, etc.). This paper can constitute a model of approach of the urban development problems at a national level and, at the same time, it represents another proof for the practical – applicative character of geography as a science.

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