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**The perspective of urban development in the
context of circular economy integration**

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SUMMARY

In light of current challenges and opportunities, there is a clear need for comprehensive research exploring urban sustainability across Europe, including Central and Eastern European countries like Romania. This research has focused on developing new variables for assessing urban mobility using available geospatial data, thereby advancing knowledge in the field. This doctoral study aims to identify solutions for enhancing urban sustainability within the framework of integrating the circular economy. Additionally, it aims to develop a composite indicator for measuring the degree of urban sustainability, contributing to the formulation of effective policies and strategies at national and international levels. By employing a robust methodology, including bibliometric analysis, advanced statistical methods, and the construction of composite indicators following OECD standards, the study provides a solid foundation for understanding and improving sustainable urban development.

The main findings of the research highlight that the circular economy contributes to approximately 26% of national economic development. Regarding urban development models, no specific patterns were identified among the capitals of the European Union. However, it is observed that cities in Western and Northern Europe are more focused on green and circular city goals with more efficient urban mobility compared to cities in Eastern and Southern Europe. At the national level, Bucharest and Cluj-Napoca are the most developed cities, with the Romanian capital being the most sustainable city in the country. Furthermore, cities like Constanța, Cluj-Napoca, and Craiova exhibit patterns conducive to implementing a subway network.

Keywords: urban development, circular economy, sustainability, European Union, predictive analysis

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMARY 2

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 3

1. INTRODUCTION 6

1.1. FUNDAMENTAL ASPECTS 6

1.2. OBJECTIVES/WORKING HYPOTHESES 7

1.3. STRUCTURE OF THE DOCTORAL THESIS 8

2. LITERATURE REVIEW 9

2.1. URBAN DEVELOPMENT 9

2.2. CIRCULAR ECONOMY 20

2.3. URBAN METABOLISM 38

2.4. SMART CITY 50

2.5. GREEN CITY 61

2.6. CIRCULAR CITY 71

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY 84

3.1. DESCRIPTION OF DATA 84

3.2. TREATMENT OF MISSING VALUES 93

3.3. DESCRIPTION OF METHODS USED 95

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS 102

**4.1. IMPACT OF THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY ON ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT 102**

4.2. ANALYSIS OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN EUROPEAN CAPITALS 107

4.2.1. Principal Component Analysis 107

4.2.2. Global Spatial Autocorrelation 116

4.2.3. Local Spatial Autocorrelation 116

4.2.4. Estimation of GWR Regression Models 121

4.2.5. Implementation of Underground Transport 133

4.3. ANALYSIS OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN ROMANIA 135

4.3.1. Principal Component Analysis 136

4.3.2. Analysis of Peri-Urban Areas	140
4.3.3. Urban Mobility in the Peri-Urban Area of the Top 5 Cities in Romania	170
4.3.4. Structural Differences of Peri-Urban Areas	171
4.3.5. Classification of Peri-Urban Areas	173
4.3.6. Is the Subway a Sustainable Means of Transport for the 10 Most Populous Cities in Romania?	175
4.3.7. Determining the Association Relationship between the Main Factors of Urban Development	176
4.3.8. Composite Indicator for Measuring Urban Sustainability	193
4.4. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN ROMANIA IN THE CONTEXT OF INTEGRATING THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY	202
5. CONCLUSIONS	205
5.1. LIMITATIONS OF THE RESEARCH	209
5.2. RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT DIRECTIONS	210
6. REFERENCES	211
7. APPENDICES	231
8. LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	236
9. LIST OF TABLES	237
10. LIST OF FIGURES	240
11. LIST OF APPENDICES	244