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The Impact of the Economic Crisis in the IT & C Industry - Evidence from Bucharest

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Despite its peripheral location within the European metropolitan system, Bucharest has significant competitive advantages – large scale market, high-skilled labour pooling, dynamic business environment, institutional capacity, and knowledge organizations. The location of MNCs has enhanced the domestic small-scale entrepreneurship and the emergence of an innovative IT&C cluster. As the world economic crises stroke almost everywhere, in the case of Bucharest it was enhanced by a political crisis which diminished the industrial growth. In this context we focus on the IT small and medium enterprises which, by surviving the crises and developing even more, show clear evidence of strengthening the cluster identity. Based on the two-digit CANE data on employment, the paper analyzes in an empirical way the IT firms from Bucharest between two representative moments: 2007 the year of maximum growth for Romania and 2010. We attempt to identify the factors contributing to the growth of the cluster and to assess the contribution of the cluster to the generation of regional wealth and jobs. The results shows that, despite of the crises, the local entrepreneurship alongside the continuous foreign interest in the local workforce have pulled together an emerging industrial cluster.

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Assessment of social vulnerability using spatial multi - criteria (SEVI model) and the Social Vulnerability Index (SoVI model). case study for Bucharest city, Romania.

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This study investigates two vulnerability algorithms through a spatial exploration model of social vulnerability in the city of Bucharest. The research examines social vulnerability in the light of three dimensions: "Social", "Economic" and "Housing quality", obtained by applying the factorial reduction procedure on the 2002 census data at tract level of Bucharest city. The social vulnerability index (SoVI model) followed the steps indicated in 2003 by Cutter et al. Using the spatial multi-criteria social vulnerability index (SEVI model), we aggregated the scores of the indicators in which the selected factors were saturated, and introduced them as multidimensional indicator maps in the spatial multi-criteria analysis (SMCA) module of Ilwis software. The final index score was obtained by weighting sub-indices in a complex social vulnerability index (SEVI). We applied spatial statistics tools of the Open Geoda software for exploring geographic clustering of results. The study highlighted that social vulnerability is a major spatial urban process in Bucharest city, with a tendency toward extending clusters. The main result was a significant clusterization pattern in the 2002 census units, with overlap among the clustering areas affected by high social vulnerability. The results were constrained by some limitations of the methods used, analysed in the last part of the study.

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