

# Urban Environment and Perished Populations in Chişinău, Chernivtsi, L'viv, and Wrocław: Historical Background and Memories Versus City Planning and Future Perspectives

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***Abstract:** The four cities examined in this article—L'viv, Chernivtsi, Chişinău, and Wrocław—were all transformed in manifold ways by World War II. Many of the residents of these cities were either killed or subject to forced migration beyond the new national borders as a result of the war. New people settled in the city environment which still bore the traces of the earlier population and the earlier urban life that had been brutally put to an end. This article summarizes the findings of a research project investigating changes in the urban environment in these cities during and after World War II, and the post-war knowledge and attitudes concerning the built heritage, especially in urban planning and development. Each of the four cities is examined in the following four frames: (1) the interwar urban environment in its historical context; (2) the events during and after World War II; (3) urban planning and treatment of pre-war heritage in the post-war socialist period; and (4) the handling of memories and cultural heritage in urban development and planning in the post-socialist era. The article ends with comparisons between the four cities.*