



Field

PhD THESIS

- ABSTRACT -

**Turda. Evolution and particularities regarding the city's
development potential as a polarizing center**

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INTRODUCTION

The topic addressed and the development directions of the city

The current context in which the city of Turda develops and evolves requires a thorough study of its urban past and the socio-cultural policies that supported the formation of this unique urban settlement. The difficulty in approaching the study of the settlement resides in the complexity of overlapping some layers from several historical periods in its urban structure; these overlaps and the rich archaeological material make it difficult to attempt to analyse its subsequent development in a relevant direction without further analysis or study related to the possible development directions of the city at certain key moments and in the present. This study related to the development of the city of Turda required a documentation as diverse as possible, based on archaeological, historical, literary studies and last but not least based on the few studies and urban projects¹ published up to the present moment.

The main motivation that formed the basis of this research work is represented by the small number of historical-urban studies of the city of Turda and the lack of a city development strategy based on the principles of sustainable development. The current P.U.G.² is incomplete and it is necessary to update it, the city's infrastructure is disorganized, the concept of tourist development is not thought of in a unified way and there are no coherent tourist routes arranged in the urban structure of the city. Currently, the city's development potential is untapped, the values preserved in its complex urban structure are not brought to the attention of residents and tourists. The personal motivation in carrying out this scientific work is represented, first of all, by the attempt to deepen the urban study of the city, to clarify the historical periods and boundaries that at a given moment left an urban imprint on the settlement and, last but not least, by the attempt to highlight the potential of the city which, at present, can be evaluated through the prism of the city's attractiveness throughout history, cultural, balneoclimatic or industrial attractiveness.

The purpose and objectives of this research paper *Turda. Evolution and particularities regarding the city's development potential as a polarizing center* are rarely found in the specialized works carried out more recently and too alertly and superficially debated at present by the actors involved in making decisions regarding the development directions of the city. The aim of this research paper is to crystallize and articulate several possible local strategies in a complex and coherent strategic plan. In an attempt to simplify a little, the multitude of ideas related to the development potential of this city, I chose to elaborate the topic of the thesis in three chapters that would represent as clearly as possible the three directions of development: *the cultural-patrimonial potential, the balneoclimatic potential and the industrial-patrimonial potential*. Each of the chapters presents an important characteristic of the city, presented from a historical perspective; these characteristics were analysed individually, but studied as a whole. The main objective of this research work aims to analyse the existing architectural-urban values in the city structure, among which can be mentioned those related to the patrimonial and urban value, the one of strategic settlement in the territory, the patrimonial-industrial value and the balneoclimatic one. Through this research paper, an attempt is made to highlight a new vision on some particularities of the urban structure, a more in-depth analysis is attempted compared to what has been discussed so far related to the potential of this city, by completing the existing bibliography in the field of architecture and urban planning.

¹ Bibliography, *Urban Studies. Historical-architectural studies. Archaeological studies.*

² SC EDITA S.R.L., *General Urban Plan of Turda Municipality*, Project No. 24/1995/1, approved according to H.C.L.M.T. no. 160/16.12.1999, extension by H.C.L.M.T. no. 172/29.10.2010, Cluj-Napoca, November 1999.

The subject of this research paper proposes the analysis of the development potential of Turda city and supports the idea that here it can be discussed a polarizing center. The actual research analyses and proposes three directions of development of the city, considered to be the most relevant: *the cultural-patrimonial potential, the balneoclimatic potential and the industrial-patrimonial potential*. The research started from the hypothesis that the city's potential it was and it is characterized by a continuous evolution in these three directions. The research analysed themes such as the development trends and priorities of the city, the historical context, the urban context, the economic and social context, but it was not just a chronological presentation of the development stages of the settlement, because, starting from these analysis data, an attempt was made to find a formula in which the future strategic approaches of the city can be articulated coherently, around these development directions analysed in the research paper. Among the known aspects and hypotheses specific to this theme, the following can be mentioned, for each individual chapter: the idea of overlapping urban structures that create cultural diversity and a specific identity vein, the economic and recreational role of the environmental heritage that influences the city towards becoming an extension of the Cluj-Napoca university center on the balneoclimatic branch and an important tourist and leisure center, and the idea of an industrial phenomenon inside and outside the city limits with a triggering role in the polarization of the immediate surroundings. These specific hypotheses have been materialized in urban planning proposals, development priorities and conclusions and recommendations regarding the reorganization of the urban infrastructure to link these objectives through thematic tourist routes and circuits. Through these analyses, on a wider scale, it was aimed to highlight the position of the city in the territory, the existing and possible connections of the settlement with the immediate vicinity and also the benefits that the entire structure of the city can have by approaching a strategy of cultural promotion, to rehabilitate the industrial-patrimonial landscape and the balneoclimatic one.

The theoretical importance of the subject of this thesis lies in the urgent need to fill the documentary gap regarding the urban and architectural analysis of the city of Turda³, the older studies being also few in number. The practical importance of the subject lies in the need for an analysis that involves actors from several fields of study (architecture, urban planning, economy and urban geography, archaeology, tourism, etc.) in order to concretize the basis of a complex city development strategy.

The topicality of the theme lies in the necessity of developing such a city analysis study, because, along with the development of economic, cultural and touristic relations between settlements, cities that advance randomly in the dynamics of urbanization remain behind in the development of strategies⁴. Thus, the moment may come when the city will no longer be able to outline an organized development of the infrastructure due to random investments and the non-updated P.U.G. and this fact will make it difficult to develop future strategies from the point of view of correcting urban inconsistencies. The final result was intended to be a work of analysis and synthesis of the urban planning approaches developed for the city of Turda, by crystallizing and articulating the local strategies in a strategic, coherent and complex plan. The three development directions of the city analysed in the present paper were presented from a historical perspective in the beginning of the research paper, and,

³ One of the most recent studies was carried out by S.C. NUOVA CITTA S.R.L. architecture office, *Turda Historic Center Rehabilitation Study - surveys, proposals* -, Design contract no. 051-96, Cluj-Napoca, 1996. Through this study, the central urban complex was analysed, the study being valuable through the drawings of the buildings in front of the Republicii Square, through the constructive and urban solutions to protect the buildings, and through the proposal of some technical measures for the rehabilitation of the buildings, both the resistance part and the decorative elements, specific to architectural styles.

⁴ We can mention here the situation of the P.U.G. of the city of Turda, from 1999, which is still not updated.

further, they were presented from the perspective of ongoing projects regarding revitalization strategies and capitalization of potential the city. To these analyses were added a series of sub-themes that were developed in the form of some case studies and that presented, each one, in a particular way, the attractiveness of the city, i.e. that red thread on the basis of which the potential of the city in the three directions becomes a priority.

Towards what hypotheses should the future development strategies be channelled so that the city of Turda imposes itself in the area as a polarizing center? What elements need to be discussed, regarding the management of the urban structure, when long-term forecasts are debated? What fields of activity are developing today in the city? How can the identity of the city be regained? These are the questions that underlie the definition and development of the research paper's theme. However, I am also moving towards a complex analysis of the development opportunities in the three directions, concretized in separate chapters in the structure of the research paper, and towards the formulation of a model for approaching the city through the lens of its potential. A relationship between the three poles of interest in the territory will lead to the concentration of activity resources towards the city's revitalization process. The analysis will further be structured on multiple reference scales, those that will help me in exemplifying the case studies, spatial-temporal and thematic scales, determined by the presence of urban and architectural contrasts in the urban environment.

The research paper is structured around the presentation of two types of case studies. The first part of the work is a historical-urbanistic analysis on three possible development directions of the city: cultural-patrimonial, balneoclimatic and industrial-patrimonial. These three chapters constitute the theoretical part of the paper, but they are presented in the form of generalized case studies, being topics that analyse the entire city, throughout its specific evolution. In the second part of this paper, the results of the initial analysis of the city's urban planning are presented specifically, in the form of case studies, and are presented in the form of possible development directions and recommendations of the locality. In these studies, we concretely identified some urban structures through the rehabilitation or development of which the image of the city would improve, it would become more coherent, more accessible, more friendly.

Bibliographic aspects and the current state of research

The research and documentation part of the work is made up of the bibliographic sources mentioned in the notes at the bottom of the pages, and those in the *Bibliography*. The information analysed from the bibliographic sources was subjected to a process of scientific analysis and was corroborated, where appropriate and where there was sufficient information, with city maps, drawings, old postcards, images and photographs, etc. The information analysed from the bibliographic sources was subjected to a process of scientific analysis and was corroborated, where appropriate and where sufficient information existed, with city maps, drawings, old postcards, images and photographs, etc. The bibliography, like the structure of the research paper, contains works mainly from three major fields, but I preferred a classic structuring by types of works and not by the theme of each chapter.

The city of Turda has already been the main subject of numerous archaeological studies regarding the Roman settlement on the Cetății Hill and the Roman formations in the immediate vicinity of the town. The bibliography, referring to the one limited to the formation and development of the Roman city, is rich in historical studies and is edifying from a cartographic point of view. The study of the archaeological materials provided us with the first urban information regarding the genesis of the town of Turda. Although from an archaeological perspective the historical material is too little studied, there are still many question marks related to the urban elements found under the buildings in the city center, the

material provided by archaeologists is complex and rich in information and suggestive images for defining the theme of this research work. Among the works and treatises on archaeology analysed in the bibliography, those of prof. em. phd. Mihai Bărbulescu⁵, these being the ones from where the most detailed information was extracted regarding the symbolism and urban importance of the vestiges from the period of the Roman occupation, with references to socio-cultural aspects, to urban and urban planning aspects. Last but not least, historical diaries and tourist guides⁶ were studied which, together with the material provided by archaeologists and historians, and in conjunction with maps from different historical periods, facilitated the outline of the urban framework and the explanation of the particularities regarding the development potential of the city as a polarizing center.

As for the cartographic sources, the most representative for the subject of this research work are the archaeological ones, but the maps of the Jozefine topographic survey⁷ were also analysed, especially for the accuracy of the way of attesting and representing the settlement in the Transylvanian territory. The city's systematization maps, starting from the period between the Second World War and up to the present day, were also analysed. A series of historical and urban studies⁸, documents referring to the evolution of the historical center of the city, are preserved in the archives of the Turda Municipality. With the extension of the P.U.G.⁹ documentation, a study was carried out to interpret the evolution of the historical center from a historical-urbanistic perspective. This study is among the most recent in the bibliography analysing the city's evolution. In 2015, I participated, together with my doctoral supervisor, in the realization of a historical-architectural study of the central urban complex of the city of Turda, which dates back to the period of the 18th and 19th centuries.¹⁰

After analysing the bibliography attached to this research paper, it can be found that recent urban planning studies related to the city are few, therefore, a wider and extended analysis of archaeological and monographic studies was necessary, in order to discuss the relevant aspects regarding the historical and urban development of the city.

From the point of view of the discussion of the patrimonial-industrial potential, the bibliography includes historical studies, urban economy studies, research papers with related topics to the subject of this research paper. In addition to all this, several representative laws were studied to analyse the industrial landscape and understand the stages in the development of this national sector. Also, in the research work, I studied the urban planning projects, the city monographs, and the numerous development strategies of the city that were developed in the last decade.

Research objectives and methods

The work is primarily addressed to specialists in the field of architecture, urban planning, etc., and secondly, the work is addressed to local, regional and national authorities, because they are the competent actors, who can intervene directly by proposing and applying

⁵ Prof. Em. Dr. Mihai Bărbulescu, scientific researcher of the Institute of History and Archaeology of the Romanian Academy in the period 1970-1992 and author of numerous archaeological studies about the 5th Macedonian Legion Fort, Potaissa.

⁶ Bibliography, *Travel Journals. Tourist Guides*.

⁷ Josephine map of the Grand Principality of Transylvania, 1769 – 1773, available at: https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ridicarea_topografică_izofină, accessed December 2022.

⁸ Bibliography, *Urban Studies. Historical-architectural studies. Archaeological studies*.

⁹ SC EDITA S.R.L., *General Urban Plan of Turda Municipality*, Project No. 24/1995/1, approved according to H.C.L.M.T. no. 160/16.12.1999, extension by H.C.L.M.T. no. 172/29.10.2010, Cluj-Napoca, November 1999.

¹⁰ SC ARHIMET S.R.L., *Historical-architectural study of the 18th-19th century urban complex in the municipality of Turda*, within the project Integrated measures for the prudent rehabilitation and economic revitalization of the historical center of the municipality of Turda, Design contract no. 2/2015, Turda, 2015.

measures and strategies to improve the development of the city, beneficiaries, urban actors involved in the design process on the part of architecture and urbanism, and, last but not least, the work is addressed to the public interested in knowledge.

How can we quantify the development potential of the city as a polarizing center? The main objective of the research paper was the attempt to quantify the city's potential in the three development directions. In order to explain the objectives of the research work, the work was divided into four chapters. The first three chapters are somewhat independent of each other because they deal with very different branches: cultural heritage, balneoclimatology and industrial heritage, but all three deal with the development of the city's development potential as a polarizing center. The last chapter deals with the presentation of the case studies as conclusions of the research work, treated in the form of particularities regarding the development potential of the city as a polarizing center. The case studies materialize into some possible directions and future development strategies of the city.

The research methods were conditioned by the theme of the research paper, being a thesis on architecture and urbanism, there were used research methods specific to these fields. From the point of view of the type of research undertaken to argue the ideas, a qualitative, theoretical research was carried out on urban aspects, on local policies regarding the evolution of the locality. The research involved a series of analyses related to the urban development history of the locality, the interpretation of the significant moments of the urban development, the possible territorial links that may have significance in the urban structure of the city of Turda. The research methods that were used in the argumentation of the scientific discourse are: direct observation of the built space, the analysis of photographic materials, both the oldest and the most recent, the realization of case studies as conclusions of the study, the mapping process and that of drawing up urban planning drawings and plans; also, the main research method was the bibliographic research, an attempt was made to exhaustively document the existing primary and secondary bibliographic sources on the proposed subject, by analysing sources from the field of architecture, urbanism, history, archaeology, human geography, by analysing the economic ones and those related to directly from the history of Turda city. Also, in the present research, the monographs of the city were also taken into account, which, being numerous, provide important clues about the historical evolution of the settlement and its potential over time, articles from local newspapers, journals of foreign travellers, etc. The research also involved the study of current bibliographic sources, studies that would broaden the horizons of knowledge through the detailed analysis of urban planning studies and the investigation of archaeological studies.

The process of drawing up some explanatory plans for the studied subject involved making some personal observations as conclusions of the research study, based on some existing plans. On these plans we marked the possible new pedestrian routes in the city center, the landmark buildings of the industrial heritage, on a series of historical maps we identified the possible locations of some older nuclei of the locality, etc., practically through these maps we tried to explain the ideas through drawing and the conclusions of the research paper. The study was supplemented with more recent bibliographic information, but with regard to these it was necessary to select and limit to the most important occurrences that are relevant to the topic under discussion.

The personal scientific contribution is based on the more detailed research of the aspects of the city's potential less studied or even under-addressed by the previous studies and development strategies, perhaps due to the difficulty of obtaining accurate information for drawing conclusions. A systematic review of the specialized literature was attempted, in order to find answers to the questions formulated by this research paper. The major part that assumes originality and novelty is related to the historical development analysis of the city on

the three proposed development directions, and the outline of some possible development directions of the city, as a result of these analyses. The results obtained by carrying out this research work can be used both by local, regional and national administration actors, as well as, in the future, by the specialists involved in the architectural and urban planning process, in the city of Turda.

1. THE CULTURAL-PATRIMONIAL POTENTIAL

Turda is the city where history began to be written and built since ancient times. Being located on a geographically unique site, the city was born early, since the period of Roman occupation, primarily due to unique geographical features and the presence of natural resources in the vicinity of the city, resources that favoured the development of the first proto-urban nuclei. During the Roman occupation period, the civil settlement was defined from an urban point of view in a relatively short time. The proto-urban nuclei, the early medieval ones of the city, developed along the Pârâu Racilor, sheltered by its winding route. Through their development and joining, from an urban point of view, the footprint of the historic center was outlined, a footprint that reflected the economic, political and administrative development of each individual core, and dictated the future directions of urban development. The medieval city expanded in the territory by joining the neighbouring nuclei, including in its development the New Turda nucleus, the most distant nucleus in relation to the historical center, but at the same time the closest to the new area of exploitation of the salt mine from the Middle Ages, the Salted Valley saliferous area.

The patrimonial-cultural potential of the city is the first topic discussed in the research paper, through the prism of its particularities and evolution over time, because it analyses the elements of the urban structure with the highest visibility in the city center. Practically, the patrimonial-cultural potential of the city of Turda is mainly concentrated in the historical center of the city and brings together a large number of unutilized urban and architectural objectives, concentrated in the central area, belonging to some of the most well-known architectural styles, such as: ruins of ancient and medieval architectural styles, elements and buildings in the baroque, secession style, elements of the neo-renaissance, eclectic, neo-Romanian styles, etc. Also, a series of cultural aspects and local urban identity will be discussed, particularities that influenced the city's potential in different historical moments through cultural events and that helped to spread culture, thus emphasizing the role of the city, that of a polarizing center in terms of culture and cultural heritage. Through this chapter, an attempt was made to analyse the aspects related to the attractiveness of the city throughout its history, attractiveness that can be quantified through the architecture of central squares, important buildings, routes and connections created in the central area of the city. Practically, that red thread was followed, those architectural and urban peculiarities that led to the formation of the settlement, and, moreover, to its imposition as a zonal polarizing center from a patrimonial-cultural perspective.

The subject of this part of the research work involved the analysis of the central and semi-central areas of Turda city, from a historical-urban point of view. The area where the historical settlement was developed is crossed by Racilor Stream and Fânașei Stream and is bordered by hills: to the east by the Viilor-Cețății Hill, the Zânelor Hill and to the west by the micro-depression of the salt baths. The legion fort, located on the eastern plateau of the city, the fort that was part of the defence system of the Roman Empire against barbarian attacks, is the most important historical and archaeological monument of the city. The position of the

fort within the city was very good, the eastern plateau was the most suitable place for the defence of the settlement and especially the Roman road. The Roman city developed on the left bank of the Aries River, from the bridge that crossed the Aries River to Pordei Stream and Zânelor Hill. The historical city was formed on a fusiform footprint of public spaces.

The orientation of the city was given by the natural elements that define the area and by the route of the Roman Imperial Road. The overlapping of historical-urban layers generated the current footprint of the historic center. As far as the natural elements are concerned, the city turns its back on Prâului Racilor, being oriented towards the public space of the central square. Even the bridges connecting to the central area are mostly pedestrian, of little importance from the point of view of pedestrian traffic. The chain of central public spaces is made according to an atypical shape in plan, of a fusiform, elongated footprint.

In the urban structure of the city, non-homogeneous elements are encountered, which indicate a combination of urban and rural elements. Also, in some special situations, an incomplete urbanization of the city is evident through the existence of some rural houses that break the continuity of the front of the historic center. Today, the central square consists of a juxtaposition of urban and rural houses. The uniqueness of the city is also given by the urbanistic elements of the medieval image, formed by the chain of fortifications, and later by fortified churches. This hierarchy is concretized in a deployment of fortified churches along the Racilor Stream throughout the central and semi-central area. In another plan, the spatial hierarchy also includes the pedestrian passages that cross the fronts of the central square, in the current Republicii Square, especially the pedestrian passages connecting Gheorghe Lazăr street and Republicii Square, the main urban square.

Regarding the historical-urban structure of the square, the most important elements that visually outline its fusiform shape are the two fronts, the eastern and the western, through their continuous and uninterrupted shape. From a historical and urban point of view, the eastern front was the one that took shape first, followed by the western one. The fusiform shape of the square is given by the location of the Roman Catholic church in the northern part of the historic center. The eastern front formed as a more compact front. The western front is fragmented by the winding route of Racilor Stream and the enclosure of the Reformed Church of Old Turda. The fusiform shape of the square resulted from the hierarchical formation of the fronts, from the subsequent formation of the western front, which developed by being conditioned by the settlement of the Roman Catholic Church. These square fronts were formed by chaining some urban buildings similar to those built in the depth of the plot, the plots being narrow and long. This specific rural way of occupation has evolved into an urban one by changing the typology of buildings in the city center, by constructing buildings with a facade in front of the square and with a larger size resulting from the unification of plots. The urban potential of the city consists precisely in its urban form and in the representative buildings from the central area. Regarding the historical-urbanistic particularities, some of the centrally located buildings suggest certain strands and directions that influenced the urban structure. On the eastern front, the most representative building is the food market building. At the urban level, this building outlines a public space and at the same time a facade towards the Museum Square, this facade being the largest in this front.

On the western front we find another peculiarity, that of the inner courtyards, most of them being oriented towards Racilor Stream. This is also where most of the pedestrian bridges connecting the neighbouring districts to the central area can be found. Both fronts have the current buildings formed by the joining of two adjoining rural plots. Car traffic is currently carried out through Republicii Square, on the western front, following the pedestrianization of the eastern front. Pedestrianization of the entire center was considered, but the difficulty of diverting traffic made this intention and that of returning to the urban

idea of a pedestrian main square of the city impossible. Buildings with symbolic and representational functions are located on the western front of the square. Here we can mention the medieval fortification of the Reformed-Calvin church, the secession square from the end of the 19th century, the fortification of the Roman-Catholic church and the Unitarian church monastery.

Capitalizing on historical and cultural objectives could activate and enhance, both now and in the future, the city's cultural-patrimonial potential. Cultural activity, currently, is closely linked to spaces with heritage value or to those that host events and cultural projects, within the built environment of the city, most of them being within the limits of the central ensemble with environmental value: the Aureliu Manea National Theater and the Municipal Library Teodor Murășanu, the Museum of History, the Summer Garden, the Rațiu Center for Democracy, the Fox Cinema, the Art Gallery, etc. Among those adjacent to this boundary, the following are important: the Beer Factory, the salt mine, Tineretului Cinema, the archaeological site of the 5th Macedonian Legion camp, etc. Cultural activity is primarily affected by the lack of cultural infrastructure, which consists in the long absence of the activity and presence of the cultural center in the cultural landscape of the city, the lack of at least one active cinema and the delay in the rehabilitation processes of representative buildings with cultural heritage potential: the building of the former court, the summer garden or the open-air cinema, the city's culture house, a building whose location is highly discussed and debatable both from an urban and architectural point of view. Another peculiarity of the cultural heritage potential of the city is the lack of cinemas in the cultural city life, in the context where in Turda there were functional spaces intended for projections and today there is only one area intended for projections, set up in the salt mine. The lack of a culture center led to the sad evolution of the former culture center on Avram Iancu Street, which over time deteriorated, as no steps were initiated to rehabilitate and modernize it. Perhaps one of the motivations behind this delay in the modernization of the building was the project of the new cultural center, which remained unfinished and is also in a process of degradation, but with the hope that it will be involved in a rehabilitation project and then it will become the cultural pole of the city, of the historic center.

The cultural potential of the city could be reactivated in close connection with the capitalization of its patrimonial potential. The attempt of cultural reactivation of the city against the background of the lack of infrastructure to support and complement this endeavour is not fully feasible. In European cities, and, in the last period of time, also in those of Romania, the architectural and urban objectives of the historical centers are closely related to the cultural activity, rather there is a fruitful link between the cultural activity and the built background of the historical centers. Cultural measures, in order to have an impact at the city and its territorial level, must be organized in close connection with the heritage potential of the city and its particularities and heritage potential. In Turda we find a large number of such urban heritage peculiarities, which, if they were capitalized in close connection with the cultural activities that already have their own program at the urban level, the city would reaffirm itself as an important polarizing center in terms of culture.

2. THE BALNEOCLIMATIC POTENTIAL

In the present chapter, the aim is to analyse the balneoclimatic potential of the two inner-city saline areas in connection with the exploitation of the salt mine and the salt lakes of the two salt massifs. These particularities will be discussed in the urban context of some new

development axes on the balneoclimatic chain, in the direction of the salt vein existing in the Transylvanian Plateau.

In recent decades, the town of Turda has displayed a predominantly industrial image. This is currently negatively reflected in the architecture and structure of the city, in the way people transiting the center and semi-central area visually perceive the industrial platforms. Over time, the valorisation of the existing natural resources in the vicinity of the city led to the affirmation of a polarizing center through the development of some industries related to the process of salt exploitation. In addition to the industrial phenomenon of salt exploitation, we can mention the mining of stone and gold upstream of the Aries River. These exploitations of the resources in the neighbourhood of the locality started with the shaping of the early Roman urban settlement, exploitation that led to the economic development of the locality in a very short time. The presence of salt as a natural resource and the proximity to the Aries River have drawn some clear development directions. The presence of salt attracted here many of the neighbouring peoples, who either contributed positively or negatively to the development of the settlement and finally led to its economic decay. From an economic point of view, the city was based on the continuity of the salt mining process, this activity being the one that left its mark in the significant historical moments, in its urban structure.

The balneoclimatic potential of the city of Turda is related to that geographical feature which is perhaps the least visible within the city among the three features discussed in the research paper, but perhaps the one with the greatest impact on the local economy. Gradually, the valorisation of the salt mine's balneoclimatic potential revitalized the city, especially after 1989, when, from an economic perspective, the city entered a process of industrial decline. This particularity of Turda's potential as a polarizing center is the most active and important economic perspective, and there is potential to revitalize the city culturally and industrially, because only the salt mine in the two balneary parks, which are only partially modernized at the present moment, it brings a very large influx of tourists, both from Cluj County and from the other counties and generates interest for foreign tourists as well. The development of the city was favoured by the existence of the salt massif, its mining activity and the intensification of trade on the salt roads. The salt roads were those European roads on which the salt valorisation process was carried out, on the portion between the place of extraction and exploitation of the salt from the massifs and up to the locations where it was sold, being a name used mainly during the Middle Ages. Turda was also part of this salt exploitation and commercialization route, being an important settlement in this whole process, because the salt pantry was established in Turda, being the city of residence of the House of the Pantry. The salt road started from the salt mine in Turda on land, and continued on the water, on the Mureş River, the transport was carried out equally by land and water. These commercial routes favoured and intensified the mining activity of salt exploitation, this resource being a very valuable one and at the same time intensely exploited.

The presence of salt in the city involved most of the inhabitants in the exploitation process and the exploitations favoured the further development of the balneoclimatic interest from early on. In its beginnings, the city's balneoclimatic potential manifested itself among the inhabitants, later it expanded to the county level, so that today it has become of national and international interest. The saline areas in the urban area of the city have created interest for their scientific study, an interest that has been manifested since the beginning of the 20th century, but more intensively in recent years, at the national level. The positive aspect that influenced the scientific interest in these areas was due to the inclusion of the Sărăturile Ocna Veche site as a Natura 2000 area, a fact that brought with it a series of beneficial changes in the management and promotion of the balneoclimatic field. The image of the city is currently a

balneary one, with the salt mine renovation project and the proposed projects for the revitalization and preservation of the saline areas contributing a lot to this image.

From a geographical point of view, even the specific natural peculiarities of the two saliferous areas led to the evolution of the city into a balneoclimatic resort. The location of the areas on the border between the inner city and the outer city, with some saliferous areas right on the edge of the inner city, have made these areas to be preserved naturally, with minimal human interventions.

Real estate pressure did not, over time, affect these areas, but, at the same time, as there was no increased interest in these areas from the perspective of real estate developments, they evolved from an anthropological point of view at a very slow pace. The accessibility at the level of connections with the city and with the other architectural landmarks in the historic center has not been exploited or enhanced. Practically, there is only one direct access link of the city center with the balneoclimatic parks. The accessibility in the area has remained undeveloped, as the north-eastern part of the city does not have connections with other cities at a territorial level, nor is it immediately adjacent to important localities, but these two natural areas have the potential to be preserved as natural enclaves, very close to the historic center of the city, from which they are separated by a very small distance, of about 1 km. These economic and geographical particularities of the saliferous areas within the city and, on a more extensive level, in Transylvania, led, over time, to the development of the settlement as a balneoclimate resort, this becoming an important landmark on the map of places with balneoclimate potential in Romania, in the process of being exploited. The spa resort of Turda is one of the largest and most important spa resorts in Cluj County, due to the fact that it is located in the inner city, so it benefits from exposure and all the potential it has. The balneoclimatic potential of the resort of Turda was recognized in the history of the city from a very early period, the first developments in order to capitalize on the healing factors were carried out in the second half of the 19th century.

The balneoclimatic resort was rehabilitated and significantly modernized at the beginning of the 20th century. From the date of the last significant modernization, from the beginning of the 20th century, until the second half of the 20th century, an attempt was made to improve the accessibility to the saline areas by planning a new car and pedestrian access road proposed by the systematization draft of Turda city since 1965. Gradually, the balneo-climatic resort of the city gained in importance at the county and national level, the culmination of which was the realization of the project for the redevelopment of the salt mine and its promotion for tourism purposes. This last measure of redevelopment of the mine attracted a lot of tourists in a relatively short time, and thus some projects were continued to valorise the saline sites in the vicinity, the potential of which is recognized at the national level, but, at present, it is too little accessible and untapped from a scientific and touristic point of view.

The potential of the two balneo-climatic parks involves the valorisation of certain particularities of the saline areas, which are supported by the tourist interest in the studied areas, by their location in the inner city very close to the central urban complex with environmental value, where most of the edifices with architectural value can be found. The saliferous sites have evolved positively in terms of balneoclimate potential, currently their potential is recognized at national level, a fact attested and supported by the authority's desire to invest in these areas by implementing projects to develop the balneary sector resorts. Last but not least, the potential of these two sites is also amplified by the pressure exerted by the intense tourism generated by the rehabilitation of the salt mine, a project that has produced in the last 10 years an intense tourist activity within the city, an activity that has led to the development of an entire network related to the attractiveness of these natural areas. Finally, the sustained tourism of the city's salt mine is very likely to lead, as has already

happened countless times in history, to the development of other touristic and economic branches and, possibly, to the enhancement of some of the numerous natural and anthropogenic sites in the inner city and in the immediate vicinity.

3. THE INDUSTRIAL-PATRIMONIAL POTENTIAL

The industrial-patrimonial potential chapter aims to identify and examine the industrial landscapes of the city of Turda from a chronological perspective, discussing the stages of the development of local industries and the impact of these structures on the city's urban development and urbanization dynamics. This chapter is not intended to be only a study from a historical perspective of the evolution of the industrial sector in Turda; an examination is proposed not only from a historical but also a contextual perspective of the urban implications of the industrial sector in the city's economic and urban development. The examination starts with the identification of the first craft organizational structures from the early Middle Ages that had an impact on the urban development of the city; their historical evolution is traced up to the industrial peak at the beginning of the 20th century, from before the First World War, the restoration of the industrial sector after the war and its culmination in the interwar period, socialist industrialization imposed by the state and other new forms of the old industrial structures into the present.

The present study aimed to analyse the urban context of landmark industrial structures in the city's urban image, by examining buildings and industrial sites with potential for urban capitalization. The conclusions of this chapter of the research paper chronologically present the structures and buildings of the industrial heritage in the historical center and in its semi central areas, which are considered landmarks of the Turda industrial heritage in the memory of the local community. These sites have been analysed from an urban point of view, in the context of the links that can be created in the city perimeter for the maximum exploitation of their potential. Also, the economic, political and urban strategies that targeted the industrial sector were analysed, the focus being on the discussion of those strategic decisions that led to the development of industrial structures within the city, but not only, following also the presentation of the political decisions that had restrained this development process.

The documentation for the identification of the industrial sites that have become landmarks in the architecture of the city was carried out through field research and the processing of data and observations corroborated with the monographic and local history materials, with those of urban planning and architecture.

The stages of industrial development were subordinated to the historical context and, repeatedly, to the political decisions related to the exploitation of the natural resources in the city area.

In antiquity, the civil settlement developed due to the increased interest of the inhabitants towards the exploitation of the natural resources of the neighbouring areas of Potaissa and due to the policy of territorial expansion of the Roman Empire. The Roman occupation in Dacia took place in a short period of time, Dacia being among the last territories annexed to the empire and among the first to stand in the way of the migrating peoples. Due to the increased interest of migratory peoples from Eastern Europe towards the resources and geographical position of Dacia, the beginning of the medieval period was a turbulent one from the perspective of the settlement's development. In the Middle Ages, the settlement's status as a market town developed the settlement from an economic and resource exploitation point of view, but at an urban level, the town's development was slow. The local economy in the

Middle Ages was rather the engine of development on the social level, and not enough on the urban and architectural level. The development of the city during this period was carried out by the initiative of some private people and by the initiative of some policies of the Hungarian royalty to develop the settlement and its surroundings. The development of the city at the urban level was highlighted in the early period of capitalism, then urban development was a natural process, the result of the economy and the beginning of industrialization, aspects that produced changes in the city's urban planning. This was the time when the city became prosperous in every way. Later, during the communist regime, the internal development of the city was planned and controlled by state policies. A forced and functionally segregated development was organized and this aspect is reflected both in the architecture of the city of Turda and in the architecture and urbanism of other cities with a strong industrial character. Currently, the focus is on the development of services and on its transformation into a pole of tourist attraction. Thus, a revitalization of the main industrial platform is also being attempted, by approving new projects of industrial units and services initiated by legal entities, on the sites of former industrial units.

The city has general interest in all historical periods, in Turda some crafts and industries remain constant throughout these historical periods, such as those activities of salt mining, stone mining, pottery, etc. The evolution, over time, of the patrimonial-industrial potential led to the existence in the city's-built environment of both very extensive sites, the industrial platforms that developed at the end of the 19th century and throughout the 20th century, as well as those buildings that are located individually in the built framework of the historical center and its semi-central areas. These buildings belonging to the time period between the 18th and 20th centuries are both proto-industrial and industrial buildings. These particularities in the evolution of the industrial heritage contribute to the industrialized image of the city and to its industrial-patrimonial potential.

The industrial and its patrimonial heritage developed in close connection with the evolution of economic conditions over time. In the lower basin of the Arieş River, the city of Turda was the locality that managed to monopolize the industrial development, especially in the 19th and 20th centuries, centuries that transformed the built image of the city, its social character being influenced by the developed industries here.

The industrial potential of the city was reflected in almost all development strategies and those of building construction. Among those urban development strategies, the only aspect that was unsuccessful was the project to build a railway line, but even this project was one for which implementation steps were taken, but which in the end did not was supported because of some private interests, which affected the development potential of the city as a polarizing center on the industrial chain. Nevertheless, a diversified industrial center took shape in Turda, which benefited from the neighbouring relationship with Câmpia Turzii, another important mono-industrial center in the lower basin of the Aries River.

The industrial development concepts of the city's systematization draft also assumed the expansion of the road network, also with the aim of affirming an industrial pole and a balneoclimatic one. These were the concepts of urban planning from the communist period, concepts that supported the development of cities similar to Turda, of those whose potential in these directions, the industrial and the balneary one, was recognized by most specialists in these fields. So, we can deduce that the city's industrial potential was reflected in the city's development strategies, these strategic decisions being the main bibliographic sources analysed in the chapter developed above. By comparing the studied strategies with those proposed in the last 10 years, we can conclude that the evolution of the city's development potential in terms of the industrial sector was not constant, it was rather the result of the economic conditions that also translated into the projects for the development of industries

and industrial sites. The only constant influence in this sector, in the city of Turda, was the continuous activity of exploiting the salt mine, an activity that, to some extent, continues even today, only that nowadays it has turned into one with tourist and balneary potential.

4. ABOUT THE POTENTIAL AND POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

The present chapter aims to present some possible strategies for the development of the urban and pedestrian structure of the city, as well as conclusions to the chapters presented above. The analysis and exposition of possible urban development strategies supports the arguments related to the city's potential as a polarizing center, discussed in the previous three chapters. It is also aimed at discussing possible strategies through the lens of proposing new pedestrian routes, recalling some of those that have disappeared from the city plan and revitalizing the existing ones. These proposals will be discussed further, in the form of conclusions of the chapters presented above, conclusions that are intended to be constituted in a series of architectural-urbanistic measures for the reactivation and reintegration of some public spaces or landmark buildings, in the urban pedestrian network.

In contemporary urbanism, the need for such routes with various themes that connect, at the level of the urban structure, the heritage objects in a coherent way, that invite the pedestrian and the tourist to walk and visit the objectives, is felt, especially in the last period of time, in the overall picture of post-industrial cities. In recent years, the city of Turda has been used and understood like a big traffic junction, being a passing and connecting town for Transylvania's road traffic. Most of those who travel through the city today do not stop here in order to travel and visit the central area, in most cases the central area is only traversed by car. In this way there is no direct, pedestrian contact with the built space. Therefore, the thematic tourist routes and circuits that will be proposed aim to discuss new routes that can highlight the historical-architectural heritage through promenade spaces, new perspectives on the tourist attractions in the central area, giving greater importance to inner courtyards and gangs of access along the Republicii Square, to the natural elements bordering the central area such as Racilor Stream and Arieş River, and to the links they can develop with the other semi-centrally located neighbourhoods.

Most of the urban and architectural landmarks can be found in the area of the central urban complex and in the semi-central area, in Republicii Square and 1 Decembrie 1918 Square, these being the main public spaces that are part of this complex with ambient value; in the other two squares, Basarabiei Square to the northwest and Romană square to the southwest, some of the architectural landmarks can be found.

The cities of Transylvania faced, after the long period of the communist political regime, a decrease in pedestrian public spaces and those intended for social cohesion; in the last decade, more and more emphasis has been placed on the revitalization of these spaces and the creation of new ones, following the model of cities in Central and Western Europe.¹¹ Thus, an approach was started to capitalize on the elements of identity at the level of the urban structure, by creating public spaces that not only solve a problem or a wish of the pedestrians, but also rediscover and offer again to the city, certain routes and historical axes, and recalls symbolic places. These types of projects started to be included and presented in the development strategies of the cities. In the current context of globalization, a context that deeply affects the social structure of many cities, more and more

¹¹ Among the first projects of this kind in Transylvania are the redevelopment projects of the central area in Dej, Unirii Square in Cluj and Unirii Square in Braşov.

emphasis is placed on strategies aimed at recovering identity elements, the scale of the place, pedestrian spaces, capitalizing on the diversity of urban spaces.

Cultural, economic and social diversity influences the perception of a city's image. The way in which this diversity is manifested is the element that accentuates creativity in the urban environment. Each of us, as users of public space, form predefined images of the cities we know, and depending on how subjectively or objectively we do this, we can have a better-defined image related to the potential of a city. Our impressions of the cities we know are influenced by their character, by the potential a city has in a certain direction of development, by the preconceptions we perpetuate about cities, etc.¹² All this is also reflected in the town planning of Turda. Although there are few industrial units left in the city, Turda is still seen as that important, very active and polluted industrial center from the communist regime. More recently, the city's image has improved due to the establishment of the salt mine as the city's main tourist destination. However, what forms the historical and social substratum of the city, the whole ensemble of architectural-archaeological elements, still remains at a level that is too little exploited and unknown to the general public. That is why a detailed analysis of the pedestrian potential in the central and semi-central areas can form the basis of future strategies, aimed at relating the architectural-urban elements, in the sense of facilitating coherent pedestrian paths, with the aim of improving the general perception of the city's image.

The central urban complex of Turda is listed on the List of Historical Monuments at position 1301.¹³ The limits of the urban complex with ambient value total an area of 27 ha, inside which there are 7 historical monument buildings located in the vicinity of the main squares of the historic center. The central area is characterized by a specific urban space, the Republicii Square, which has a lenticular shape in plan, and the squares and parks adjacent to it are niche urban spaces. Due to its shape, the center of the city of Turda it was and it still remained an active urban center, where trade fairs, markets with a specific profile, etc. have operated since the medieval period. Currently, the area of the eastern front has become pedestrianized, the square has become a pole of social cohesion and for the manifestation of some festivals, a place where specialized fairs are held.

The first of the two fronts of Republicii Square to be built from an urban point of view was the eastern front.¹⁴ Over the entire surface of the historic center, the plots had an elongated shape, with a narrow front to the street, a proportion specific to medieval urban planning in Transylvania. The arrangement of the buildings in the site was in the shape of the letter L, with the short side facing the street and the long side facing the inside of the plot, attached to the property boundaries of the neighbouring plots. The urban transformations of the square fronts began at the end of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th century, with the joining of several plots and the changing of the occupation of the built-up land from an urban point of view. The layout of the buildings in a bar-shaped plan, in the shape of the letter L or U, determined the appearance of inner courtyards and access gangways towards them.¹⁵ These urban transformations characterize the architecture of the eastern front, the front where the pedestrian passages were formed; these transformations of the urban structure, the long length of the front and the absence of pedestrian crossings in the east-west direction are what determined, to some extent, the appearance of pedestrian passages in the urban structure. The eastern front consists of two large islands, separated in the east-west direction by Șterca Șuluțiu street, so the pedestrian passages were the ones that connected certain areas of interest from Republic Square with Axente Sever Street.

¹² Gert Jan Hospers, "Creative Cities in Europe, Urban Competitiveness in the Knowledge Economy", *Intereconomics*, September/October 2003, pp. 264-265. (author's translation).

¹³ L.M.I. code: CJ-II-S-B-07797.

¹⁴ Republicii street fronts, no. 1-52, made between the 15th and 20th centuries, validated as a historical and architectural monument by C.N.M.A.S.I. with no. code 13B549.

¹⁵ Virgil Pop, *Turda Center Historical Study*, Contract F.A.U.-U.T.C.N. no. 1/2006, Beneficiary: Turda City Hall, Turda, 2006.

The pedestrian passages analysed further, in this subchapter, represent potential pedestrian areas, through which access to Republic Square can be achieved by creating shortcuts between the square and its adjacent streets. Some of these routes existed and were used along their entire length, being the most intensively used shortcuts at the beginning of the 20th century, others were only partially formed, being interrupted at one of the ends. These routes currently have the potential to be expanded. Some of them have been analysed and proposed as new passages for the purpose of revitalizing the inner courtyards or for the purpose of capitalizing on new perspectives on historical monuments in the central urban complex, because they benefit from the potential of valuable architectural perspectives. The present study will continue to carry out a detailed analysis of these pedestrian routes, called pedestrian passages, because they start from the central pedestrian area of Republicii Square and involve passing through a pedestrian gang in some situations, in others through a pedestrian and auto gang. Some of these passages pass only through private courtyards, others start from a public courtyard and exit through an apparently dead-end street. All of them cross at least one yard from the eastern front of Republic Square. These routes are generally orderly, for some of them several directions and possible exits into neighbouring streets have been analysed.

These pedestrian passages, both newly proposed and existing ones, will be presented in order, starting from the north of the eastern island to the southern part of it. The discussed pedestrian passages constitute some urban particularities of the city of Turda and constitute a specific characteristic of the eastern front of Republicii Square. These resulted due to the very compact and congealed shape of this continuous front, its great length and the need for shortcuts like those in the agri-food market to cross the front in the east-west direction. The only clear crossing, both by car and pedestrian, of the eastern front, in a transversal direction, is Șterca Șuluțiu street.

The motivations related to architecture and urbanism, on the basis of which some new passages will be proposed, will be further detailed, each situation being analyzed distinctly. The potential of these shortcuts is given by connecting some objectives and attractions in the central area, and, not least, with the aim of educating the pedestrian to discover and benefit from new perspectives on inaccessible or only partially accessible areas of the central area. The streets where the passages could benefit from a second exit are the following: Castanilor street, Axente Sever Street and Gheorghe Lazăr street, those adjacent to the eastern islands of the historic center. These streets are much less pedestrianized than Republicii Square. All this is due to the difficult accessibility in the central area, due to the lack of a sufficiently extensive street network to cover the current traffic in these areas. Moreover, the adjacent streets are used as parking areas, so in a way that is not suitable for a pedestrian extension towards them. Due to the lack of pedestrian space, the fronts of these streets have not developed in accordance with pedestrian, economic, service or cultural activities. So, a polarizing role in this sense could be played by the new public pedestrian routes, which have the potential to provide an adequate structure for the development of such activities. Through this chapter, measures are proposed to reintegrate these potential pedestrian passages into the pedestrian structure of the city and to create new ones where the urban structure allows it, the emphasis being primarily on the rehabilitation of inner courtyards, the removal of parasitic buildings, the reopening of pedestrian gangs where they were cancelled by temporary constructions and gates. Thus, these pedestrian routes could be reintegrated into the circuit of public spaces by opening the accesses through the gangs of the western front of the island, on the western front such pedestrian spaces are already, in some particular cases, open and accessible to pedestrians. Some pedestrian routes are suffocated by parasitic buildings and improvised annexes that could be removed without too much effort, and could create and open new spaces with urban valences. Of course, here we are analysing a pedestrian network at the scale of the historic center; therefore, it is important to consider both the private areas of the inner courtyards and the maintenance of living in the central area. The fact that there is still housing in the inner courtyards of the central area is an important advantage because many cities have fallen into the monotony of museification of historical central areas. By

maintaining living in the central area, public spaces will be animated by the events organized there; in this way a diversified social-urban life can be supported.

On the other hand, the archaeological park of the city includes those areas with cultural-archaeological potential that were the object of their discoveries and study within the archaeological campaigns, these being the areas on the Cetății Hill, especially in the south-west part of the city, from one side and the other of the Arieș River. An extensive area with archaeological potential remained undiscovered and unstudied, because the other historical stages that led to the formation of the historical center and the semi-central areas were superimposed on top of the archaeological areas. On the map of the National Archaeological Repertory, in the city of Turda and its surroundings, a large number of locations of the archaeological heritage can be found marked on the map and described, the discoveries of the heritage-archaeological area are more numerous in the western part of the city. For these locations, a classification was made in a certain historical period and in a certain culture, but the areas with archaeological potential in the perimeter of the city are much more numerous. Concerning their preservation, the Museum of History in Turda played an important role in the last decades. The archaeological discoveries around the built perimeter of the city were carried out over time by organizing archaeological campaigns, but a large part of these locations were also discovered accidentally, with the performance of construction works in the central area of the city and from semi central areas.

On the Romanian map, Turda was one of the few cities that had an outdoor Lapidarium, set up in the Museum Square. Practically the entire square was intended for it, however, the pieces of the lapidary were moved to the premises of the History Museum in order to be protected and preserved. These pieces exhibited in the square belonged to the archaeological sites around the city. Very few cities in the country currently have an external, public lapidary, the archaeological heritage being insufficiently valued at the national level. Archaeological tourism is a tourism with potential in Romania, the objects and sites of archaeological heritage being some of the least exploited from a tourist point of view. The site of the 5th Macedonica Legion Castle is the most important archaeological site of the city. The cultural and archaeological routes around Turda are already being capitalized through the restoration and capitalization of the 5th Macedonica Legion Castle, which will determine its introduction into the national and international tourist circuit.¹⁶

The integration into the tourist circuit of various areas with archaeological potential in the territory of Cluj County will lead to the development of the network of cultural-archaeological routes. The role of the cultural-archaeological routes in the area of the Cetății Hill and the Roman fort is to reactivate this route omitted by the current tourist circuit, the valorisation of the historical-archaeological monuments can be achieved through strategies for the revalorization of the symbolic places of the city, of those polarizing cultural nuclei. The project of restoration and valorisation of the castle will ensure the enhancement of the site of the castle and the revitalization of the infrastructure adjacent to it. This project has the potential to engage certain higher education institutions in national and local administration attempts to preserve the site in order to continue the archaeological research activities. Currently and in the recent past, it has been tried that, through didactic activities and conferences, the university environment to be also directed to the city of Turda, a city that was once an important cultural center of Transylvania. Basically, the city's potential to attract and involve higher education institutions is linked to these two theme parks: the archaeological park and the balneoclimatic park.

The valorisation of these natural parks, including the two balneoclimatic parks, would lead to the valorisation of the city's tourist potential, and by arranging the two saliferous areas, the offer of tourism and leisure circuits within the city would be completed. Valuing the parks would represent an important source of income for the city, because they are closely related to the activity of the salt pan and the intense activity of visiting it, and would lead, over time, to the creation of a brand of the

¹⁶ H.C.L. no 241/27.10.2016, *Restoration, enhancement and introduction into the tourist circuit of the 5th Macedonica Legion Camp*, Potaissa-Turda, beneficiary: Turda City Hall, Turda, 2016.

city, that of balneoclimatic resort. These parks are already part of the city's brand, a brand initiated and supported by the activity of the salt mine, but the city of Turda has the potential to return to its place on the map of spa resorts through the landscaping of these natural parks.

Turda benefits from two areas with balneoclimatic potential right in the inner city, but these areas have the potential to be expanded and supplemented with some areas outside the city, which meet similar natural characteristics. Balneoclimate tourism is, from a historical perspective, among the first forms of tourism, being among the oldest types of tourism, therefore, encouraging the development projects of balneoclimate parks would encourage the manifestation of this type of tourism. Within the city of Turda, this type of tourism has the potential to be exploited alongside other types of tourism, including cultural and educational.¹⁷ The salt mine is the one that currently defines the brand of the city "*Turda. Discover the city of salt*"¹⁸, the city being associated with the active presence of the salt mine.

On the other hand, the image of the city cannot be separated from the strong presence of industrial structures, a presence that affected both positively and negatively its evolution over time. The research paper sought to discuss the heritage potential of the most important industrial structures that are still present in the urban image and that are valuable from an environmental point of view, by identifying and analysing their urban aspects. The study does not involve the inventory of the entire industrial heritage of the city, but only of those industrial buildings or parts of those buildings that can constitute an urban landmark of the central or semi-central area. Those industrial landmarks, that have disappeared from the urban fabric of the city, will only be mentioned in the lines below.

An analysis of the industrial heritage potential was proposed in relation to the chronological evolution and history of the industrial sites. The time periods in which the industrial buildings were built are important as part of the analysis of the industrial-patrimonial potential because they underline the role of the city of Turda as a polarizing center in terms of this heritage. Some of these buildings are historical monuments, others are part of the central urban complex with environmental value. Some of them are just landmarks in the city's architecture, and we considered it important to analyse them from an urbanistic, social or historical point of view.

The industrial heritage, as defined in the Charter of Industrial Heritage, includes the vestiges of industrial culture, and by analysing them, it can be identified based on the following values: historical, technological, social, architectural or scientific.¹⁹ In the case of the city of Turda, we identified as industrial heritage those sites, buildings and landscapes where industry-related activities were carried out. Among these, in the research paper, we will analyse those aspects that were considered the most representative from an historical point of view and by the identified values that have been preserved as urban structures: the water mills on the Racilor Stream, the Beer Factory, the Slaughterhouse building, the Glass Factory complex and the Clay Pottery Factory. These industrial sites and landscapes belong to the historical period between the second half of the 18th century and the first half of the 20th century. We have limited the study of industrial complexes to this period because most of the industrial units belong to the central and semi-central area. With regard to these industrial structures, the architectural, social and urban potential was rather analysed along with the uniqueness of the sites.

The identification of industrial buildings and the analysis of the urban potential of these structures are the first steps that should be considered in order to save and rehabilitate the industrial heritage, even more so as this heritage offers, most of the time, generous spaces in the historical centers of the cities or in the semi-central areas. Thus, pre-industrial and industrial heritage have the potential to become an important factor in urban regeneration process. Regardless of the typology

¹⁷ Turda City Hall, CON-TURDA. *Regional development concept 2014-2020*, pp. 32-33.

¹⁸ Turda's tourism brand.

¹⁹ T.I.C.C.I.H., I.C.O.M.O.S., U.N.E.S.C.O., Industrial Heritage Charter, Moscow, 2003, available at: <https://ticcih.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/NTagilRomanian.pdf>, accessed February 2023.

of the industrial building or its architecture, among the existing buildings that have remained in the urban structure of the city of Turda, almost all buildings are urban landmarks, with or without heritage value, but with urban, symbolic value.

The research paper proposes the identification of the most important industrial sites and the analysis of the urban context and their patrimonial-industrial potential. The inventory involved describing the sites, photographing them and analysing the architectural and urban aspects that mark these buildings as urban landmarks. Thus, the most important landscapes, sites and industrial buildings that are landmarks in the city of Turda, a heavily industrialized city, were identified. The industrial buildings should be considered as part of the cultural heritage because they are part of the central and semi-central area of the city of Turda, in the context in which the entire central area is considered an architectural ensemble with environmental value. The potential of the industrial heritage of the city must be seen primarily as a cultural factor; once the process of deindustrialization at the national level, linked to the history of the city as an industrial pole, is completed, we can conclude that it has become a city with cultural and heritage potential, given by the very existence of these sites and industrial landscapes.

5. CONCLUSIONS

Recommendations regarding the development directions of the city of Turda

The research work is the result of a study on the evolution and particularities of the development potential of the city of Turda as a polarizing center. The concept of a polarizing center, in the case of the city of Turda, was defined by discussing some particularities regarding the evolution of the built heritage of the city, of the industrial and proto-industrial heritage and by analysing the natural landscapes with balneoclimatic potential. The formulation of the conclusions of the first three chapters, those in which the potential of the city is discussed and the concept of a polarizing center is defined, presupposed an analysis from a historical point of view of the evolution of the particularities related to the development of the city and its status on the territory of Transylvania, and not only.

The objectives pursued through this research work aimed at revealing some measures and development directions of the city regarding its affirmation as a polarizing center. Among the aspects covered, the discussion of the city's potential aimed to present the likely evolution of the revitalization and preservation of its heritage, by discussing, as case studies, those measures that capitalize on the development possibilities of this city as a polarizing center. The object of this study aimed to clarify the concept of polarization and that of the polarizing center, both from the theoretical perspective, of what has already been discussed on the basis of this topic, and by first analysing some urban particularities of the city of Turda. The city was analysed according to the three directions of development, these directions constituting three large chapters in the structure of the research paper: *the cultural-patrimonial potential, the balneoclimatic potential and the industrial-patrimonial potential*. Each chapter corresponds to a series of case studies, presented in the last chapter of the research paper. These case studies have been formulated in the form of characteristics and particularities and may constitute themes and sub-themes of a future urban design process. Given that, until now, such a study on the city of Turda has not been the subject of a unitary approach, it is natural that a treatment of several sub-themes related to each chapter can be found in the form of case studies; thus will be analysed and discussed, from a critical perspective and in the current European context, the role of possible pedestrian routes in the city center, green routes and the process of returning the face of the city to Racilor Stream, the awareness and assumption of the relationship with water in terms of new of pedestrian routes, the direct contact

with it, a theme that has been discussed before and is recurring in the cities of Europe in the last decades. The Racilor Stream pedestrian route, which is not included in the current urban circuit, has the potential to become a green corridor for the protection of the historic center and this particular relationship with the water should become part of the urban planning plans promoted by the local authorities and by the actors involved in the design process, its transformation from a natural boundary into an urban space, open to the city. The pedestrian route of the Arieș River was a route that in socialist planning assumed a contact with water that was purely economic and served only industrial processes. This resulted in the location of the South Industrial Platform in the vicinity of the Arieș River; the urban planning promoted and imposed by the socialist utopia neglected the presence of water in the city of Turda, currently, on a long distance of the banks of the Arieș River stretches the industrial district, mostly made up of production halls with no activity at present. The possible cultural-archaeological routes are numerous and could include the archaeological landmarks on the Cetății Hill and on the Potaissa Roman fort site, a route omitted from the tourist circuit at the moment, but with a project to rehabilitate the fort site in progress. The archaeological monuments in the area of the city of Turda have the potential to be highlighted through the strategies of valorising the symbolic places of the city and the polarizing cultural cores. On a larger scale, these sub-themes regarding the development of the city as a polarizing center also include a series of tourism and leisure circuits: the Cheilor-Turzii leisure circuit, the leisure and balneary tourism circuits of the saliferous areas on the salt vein in Cluj County. The case studies propose a series of approaches that offer different perspectives on the aspects regarding the urban, economic and social development of the city, through the lens of the urban connections that the settlement has developed and valued over time, until now.

The present research has highlighted, from a historical point of view, a series of particularities related to the evolution of the settlement and the proto-urban nuclei that were contained within the limits of the medieval city. These particularities are related, first of all, to the evolution of the ensemble of central squares that led to the creation of a unique, fusiform shape, Republicii Square, to the relationship of the public spaces in the historic center with the Racilor Stream and the Arieș River, those pedestrian shortcuts that were not reflected very clearly in the urban structure, but which were travelled very intensively in certain periods of time by the city's inhabitants. Last but not least, perhaps the most important aspect, which is not necessarily reflected in the urban structure of the city, is the presence of the salt mine in the city and the existence of the two balneary areas in the north and northeast of the city. The implications of balneary tourism are much broader, we cannot only discuss the impact of the development of this tourism sector at the local level. Another undervalued aspect in the urban structure is related to the existence in the city of a small number of proto-industrial buildings. Although they are currently few in number due to the fact that there is no internal legislation to protect them, their positions within the city are very valuable, being located in the central urban area or in semi-central areas with environmental value, on sites with good and high visibility in the city center. The position in the city of these proto-industrial units offers multiple perspectives on the buildings, perspectives that, as we have shown in the chapters detailed above, have the potential to be valued and to positively change the industrial image of the city.