

**Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) concepts – Philosophical, Sociological and Historical  
Analyses || Fenntartható városi fejlődés - filozófiai, szociológiai és történeti elemzések  
Lithuanian-Hungarian Bilateral Project**

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### **History of co-operation**

There is a long-standing cooperation between Lithuanian and Hungarian participants in the project. The Lithuanian participants were.

Gábor Kovács and Béla Mester participated and lectured at international conferences organised by Lithuanian researchers and institutions in Vilnius: 1. Phenomenological Perspectives on Cultural Change and Environmental Challenges, September 22-24, 2011. 2. Visuality 2013: Politics, Ideology, Media, April 4 - 5, 2013. The texts were published in *Limes* and *Creativity Studies* journals.

Significant events of the project were two international conferences in Budapest: The Central European City: Historical Perspectives on December 6, 2016, and Modern Capitals and Historical Peripheries on October 20-21, 2017. Borbála Jász, Ferenc Hörcher, Gábor Kovács and Béla Mester presented the results of the project to Hungarian scholars in Hungarian in April 2018. 6-7 July, Balatonfüred. On Footnotes to Plato conference organised by the Hungarian Philosophical Society Ferenc Hörcher, Gábor Kovács and Béla Mester presented a part of the proceeds of their research.

### **Relevance of the topic**

Urbanization has become a main challenge all over developing countries in the 21st century. Significant challenges for urban development include urban sprawl, traffic congestion, air pollution, city layouts not oriented to twenty-first century lifestyles, declining traditional urban culture, selective over-development, and different urban inequities. Industry is double-edge sword to urban sustainability: on the one hand, it provides employment and GDP economic, one the other hand, brings pollutions to cities. Our environment has combined impact of climate change, global ecological overshoot, and rapid urbanization. Nowadays, we face the urban sprawl, the growing population and issues such as visual and environmental maladies, traffic, air pollution, instability and insecurity (Miralaei et al. 2017). The dynamic development of cities based on the role of the car in addressing transport needs leads to a reduction of mobility, as well as to an increase in external costs generated by the transport system (Tomanek 2017). Increasing awareness of these and others problems has led national and provisional governments and cities to seek sustainable urban development solutions (Wang & Hi 2015).

The project analyses problems with high actuality and importance of urbanization, sustainable urban development, smart city, eco-city, creative city, utopia.

## Research project – Description of the objectives and expected results

The aim of the project is to analyse the methodological problems of creativity research and to compose the creativity indices of the city taking into account the specific of region and to evaluate the interconnections between urban creativity development and the indices of economic growth, as well to raise the interdisciplinary qualification of the researchers. The task of the project is to develop the conception of creative city and methodology of creativity indices determining the composition and the values' weight of integral urban creativity index (IUCI), analysing the interconnections between urban creativity and economic growth. [*Tomas Kacerauskas*]

Always the potential of the cultural and creative activity is best realized and demonstrated at city level for three main reasons. First, cities have historically been at the center of innovation and change, local autonomy has increased over time to enable cities better to address cultural opportunities and challenges, geographical clustering, often generates positive externalities in the areas where they are located. The Cultural and Creative Cities Monitor's quantitative information is captured three general domains are: Cultural Vibrancy measures the cultural 'pulse' of a city in terms of cultural infrastructure and participation in culture; Creative Economy captures how the cultural and creative sectors contribute to a city's employment, job creation and innovative capacity; and Enabling Environment identifies the tangible and intangible assets that help cities attract creative talent and stimulate cultural engagement.

Historical and phenomenological glance on such Central European city as Vienna, give wide possibility for deeper understanding how these contemporary domains are applicable to the cultural and artistic life at the second part of XX century. Additionally we will analyze such cultural friendly dimensions as openness, tolerance, cultural participation and city attractiveness [Basia Nikiforova]

The terms of 'city' and 'urbanity' have an important role in the theoretical self-understanding of the modern societies both in the field of the politics and philosophy, especially in the description of the ideal typical audience of the modern and (in East-Central Europe) national genres of the belles-lettres and philosophy. This Research Unit, based on the results of the previous period of the same Lithuanian–Hungarian bilateral program, will be focussed on the following questions: (1) the history of the usage of the terms of 'city' and 'urbanity' in the philosophical texts of the national modernisation programs of the East-Central European region, (the reception of the Scottish Enlightenment, German Popularphilosophie, Kantianism and Hegelianism in the 18th-19th-century East-Central European philosophies, from the point of view of the concepts of civilisation, culture, and urbanity); (2) narratives of the 'local form of the urbanity' in the East-Central European national histories of ideas. [*Béla Mester*]

The history of Bucolic utopias with its aversion to city-life with its mobility, openness, proneness for experimentation with lifestyles reaches back to prehistoric times. City is an ancient mythologeme representing both hell and heaven for social imagery: Jerusalem versus Babylon. It is conspicuous fact that utopia, the perfect society, from Plato to Campanella, is frequently imagined as a city. Premodern anti-urbanism was imbued with republican ethos – countryside and its inhabitant, the honest peasant was conceived as the defender of simple, ancient values who, in opposite to the lustful hedonistic city-dweller, was ready to sacrifice his life for fatherland. This mythic picture was a reflection of the crisis of late Roman republic but, in the later centuries, it became a common topos of anti-urban attitudes.

This conception in modern cultural criticism has been embedded in local contexts differentiated to a large extent from each other. American anti-urbanism, due to American version of Enlightenment, used the tool-box of classical-Roman republicanism and insisted to democratic values. At the same time European cultural criticism, especially its German version which strongly influenced the approaches of Central and Eastern European culture-critique was prone to associate anti-urbanism with a sharp criticism over modern representative democracy. The planned research will be focused upon the contextualized reconstruction of the different types of modern anti-urbanism. [*Gábor Kovács*]

After WWII the main goal in city planning was the reconstruction of the urban landscape across Europe. Relying on the results of the classical modern movement this was a common project all over Europe. At the beginning of the 1950s in eastern Central-Europe a distinct socialist approach emerged with the motto: ‘national by form, socialist by content’. This is called socialist realism, which returned to a classical architectural form-language on the surface of decorations, but at the same time it also retained modernism under the surface in a hidden way. In my project I will analyse European City-Transformations after WWII. I will examine the meaning of utopia in city planning in the 20th century and distinguish the ideal and utopian way of urban design. I will analyse the results of these theories in eastern Central-Europe after WWII: [1] the socialist realist urban design and [2] the soviet modern city planning. Finally, I will criticise these utopian masterplans of socialist realist and socialist modernist cities from the aspects of from the point of view of the targets pursued. [*Borbála Jász*]

### **Objectives of the co-operation regarding the extension of the project**

After the earlier pilot phase, the longer-term challenge ahead is to integrate national narratives into a regional narrative. The goal is a comparative research program that encompasses a wide range of disciplines from cultural studies, from the history of political ideas to the history of ideology, to social psychology and sociology. As a result, it is possible to outline the history of mental structures that still determine the community attitudes of local societies.

We are planning comprehensive comparative research covering other countries in the region, including the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Croatia and Slovenia.