

URBAN AND RURAL AREAS: THE SEARCH FOR GREATER HARMONY

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Abstract

The paper aimed to present some aspects of the evolution the development of spatial model of the national concept. Bulgaria has a convincing historical experience in centralized creation and management of spatial models for development at three levels - municipal, regional and national. With the abolition of centralism, Bulgaria moved to the other pole - complete deregulation of spatial development. Urban and rural areas are two main concepts affecting the balanced spatial development of the country. The choice of a model for spatial development is influenced by a number of factors - social, geopolitical, economic, climatic and others. As a conclusion, the National Concept Programme of Development (NCPD) adopts the approach to rural and cross-border areas of the Territorial Program of the European Union (TA 2020), which to the polycentric spatial and integrated urban development adds concern for the preservation of the vitality of small settlements. The comparative method with its concepts and categories is the main research method in the present work. The spatial model for the development of the national territory is multi-layered and synthesizes different layers with information, functions, processes and priority elements of different hierarchical ranks. In Bulgaria there are visible/intensive processes of spatial polarization and movement towards monocentric models of development.

Key words: urban, rural, city, spatial models, Bulgaria

INTRODUCTION

Economic development takes place in a certain area and varies considerably. It is a common observation, as stated in the 2009 World Development Report [13], that the location of people is the best predictor of their income.

Urban and rural areas are two main concepts used by politicians, researchers, national administrations and international organizations such as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the UN and the EU. These two terms are easy to understand by the general public, but there is no clear definition at the international level. For example, the UN publishes data on cities, urban areas and rural areas, but relies entirely on national definitions. The principles and recommendations of the United Nations are stated that due to the different characteristics of urban and rural areas around the world, it is

not possible to reach more than one common definition. The main differences between rural and urban areas are to be found in population density, lifestyle, population culture, level of health and education, economy, politics, wildlife, water and climate management. Rural and urban are two different places. Rural areas are often more traditional places such as small towns in the country or old farms on the outskirts of smaller towns, where it is cozy and children play outside and people are friendlier. The other places are the cities, where it is very modern, where people are always on their phones, listening to their music or watching YouTube, and they themselves are more tense and have less smiles.

The choice of a model for urban development requires to consider alternative opportunities for the future development of the urban network of the country and to look for the appropriate, desired, but also realistic option that can be achieved. This model requires the

establishment of harmony between urban and rural areas in order to achieve a model of "moderate polycentrism" in the foreseeable future.

In this context, the purpose of the paper is In this context, the aim of the article is to analyze the most important features of urban and rural areas and on this basis to show the most appropriate models for spatial development of Bulgaria.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The main tool in the development of this article is the National Concept for Spatial Development and the related Geographic Information System with the proposed structured geospatial database, which is used for analysis, verification of models, assessment of territories and centers and visualization of results.

The vision of the National Concept for Spatial Development of Bulgaria focuses on short but clear messages related to characteristics that reflect the identity, history and core values of society, and on expected changes in the future. It is a synthesized description of the general idea of the development of the national space of Bulgaria until 2025 and plays a unifying role for the national priorities and the factors that are expected to be of key importance for the spatial development of the country [10].

The influence of the main geopolitical, global, social, economic and environmental factors on the spatial development is analyzed and the most important challenges that the country will face are highlighted. One of the most serious problems in the coming decades will be the demographic crisis with its multifaceted manifestations. Europe's population will continue to shrink and age, and Bulgaria is no exception, so all possible demographic scenarios envisage population decline.

Comparison is one of the main methods of knowing the surrounding reality and it is used in existing work. The basis of this method is quite simple: the definition and comparison of individual phenomena of social, economic, political or other nature to find distinctive

similarities and differences. The method of comparative analysis derives from such a general scientific method as analogy. However, unlike the latter, the comparison involves the use of elements of other methods, including analysis, methods of thinking, modeling, synthesis, induction, deduction, etc. The main purpose of the comparison is to obtain new facts not only from the various properties of objects or phenomena that are compared, but also to analyze their various relationships. Based on this, a general trend can be drawn for their subsequent functioning and development.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Definition of urban

The term 'urban' can refer to a region or region that has a higher population density and has the hallmarks of a man-made environment. The people who live in this area are usually engaged in trade and services. There is also industrialization in this settlement, which increases employment opportunities. The urban settlement is not limited to cities, but also includes cities and suburbs. Urban areas have many benefits of living - easy access to various amenities, better transport facilities, opportunities for entertainment and education, health facilities. Of course, there are some disadvantages, such as pollution caused by greater industrialization and the means of transport used, such as buses, trains, cars, etc., which increase the health problems of people living in the area.

Definition of rural areas

The term "rural" can be defined as an area located on the outskirts. It is usually a small settlement that is outside the boundaries of an urban, commercial or industrial area. It may include rural areas, villages with natural vegetation and open spaces. Population density is low. The main source of income of the population is agriculture - agriculture and animal husbandry. The production of houses is also a major source of income here.

In India, a city with a population of less than 15,000 is considered rural, according to the planning committee. Gram Panchayat is

responsible for caring for such areas. In addition, there is no municipal council in the villages and the maximum percentage of the male population is engaged in agriculture and related activities [11].

Based on population density, development, amenities, employment opportunities, education, etc. human settlement is divided into two categories: urban and rural.

The city refers to the settlement where the degree of urbanization and industrialization is high. On the other hand, in a rural settlement, one in which the pace of urbanization is quite slow.

Another important difference between the two settlements is that while urban areas are highly populated, rural areas have a relatively smaller population than urban areas. Read this article in which we have made an important point to distinguish between the two.

Differences between urban and rural area are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Comparison between urban and rural features

Basis for comparison	Urban	Rural
Meaning	A settlement in which the population is very high and has the characteristics of a built environment is known as urban.	The suburban area is known as rural.
Includes	Cities and towns	Villages and neighborhoods
Life	Fast and complicated	Simple and calm
Environment	Greater isolation from nature.	Direct contact with nature.
Connected with	Non-agricultural work, ie trade, trade or provision of services.	Agriculture and livestock.
Population size	Densely populated	Poorly populated
Development	The planned settlement exists in urban areas, which are developing in accordance with the process of urbanization and industrialization.	Developed arbitrarily, based on the presence of natural vegetation and fauna in the area.
Social mobility	Very intense	Less intense
Division of labor	Always present at the time of the division of labor.	There is no such division.

Source: [11].

Based on the already mentioned differences, the human settlement is divided into two categories: urban and rural. The city refers to the settlement where the degree of urbanization and industrialization is high. On the other hand, in a rural settlement, the pace

of urbanization is relatively slow. The main differences between urban and rural areas are discussed in the following points:

A settlement where the population is high density and has the characteristics of a built-up environment (an environment that provides basic facilities for human activity) is known as urban. Rural is the geographical area located in the peripheral parts of cities.

Life in urban areas is quite different - faster and more complicated, while rural life is relatively quiet. Cities are included in the urban settlement. On the other hand, the rural settlement includes villages and hamlets.

In urban areas, isolation from nature is much greater due to the built-up environment. Rural areas are in contact with nature as they are closer to it. Urban people are engaged in non-agricultural activities, ie. trade and services. In contrast, the main livelihood of people in rural areas is agriculture and animal husbandry. The population is educated cities are densely populated, which is based on urbanization.

Urban areas are developed in a planned and systematic way, according to the process of urbanization and industrialization. Rural development is rarely based on the presence of natural vegetation and fauna in the region.

When it comes to social mobilization, urban people are very intense, as they often change their profession or place of residence in search of better opportunities. However, in rural areas, people's occupational or territorial mobility is relatively less intense.

The division of labor and specialization is always present in the urban settlement during the division of labor. Unlike rural areas, there is no division of labor.

The challenges of integrating urban and rural areas are specific and constructive ways need to be found to address the problems. As a solution to strengthen the urban-rural link, the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) defined the term "urban food systems" in December 2013. A comprehensive network of actors, processes and relationships related to production, processing, marketing and the consumption of food that exists in a geographical region that includes a more or less concentrated urban center and the

surrounding suburban and rural hinterland; regional a landscape through which flows of people, goods and ecosystem services are managed [6].

In Bulgaria, the development of the rural areas is sustained by Rural Development Program [8].

Main challenges and development potential of the national space

The National Concept for Spatial Development of the Republic of Bulgaria, 2013 - 2025 is the first document for spatial planning in the last three decades, which is develops for the whole national space under completely different political and socio-economic conditions, the country's membership in the European Union and changed attitude to the content and role of spatial planning. It is the most important medium-term strategic document that should harmonize sectoral policies, to coordinate private and public interests in the restoration of land and forest ownership in all its forms, increased number of participants in the planning process and territorial management and a more democratic decision-making process [4].

Bulgaria has significant historical experience in regional and spatial planning at the national level. The territorial administrative organization of Bulgaria was established in 1995 according to the Law on the Administrative-Territorial Organization of the Republic of Bulgaria, Prom. DV. No. 63 of July 14, 1995 [9].

The new concept of Spatial Development builds on and orients to the new global challenges related to resource conservation and adaptation to climate change and complies with the basic principles of modern policy for sustainable territorial development.

The National Concept for Spatial Development for the period 2013-2025 (NCPD) has been developed in the context of the main documents of the European Union for sustainable development spatial and urban development. It provides guidelines for a balanced structure, smart governance and integrated conservation of the country's resources in in line with the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy for the Development of

a Competitive Knowledge and Innovation Economy, for Reducing Resource Dependence and Energy Consumption, for Economic, Social and Territorial Cohesion [2, 3].

The chosen model for spatial development of the country is inspired by the priorities for achieving these goals, adopted in the Territorial Agenda of Europe 2020 (TA 2020) "Towards Inclusive, Smart and Sustainable Europe" [12], which build on the ideas of the European Spatial Development Perspective (1999), the Lisbon Strategy (2000) and the Gothenburg Strategy (2001) [5]. They promote polycentric and balanced territorial development, integrated economic, social and environmental renewal and development of cities, rural areas and regions with specific characteristics, territorial integration and policy coordination, protection of natural and cultural values and adaptation to global climate change.

The most important formulations and approaches of spatial planning, included in the pan-European documents that will shape our national policy and practice at all levels in the future, represented in the National Concept for Spatial Development for the period 2013-2025 [10] are the following:

1. Supporting balanced territorial development by maintaining a hierarchical system of city-centers at national and regional level as a means of reducing the pronounced territorial imbalances in economic development. Such imbalances are reported mainly in countries like ours, where, regardless of demographic decline, there is a significant growth of the capital at the expense of the rest of the national territory. The role of cities as engines of growth and as centers of creativity and innovation is emphasized. The creation of innovative networks between cities to compete at European and global level is encouraged. A significant role is assigned to small and medium-sized cities. Strategies for "recovery of the urban economy" are being developed, the economy of knowledge, creativity and innovation is being stimulated.

2. Strengthening the links between urban and rural areas at all levels, by improving accessibility and employability and planning

specific measures in support of peripheral and sparsely populated rural areas.

The main responsibility for the development of the periphery lies with the metropolitan urban areas. Interactions and partnerships between urban cores and rural areas are being strengthened, with the development of small towns strengthening their role as organizing centers.

3. Ensuring better accessibility and connectivity of cities and regions by improving their transport and communication links, by developing regional and local transport networks and connecting them to the European transport network. Improving transport links in peripheral areas, both within the EU and with neighboring countries, is particularly important for building broken links and integrating remote areas. Improving access to electronic communications networks and the provision of "universal service" in sparsely populated areas improves access to infrastructure, information and knowledge. Providing access to broadband is an important prerequisite for increasing competitiveness business and especially SMEs and is a condition for reducing the digital divide, as well as another opportunity to improve the skills of people of working age and increase their chances of entering the labor market. "

4. Careful planning of sustainable urban development by applying an integrated approach to urban reconstruction and renewal. Consistently coordinated solutions to economic, environmental, social and cultural issues arising in cities by concentrating resources on lasting improvement of the urban environment and quality of life. In parallel with the projects for physical improvement of the environment, measures are being implemented to stimulate social integration and cohesion, which enable the fight against spatial segregation and social marginalization. Mixing functions and social groups, especially in large cities, reduces the risk of social exclusion and exclusion for a large part of the population and preserves the vitality of cities. For more effective land use planning, integration of suburban areas of large cities into spatial development strategies and plans is sought.

Models for spatial development

Spatial models

Bulgaria has a convincing historical experience in centralized creation and management of spatial models for development at three levels - municipal, regional and national. This was the model of settlement systems, striving for even and balanced development throughout the territory. It has been realized through networks of social service, labor employment and public transport, covering the entire national territory and articulated according to the hierarchical structure of settlements (functional type). This was an ideal model (similar to the neighborhood and the area of a residential complex) with centralized (and absolute) management of all its essential elements (jobs - people - housing - transport). The main disadvantage of the model is the adequate attitude towards the village. The process of "urbanization" was also artificially created and misunderstood, the consequences of which can still be traced in a significant part of the settlements in the country from the lower hierarchical levels.

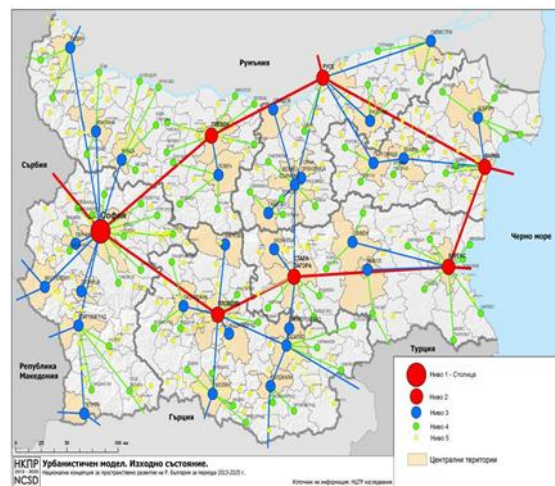


Fig. 1. Urban model of Bulgaria

Source: National Concept for Spatial Development for the period 2013-2025 [10].

With the abolition of centralism, our country moved to the other pole - complete deregulation of spatial development. Regional development is also part of it. The only regulators were the spontaneous forces of the emerging markets - employment, services,

real estate. After 20 years of "inertial" spatial development, the analyzes of the municipal plans find strong polarity - over 90% concentration of people and activities in the municipal center. A similar picture is observed in the district strategies. Regional development plans reinforce the trend of growing inequalities. The National Strategy for Regional Development accepts this problem as a major challenge and directs an appropriate strategic package to it. Against this background, two clear ones emerge:

- In Bulgaria there are visible/intensive processes of spatial polarization and movement towards monocentric models of development at all levels - municipal, regional, regional, national;

- Bulgaria needs a turn to a polycentric model, but not at the expense of the energy of the established center, but through a supported opportunity to utilize its own resources on the periphery. "Supported opportunity" does not mean new direct state intervention in the desired process, but the effective implementation of regional policy, creating new competitive centers for choosing a place for investment, employment, education, recreation, career.

Spatial inequalities are known for a number of countries, there is a certain difference: Bulgaria's growth stems mainly from the fast-growing services sector. This is also shown in the work of [1], who write that production and services show many different patterns of spatial growth in the United States and Europe.

The National Concept of Spatial Development (NCSD) defines the territorial structure on a large national scale, in order to highlight the territorial differences and problems of development and structure and formulation of development policies for different types of territories. As the largest territorial structure can be indicated the typical for European countries have two main types of territories:

- highly urbanized, central areas with intensive socio-economic development,
- sparsely urbanized, peripheral areas with difficult socio-economic development,

The central highly urbanized areas are the territories of municipalities and groups of

municipalities near large urban centers and their advantage, in contrast to the peripheral areas, is the opportunity for relatively close and convenient access to jobs, services, education, culture and all other values that big cities offer.

The core of the central regions are the urbanized territories of large and medium-sized cities (levels 1, 2, 3), their suburban areas (subject to suburbanization) and areas of influence (FUA, agglomeration areas). Outside of them, in the central regions (municipalities), there are also remote peripheral parts with small settlements or without settlements.

The peripheral sparsely urbanized areas are the territories of the municipalities, far from the big urban centers and from the services and jobs they offer. Peripherals regions in the country are external border peripheries and internal peripheries. The central and peripheral regions cover the territories of the formal territorial ones units - the municipalities, and thus distribute among themselves the entire territory of Bulgaria.

To the two main types of territories (central and peripheral), which determine the largest territorial structure, is added another type of territories, typical for Bulgaria:

- non-urbanized, natural areas for preservation of biological balance.

Natural territories occupy parts of the territories of the central and peripheral regions, are superimposed on them and thus form areas of informal character. In they include protected natural areas and protected areas under Natura 2000, protected under the Protected Areas Act (SG No. 133/1998) and the Protected Areas Act biological diversity (SG No. 77/2002) [7]. These include other areas without settlements occupied by forests, in the high parts of the mountains, by rivers, by the sea, parts of the water area. In the NCPD, they are defined as areas for preventive protection and conservation in their existing land use.

The main priorities of the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth are protected in the NCPD 2013-2025 through the ideas of balanced distribution of priorities between urban centers and areas

with good socio-economic development and the lagging behind, vulnerable to demographic and economic risks territories and settlements. The reasons for this approach are related to the findings for the successful development of medium-sized cities, which offer different scale and quality of life, avoiding some of the disadvantages of large cities and metropolises.

In addition, the polycentric network is being strengthened through targeted support for some important smaller cities in the country's spatial structure.

The NCS D adopts the approach to rural and cross-border areas of the Territorial Program of the European Union (TA 2020), which to the polycentric spatial and integrated urban development adds concern for the preservation of the vitality of small settlements. This differentiated approach is used in the proposals for targeted support for small towns and larger villages in rural areas and border areas and building broken links with them, while taking into account the specificities of different rural and mountainous areas and access to services offered by medium-sized cities.

CONCLUSIONS

The spatial model for the development of the national territory is multi-layered and synthesizes different layers with information, functions, processes and priority elements from different hierarchical ranks in a single dynamic system.

Alternative spatial models are based on the existing situation and possible changes in the polycentric structure of evenly distributed cities on the territory of the country.

The assessment of possible options of limited, moderately developed and highly developed polycentrism prove that the most suitable for the country is the model of moderate polycentrism, with opportunities for gradual development over time, depending on the influence of external and internal economic, geopolitical and hemographic factors. The general trend in the concept is to overcome the threat of targeting monocentrism, stimulating the movement from monocentrism

to moderate polycentrism, which over time to expand and approach developed polycentrism. Everything we talked about suggests that the spatial evolution of Bulgaria continues to favor areas with high levels of employment density.

This is obviously the case in services, and especially in the high-tech services and business services industries. After all, in the service sectors, agglomeration forces still dominate dispersion forces in high-density areas.

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