**Suburbanization Patterns and Spatial Inequality in the Distribution of Urban-Suburban Services in Romania**

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The basic services constitute a significant element of development resources, impacting the quality of life in both urban and rural areas. Infrastructure, especially healthcare, education, and public utilities, forms the foundation of economic activities in both urban and rural areas. It profoundly influences the scope, structure, and spatial distribution of economic activity. The level of its development significantly affects the appeal of specific regions, attracting or deterring capital resources and, consequently, contributing to the establishment of new workplaces. Additionally, it plays a pivotal role in enhancing the living standards of the population and serves as the cornerstone of social organization. Romania has experienced significant demographic and economic shifts in recent decades, leading to pronounced (sub)urbanization trends influencing the dimension and morphology of urban expansion and giving rise to particular suburbanization patterns. As urbanization and suburbanization progress, there is a need to understand their implications on the distribution of basic services such as healthcare, education, and public utilities.

This study examines the patterns of suburbanization in Romania, investigating its implications on the distribution of urban-suburban services and the ensuing spatial inequalities. As a result, the study employs spatial analysis techniques to evaluate both the spatial and functional dimensions of urban expansion, with a particular focus on suburbanization, as well as the access to basic services. The integration of spatial and statistical indicators allows for a nuanced understanding of the spatial patterns associated with suburbanization and services distribution. Thus, utilizing indicators such as population density, imperviousness (as a measure of suburbanization), and accessibility to healthcare services and education, public utilities - connectivity to drinking water, sewage, natural gas networks (to measure accessibility to basic services), the research aims to identify patterns of spatial inequality driven by the suburban development. The analysis period spans from 1992 to 2021, during which statistical data from population and settlement censuses, along with spatial data (2006-2018) from Copernicus Land Monitoring Service (Corine Land Cover and Urban Atlas) are utilized.

By exploring the complex interaction between suburbanization and spatial inequality, our findings contribute to the understanding of the evolving urban-suburban landscape in Romania and offer insights into potential policy interventions at fostering more balanced urban development and service distribution.

Key-words: suburbanization, spatial inequalities, urban-suburban services, Romania

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