



UNIUNEA EUROPEANĂ



GUVERNUL ROMÂNIEI
MINISTERUL MUNCII,
FAMILIEI ȘI PROTECȚIEI
SOCIALE
AMPOSDRU



Fondul Social European
POS DRU
2007-2013



Instrumente Structurale
2007 - 2013



Ministerul Educației,
Cercetării, Tineretului
și Sportului
OI POS DRU



Universitatea din București

POSDRU PROGRAM /107/1.5/S/80765

PROJECT "EXCELENCE AND INTERDISCIPLINARITY IN DOCTORAL STUDIES FOR AN INFORMATIONAL SOCIETY"

URBAN SPACE PATTERNS AND HOMELESSNESS IN BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

18th International Conference on
Urban Planning and Regional Development
in the Information Society

20-23 May

REAL CORP 2013

Rome, Italy



MIRELA PARASCHIV
PhD. Student



University of Bucharest
Faculty of Geography



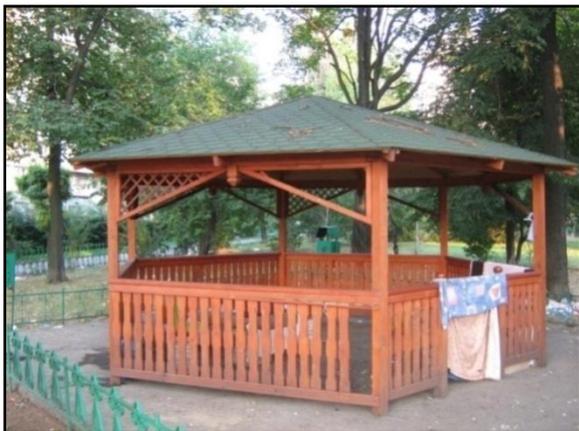
STRUCTURE



HOMELESSNESS

Official definition in Romania:

the homeless people represent a social category formed by individuals or families who, because of single or combined social, medical, economic, judicial reasons or due to extreme situations, live on the streets, live temporarily at friends or acquaintances, are unable to maintain rented housing or they are at risk of eviction, they live in institutions or prisons from where they are to be discharged in the following two months and they do not have a home or a residence (Law 292, 2011).



*Homeless shelter in Gara de Nord Park - Bucharest
August, 2011*



*Inadequate housing
Bucharest – Calea Ferentari
September, 2011*

FEANTSA (2006) - the ETHOS typology:

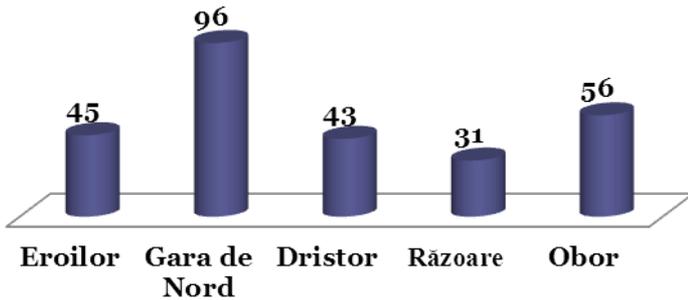
- *rooflessness* (the rough sleepers);
- *houselessness* (temporary sheltering in institutions or night shelters);
- *insecure housing* – eviction, domestic violence;
- *inadequate housing* – illegal camping, inadequate buildings, overcrowding.

HOMELESSNESS DYNAMICS IN BUCHAREST

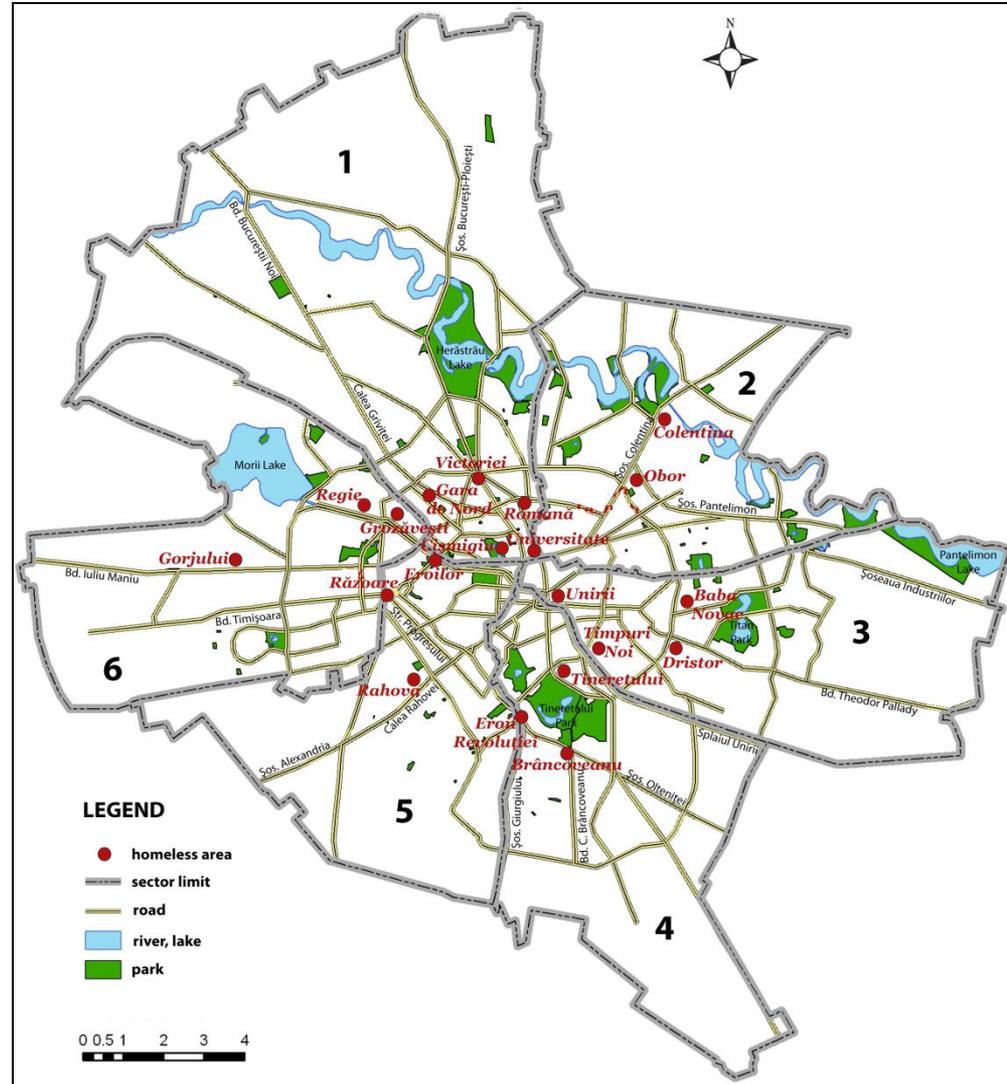
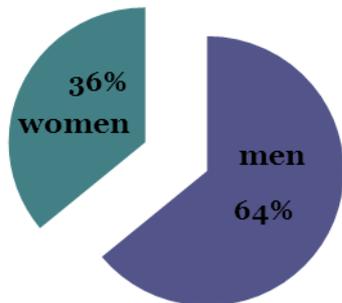
• NGO's statistics:

1996 – 1500 homeless people;
 2002 – 2000 homeless people;
 2005 – 3200 homeless people;
 2010 – 4500-5000 homeless people.

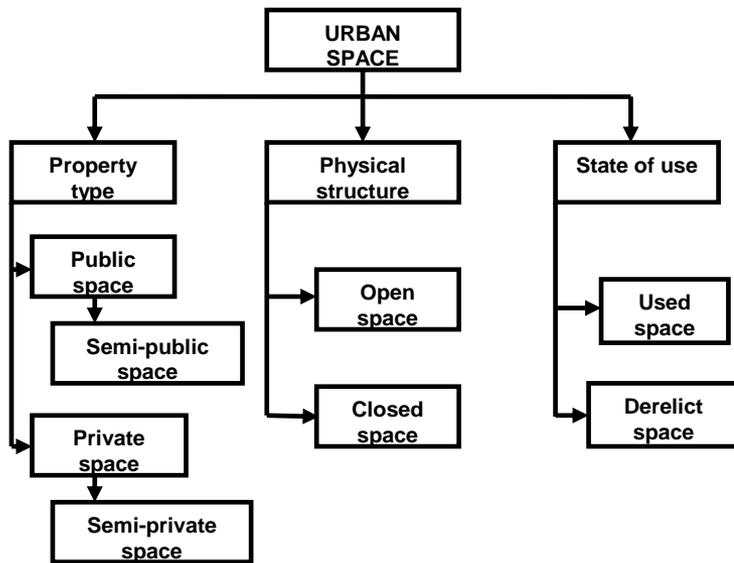
Homelessness localization areas in Bucharest



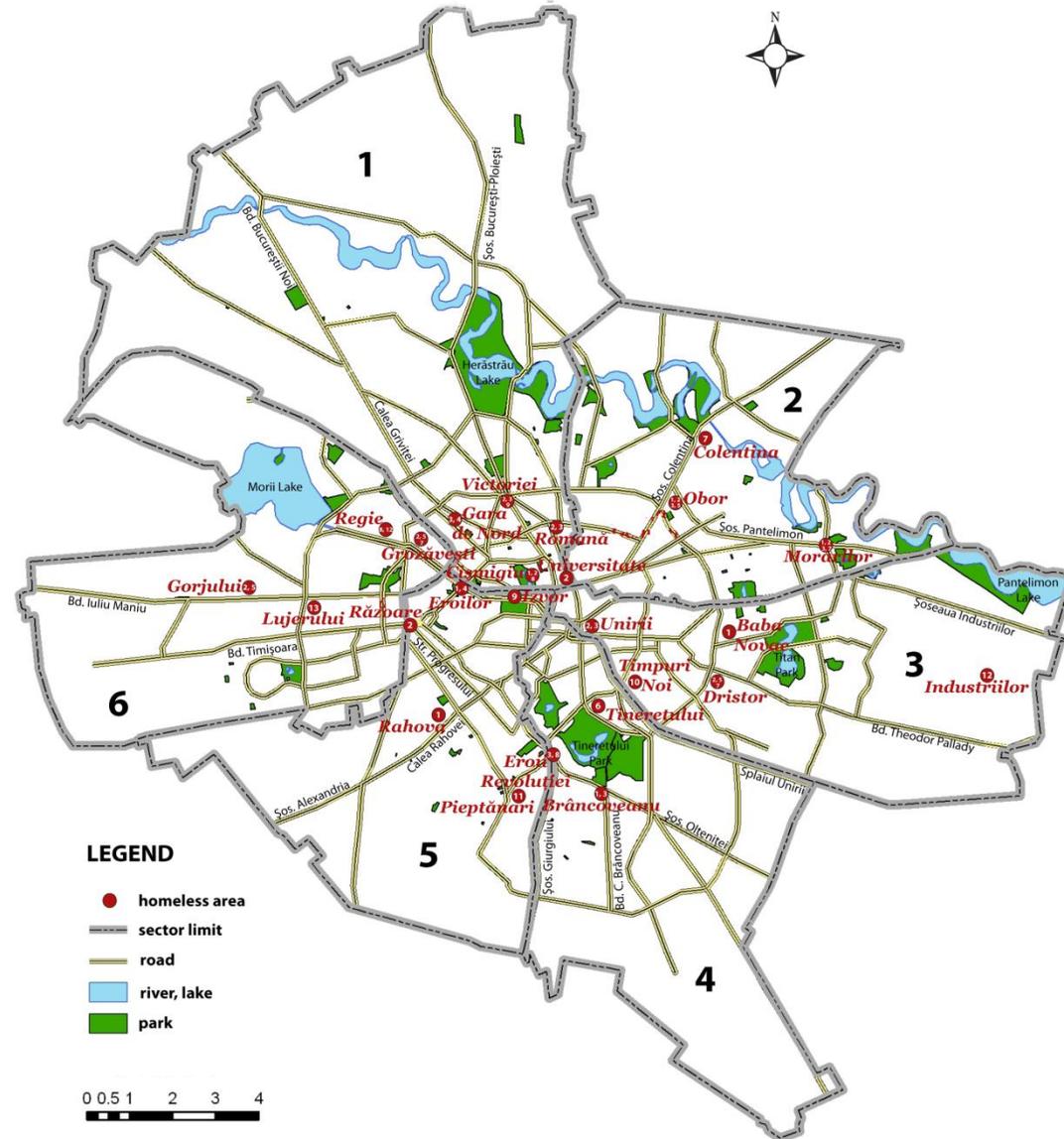
The homeless gender in Bucharest



METHODOLOGY



- the functional urban space typology: property type, physical structure, state of use.
- the relation space – homelessness localisation.



PUBLIC SPACES

Open / Used spaces – PARKS:

- possibility to shelter: grass, trees, benches.
- possibility to satisfy some basic needs: public toilets, water supply, deposit space.

Open / Derelict spaces –

GREEN SPACES – territory appropriation:

- squares,
- around different institutions.



Central railway station Park, October 2012



Municipal Hospital, October 2012



Square, October 2012

PUBLIC SPACES

Open / Used spaces

- PEDESTRIAN SPACE
- ROAD INTERSECTIONS
- high car and population traffic – begging, informal work.
- TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE SPACE:
 - railway station, subway station,
 - high traffic areas – shelter, food and money opportunities.
 - the Central Railway Station – homeless' hot spot for drug traffic and prostitution.



Central Railway Station,
October 2012



Central Railway Station,
October 2012



Pedestrian space, September 2012



Pedestrian space, September 2012

SEMI-PUBLIC SPACES

Open / Used spaces

– COMMERCIAL SPACES

- social exclusion – commercial centres, stores.
- direct access in the interior: markets.
- localisation nearby – begging, waste food collecting and recyclable materials from the garbage bins.

– RELIGIOUS SPACES

- direct access in the interior: churches.
- localisation near cemeteries – begging, getting money and food.

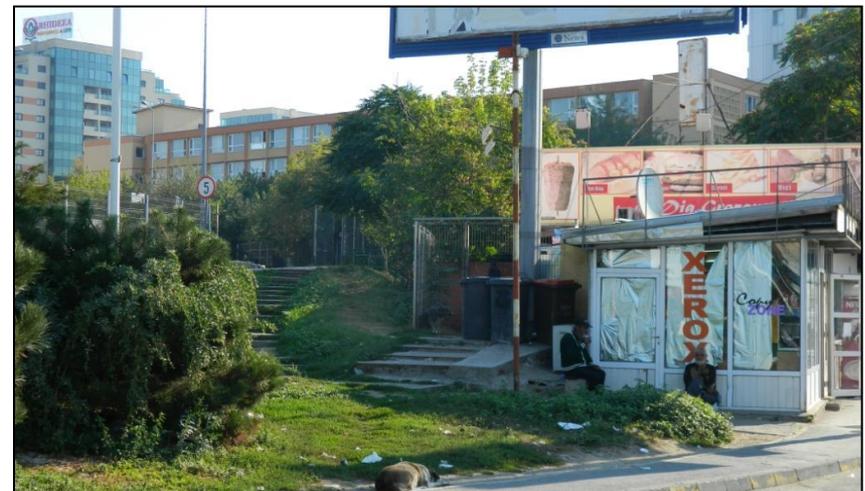
Closed / Used spaces

– SEWERAGE INFRASTRUCTURE SPACE

- unclaimed space by the other inhabitants.
- potential to organise sheltering.
- creation of a parallel world and the homeless' organisation as a society.



Veteranilor Market, October 2012



Carrefour Orhideea Hypermarket, October 2012

PRIVATE SPACES

Closed / Used spaces – RESIDENTIAL SPACES

- inside apartment buildings: basement, stair case, attic;
- weather conditions protection, sheltering.

Closed / Derelict spaces – RESIDENTIAL SPACES

- former nationalised houses in the central area of the city.
 - wick expression of the property rights – appropriation potential.
 - physical characteristics – protection, intimacy, relative normal housing conditions.



Derelict house - central area, October 2012



Derelict house, October 2012

SEMI-PRIVATE SPACES

Open / Used spaces

– WASTE BINS

- the locals' help: food, clothes, money, occasional work.
- space where the residents allow the homeless' localisation.

– WASTE DEPOSIT SPACES

- food opportunities, to collect and to capitalise paper waste, carton and metal materials.



(uncontrolled) Waste deposit space, August 2011

SEMI-PRIVATE SPACES

Open / Derelict space
– VACANT LANDS



Private vacant land, September 2012



– BROWNFIELD
INDUSTRIAL SPACES



Brownfield industrial space, October 2012



CONCLUSION

- homelessness has a generalised territorial distribution in Bucharest.
- *localisation* of the homeless has a temporary and seasonal character and it is influenced by:
 - the social relations,
 - the former housing area,
 - the space characteristics
(accessibility, possibility to shelter, financial and food sources).

the property type

- the public or private spaces present the different accessibility levels of each urban space.

the physical structure

- the differences between the open and the closed spaces influence the security level of the homeless, their sheltering way, their relation with the general population and their opportunities to obtain income.

the state of use

- derelict spaces attract the homeless' localisation – freedom to appropriate the urban territory, the possibility to adapt shelters that satisfy their needs, the possibility to have a calm relation with the authorities or the locals (no disturb to not disturb and to not be disturbed).
- used spaces mean high traffic of population – better possibilities to get help and to find living resources.
- future research: direct assessment – the questionnaire method – of the homeless' localisation reasons in Bucharest.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- BROUSSE C.: The production of data on homelessness and housing deprivation in the European Union: survey and proposals. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, Luxembourg, 2004.
- CĂRĂBOI A. D.: Prevenirea infecției cu HIV/SIDA în rândul grupurilor vulnerabile: persoane care locuiesc pe stradă și romi. Raport de cercetare. Eurolobby, Bucharest, 2011.
- CECCATO V., Lukyte N.: Safety and sustainability in a city in transition: the case of Vilnius, Lithuania. In: *Cities*, Vol. 28, pp. 83-94, 2011.
- CLOKE P., May J., Johnsen S.: *Swept Up Lives? Re-envisioning the Homeless City*. Wiley-Blackwell, UK, 2010.
- DAN A.-N., Dan M.: Persoanele fără adăpost din România – o estimare a numărului acestora. In: *Calitatea Vieții*, Vol. XVI, Issue 1-2, pp. 1-22, Bucharest, 2005.
- EUROSTAT: Combating poverty and social exclusion. A statistical portrait of the European Union 2010. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2010.
- FITZPATRICK S., Pawson H., Bramley G., Wilcox S.: *The homelessness monitor. Tracking the impacts of policy and economic change in England 2011-2013*. Crisis, London, 2011.
- GÖLER D., Lehmeier H.: From post-socialist transition to globalisation and europeanisation? Metropolitan developments in Belgrade, Bucharest and Sofia. In: *Collection of Papers – Faculty of Geography at University of Belgrade*, Issue 60, pp. 33-48. Belgrade, 2012.
- KNOX P. L., McCarthy L. M.: *Urbanization: an introduction to Urban Geography*, third edition. Prentice Hall, 2012. Lee B. A., Price-Spratlen T. (2004), *The Geography of Homelessness in American Communities: Concentration or Dispersion?*, *City & Community*, 3(1): 3-27.
- MAY J.: Homelessness. Vol. 5, pp. 185-190. In: Kitchin R., Thrift N. (eds.), *International Encyclopedia Of Human Geography*, Elsevier, Oxford, 2009.
- O'NEILL B.: Down and then out in Bucharest: urban poverty, governance, and the politics of place in the postsocialist city. In: *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, Vol. 28, Issue 2, pp. 254-269, 2010.
- PAASCHE S.: Is Anti-Begging Legislation 'Good Practice' in Tackling Homelessness?. In: *Homeless in Europe*, pp. 7-10, FEANTSA, Brussels, 2012.
- PARASCHIV M.: Urban (in) security and assessment of extreme poverty: residents' perception referring to homelessness in Bucharest. In: *Procedia Environmental Sciences*, Vol. 14, pp. 226-336, 2012.
- PARASCHIV M., Urban characteristics and homelessness in Bucharest. In: *Urbanism. Arhitectură. Construcții*, Vol. 4, Issue 2, pp. 27-34, Bucharest, 2013.
- RADICCHI A.: The geographies of homelessness: the case of italian railway stations. In: *Homeless in Europe, The Geographies of Homelessness: Homeless Experiences and Homeless Policy in Different Spaces* issue, pp. 11-13, 2012.
- RUKMANA D.: Comparing the residential origins of homeless families and homeless individuals in Miami-Dade County, Florida. In: *Area*, Vol. 43, Issue 1, pp. 96-109, 2011.
- SCHMIDT J.: The Danish Government's Policies on Homeless Migrants' Rights to Public Space and Public Facilities and Services for Homeless People: An Example of the Criminalisation of Homelessness in Copenhagen. In: *Homeless in Europe*, pp. 4-6, FEANTSA, Brussels, 2012.
- TOMPSETT C. J., Toro P. A.: Predicting overt and covert antisocial behaviors: parents, peers, and homelessness. In: *Journal of Community Psychology*, Vol. 38, Issue 4, pp. 469-485, 2010.
- YOUNG S.: *The Geographies of Homelessness: Homeless Experiences and Homeless Policy in Different Spaces*. In: *Homeless in Europe*, pp. 2, FEANTSA, Brussels, 2012.



UNIUNEA EUROPEANĂ



GUVERNUL ROMÂNIEI
MINISTERUL MUNCII,
FAMILIEI ȘI PROTECȚIEI
SOCIALE
AMPOSDRU



Fondul Social European
POSDRU
2007-2013



Instrumente Structurale
2007 - 2013



Ministerul Educației,
Cercetării, Tineretului
și Sportului
OI POS DRU



Universitatea din București

This work was supported by POSDRU /107/1.5/S/80765 strategic grant, project “Excellence and interdisciplinarity in doctoral studies for an informational society”, cofinanced by the European Social Fund within the Sectorial Operational Program Human Resources Development 2007-2013.



Intersection

Termini
railway station
area
ROME



Pedestrian space, near a church



Pedestrian space



Park

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!