

## POTENTIALS, CONSTRAINTS AND CONFLICTS BETWEEN KAZINCBARCIKA AND GYÖNGYÖS, A HUNGARIAN NEW AND HISTORICAL TOWN AND THEIR SURROUNDINGS

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During the socialist era, several new industrial towns have been planned around enormous investments throughout Hungary, becoming utterly privileged by the government's centralised redistribution system. After the politico-economic transition of 1990, however, these settlements faced serious challenges to be dealt with, both economically and in terms of their social structure.

The aim of the case studies with special emphasis on Kazincbarcika and Gyöngyös (as part of the entire research) is to present the most crucial changes concerning the potentials, constraints and conflicts, focusing on the similarities and differences between a typical historical town and the newly constructed (industrial) town.

In order to prepare interdisciplinary research, statistic data analyses and in-depth interviews have been carried out, and regional and urban planning documents were examined. Due to the emergence of the post-industrial era, the former roles and functions of the Hungarian urban network have undergone fundamental changes. Within the confines of my paper, I aim to shed light on the most important economic, social, and environmental changes, furthermore to evaluate the priorities appearing in recent spatial development documents, with a particular emphasis on their suggestions to resolve the aforementioned problem of the two town regions. Moreover, owing to the effects of the current financial crisis, it is essential to carry out profound comparisational analyses focusing on the shift of hierarchical roles and city functions. It is necessary to create future development prognoses, both for historical town (Gyöngyös), and for formerly socialist (now post-industrial) settlement (Kazincbarcika).

**Key words:** transition, post-industrial era, urban and regional development, future scenarios, conflicts, segregation

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