Short presentation of the University of Architecture and Urbanism in Bucureşti (field of activity, experience in urban planning and international research)

"Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urbanism (IMUAU) in Bucureşti is the oldest and most important academic institution in the field of architecture and spatial planning in Romania. Its foundation by the end of the XIX-the century is closely linked with the raise of modern Romania, and the setting of its new institutional structure and culture. The tradition of the School has been built initially on the model of "Beaux Arts" in France and then, during the inter-war period on the model of the Bauhaus in Germany, A planning department was set up immediately after the second World War and developed afterwards. Nowadays the University is a complex academic structure, composed of several types of academic units: three Faculties – of Architecture, Urbanism and Interior Design and a Department of Advanced and Doctoral Studies. It has over 300 teachers and provides courses and practical activities to more than 2000 students.

The **Faculty of Urbanism** has become operative in 1997, as a result of the need to create a professional group of specialised urban and territorial planners. The number of students amounts to 50-75 per year of study. The education comprised until 2005 ten semesters, plus a final semester for the diploma project. Since 2003 the Faculty has two sections, one of Urban and Territorial Planning and one of Landscape Planning. Starting with 2006, the Bologna system is used providing two educational cycles: bachelor – 4 years long (240 credits) and master – 2 years long (120 credits). There are 5 masters courses provided: urban design, territorial and regional development, urban management, mobility and landscape planning. By 2011, over 450 urban planners have graduated.

The Department of Urban and Territorial Planning coordinates both theoretical and practical educational process in these fields, at all academic levels/degrees (1st cycle and 2nd cycle Bologna, Faculty of Architecture, School of Advanced and Doctoral Studies). It has about 35 permanent members and some other 20-25 non-permanent associated members, which forms a teaching and research body. The team is a multidisciplinary one as it includes besides architects and urban planners, sociologists and landscape engineers too. Among the invited /associated specialists there are also geographers, economists, civil engineers, ecologists - from Romania, but also from abroad. Besides the tasks related to the pedagogical /educational process, the staff of the Department carries out fruitful research, design, and expert examination activity in spatial planning covering a large range of studies and projects at urban, metropolitan, regional or national levels. Young urban planners and students are currently invited to participate to these studies and projects.

Project and research activities are undertaken through the IMUAU Research Centre, which produced over 400 models, studies, procedures and guidelines/ methodologies under national programs or contracted with public/private bodies. Granted research contracts have been awarded in national research competitions under National Programmes for Research and Development. Among the most important spatial planning projects and researches involving the participation of the Department for Territorial and Urban Planning can be mentioned: contribution to the elaboration of the Romanian National Strategic Concept for Spatial Development, the elaboration of some territorial plans at county or metropolitan levels (counties of Braşov, Botoşani, Gorj, Ialomița metropolitan areas of Bucureşti, Ploieşti, Brăila, Galați etc.) and of urban general plans for some of the big cities such as Bucureşti, Braşov, Constanța, Cluj-Napoca, Iaşi etc. During the last decade the members of the Department were also involved in developing methodological guidelines for various types of planning instruments, studies for spatial databases, spatial sustainable development models for larger or smaller territorial areas, for transport systems or related to tourism, landscape studies and interventions in rural and fragile natural areas, methodological guidance for the strategic national and regional territorial planning documents according to European practice.

Individually, members of the Department were also involved in a number of international projects, under Phare or Interreg programmes related to territorial planning, local and regional development and urban policies. Members of the Department are also part of numerous Technical Commissions and Advisory bodies within the Ministry of Regional Development and Tourism, City Hall of Bucureşti or at the level of Ilfov County, or Districts of the capital city.