



IGU Thematic Conference

# TRANSFORMATION OF TRADITIONAL CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

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Abstracts and Guide Book



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# LANDSCAPE AND VILLAGE-SCAPE FORMING BY URBAN SPRAWL – A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF FOUR CENTRAL EUROPEAN REGIONAL CENTRES' AGGLOMERATION

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Residential suburbanisation and urban sprawl are currently the most important urbanisation processes in European post-socialist countries, especially in Central Europe. Over the past decade and a half, peri-urban development has enormously changed the traditional landscape, land use, and village-scape of settlements around urban centres. The European, especially Central European researchers have primarily focused on the suburban zones of the capital cities, and paid little attention to the processes of the regional centres, where the extent of spatial growth often exceeds the rate of population growth; it is taking place even in the lack of population growth. Our research examines the urban sprawl and its impacts in three Central European countries (in Hungary, Slovakia and Romania) in the cases of four economic growing regional centres' agglomerations. Desktop and field empirical researches were conducted, with a GIS analysis of land cover change, using the Corine Land Cover databases and the datasets of the Urban Atlas; with analysis of aerial and landscape photos. This paper introduces some results of these comparative examinations, summarises the demographic changes of these peri-urban settlements, the changes in the structures of settlement and village-scape, landscape. We try to define some specialities of the Central European urbanization process on the beginning of the 21th century.

**Keywords:** urban sprawl, Central Europe, landscape, GIS analysis