

MIHAELA VRABETE

Personal details

Nationality	Romanian
Profession	Architect and Urban planner
Specialisation	Urban and spatial planning, urban management, local economic development
Position in company	Director of Development Planning and Design Dept., Halcrow Romania
Year of birth	1957
Years with company	3 years with Halcrow Romania, started January 2009

Key experience

- 25 years (1982-2004, 2009-2012) of urban and territorial planning,
- 13 years (1999-2012) in technical assistance and consulting in local, regional and territorial (sectoral and inter sectoral) development mainly with public sector, but also with private and community sectors,
- 10 years of working with and conducting international financed programs (designing and implementing programs of technical assistance, training, consulting) with Local Governments (MATRA, PHARE, USAID) as expert group and team leader
- 12 years (1993-2005) in academic sector, teaching urban development strategies, local and regional sustainable development, and
- 3 years (2005-2008) with Ministry of Development, Public Works and Housing, as minister's advisor in urban, regional and spatial planning, and general director of Strategies and Policies for Territorial Cohesion Directorate
- 3 years (2009-2012) with Halcrow Romania, initiating and structuring the Dept. of Design & Development Planning business in Romania

Main domains:

- Regional Development
 - Spatial development strategies and policies
 - Urban and Territorial Planning
 - Public Services management
 - Public Administration Management
 - Decentralisation
 - Institutional capacity building and development
 - EU financing programs (planning, applying, implementation management etc)
 - Local/Regional Development Strategies and Policies – working with local actors
 - Metropolitan development
 - Intercommunity Associations Development
 - Inner City Regeneration
 - Local Economic Development (strategies, policies, competitive poles, economic clusters, agro-industrial poles, institutionalization)
 - Public Private Community Partnerships
 - Citizens involvement in decision making process
 - Urban Environment, Local Agenda 21 development and related action plan implementation
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Education and professional status

- 1976-1982, Institute of Architecture and Urban Planning 'Ion Mincu', Bucharest, Romania - B.A. Architecture and Urban Planning
- 1994-1996, Postgraduate School of Urban Studies, Institute of Architecture and Urban Planning 'Ion Mincu' Bucharest, Dept. of Urban and Regional Planning, Course in Urban and Regional Planning - Postgraduate diploma in Urban and Regional Planning
- Sep-Dec 1997, Urban Management Center (Erasmus University and The Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies), The Netherlands - Postgraduate diploma in Urban Management
- Sep 2008, Doctoral studies on institutional reform in territorial strategic planning (sustainability, competitiveness and cohesion) in Romania, 'Babes-Bolyai' University

Language ability

Romanian – mother tongue
French – fluent
English - fluent

Experience record

2009-present

Halcrow Group Limited, Structuring, development and coordination of a new department in Development Planning and Design: department strategy, business planning, marketing, bidding, projects' management

October 2007 – January 2009

Romania, Bucharest, Ministry of Development, Public Works and Housing

General Director of General Directorate of Strategies and Policies for Territorial Cohesion

1. Coordination of reform in territorial planning which has seven components:

- Committing to the values regarding territorial cohesion, competitiveness and sustainable development and structuring the reform process in territorial planning
- Elaboration of the key, trigger document of the reform: Romania's 2030 Strategic concept of territorial development (RSCTD)
- Initiation of national stakeholders' partnership for consulting, finalizing and implementation of the RSCTD
- Designing and implementing the legislative reform in territorial planning
- Development of institutional and professional capacity in territorial planning
- Structuring the set of instruments that technically substantiate the decision in territorial development
- Facilitation and supporting the inter-institutional, inter-sectoral and territorial partnerships for implementing RSCTD

2. Ensuring the ministry's representation and contributions within the relevant Romanian and EU bodies, and at the adequate level, with regard to the territorial cohesion strategic documents, specific working groups activities, meetings:

- At national level, member of: Working Group of National Reform Program (Lisbon Strategy) 2008-2010; Working Group for preparation of Romania's inputs to future dossier of cohesion policy; Working Group for Territorial Cohesion; National Consulting Council of Romania's Sustainable Development Strategy
- At EU level, member of: Directors responsible with Territorial Cohesion informal meetings; Monitoring Committee of ESPON 2013 Program; Territorial Cohesion and Urban Matters Working Group; Network of National Territorial Cohesion Contact Points; Visegrad 4+2 Group.

October 2005 – October 2007 Romania, Bucharest, Ministry of Transportation, Constructions and Tourism, Ministry Delegate with Public Works and Territorial Planning, which became in April 2007 The Ministry of Development, Public Works and Housing

Personal Adviser of Minister, coordinator of Romania's Strategic Concept of Territorial Development – Romania 2030

Coordination of Project 'Strategic concept for national spatial development and EU accession' and the process of providing territorial cohesion to the National Development Plan 2007-2013; designing and implementing of the program for improving territorial planning services and facilitation of EU funds absorption based on strategic concept for territorial development

October 2006 – August 2007 Babes Bolyai University, Faculty of Geography

Coordination of Craiova Sustainable Development Strategy elaboration

March – Dec 2006

Romania, Bucharest, PADCO/Local Government Reform Program, USAID

Municipal Coordinator (TA for the Cities of Baia Mare and Cluj Napoca)

Coordination of the technical assistance and consulting activities implemented by the program with the two cities in the fields of: public finance management and project management, and developing training and implementing workshop for the elaboration of the City of Cluj Ring Road Project Action Plan

Mar 2005 – Mar 2006

Romania, Iasi, Iasi Metropolitan Association

Director, Iasi Metropolitan Development Agency

Conduct, design and implement the metropolitan development strategy and related programs (land development, public services, environment, economic development, housing, marketing) and projects, according to metropolitan partners interests and Metropolitan Council decisions, in cooperation with metropolitan partners (public services and infrastructure providers, public agencies, private sector, universities, NGOs, CCCs etc.)

Apr 2003 – Dec2004

Romania, Bucharest, Development Alternatives Incorporated

	Local Government Management Specialist, Local Government initiatives Unit, Coordinator of Iasi Metropolitan Area establishment project
	Designing the project, coordination and monitoring of the implementation process, providing technical assistance and integrated training program to Romanian Local Governments (metropolitan & public services development), with the LGM Unit, GRASP project/USAID
2001- Sep 2002	Romania, Bucharest/ The Institute Research Triangle International Program Manager – Local Economic Development Co-ordination of Local Economic Development component (local economic development strategies) with USAID project “Local Government Assistance Program – Romania”, implemented by RTI, North Carolina, USA
February-March 2000	USA, University of Minnesota, H.H.Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, Center for Nations in Transition,/Technical University, School of Postgraduate Studies, World Bank proj. no.123/1/1999, Center of Eco-Management Senior Lecturer Research stage in Urban Development Policies, for training purposes
2000-2001	Romania, Cluj, Groep Planning Bruges Brussels/ Flamish-Romanian Governmental Grant Consultant in urban planning Elaboration of the SWOT Analysis for Strategy for City of Cluj-Napoca Development
1999-2002	Romania, Cluj, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj, Faculty of Public Administration Senior Lecturer Teaching Urban and Regional Planning Course
1999-2001	Romania, Cluj, Technical University, Leonardo da Vinci RO/98/1/83549 “Continuous training systems in public-private partnerships for local economic development” Project coordinator Co-ordination of PHARE/ Leonardo da Vinci project implemented by Technical University, Cluj, Romania with The City Hall of Cluj and The Chamber of Commerce Industry and Agriculture of Cluj, HIS Rotterdam, University of Trento, Groep Planning Bruges, Brussels
1998 – 1999	Romania, Cluj, Sibiu, Sinaia/ Chemonix International – Romania

	Trainer
	Design and implement training for local officials in urban management, budget on programs, citizens participation
1998-1999	Romania, Cluj, Regional Training Center for Local Public Administration of Cluj
	Program Coordinator
	Training needs assessment, design and elaboration of training materials, coordination of training programs Teaching in Urban Management (Urban Policies and Strategies, Public Private Partnerships, Local Economic Development, Local Agenda 21, Citizens Participation)
1997-1999	Romania, Cluj, Regional Training Center for Local Public Administration, Project "Institutional Development and Training for Urban Management" – financed by the MATRA program of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (RomMatra 96/05)
	Trainer
	Design, elaboration of training materials, and teaching courses in Urban Management (Urban Policies and Strategies, Public Private Partnerships, Local Economic Development, Local Agenda 21, Citizens Participation)
1995 - present	Romania, Cluj, Technical University of Cluj, School of postgraduate studies and University of Minnesota, Hubert H. Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs, Center for Nations in Transition
	Senior Lecturer
	Design, elaboration of training materials, and teaching the modules of Environmental Legislation and Ethics, and Environment in Local and Regional Development, within the Eco-Management Program
1995 - 1999	Romania, Cluj, Babes-Bolyai University, Faculty of Geography
	Senior Lecturer
	Design elaboration and teaching of module Urban and Regional Planning
1993 – 2005	Romania, Cluj, Technical University of Cluj, Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning
	Senior Lecturer
	Designing and teaching of the modules of Urban Development Strategies and Urban Ecology
1992 - 2003	Romania, Cluj, Experiment Project Ltd
	Deputy director

Projects, research and consultancy reports for local government in Romania in the field of urban planning and urban management

1986 -1992

Romania, Cluj, Heavy Industrial Construction Design Institute

Architect designer

Elaboration of zone plans, civil and industrial architectural design

1982 – 1986

Romania, Alba Iulia, Design Institute of Alba County

Junior architect

Elaboration of master plans for localities in the county, architectural design

Projects – architecture, urban and spatial planning

Architecture design, urban and territorial planning experience, with Design Institute of County of Alba and Heavy Industrial Construction Design Institute (1982-1986)

Apartment buildings in Cities of Alba Iulia and Blaj

Restoration of Ampoi Castle, County of Alba

Urban Zonal Plans in Cities of Alba Iulia, Cugir, Blaj

Urban General Plans for Commune of Sugag, County of Alba

(1986-1992)

Industrial warehouses and premises for Hunedoara and Resita industrial areas

Industrial warehouses and premises for Krivoi Rog

Zonal plans for industrial areas

Architecture design, urban and territorial planning experience, with Experiment Project (1995)

Revitalization of historical buildings' facades, in the historical inner city area of City of Cluj-Napoca (str. Petre Maior, str. Memorandumului, str. Moșilor, str. Gh. Doja)

Private houses

(1996)

- Private houses
- Urban impact study: the ROMTELECOM Headquarters, City of Cluj-Napoca
- Urban Detailed Plan, str. Gârbău , Cart. Mănăștur , City of Cluj – Napoca
- Zonal Plan, Apuseni Mountains, Localities' Network development
- Cluj County Master Plan, sections: Localities' Network development and Transports Infrastructure

(1997)

- Cluj County Master Plan, section: Natural, economic, cultural potential and environmental protection – strategies and development scenarios
- Master Plan of Commune of Caseiu, County of Cluj
- Private houses
- Commercial floors

- Pensions

(1998)

- Master Plans of Communes of: Cuzdrioara, Baisoara, Ciurila, Poieni – County of Cluj
- Revitalization of historical buildings' facades, in the historical inner city area of City of Cluj-Napoca (Piața Ștefan cel Mare, Piața Mihai Viteazu, Piața Lucian Blaga)
- Urban impact study: insertion in the street E. Zola, historical inner city of Cluj-Napoca
- Assessment for substantiation of the Town Muntele Băișorii as tourist resort
- Mures County Master Plan – Territorial Assessment Phase

(1999)

- Urban impact study: insertion of a McDrive Restaurant in the inner city of Baia- Mare
- Mures County Master Plan – Territorial development strategy phase
- Mures County Master Plan – Territorial development measures plan phase

(2000-2003)

- Urban regulations for the Master Plans of the Communes of: Caseiu, Ciurila, Cuzdrioara, Poieni, Baisoara – County of Cluj

Development Strategies and Urban and territorial planning experience with Halcrow Romania

(2009-2012)

- Urban Integrated Development Plan of City of Drobeta Turnu Severin
- Urban Integrated Development Plan of City of Slobozia
- Urban Integrated Development Plan of City of Resita, and related projects' package
- Project for the Intervention Works Permit of 'Maria Center', City of Resita
- Urban Integrated Development Plan of City of Craiova
- Urban Integrated Development Plan of City of Bacau
- Master Plan of International Airport Area, City of Craiova
- Urban General Plan, City of Odorheiu Secuiesc
- Urban General Plan, City of Dumbraveni
- County Spatial Plan, Harghita
- County Spatial Plan, Gorj
- County Spatial Plan, Olt
- Sustainable Development Strategy 2020, City of Bacau
- Sustainable Development Strategy 2020, Intercommunity Development Association Alba Iulia
- Zonal Plan, Natural Protected Area of Insula Mica a Brailei
- Sustainable Development Strategy of City of Bistrita Nasaud, within the General Urban Plan
- Development Strategy, with Zonal Plan, Peri-urban Area of City of Braila

Training programs design and coordination

(1997-1999) Design and organize training programs for local officials, with Regional Training Center for Local Elected and Appointed Officials Cluj and Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies Rotterdam/Bucharest, within MATRA Program, in following topics:

- Local Agenda 21
- Local Government roles in urban policies development and implementation
- Municipal Finances
- The role of NGOs in decision making process
- Urban development strategies and projects
- PPP in local economic development

(1997) Ecological rehabilitation in Cheile Turzii, training design and manual for workshop with the 4 LGUs, Cheile Turzii, with Urban Planner Association of Cluj, within OSF ecological program (co-author);

(1998-1999) Training activities, Regional Training Center for Local Elected and Appointed Officials, Cluj, in :

- Urban Management
- Local development policies

(1999) Training activities for local officials, in co-operation with the Chemonix International – Romania and the Regional Training Centers in:

- Urban Management
- Budget on Programs
- Citizens Participation in Urban Development

(1999-2001) Coordinator of training activities within the Project 'Continuous Training in Public-Private Partnership for Local Economic Development' (Leonardo Da Vinci Program, PHARE), for City Hall of Cluj

(2000) Training in Urban Environmental Policies and LED for the staff of Agency of Environmental Protection, within the World Bank project no.123/1/1999

(2001) Elaboration of design and training materials in Public Private Partnership with the Local Council and executive staff of City Hall of Pitesti, June 2001, within USAID-LGA Program, with Research Triangle Institute

(2002) Training design and coordination in Local Economic Development component, within LGI Program, with City Halls of Pitesti, Ploiesti, Brasov, Mangalia and Targu Mures.

- Indicators of local sustainable development
- Development Strategies
- Local Economic Development
- Urban Marketing
- Citizens participation

(2003) Elaboration of training design and materials, training in Project Management with LEADERS International Summer School, LEADERS Romania

(2003-2004) Elaboration, coordination and implementation of integrated training program within the project 'Partnerships in Metropolitan Development – Iasi' (mayors, specialists within local governments, public services representatives, private sector representatives, universities, NGOs, citizens), with GRASP Program, Iasi

- Metropolitan development
- Strategic/spatial/financial planning
- Public services development
- Metropolitan development indicators
- Citizens participation
- Metropolitan institutionalization

(2004, 2007) Elaboration of design and implementation of training module in Public Services Development, Youth Professional Program, National Institute of Public Administration, Bucharest

(2007) Elaboration of the Module design 'Municipal Corporate Planning' within the Exchange Municipal Training Courses Program, Project no. PT 814, Louis Berger SAS and Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities, Serbia

(2007-2008) – Develop training program design for local authorities as part of the Strategic Concept of Spatial Development of Romania implementation process

(2010-2011) – Urban development strategy, with the projects regarding Sustainable Development Strategy 2020 of the City of Bacau

(2010-2011) – Urban development strategy, with the projects regarding Sustainable Development Strategy 2020 of the Intercommunity Development Association Alba Iulia

Other Courses attended

Development of Environmental Curricula in Universities, with the Environmental Training Project for Central and Eastern Europe – USA (Sinaia, Romania), March 1995

Development and Preservation of Identity, with the International Development Institute for Organization and Management – USA and the Foundation for Local Development and Public Services (workshop, Constanta, Romania), October 1995

Political Economy of the Environment, with the University 'Politehnica', UNESCO Chair and World Bank (training of trainers, Bucharest, Romania), June 1996

Interactive Teaching Methods for Adults, with the Environmental Training Project for Central and Eastern Europe- USA, and Technical University of Cluj (Cluj-Napoca, Romania), September 1996

Training of Trainers in Budgets on Programs, with Chemonix International, Sinaia, Romania, March 1999

Training of Trainers in Citizen Participation, with Chemonix International, Sinaia, Romania, May 1999

Urban Management Course, Urban and City Management, World Bank, LGI, Budapest, Hungary, June-August 2001

Urban Economic Development Program, The College of Galilee, MASHAV Program, Israel, February 2003

Real Estate Valuation Course, with Romanian Real Estate Valuers Association, Bucharest, November 2004 – March 2005

Microeconomics of Competitiveness, TOT, Harvard Business School, USA, December 2007

Project Management Course, with Regional Center of Training for Local Public officials, Bucharest (Project Manager, Certificate for Professional Competency), June 2009

Expert in accessing structural and cohesion funds, S.C. INTRATEST S.R.L., Bucharest, February 2010

Publications

Articles

Vrabete M., Significance of the Orthodox Sacred Space, The Contemporary cultural newspaper, March, 1992;

Vrabete M., The Role of Professional Associations in Local Development, Symposium with The League for European Integration, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, May, 1996;

Vrabete M., Revitalization of the Public Spaces in the Urban Housing Areas, Congress in Housing, Leipzig, Germany, March, 1996;

Vrabete M., Valuation of county potential - strategic approach (County of Cluj case), in Rural Space and Regional Development, 1999, ISBN 973-988-37-2-9, Publishing House Studia, Cluj, 1999;

Vrabete M., The street image in the inner-city/ Sketch for a case study, International Seminar

'Partnership for competitive cities', The ROMMATRA Program, Sinaia, September, 1998;

Vrabete M., Inner City Revitalization - inter-institutional involvement, the Symposium 'The University and the Historical City', Cluj-Napoca, 22-25 April, 1999;

Vrabete M., Planning urban strategic development and urban marketing, The Local Governments Journal 'Transilvania', Brasov, September 2002;

Vrabete M., The city development and business opportunities, The Journal Economic Tribune of Local Governments, Bucharest, November 2002

Vrabete M., Partnerships in Metropolitan Development, Urban and Territorial Planning Journal of Romanian Association of County Chief Architects, No 4-5-6, November 2003

Vrabete M., Iasi Metropolitan Area – Strategic development approaching, Urban and Territorial Planning Journal of Romanian Association of County Chief Architects, No 1-2-3, September 2004

Papers and Publications

Vrabete M., Module of Urban and Regional Sustainable Development, Technical University of Cluj, School of postgraduate studies, and University of Minnesota, Hubert H. Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs, Center for Nations in Transition;

Vrabete M., Local Development Agency, case study for the Regional Center of Continuous Training for Appointed and Elected Officials in Local Administration, ROMMATRA Program, 1999;

Vrabete M., Inner City Rehabilitation, handout for the Regional Center of Continuous Training for Appointed and Elected Officials in Local Administration, ROMMATRA Program, 1999;

Vrabete M., Training manual in 'Public-Private Partnerships for Local Economic Development', LED-COOP, Leonardo da Vinci Program, ISBN 973-9471-94-3, Technical University Publishing House, 2001;

Vrabete M., Albu I., Investors' Guide of City of Cluj, LED-COOP, Leonardo da Vinci Program, ISBN 973-9471-94-3, Technical University Publishing House, 2001;

Vrabete M., Muresan M., Revitalization Guide for City of Cluj, LED-COOP, Leonardo Da Vinci Program, ISBN 973-9471-94-3, Technical University Publishing House, 2001;

Vrabete M., 'Continuous Training Systems in Public-Private Partnerships for Local Economic Development', project brochure, LED-COOP, Leonardo Da Vinci Program, ISBN 973-9471-94-3, Technical University Publishing House, 2001;

Vrabete M., 'I care about Cluj', educational brochure, LED-COOP, Leonardo Da Vinci Program, ISBN 973-9471-94-3, Technical University Publishing House, 2001;

Vrabete M., 2 promotional movies about The Inner City/ inner courtyards potential in economic development, LED-COOP, Leonardo Da Vinci Program, 2001;

Vrabete M., SWOT Analysis for Strategy for City of Cluj-Napoca Development – Proposal, Flamish-Romanian Governmental Grant, as Romanian consultant of Groep Planning Bruges-Brussels;

Vrabete M., Options Paper in approaching Local Economic Development in Romania, the LGA USAID-RTI Program, for 2002-2007, May 2002, www.lga.ro

Vrabete M., Urban Marketing Program Proceedings, Training manuals in Urban Marketing, and related documents, the LGA USAID-RTI Program, www.lga.ro

Vrabete M., Documents developed for the Metropolitan Area of Iasi web site, with GRASP Program, Sep 2004, <http://grasp.ro>, www.zmi.ro

Vrabete M., Partnerships for Metropolitan Development, the case of Iasi – www.grasp.ro, ISBN 973-7714-16-4, AFIR Publishing House, December, Bucharest

Vrabete M., The brochures presenting Iasi Metropolitan Area, for the 2004 and 2005 editions of Metropolitan Projects Fair

Vrabete M., Iacob L., Ionita Gh., Short assessment of Romanian Urban regeneration services Market, under Iasi Metropolitan Development Agency, paper developed for UK Embassy in Bucharest, Dept. of Trade Development, May 2005

Vrabete M., Metropolitan sustainable development, the case of Iasi, ISBN (10)-973-662-266-5, Series of Publications of The Eco-Management Center, Studies and Research, by UTPress, Cluj Napoca, 2006

Vrabete M., Reports and presentations of Romania's 2030 Strategic concept for territorial development (within various events and meetings with national stakeholders, between 2006 and 2008, according to the document progress)