

# DEMOGRAPHY AND IT'S INFLUENCE IN THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT OF A COUNTRY

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## Abstract

Urbanization brings a sustainable development as it closely relates to demography, the movement of population. After 1990, in contrast to the communist regime era a shift from the planned population movements, to congestion mainly toward Tirana and other coastal areas has been noticed.

The aim of this paper is to analyze the impact that the population movement has had into our country's urban development. Urbanization is considered to be a major component for the economic growth of a country, especially in coastal areas, in which it is more incentive for sustainable development.

The urbanization has passed through several stages: pre-industrial, industrial and postindustrial one. It is seen as a means to improve civilization, while bringing more progress and development.

So we may ask:

Was it worth a movement of population without a plan in Albania and should we put nowadays a planning strategy for the urbanization and demography?

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**Keywords:** Urbanization, population, development

## Introduction:

*Urbanization* – comes from the latin word urbs-city. Urbanization is science, art and the construction technique of cities, living zones having a specific plan to allow favorable conditions to work, relax and inhabit. Urbanization is the theory and practice of city construction. Urbanization is a huge component in the economical growth of a country, especially in the coastal areas bringing stable development.

Urbanization has passed through preindustrial, industrial and postindustrial phases.

In the paraindustrial phase cities were small, rare with city population participation between 15 and 20%. The undeveloped countries and the developing ones are in the paraindustrial phase of urbanization.

Secondary activities were in the industrial phase, especially industry and the participation of city population which reached between 20 and 50%.

The postindustrial phase is reached in the highest level of urbanization with more than 2/3 of city population. Tertiary activities have a main role in this phase. Through this phase the migrations from village to city are interrupted and those from city to suburbs are shown.

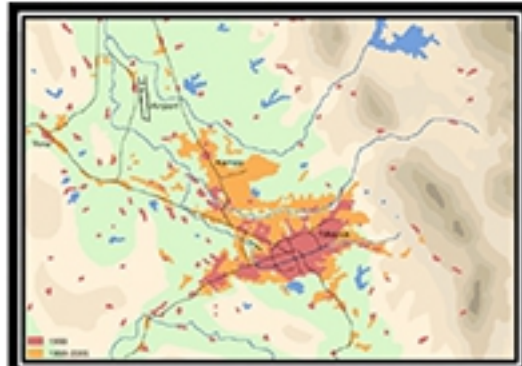
### 1. Urbanization Development

The 21'st century is seen as the urbanization century. The cities will be more extended, with many centres, different, fragmented, seperated and connected to different networks, interconnected with global exchange, autonomous to state notions, in massive

ecological, social and cultural intertwinement. Technology will bring a big change in people's lives helping families that live away from each other.

So, the developing cities in the 21's century will bring a radical change of civilization and the features inherited through different generations.

TIRANA'S EXPANSION FROM 1990 TO 2005



*In the western cities*, where civilization and culture have left their marks, three cities subdivision have started to take form:

a) The selected urban periphery's, with excellent infrastructure, seperated homes, gardens, space, parking, chosen neighbors, nature full of trees and guaranteed tranquility. Here lives the elitary society of nowadays civilizations.

b) City centres, full of people, with public transport frequented from middle classes where different objects are placed with care and the historical centres are the proof of cities origin.

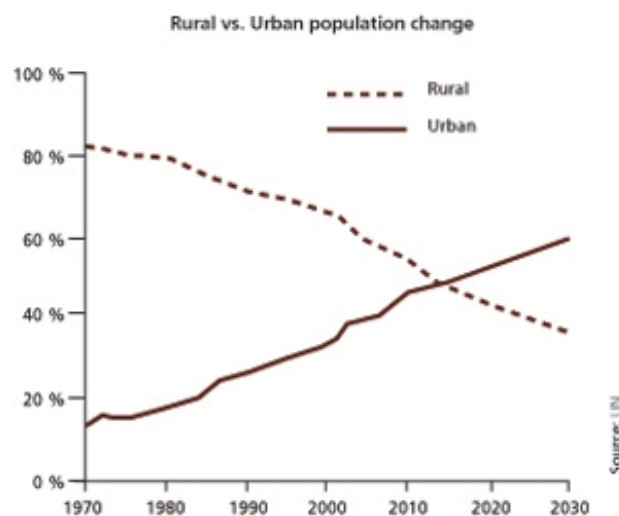
c) The dangerous zones, ghettos, where nobody wants to live there where dominates the absence of security, dominates the moving violation law and the communities do place the everyday rules.

*This is worth to be seen even as a way of development for Albania. The construction, addition and the spread of urbanization will bring many changes in the way people live.*

**As in the whole world, even in Albania the urbanization appears in two forms;**

1) *Planned, that needs time, months, or years to be thrown in letter*

2) *Urbanization that comes naturally to respond to modernization and development of industrial life of an area (like the case of developing countries)*



Urbanization is seen as a way to improve the civilization, bringing more progress and development.

**URBANIZATION like every side of the medal has it's positive and negative side**

• ***The positive sides of urbanization are***

- a. the fuse of rural-traditional features in contemporary urban features
- b. the increase of cultural and educational level
- c. the reduction of populations natural raise
- d. socialization of the population

• ***The negative sides of urbanization are***

- a. Huge pressure in working places,
- b. Pressure in habitation funds,
- c. Transport problems,
- d. The enviroment contamination,
- e. Nois,
- f. Changing behavio in people,
- g. Criminality etc.

***b) What kind of urban development will Albania have in the future?***

It's difficult to specify a prevailing line since urbanization is changing phenomenon, eventhough its quite sure that the future developing lines are connected with:

- Cities
- With the increase in human population

*Albania* is a post-communist place that has passed from a planned movement toward a massive one especially in Tirana and coastal places. Until before 15 years the world knew Albania mainly as a very isolated society, where the state had the titles of ownership and the control over properties similar to other socialist places. From that time Albania has passed through many changes with almost no similarity with other economies in transition<sup>1</sup>.

Albania is trying to become a candidate state in the European Union, a speical attention is given to the regional development decreasing the levels between them.

The regional development influences not only in the population but also in the urbanization of the population and it's economical and social aspect.

In the country there is a big change between the most developed pole, Tirana and Durres, and the least developed regions which are Dibra and Kukesi. The migration is a critical problem, which brings huge infrastructure pressures even in the services for the most attractive zones, also a reduction of population and inefficiency for the least attractive ones<sup>2</sup>. The least deveoped cirucits are Dibra, Kukesi and Berati with ZHR 75 index.

Tirana has the highest index (151) and it's considered as the most developed city. All the other circuits with index between 75 and 125 are classified as:

<sup>1</sup> URBAN SECTOR ASSESSMENT IN ALBANIA, 19 January 2007, page 3

<sup>2</sup>Regional Development in Albania - the challenge of development or integration? , Pg 352, Tirana, 2010

Circuits with an average level of development, which are distinguished in many characteristics<sup>3</sup>.

According to INSTAT<sup>438</sup> they show a regional concentration increasing, where the part of population in Tirana and Durres will increase with less than ¼, in almost 1/3 of the general population, whether the population in other big regions (especialli in the north and south) will decrease. The central region, focuse on Tirana and Durres, shows the largest concentration of the registered firms (partly for administrative reasons). This is the region

<sup>3</sup>Regional Development in Albania - the challenge of development or integration?, Pg 353, Tiranë, 2010 ,  
<sup>438</sup> Instat.al.

where the modern services and productive activities, main of the companies with other capital, main of the public sector and the construction bum, together. This region is also the centre of export and import, it dominates all the ports, the aerial transport and passenger traffic in the country.

The coastal zone (in north and south of Durres) has unexploited potentials for the toursim and has unused potentials for tourism and agriculture/ agro-buisness, which will look for structured support to develop, to raise the standards and to support the competirion of the European Union in expansion.

The inner zone does not have new incentive to disallow the fall of agricultural sector, continuing to stay behind. The cities of Berat and Korca constitutes a positive exclusion and conitnues to preserve a regional dynamic.

The main objective of government in the third phase would be the legalization and integration of real estate fortune. The new construction and urnbanization in the two first phases have been spontanous with no interfering from the central goverment. In reality the adaption of private sector, trhough the first decade of transition, was very apparent having present the starting point: the artificial space distribution of population (65% in the rural zones), state possessions of 70 % inventory of the accomodating homes, and a very restricted possession for accomodation (the exploitation of construction area is only 5 m2 for each person in the urban zones, compare to 16 m2 in Bulgaria on the transition period). Having present the weak economy and administration in the beginning of 90's, the informal building were the only practical way for population accomodation of a displaced population.

This phase of Albanian urbanization must non be considered negative. It contributed in the sub-division and land distribution, state property, in small parcels in a very short time. It created a huge inventory of the permanent residences so that they could be sold and bought.

## 2. The trajectory of population number in Albania

At least until 2021 the trajectory of population number in Tirane and Durres will increase progressively. It's precisely the study of the Institute of Statistics that confirms a fact where all the sources and origins of displacement are detailed. This may be one of the reasons why in Tirana and Durres the prices of residences never decrease even in times of crisis.

The demand and population growth in this region is progressive <sup>2</sup>.

However, having present that only 22 % of non migrants live in the city, migration has intensified the urbanization of the city. <sup>3</sup>

Almost every prefecture with a positive migrative stastic has increased in the urban population. For more, 62 % of immigrants in Durres and 62 % of those in Elbasan are placed in urban zones. During 1989-2001 period, Dibra, Fieri, and Lezha had the highest level of immigration with rural character. Vlora, Durresi and Tirana had the lowest levels. In this prefectures, except Tirana it's noticed a reinforcement of migration urbanization.



As we see from tab above nr 1 Korca's prefecture is mainly touched from inner migration, but not as a place where you can migrate. It's connected to a huge number of persons that migrate choosing to live and work in another place of destination, except that of the origin.

The migration has touched mostly the population in working age, where those who are getting old have remained in the places of their origins.

Korca's prefecture has migrative experience, connected to the inner migration especially towards Tirana or coastal places and the migration towards America, Greece or other places.

<sup>2</sup> Instat.al. The movement towards urban centers, prediction, 2012

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.gazeta-albania.net/movement towards urban centers](http://www.gazeta-albania.net/movement_towards_urban_centers)

### **Conclusion:**

- The inner migration, with the extension of international migration, can lead to the reduction of human resources and development in the prefectures of origins. It brings a chaotic sensation in the waiting prefecture infrastructures.

- A strategy is needed. from the side of albanians to have a programmed movement of population not only in Tirana but also in other regions.

- A political system is needed from the urbanistic aspect and demographic one to become the most active part of population in Albania being separated in developing and population zones.

- The urban zone and the rural one need to develop especially from the north of our country, where there are buildings and investment are higher.

- Urbanization is considered to be a major component for the economic growth of a country, especially in coastal areas, in which it is more incentive for sustainable development.

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