

## **ALBANIA'S URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND ITS PROBLEMS**

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### **ABSTRACT**

In Albania, without much experience and knowledge about “private ownership rights” and the importance of keeping records updated, people started to move freely from the mountainous interior and to settle illegally either close to urban areas or in the coastal zone. Free movement of people seeking employment and better living conditions is now considered a fundamental human right. Housing need in Albania was not characterized by “quantity”, but was rather an issue of “quality” and “location”. The Albanian government has considered four ways to address the informal development challenge, Demolition, Ignore the problem, Comprehensive spatial planning, Legalization. Albanian government now faces the difficult task of retrofitting infrastructure and providing citizen services, such as schools, transportation and hospitals, within these unstructured informal developments. Spatial planning is only in its embryonic form and is being applied to the defined informal development zones.