



## A POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR BUCHAREST

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**Abstract:** *Bucharest went through a lot: wars, natural disasters or, even worse, people who have succeeded on its leadership. However, although crippled, deformed, it kept the most precious treasure: the people and their willingness to change, to make history. Bucharest never had a coherent development program, a set of priorities assumed by the community to be implemented by public authorities, regardless of political color. Each mandate, each newly elected local official started from scratch, abandoning old projects. This article aims to summarize the main ideas of city development, identified in national, regional or local programmes.*

**Keywords:** *Bucharest, development, projects.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Athenian's citizen oath synthesized the idea of city and community: "We will orientate continuously efforts towards achieving the ideals and protecting the sacred elements of the city, both individually and in community, we will act at all times in order to fulfill civic obligations; we will respect and we shall abide to the city laws; we will bequeath the city, not just us as it was left by predecessors, but grander, better and more beautiful". Aristotle in his work "Politics," said that "The purpose of the city is to give its inhabitants virtue and happiness".

Bucharest has to offer its residents virtue and happiness, through a collective effort of responsibility assuming. Bucharest is a booming city with a lot of infrastructure projects changing the whole city.

According with the City Hall of Bucharest Municipality has initiated actions and projects aiming at specific objectives which once achieved are prerequisites for sustainable development. Important projects and actions aimed: improving public service delivery to citizens; and their adaptation and development in the context of the general evolution of society; development of urban infrastructure through the rehabilitation and modernization of water networks and sewage systems in the capital and expansion by building new ones; rehabilitation and modernization of roads; projects for urban and spatial planning to improve aesthetics, but also the structure of the capital; improvement of environment its protection and rehabilitation and extension; construction and underground parking over both traffic areas and areas of residence.

## 2. THE RESEARCH

The framework regarding Bucharest Municipality identified at national, regional or local level contains: Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan for 2016-2030 - Region Bucharest – Ilfov, Regional Development Plan 2014-2020 and Romania's territorial development strategy.

### 1. Objectives for Bucharest

General objective for Bucharest is "In 20 years, Bucharest will become the capital with the highest standard of living in Eastern Europe".

There are a few targets areas such as:

### **I. “Economy” field– City of technology!**

The specific objectives of this field are: promoting local goods and services, encouraging local entrepreneurship, modernizing and creating business infrastructure and support to maintain existing investments.

A future public administrations seems to be focus on: deliver digitally; share, reuse and interconnect technology, make their data and services openly available, embrace open and participatory co-design of policies and services with interested parties, empower staff to innovate.

In order to obtain a public sector transformation, it’s important a public administration that can be enable growth and development, guarantee social cohension, that is rezults-oriented, focused on the needs of its citizens, to be committed to responsability, fairness and meritocracy.

Reforming public services may contribute to economic and social development, competitiveness and green growth prospects, as well as democratic governance.

### **II. “Environment protection” field–The green city!**

The specific objectives are: increasing air quality, improving the water protection system, limiting noise pollution, protecting and expanding green areas.

Urban environments directly influence the lives of millions of citizens. To improve the wuality of environment has become a major objective for policy makers. Clean and safe drinking water, clean air are basic elements for a high quality of life. Cleaning up cities’air must be a key priority for public administration. Also, different type of pollution like air pollution, noise pollution must be reduced.

Green spaces, parks are important for health and social activities, open areas and green parks are important building blocks for promoting quality of life. Biodiversity makes the cities green and pleasant places. Well-governed cities and towns that involve their citizens in environmental decision-making will lead to better planning for the future(European Union, 2010:23).

### **III. “Social development” field–The city that unites!**

The specific objectives are: increasing the health state of the population, increasing the safety in the city, ensuring adequate social assistance benefits services and ensuring an adequate social climate by integrating vulnerable minority groups.

### **IV. “Territorial planning” field - Harmonious city!**

The specific objectives are: creating sustainable architectural design and integration of urban functions.

Involving citizens in urban planning helps ensure sustainable economic development and Plays a vital role in providing well planned cities. As citizens are affected by urban planning, public administration need to ensure that they are involved for expressing their opinions (European Union, 2010:24).

#### **V. “Transport infrastructure” field -The city on time!**

The specific objectives are: improving transport infrastructure and the development of public transport systems.

Transport is vital to the well-functioning of economic activities and a key to ensuring social well-being and cohesion of populations. Transport ensures everyday mobility of people and is crucial to the production and distribution of goods. Adequate infrastructure is a fundamental precondition for transport systems (UNECE, Transport infrastructure development).

#### **VI. “Public utilities” field – The city of comfort!**

The specific objectives are: facilitating access to public utilities and ensuring population’s thermal comfort.

#### **VII. “Local public administration“ field – Participatory city!**

The specific objectives are: improving the administrative capacity of local institutions; improving the relationship with citizens, NGOs and businesses and introduction of new tools and technologies to ensure accessibility to public services.

Public administration is a key factor in implementing structural change and reform. The main objective of the public sector reform is to improve efficiency, accountability and transparency of public administration and the quality of service delivery and management of public finances. This goal will be achieved by supporting the public administration in implementing projects witch they belong to a strategy, action plan or to a public reform programme. The quality of public administration impacts all areas of society. Public administration reform is an essential requirement for the successful implementation of various ongoing sectorial reforms.

It’s very important when we speak about reforms, that they to be regulated by a transparent policy framework, established structures and processes in order to ensure effective coordination of the reform process, focus on the sustainability of reforms.

For the transformation of the public sector is necessary an open and collaborative government approach for which several elements are very important: strategy – performance management and process reform through the measurement of outputs; leadership – support of top level leadership; organization design – the use of collaborative partnerships – weather public-private partnerships, public- NGOs, shared services or outsourcing; management -



changing with a new type of management; human Resources – focusing on the internal capacity-building that is needed to manage transformation, training people of the public sector; culture – improve or change the things that doesn't work well.

Public service reform is an important element of the strategy to meet challenge and to ensure that public services could continue to be delivered in a context of increased demands for those services. The government is committed to driving greater use of alternative service delivery models, designed around the needs of service users and with a more strategic focus.

The public service of the future will be more productive, more efficient, more innovative, better integrated, more strategic and more citizen –focused.

The delivery of reform requires a continuing strong focus on actions to optimise the utilization of the public service workforce.

By working together, we can create a new public service which will be better for citizens, businesses, public servants and society as a whole. To solve society's current problems at the necessary scale and speed, it's necessary to look beyond traditional divisions between the social, private and public sectors to co-construct and co-resolve.

Government has the potential capacity to create a favorable environment for implementing innovative solutions, but, is often blocked by short-term budgetary constrains.

The Romanian's public institutions must change fast and depth for a successful implementation of public reform which require sustained top level leadership.

The quality of public sector is essential for innovative potential of cities, regions and states and for the trust of public administration to lead to change.

Public institutions need strong capacity, innovation capacity, culture shift, to create a leading team of innovators and entrepreneurs inside the public sector and provide them with the tools of innovation, recruit citizens to help at the processes and to make public services digital.

#### **VIII. "Culture, cults" field– Creative city!**

The specific objectives are: restoring the cultural heritage, enhancing the cultural heritage by organizing cultural events and involvement of religious cults in the administrative life of the city.

Bucharest has a rich history and culture and the preservation of historical buildings, monuments, conservation areas and other heritage sites is important to keep for the next generations.

### **IX. “Sports and leisure” field–The city on the move!**

The specific objectives are: development of infrastructure for sport and organizing sports competitions and utilization of natural resources to create recreational infrastructure.

By applying principles of community capacity building, sport may be uniquely positioned to enhance sustainable community health development initiatives (Emma Sherry, Nico Schlenker and Laurence Chalip, 2015).

### **X. “Education and training” field – The city that learns!**

The specific objectives are: maintenance and integration of young people into social and economic life of the community, increasing access and participation in training and rehabilitation and development of educational infrastructure.

## **2. LIST OF POTENTIAL PROJECTS**

I. Regarding **the economy field**, there are necessary the following potential projects: “The establishment of the Economic Development Agency Bucharest-Ilfov”; “Innovation Center in urban ecological development - intelligent city, in partnership with universities”; “Creating a strategic partnership Bucharest-Sofia-Athens, as a growth pole in Southeast Europe”; “Establishing, in partnership, a business incubator”; “Establish consultative group of businessmen and institutionalizing consultation with it”; “Supporting social enterprise development through OP HD type projects (model Ilfov County Council)”, “Promoting and supporting the establishment of clusters (minimum two) - creative industries”; Facilitating access to utilities (water and sewage) for businesses and citizens by acquiring and tracking requests for connection by PMB; “The establishment of two technology parks”.

II. For **the environment protection**, some potential projects must be focused on: “Panels measuring levels of dust, pollen and air pollutants and application for mobile phone warning in case of exceeding allowable limits”; “Electric Buses”; “Solar panels for administrative buildings and bus stops”; “Extensive green spaces”; “Support with the Environment Agency, the adoption of clean technologies by businesses”; “Implementing the development strategy and long-term operating environment and the sanitation service (adopted in 2015); focusing on the specific frequency of streets and boulevards sanitation activities”; “The thermal rehabilitation of public buildings in PMB administration”; “Green Belt of Bucharest”; “Increasing the water quality for the chain of lakes in north” and “Cleaning of the Dambovită River”.

III. **Urbanism** is a domain which must improve the city's image and comfort of citizens by harmonizing and creating a specific design for Bucharest urban furniture. Local urban planning regulations will contain benchmarks on their achievement in Bucharest (typology, coloring palette etc).

For a smart city, there are required to be developed, projects such as: “The general cadastre of the city”; “Regulation of urban regeneration and establishing a specific architectural style of Bucharest”; “Urban regeneration project around the building of the Romanian National Academy and in the National Library area - Mărășești passage - Unirii Blvd. - NervaTraian Blvd.”; “Support for restoration of facades of historical monuments constructions and of those in the historical center” and “Rehabilitation of buildings having earthquake risk”.

IV. **Transport infrastructure** requires a great importance, especial in Bucharest, where the city wasn't designed before for such a complex traffic from nowadays. That's way, some projects must be prioritized and focused on: expanding RATB routes to neighboring localities; bike lanes; traffic lights with electrical panels; the operationalization of the passenger railway around Bucharest; support for operationalization of the Danube-Bucharest channel; some arteries to link and connect other; the system of parking meters; cyclotourists belt; green light on the middle ring; finalizing or extending some boulevards.

Other potential projects can be: “Hydraulically actuated mechanical, rotary, underground parking systems”, “Intelligent or Smart Parking Parking (carousel parking) and above-ground parking spaces with green roof”; “Establishment of new subway lines - PiațaUnirii-CaleaRahovei-Bragadiru, EroiiRevoluției-ȘoseauaGiurgiului-GaraProgresu, 1Mai-Chitila, Străulești-Mogoșoaia, 1Mai-Otopeni, BucurObor-Voluntari, Academia Militară – Măgurele”; “Extending the Traffic Management System throughout Bucharest”; “Support, assistance for the auto and pedestrian passages over Bucharest beltway (Domnești, Berceni)”.

V. **Water supply, sewage, heating** are important aspects that need developed projects in: “Private Management for RADET”; “The continued expansion of water supply and sewage systems in line with the expansion of the city”; “Rehabilitation of heating pipelines (e.g. Militari, Vitan, Pantelimon CET)”; “Rehabilitation of secondary heating networks for the 27 stations in Bucharest”; “Completion of Glina WWTP”; “Extending the water supply and sewage networks to the new districts in the surrounding localities (Bragadiru, Popești-Leordeni)”; “Establishment of a service in the PMB for relations with homeowners

associations and mediating their relationship with the utilities companies” and “Photovoltaic panels for home heating”.

VI. **Social development (housing, health, safety, welfare, employment)** is essential for a good future and must be focused on projects like: “Local police Facilities to increase their intervention capacity”, “Emergency working and response procedures for CGMB subordinated hospitals in Bucharest”, “Bucharest unique database for social cases, missing persons and persons in shelters”, “Construction of a new public hospital, a new building wing for Burn care and Treatment Hospital and finishing works at Grigore Alexandrescu Hospital”; “Center for Juvenile Delinquency, new centers for victims of domestic violence and for the elderly”; “Urgent restoration of buildings with earthquake risk”, “Facilities to increase the capacity of intervention in emergencies”; “Equipment, procedures and protocols between PMB hospitals to facilitate the resolution of complex cases” and “Expanded video surveillance systems of streets and schools”.

VII. For a better managed city, **local institutions** have to reduce building permits issuing (20 days), urbanism certificates and postal numbers (10 days); to offer social platform for mobile phone signaling in real time, by the citizens about the city issues; develop a marketing strategy for the city to promote as a tourist and business destination; develop regulations on public-private partnership so that it can be used for creating public goods, conversion of vacant positions in junior civil servants; info-kiosk type information systems; develop through a broad consultation, Bucharest Strategy 2050 as a document that provides continuity in administrative action.

Also, other projects regarding the local institutions can be: “Setting up Bucharest-Ilfov Development Association with five tasks: transport and Infrastructure, public order, water and sewage, environment and sanitation”; “Revising at PMB the procedures for working with citizens in order to reduce administrative service delivery times”; “The establishment of information centers of PMB in neighborhoods (Berceni, Rahova, Drumul Taberei, Bucureștii Noi, Balta Albă”); “Implementation of the PMB sectorial anti-corruption Plan from 2016 to 2020 and anti-corruption training for civil servants”; “Develop / review PMB regulations for rental / lease of the public domain in order to maximize their use and to increase local budget revenues”; “Publication on PMB website, in accordance with the legal framework, signed contracts and daily payments”; “Clear segregation of duties between PMB and sectors”.

VIII. **Culture, cults** provide a sense of unity and allow us a better understanding of previous generations and the history of where we come from. For that we must protect and preserve the cultural heritage through projects such as: “Finalizing the works for the Cathedral of People Salvation”; “Developing annual calendar of cultural events of PMB / Bucharest in consultation with NGOs”; “Restoration and enhancement of the Royal Palace in The Old Center”; “Infrastructure Rehabilitation of the historic center”; “Establishment of the History Museum of Bucharest, with a section dedicated to public services”; “Rehabilitating theaters buildings under the management of CGMB”; “Preservation and enhancement of the historical monuments in the local heritage”; “Highlighting the underground catacombs in the historical center”; “Funding through competition of cultural projects - Not a day without cultural events in Bucharest”; “Rehabilitation and modernization of Bazilescu Theatre and Mask Theatre and creating a Cultural Center in Bucureștii Noi”; “Acquiring the status of Cultural Capital of Europe”, and so on.

IX. For **sport and leisure**, there are necessary spaces for certain activities and for that must be develop projects regarding: construction and arrangement of sports facilities in specific Bucharest neighborhoods; building a Multipurpose Arena with a capacity of 15,000 seats; building a rink with a capacity of 10,000 seats; take over and modernization of sports facilities - BNR Arena, synthetic fields located above the parking lot of the Național Arena Complex, Lia Manoliu Național Complex tennis courts; building a dedicated swimming Sports Complex; construction of five dedicated athletics facilities; construction of 5-6 gyms with a capacity of 1500-2000 sits across Bucharest - handball, football, basketball, volleyball, fencing, table tennis, athletics, judo etc; participation in bidding for organizing international competitions like: Final4 EHF Women Champions League for the period 2017-2018, the European/ World Athletics Championships, UEFA Champions League Final, Bucharest Marathon, Bucharest Ironman (triathlon) etc.; urban rehabilitation of the Dambovia River; restoring the Herăstrău park; building the Bucharest horse race track, and also, highlighting the recreational areas of Lake Morii and Delta Văcărești.

X. Important areas are **education and research** because they constitute pillars of the society. For an intelligent society, these areas involve: general project of rehabilitation, modernization, sanitation, schools equipping, especially in outer neighborhoods, including gyms and cafeterias; Centre of Excellence at the Bucharest level for children with outstanding results; system of social grants and scholarships of excellence for children; financing from the

municipality budget of applied research projects for urban development; program for the construction of nurseries, kindergartens and after-schools; program for strengthening the skills of teachers.

#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

A potential development program for Bucharest refers to economic, social and environment fields, a smart city with urban infrastructure - transport, roads and traffic, well implemented IT systems, a strong administrative capacity of public administration, innovative public services, strengthening the education and research.

A sustainable development program for Bucharest means introducing advanced systems, urban revitalization, improving the public services at European standards, increasing the availability and accessibility of public transport improvement; achievement of city infrastructure quality and social services quality to European standards, improving quality of life and safety of its citizens; creating a favorable climate for investment attraction, retention and business development, improving accessibility and connections with the surrounding areas; transforming the city into a pillar of economic and social development for the entire area.

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