

Governance | Individual communication

IC - (21039) - TOWARDS A TRANSDISCIPLINARY METHODOLOGY OF MEASURING URBAN LIVABILITY

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Background and objectives

In this research, we intended to draw an analytic approach to measure and interpret urban livability through quantitative data analysis. We aimed to find the transdisciplinary intersections between urban analysis and methodologies of environmental psychology observations.

Process and methods (for empirical research)

We chose six municipalities in Hungary to analyze in this research. We used available statistical data from the Central Statistical Office on demography, economy, built environment, infrastructure, among others, to make it possible to compare Hungarian small and medium-sized cities' livability measured by socio-economical indices. A coherent analytical framework has been set up. By using cluster analysis, the results had been interpreted after organizing the cities into two groups: 'well performing' (socio-economic increase or stagnation – urban performance, Carrera Portugal, 2019), and 'shrinking' (decline in the socio-economic and urban features) cities.

Main results (or main arguments in the case of critical reviews)

We present the significant differences between the collected data of cities that are 'performing well' and those that are shrinking. The decline in urban features correlated with structural problems of the economy can lead us to the following conclusion: the structural crises of shrinking cities can be identified in the picture which is outlined of various socio-economic indices (e.g., outmigration from the region). These could adversely show the livability of the city (e.g., vacant infrastructure).

Implications for research and practice/policy | Importance and originality of the contribution

The main goal of the research is to show how urban performance is related to the different indices of urban livability. In Hungary, the decision-makers and urban planners still have not recognized how the shrinking phenomenon has effects on cities and still expect continuous socio-economic urban development. In our research, the indicators can also be interpreted as measurements of the socio-physical and psychological livability and sustainability of urban spaces. Comparing these livability factors, specific objective indicators can also be examined at the psychological level, whereas until now they have only been used in analyses about urban performance.

Palavras-chave : urban performance, urban livability, small and medium-sized cities in Hungary, shrinking cities