

BUILT HERITAGE IN THE LAND OF HAȚEG – RESULT OF THE HISTORIC EVOLUTION AND CONTEMPORARY URBAN PLANNING TOOL

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ABSTRACT – The Regional Geography papers, especially those dedicated to the “land”-type studies sequentially mention certain historical aspects, because historical evolution is treated largely as having a supportive role, far from becoming a component of interaction. This research aims to address the historical evolution of the Land of Hațeg in the light of the specific territorial elements and to provide evidence for using the built heritage as a tool for decision-makers. Methodologically, the research has implied the completion of three stages, each with its specific work methods (direct observation, mapping, chorematic analysis). The findings highlight the applicative and utilitarian character of historical studies in the land use planning documents.

Keywords: Land of Hațeg, historical monument, land use planning, chorem

INTRODUCTION

Over the last decades, the emphasis is increasingly being placed on interdisciplinarity, regardless of the type of study addressed. This is also the case of the Regional Geography papers, where the interrelations between various territorial components argue its functionality (Cocean, 2011). In addition, although historical studies have been regulated since the 1990’s as components of the urban planning documents, they are currently not mandatory. For this reason, they are often not included. They were left at the discretion of beneficiaries who considered they did not have much impact due to the fact that many of them contained only a brief history not related to other elements of a planning document. Bubulete Doina (2002, p. 7) argues that “[...] the only case where the approval of an urban planning document always requires a background historical study is when documents refer to protected areas or areas intended for the preservation of some places or monuments”.

A series of national legislative regulations refer to the legal framework of action for the conservation and restoration of built heritage. Among these, we should mention Decree no. 187 of 30 March 1990 for the approval of the Convention concerning the protection of world cultural and natural heritage, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, on 16 November 1972; Law no. 50/1991 authorizing the execution of construction works; Law no. 150/1997 on the ratification of the European Convention for the protection of archaeological heritage (revised); Law no. 157/1997 on the ratification of the Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe; Law no. 5/2000 concerning the approval of the National Land Use Plan – Section 3 – Protected areas; Law no. 350/2001 on spatial and urban planning as amended and supplemented by Law no. 289/2006; Law no. 422/2001 concerning the protection of historical monuments; Government Ordinance no. 43 of 30 January 2000 on the

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protection of archaeological heritage and the declaring certain archaeological sites as areas of particular national interest, etc.

If we consider the historical evolution of an area, it is theoretically agreed that a socio-historical context generates a spatial distribution of habitats and households, representative historical monuments of a community or separate administrative areas. When compiling Regional Geography works or urban planning documents, where the originality is given by their usefulness, the question arises whether and how the historical component can become an element that determines the optimal development of the other territorial components (physico-geographical, socio-economic, etc.).

METHODOLOGY

Objectives

The main purpose of the paper is to identify the impact of historical evolution on a given territory and how history can be used in urban planning documents, development plans, and development strategies. The objectives of this research focus on identifying the key historical events or phenomena affecting the evolution of the Land of Hațeg regional system, on digitizing the main historical monuments and their regionalization, and on proposing recommendations to leverage the existing historical potential by highlighting its essential aspects.

The study area

The Land of Hațeg regional system is one of the 18 Romanian “land”-type areas (Rom. “țară”), which are territorial entities with their own mental space (Cocean, 2011). This area is located in Hunedoara County, in the West Development Region and it includes 11 territorial administrative units: Hațeg, Baru, Totești, Pui, Densus, Sarmizegetusa, Sântămăria Orlea, Râu de Mori, General Berthelot, Răchitova, and Sălașu de Sus.

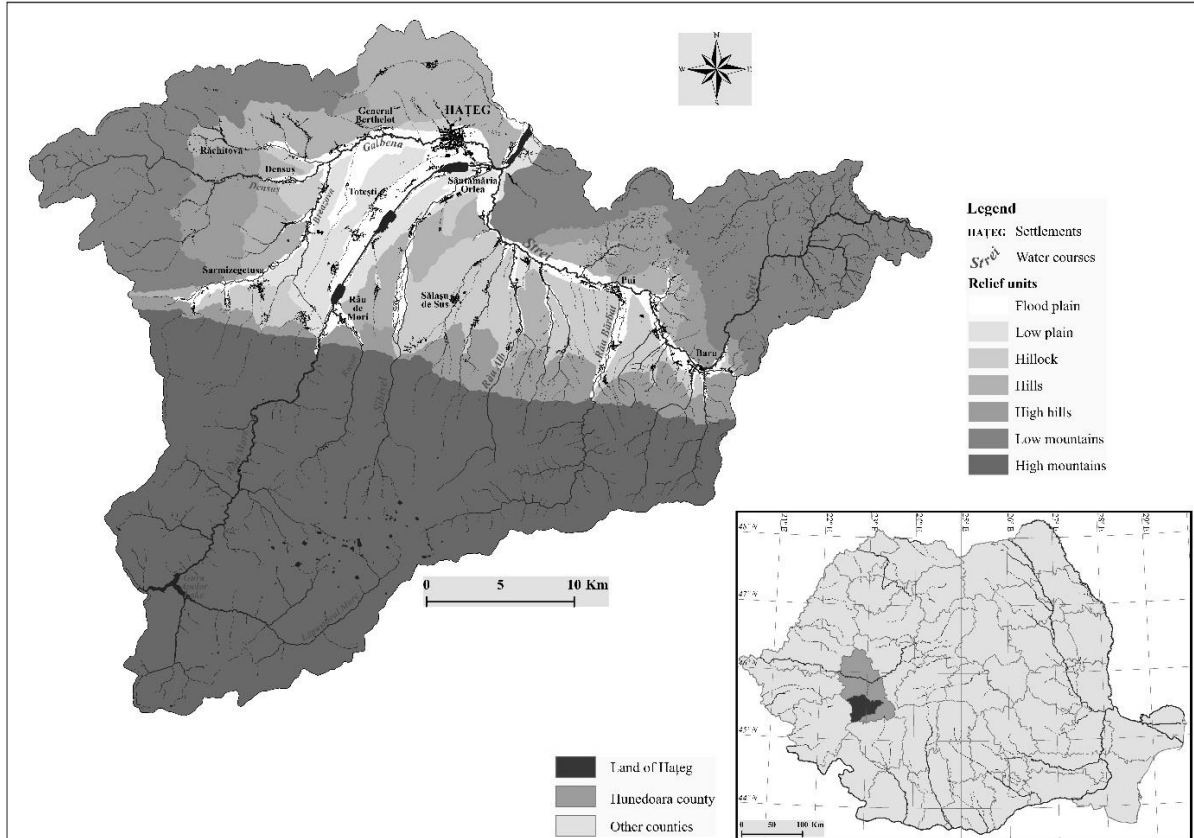


Figure 1. *The analyzed study area*

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Data collection and processing

In terms of methodology, the paper considers the completion of three steps: database creation, field documentation and writing the article, each stage individualized by different methods and techniques (Figure 2).

The analysis of the three topographical surveys of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Soviet military map, the topographic map of Romania, but also of some recent orthophotoplans (2005, 2013, 2015) enabled the vectorization of the historical monuments in the analyzed area, with a particular focus on their age and continuity, thus achieving the diagnostic analysis of the Land of Hațeg. The typology and regionalization of historical monuments in the area was carried out starting with the identification of the monuments in the List of Historical Monuments (2015) and the National Archaeological Record of Romania (2015) and continuing with field research, when their conservation status and degree of planning were carefully checked. We mention that, following the field research, a certain category of historical monuments (noble residential buildings) was identified in addition to the data available in the existing public collections database (21 noble residences of which only 8 were found listed in the List of Historical Monuments). In addition, real or possible routes were identified to leverage the existing historic sites.

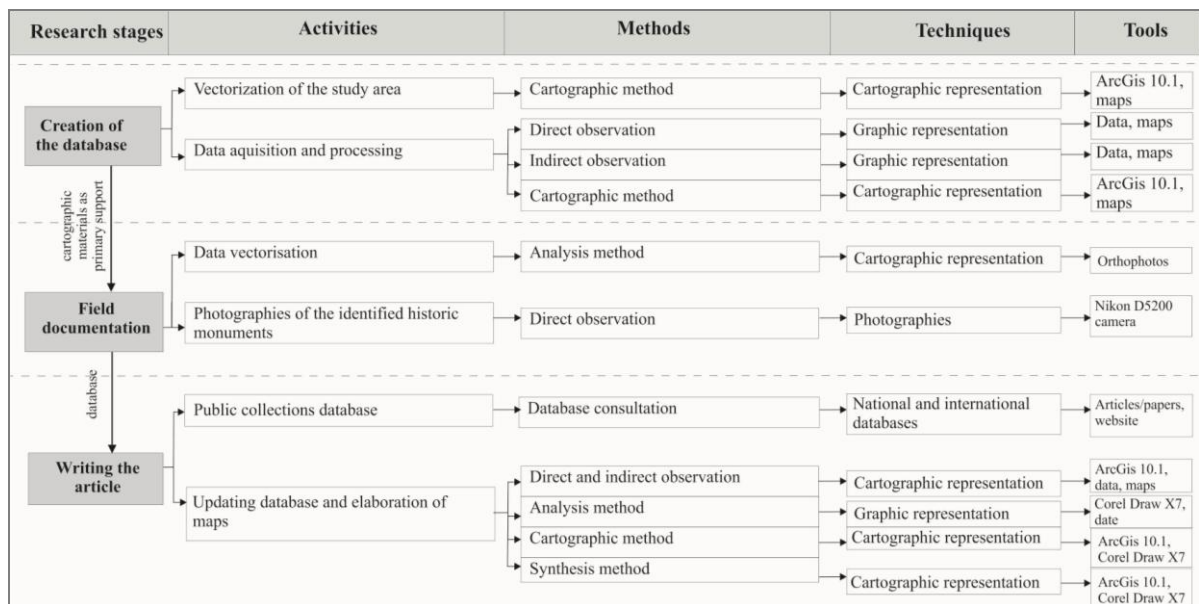


Figure 2. Methodological approach

The primary sources included two categories of data, on the one hand, cartographic data (the first Habsburg survey (scale 1:28 800), the second Habsburg survey (scale 1:25 000), the third Habsburg survey (scale 1:25 000), the map of Romania (scale 1:25 000), orthophotoplans (scale 1:5 000 for 2005, 2013, 2015) and, on the other hand, a series of historical data collected from public databases (the 2015 List of Historical Monuments, the 2015 National Archaeological Record of Romania, Ministry of Culture or the Atlas-Dictionary of Roman Dacia, Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, 2005).

The final data processing and the proposal of some historical tourist trails were carried out through chorematic analysis. The chorematic analysis proposed by Brunet (1980), continued and updated (Klippel, 2003; Groza *et al.*, 2008; Laurini *et al.*, 2009), suggests a recomposition of information in this diagnostic analysis, in geometric form, summarizing the achieved results.

DISCUSSIONS AND RESULTS

1. The historical periods with the highest impact on the evolution of the built heritage in the Land of Hațeg

By the nature of its specific events, any historical period imprints certain characteristics to a given territory. The historical component may be perceived in the Regional Geography papers as a component of interaction. By their age, architecture, building materials, the inventoried historical monuments reflect the existing socio-political context at a given time.

a). The prehistorical age reflected in proofs of human habitation in the Land of Hațeg

Whether we refer to archaeological finds from the caves in the Șureanu Mountains or to the habitation structures scattered along the Hațeg Depression that date back from the prehistoric age, we can speak with certainty of a considerable age of human habitation in the Land of Hațeg, which is associated to the continuity of the historical heritage inherited by the present generation. Information on the impact of this historical period was gathered from the National Archaeological Record of Romania (2015).

The first traces of human life in the area were discovered during the Middle Palaeolithic in the caves of Ohaba Ponor, Ponor (Piatra Poienii Cave), Federi (cave no. 2 at Coasta Vacii), with the first appearance of chipped stone tools. In the Upper Palaeolithic, other archaeological finds occur in the caves of the Șureanu Mountains, demonstrating the sedentary lifestyle of people.

The Neolithic age, by its three material cultures present in the area – Criș, Turdaș, Vinca – is defined by a dense and stable population, as demonstrated by the presence of settlements in Ohaba Ponor, Densuș (the settlement of Turdaș), Livezi (settlement at Livezi-Cetățuie), Crăgușiș (archaeological site), General Berthelot (Neolithic habitation of Unirea-Obreje), Vadu (the archaeological site of Vadu-Cimitir), Râu Alb, Suseni, Nălațvad, Hațeg, Hățăgel, Fărcădin, Săcel, Păcliaș, Ciopeia, Reea, Balomir, Sânpetru, Peștera, and Baru.

The Metal Age, illustrated by the archaeological finds from the Bronze and Iron (Hallstatt) Ages, highlights the more organized nature of pursuing agricultural activities by stock farming and use of technology for various types of crops. This is shown, on the one hand, by the archaeological remains of Sarmizegetusa, Peșteana, Silvașu de Jos, Sânpetru, Subcetate, Vadu, Reea, Ohaba de sub Piatră, Peștenița, Hățăgel, Baru, Ciopeia, Băiești, Ciula Mare, Slivașu de Sus, Hațeg, Hățăgel, Sânpetru, Rușor, Râu de Mori, Federi, Densuș, and Boița, specific to the Coțofeni, Wietenberg, Balta Sărată cultures. On the other hand, the emergence of ethno-linguistic background of the Thracian tribes is specific to the *Hallstatt culture*, proven by the fortified settlements from Subcetate, Densuș, Hațeg, Fărcădin, Sânpetru, Silvașu de Jos, Peștera, Balomir, and Păcliaș.

b). The Dacian-Roman period – foundation of Romanian ethnogenesis

With the most important military and religious Geto-Dacian centre in the proximity (North-East) and the capital of the newcomers, the Romans, in West of the Hațeg Depression, the Land of Hațeg represents the core of the Romanian ethnogenesis. The socio-economic activity in *La Tène* is proven by the finds from Ohaba Ponor, Livadia, Râu de Mori, Subcetate, Sarmizegetusa, Rușor, Băiești, Peșteana, Fizești, Pui, Clopotiva, and Baru (Popa, 1999, p. 207) in the form of settlements, viewpoints, mining sites belonging to the Thracian-Getic tribes.

First, the impact of the Dacian-Roman period should be considered within the territorial context, by referring to the Dacian fortresses in the Șureanu Mountains, traces of Dacian civilization being found in the age of the Dacian Kingdom (1st century BC – 2nd century AD), the leader of such a union of tribes being Burebista, with headquarters in the fortress of Costești-Cetățuie (Bara *et al.*, 2012, p. 90). After Burebista's death, its main collaborator, Deceneu, moved the political capital of the new state to Sarmizegetusa Regia (Grădiștii Hill), where the religious headquarters are also found. Due to the succession of many kings until Decebal, the territory did not develop, even if the area of the Dacian state ruled by Decebal was smaller than that of Burebista's state (Bara *et al.*, 2012, p. 93). Beyond the military conflicts with the Roman Empire (the battles of Tapae – the Iron Gates of Transylvania), the historiography records a development of the Sarmizegetusa area, ensured by the

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handicraft production (Glodariu *et al.*, 1996, p. 35), together with the construction of five fortresses (Costești-Cetățuie, Costești-Blidaru, Lunca-Piatra Roșie, Grădiștea Muncelului-Vârful lui Hulpe, Grădiștea Muncelului-Grădiștii Hill). Their value is recognized today by their inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

After the end of the second Dacian war, the Hațeg Depression was included in the Roman province of Dacia, as the Emperor Trajan founded the city *Colonia Ulpia Traiana Augusta Dacica Sarmizegetusa* (today Sarmizegetusa). The city had a *rural territorium* which “[...] at the beginning, stretched across the entire valley of the middle Mureș river and just north of this river up to the Apuseni Mountains and across a large part of Banat, from the Iron Gates of Transylvania to the Danube. Later, throughout the 2nd century and the beginning of the 3rd century AD, due to economic and demographic development, *territoria* of some autonomous cities (Apulum Ampelum, Dierna and Tibiscum) emerged from this vast space”. The population of the city was estimated at 20,000 inhabitants (Bărbulescu, 2005, p. 40).

The quality of life of people in the Roman period and the economic development of the settlements in Hațeg are confirmed also by the identification of approximately 70 business units of the farm type (*suburban villae*) on the territory of the following localities: Strei, Sântămăria Orlea, Orăștioara de Sus, Mănerău, Hobița, Ostrovu Mic, Hațeg, Clopotiva, Râu Mare, Râu de Mori, Peșteana, Peștenița, Densuș, Hățăgel, Tuștea, General Berthelot, Crăguș, Cârnești, Păclișa, Reea, Râu, Alb, Sânpetru, Valea Dâljii, Nălațvad, Silvașu de Jos, Ruși, Ciopeia, Râu Bărbat, Sălașu de Sus, Valea Lupului, Pui, Livadia, and Cârjiți (Bărbulescu, 2005, pp. 56-59; Bara *et al.*, 2012, pp. 131-136).

c. Individualization of the Hațeg district during the feudal period

The Middle Ages were marked by the royal and noble counties. The royal counties were institutions with a predominantly military role, which included the royal fortresses and the estates of the fortress. The first Transylvanian County was Alba County, which was divided into Turda, Hunedoara and Târnavă counties. In the 12th century, their place was taken by the noble counties. On the one hand, the Hungarian royalty tried to impose its own administrative institutions in the territory. On the other hand, this undertaking was hindered by the existence of territories inhabited by Romanian population who lived in peasant communities organized into principalities and districts. One of the districts that opposed the new structure of counties was the district of Hațeg. This was mentioned in documents in 1247, in the Diploma of the Knights of St. John as “*terra Harszoc*”. The historian Popa R. (1972), whose opinion was confirmed by Pascu Șt. (1971), believed that it was one of the four principalities, which, under the authority of Prince Litovoi, was part of a powerful Romanian principality (Bara *et al.*, 2012, pp. 150-151). The princely district was maintained until the end of the 14th century. With the appointment of John Hunyadi as prince of Transylvania, the burg of Hațeg, along with the fortress and several towns, were incorporated into the new institution, while the other localities in Hațeg were assigned to the estate of Hunedoara and Deva cities.

Historiography records the existence of several princely institutions, since not all princes had equal rights, as confirmed in the village and valley principalities. In this regard, we mention the principalities of Râu Mare, Densuș, Râu Bărbat, Râu Alb, Britonia, Sălașuri, Silvaș and Vadu (Bara *et al.*, 2012, pp. 154-164).

The territories inhabited by Romanians, also called districts by the authorities, were distinguished by churches and yards or by stone fortresses, built by local princes. Following the initiative of the Căndești family from Râu de Mori, donjons were also built by families of Sărăcin (Mălăiești) and Mușina (Răchitova), which constitute evidence of “[...] the integration of principalities into the provincial social structures” (Rusu, 2005, p. 273).

d. The 17th- 20th centuries reflected in the nobility heritage

The Land of Hațeg has a large number of edifices built by the members of noble families, less advertised as such at regional level, whether we speak only about the main building of the historic ensemble or we also include the annexes or historical gardens. The List of Historical Monuments in 2015 includes eight such historical assemblies/monuments in the study area, and following the

documentation in the field, other 14 manor houses were identified. The most representative families that have left behind residential buildings of the manor or castle type are the families of Nopça, Pogany, Kendeffy, Leszay, Nalatz. All these monuments are highly accessible, most having been returned to the descendants of the former owners and they are in an advanced state of decay.

e). Features of the built heritage in the socialist period

In the county of Hunedoara, similar to other regions in the country, the main economic branch in the socialist period was industry, especially the heavy industry. The exploitation of underground resources was carried out by upgrading the existing industrial facilities or by creating new industrial sections. The rapid progress of the mining industry in the Jiu Valley or that of the steel industry in Hunedoara and Călan was translated into attracting labour from neighbouring territories. As result, the settlements of the Land of Hațeg were polarized by the industrial centres outside the region. Regionally, industrial activity was reflected in the small industrial units in the town of Hațeg and in the refractory plant at Baru.

On the other hand, the socialist period involved also the loss of individual properties, collectivization of communes and elimination of noble properties. Most of the manor houses and castles in the Land of Hațeg became headquarters of agricultural production cooperatives, agricultural, health or education institutions. With the Land Reform and the expropriations (even the Cultural and National Heritage Department was dissolved in 1977!), legislative initiatives were designed after 1990 to regulate the interventions in the built heritage. The lack of their implementation and the uncertain and long-lasting situation of the restitution processes worsened the state of decay of this heritage.

2). Historical monuments - integral part of the built heritage in the Land of Hațeg

The age, architectural style, authenticity and originality are just some of the most important elements defining a historical monument. The processing of information collected in the field, associated with the spatial distribution of historical monuments enabled the outlining of a built heritage typology in the Land of Hațeg (Figures 3 and 4):

- the religious heritage includes ecclesiastical establishments throughout the region, predominantly in the communes of Sălașu de Sus, Sarmizegetusa, Râu de Mori, Densuș and the town of Hațeg;
- the secular heritage consists of fortresses, castles and manor houses - properties of some noble families, specific to the 13th – 19th centuries, to which households of particular architectural value in rural and urban areas are also added in the modern period;
- the archaeological heritage - the result of ancient Dacian-Roman era - is represented by 11 historical monuments ranked in the List of Historical Monuments, and it is specific to the area of Sarmizegetusa, Hațeg and Ohaba (Ohaba Ponor, Ohaba de sub Piatră).

Part of the existing historical monuments has a protected status acknowledged at national (34) and local (14) level, but there are also elements of heritage that are not yet inventoried (20). For the last category, the causes are the advanced state of decay that some of them are in, the ownership regime still remaining uncertain, most monuments being classified in the category of secular heritage, i.e. manor houses.

Following the diagnostic analysis of the built heritage in Hațeg, some dysfunctions can be noted:

- poor conservation of historical monuments in the territory, whether they have the status of historical monuments or not;
- poor accessibility to the elements of cultural and historical heritage, access often covered with vegetation, unmarked and poorly arranged;
- the lack of a marketing strategy in terms of promoting the historical heritage, since much of promotion is limited to the renowned historical sites in the region (Sarmizegetusa, Densuș);
- high costs and lack of initiative from the authorities or owners of historical monuments to restore the cultural heritage.

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The conservation degree of each monument, identified as result of the meticulous field research, reflects some particular situations:

- 13 historical monuments are in a good state, most of these included in the category of monuments of national interest (10), and regarded as paramount in terms of restoration, preservation or promotion investments. Most historical monuments in a better state of preservation belong to the ecclesiastical heritage, seconded by several local good practice models, such as a manor house in Galați or the newly renovated fortress of Mălăiești. Little attention is given to the archaeological remains; their age and historical importance is not currently a priority in terms of investment, as the main cause of being maintained in this state is the high cost of restoration and conservation works.
- 7 historical monuments in the Land of Hațeg are in a medium conservation state, mostly churches and only a few secular buildings;
- Most historical monuments are in an advanced state of decay, almost piles of rubble (19). The most affected are the archaeological sites (10 historical monuments), followed by the secular (5) and religious heritage buildings (4). We note in this case of advanced degradation that the national importance of most of these monuments is, unfortunately, not a priority for the restoration investment field.
- Other six historic buildings are in an average state of degradation, but at risk to get worse without concrete interventions to safeguard the historical monuments, most of them of national interest (4). The most affected buildings are the manor houses, as their conservation state was impacted by the dis-ownership during the socialist period and the replacement of their residential function with an agricultural or social one.

3). The built heritage of the Land of Hațeg – urban planning tool

At present, the Land of Hațeg uses little of the historical heritage, due to causes related to the high costs of restoration/reconstruction or to the advanced state of degradation of many historical monuments.

The valorisation of the built heritage is a goal for local and regional stakeholders. Identification of the existing historical monuments and their specific characteristics (age, functionality, state of conservation) presented in map format (Figures 3 and 4) is a tool that can be used in any urban and land use planning documents. According to the *Frame-content of urban planning documents*, in compliance with Law no. 350/2001 on spatial and urban planning, the Protected Areas section of different spatial plans (National Spatial Plan, Zonal Spatial Plan, County Spatial Plan), in the content of written and drawn parts, presents the legal provisions for the inclusion of the protected built heritage: historical monuments, with focus on the built heritage which is unprotected or affected by degradation, as well as some proposed measures to protect it.

Based on the diagnostic analysis of the built heritage in Hațeg, the valorisation degree of the historical potential has several forms. The only well-promoted historical complex is the archaeological site of Sarmizegetusa. The valorisation of historical monuments in the central study area is still in an incipient or medium phase. This area overlaps the central areas of the localities in the Hațeg Depression and the cave area in the Șureanu Mountains, where the age of humanization in the region is valued (Figure 5). The highest level of limitation in terms of conservation is found on the former industrial sites (Boița, Baru), listed as important elements of industrial heritage, but with no recognition in this regard.

If we consider the most representative historical periods with impact on the analyzed area, the recommendations for the valorisation of built heritage are focused on the ancient Dacian-Roman period, the Middle Ages, the modern and contemporary period.

The archaeological finds from Palaeolithic prove that the Șureanu Mountains area is an area where ancient traces of human civilization are highly valued as witnesses of the present civilization.

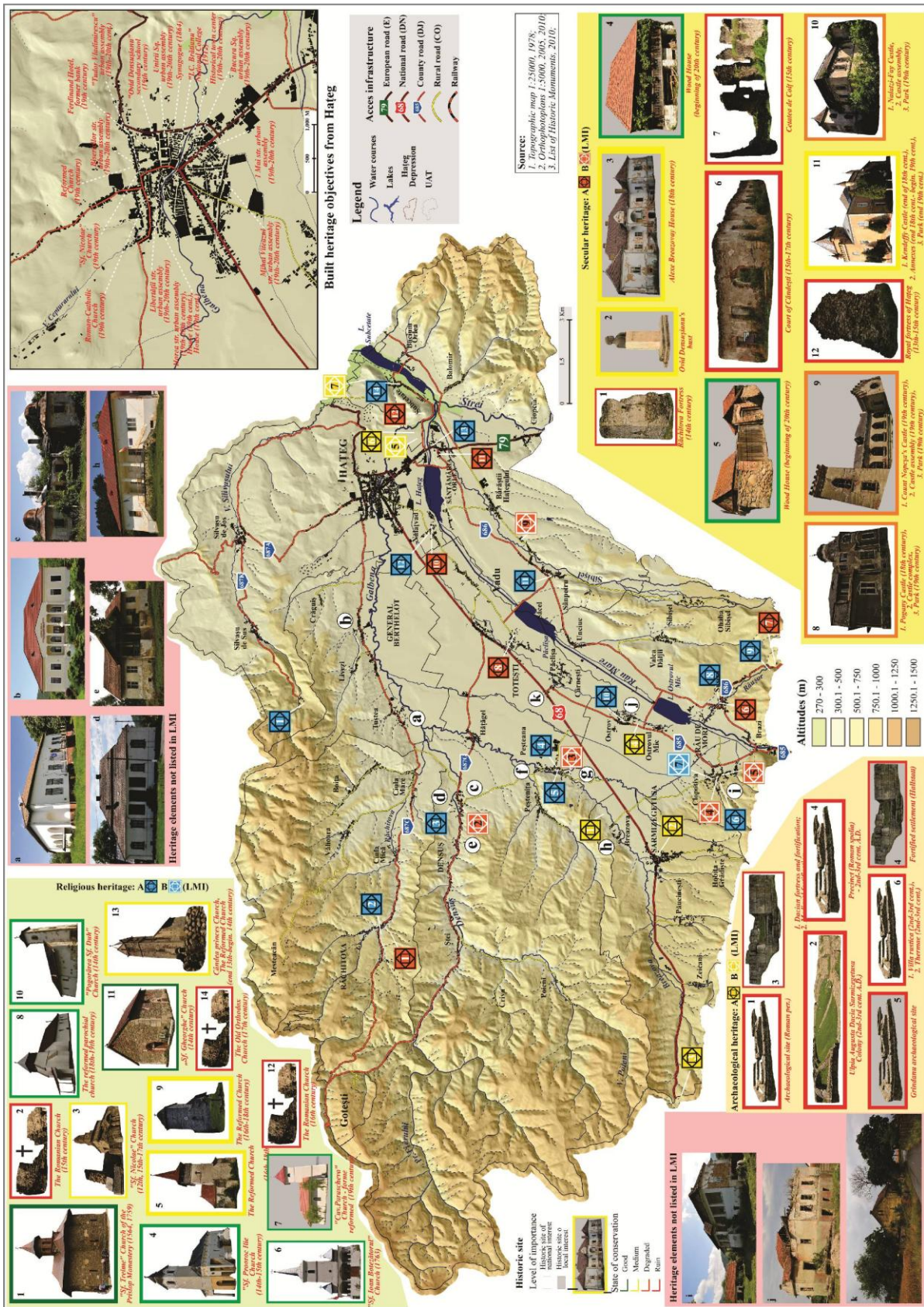


Figure 3. The built heritage in the Land of Hațeg – the western part

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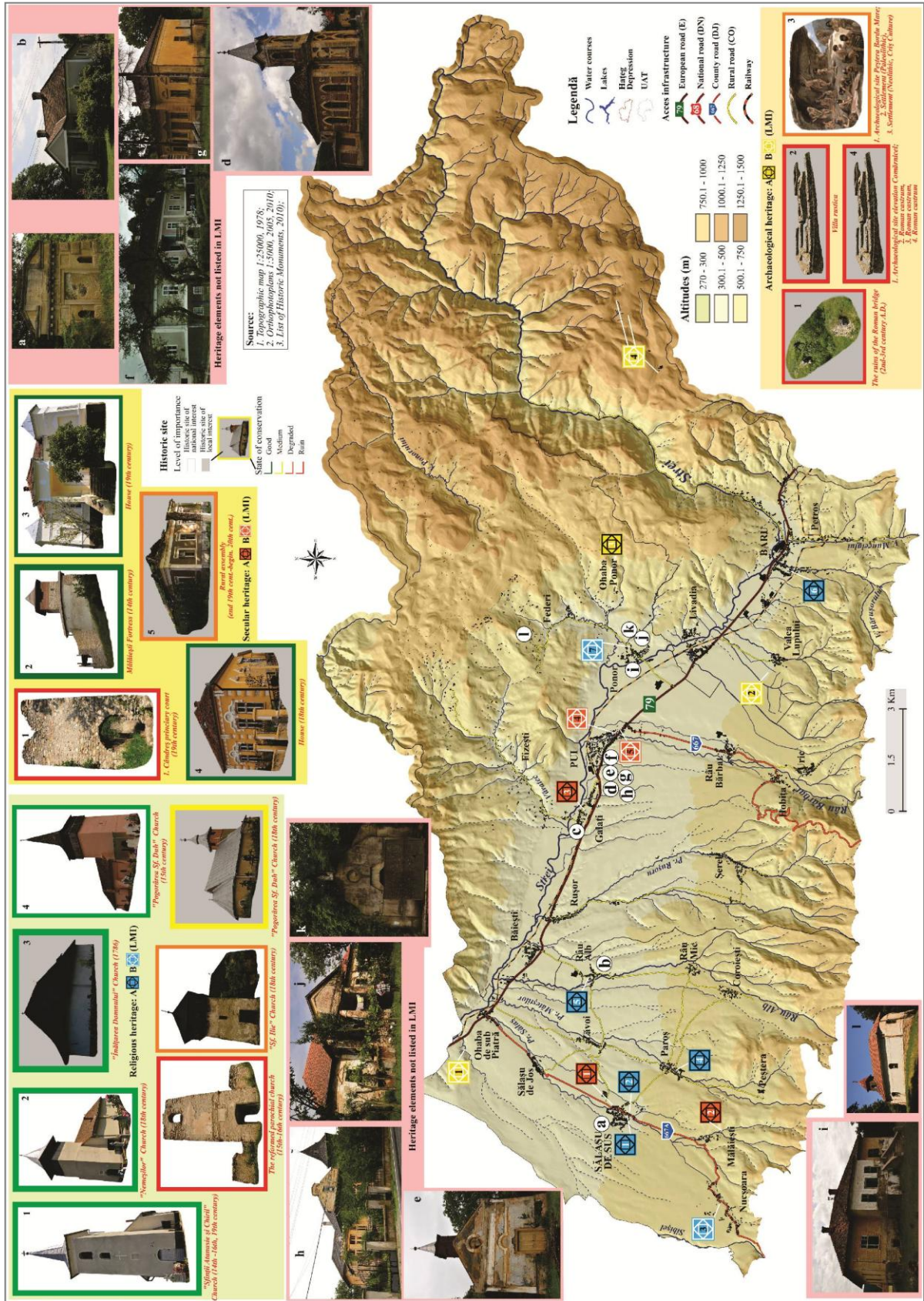


Figure 4. The built heritage in the Land of Hațeg – the eastern part

The remains of the Dacian-Roman period are scattered throughout the Hațeg Depression, most frequent in the Sarmizegetusa area, where the archaeological site is promoted and included in tours (still not used to its maximum capacity). The neighbouring area of the town of Hațeg or the village of Hobița comes next. The connection between these areas and the Dacian fortresses in the Orăștie Mountains is implicit in the context of providing visibility to the Land of Hațeg. The restoration/reconstruction works of some *rustic villae*, following the model of such buildings in other European countries, can add value, boosting the awareness on the Roman lifestyle.

The feudal period, by the stone fortifications (churches), fortresses and noble residences, is another historical period that can be better valorised in terms of tourism, Hațeg (the royal fortress of Hațeg), Râu de Mori (Cetatea de Colț), Sălașu de Sus (the noble court of Căndești) are only some of the relevant areas.

Another historical period, the socialist one, refers to the following economic objectives: the mine from Boița, the refractory bricks factory in Baru, the bauxite quarry in the Șureanu Mountains, which bring the valuable industrial heritage to tourists' attention. The pre-industrial facilities in the Râu Alb Valley, Rușor or Sibișel Valley add to the above-mentioned. To complete the picture of industrial heritage, the objectives of the area should be included in broader touristic circuits to valorise the industrial areas of the Jiu Valley- Petroșani, Hunedoara, Călan or Ținutul Pădurenilor (the Ghelari-Teliuc area).

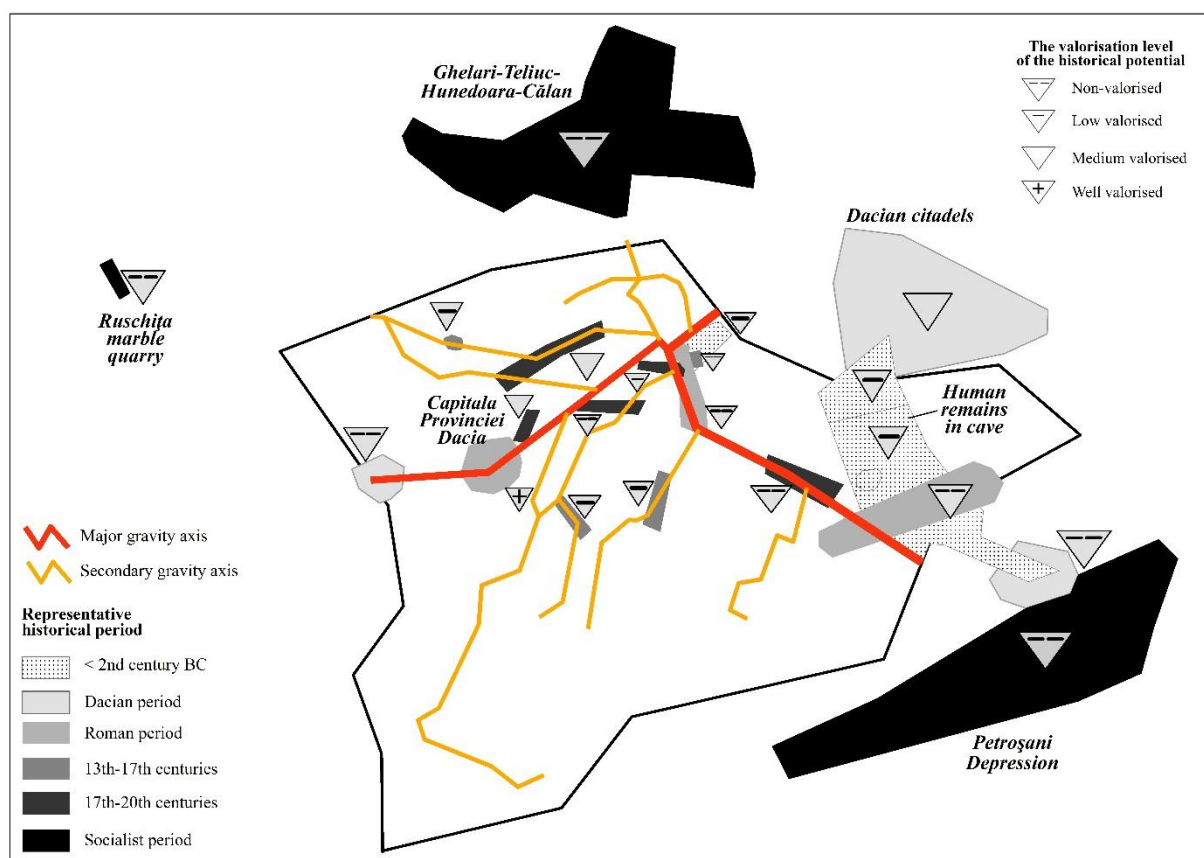


Figure 5. Valorisation of the historical heritage of the Land of Hațeg

CONCLUSIONS

Relating to history in a spatial planning paper is not new and it is regulated by law, but the perspective brings a touch of originality to the Land of Hațeg, proving the utility of graphs and their content, and the possibility of using them as a tool by decision makers.

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Among the ideas for the future development of the built heritage in the Land of Hațeg, we mention:

- conducting activities to popularize the importance of historical potential of a territory within the local communities, by involving young people (students) in campaigns/ archaeological sites, workshops/ creation camps on various aspects of the restoration, marking of historical trails, etc.;
- preserving the existing historical monuments, by keeping their historical monument statute, maintaining these buildings and ensuring public access to these buildings;
- encouraging the restoration/reconstruction works;
- establishing some protection areas for the existing historical monuments, according to the legal provisions relevant for the immovable property;
- integrating the historical sites in the region within the national or European network for the promotion of cultural historical routes and the creation of thematic tourist routes.

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