**Spatial Justice in Tirana: A Study of Urban Development and Production of Space in Post-socialist Tirana**

In post-communist Albania the urban and social outline of society reinvented itself in very rapid, and intense terms. Today almost one third of the entire Albanian population lives in Tirana. These past 25 years have seen mass migration within the country towards the capital, which has become now a potluck of a very diverse population; diverse in their worldviews, understanding, cultural and educational background. A larger population calls for larger housing needs. Expediency of needs results in undermining of legal norms and urban criteria of construction. Consequently this post-social transition of the city was characterized by a higher number of informal and unlawful constructions.

After the 1990’s any development plan for Tirana has constituted only of a series of studies carried out by international actors that never reached the point of proper implementation. It is only after all this time that in February 2013 a territorial development policy was adopted for Tirana (Policy for Territorial Development of Tirana, 2013 pp. 17-61), which was then later changed under the Tirana 2030 vision. Currently the city is overcrowded; with an ever-growing sprawl of development and population density where old infrastructure has been stretched to its limits to accommodate new urban development, verging along the lines of inefficiency of city functions and services.

Inappropriate management of space for the purpose of maximizing its use, often sacrificed for commercial benefits has contributed to a frustrating lifestyle, with a heavy traffic, shortage of parking space, no safety gathering points, little space for recreation, difficulty in providing municipal services and the likings.

In his book “Spatial Justice: Body, Lawscape, Atmosphere” Andreas Philippopoulos-Mihalopoulos defines spatial justice *“as the conflict between bodies that are moved by a desire to occupy the same space at the same time”*. In this regard an important feature of spatial justice is its reflection in the organization of urban space and distribution of resources within a given area. In this context this work aims to reflect the interaction of the mentioned “bodies” in present day Tirana within the spatial context in which it takes place and that in return shapes it as well.