

The challenges facing Eastern and Central European cities in the beginning of the 21st century

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In the beginning of the new millennium, Eastern and Central European cities face two different sets of challenges in terms of sustainable urban development. The first set of challenges is global, affecting all cities in the world and the pressing need to address contemporary realities of climate change and natural resource depletion. The second set of challenges is related to the transition of Eastern European countries from socialist to post-socialist societies. These challenges are specific for the region, reflecting the legacy of the socialist past and the processes of sweeping economic, social, and political changes taking place in the former Eastern Block since the early 1990s. The presentation will discuss the conjunction of these two sets of sustainable development challenges.