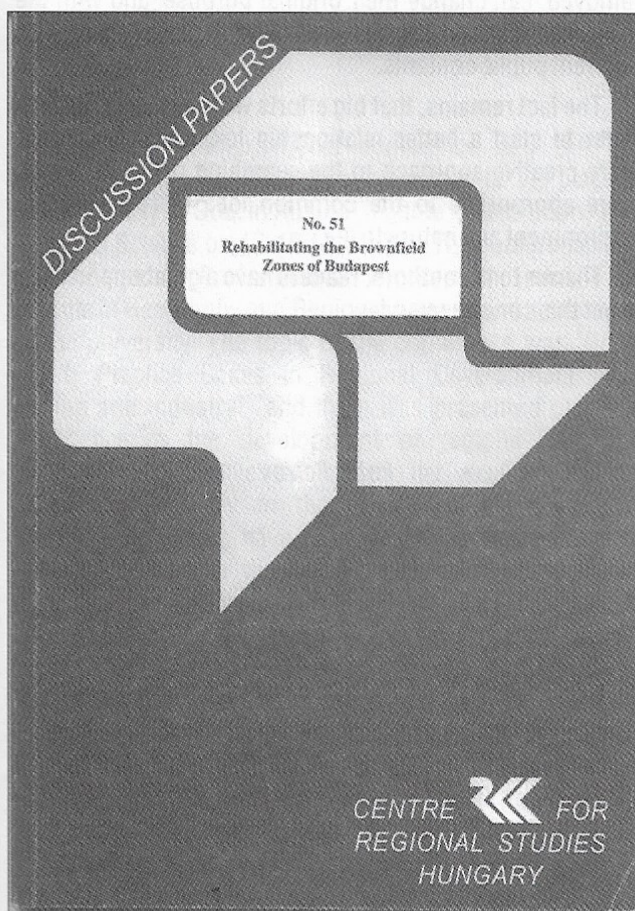




**CENTRE FOR REGIONAL STUDIES OF HUNGARIAN ACADEMY
OF SCIENCES : DISCUSSION PAPERS NO. 51**



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Rehabilitating the Brownfield Zones of Budapest

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Revitalization and rehabilitating the brownfields zones have become a very important topic, especially in those parts of Europe that have gone through the phase of socialism (communism). This paper about brownfields in Budapest, offers a new one and very useful viewpoint of certain redevelopment of those kinds of places inside the huge urban areas. Authors divided this paper into four subtitles maybe to emphasize the historical path of development of urban-planning problems, their defining, underlining, and recognizing the most important parts of those problems and their eventual solutions. This concise summary really helps us to understand where the problem is, concerning the urban and spatial planning, how and why it appears, and what to do to overcome it. This is exactly the right sort of contents that could be used as a pattern, solving the similar problems in similar urban areas.

Unavoidable part about historical heritage, in a very striking manner defines historical circumstances that are, less or more, responsible for the genesis of the brownfields in the very heart of the city. This positive way of thinking encourages the other European regions to think in the same way: yes, we do have similar problem, yes, we could solve it in the similar way.

Discussion paper brings precise data just to be understandable to all that are in some way involved into spatial planning but at the same time it says enough about possible economical aspects, which are oriented to every other who might be interested in work on economical solutions to the problem of brownfields. Authors are standing beside and are looking at the 'spontaneous changes in the functions', but also significantly participate in all events. They are observing positive features and consequences that actions are leaving behind.

This study opens a long list of questions. To be engaged in rehabilitating of the brownfields doesn't only mean the urban planer's task, and doesn't only consider the economical context, but also something that authors emphasized as a Cultural use or Preservation of industrial heritage. At any rate, in front of us is comprehensive study about the rehabilitation of the brownfields, which contains the parts about the rehabilitating of transport and road network as well as the parts about revitalization of the city communication directions. That means that the new vision of the modern European city changes in the way of thinking of the new generation of urban planers, which brings us useful facts about further city development. Simultaneously with the improving of life and work conditions of the inhabitants that live in those areas goes an ecological aspect of the treatment of the contaminated areas.

After reading of this study, it seems clear that we should work on implementation of the conversion and



rehabilitation principles by the help of all available means, not just to obtain profit, but also, what is more important, to humanize the brownfields. Budapest serves as an example, answering to many questions - where, why, how, and it should show the right way of redevelopment, to the other European cities especially in central, eastern, and south-eastern Europe. The wave of industrial development which collapsed at the end of the last century left many open questions that have to be answered by the teams of planners, civil engineers, economists, and authors proved that by this study. It looks like there is a lot of space for the way of living to be improved all over the cities with the high percentage of the brownfields, and in some of them that is the only way toward new development.

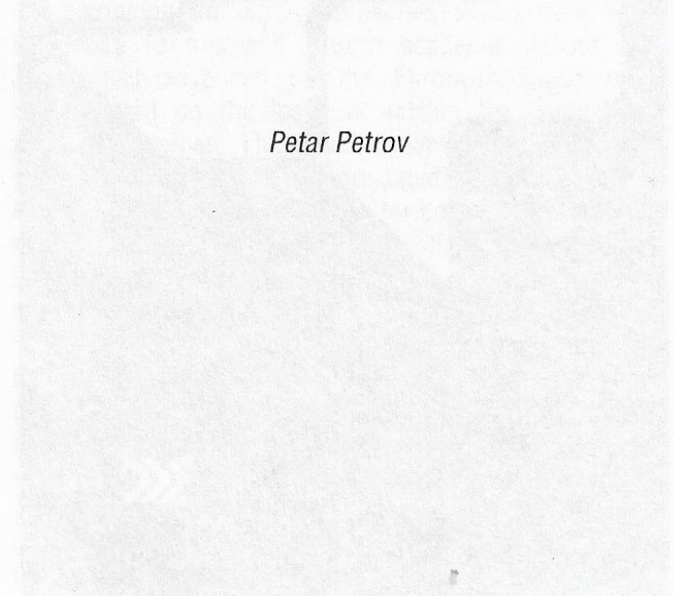
Reading this document we came to the next conclusion: Dislocation and revitalization of industrial plants from urban areas in order to improve the ecological conditions faces many difficulties, mostly economic ones. One of the realistic possibilities to reduce the problem of relocation to acceptable limits lies in the functional

transformation of unoccupied buildings and areas - conversion. This paper presents in detail the advantages of applying conversion. The experiences up to now show that the industrial buildings, from which technology has been removed, can change their original purpose, and with the aiming conversion can become multifunctional space with different public contents.

The fact remains, that big efforts will have to be made in order to start a better relationship town-industry, and a more creative approach to the searching of the solutions more appropriate to the common idea of restoring the environment and nature to life.

Thanks to the authors, readers have a great opportunity to get this concise overview.

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