

## EVALUATING THE TRANSBORDER URBAN-CLUSTER ALTERNATIVES SUITABLE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT OF MONGOLIA

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**Abstract:** Mongolia is a country with a large territory, has abundant natural resources, is located between the two great powers, Russia and China. For this reason, a transborder urban cluster can be a significant tool to support agriculture, tourism, trade, and further education, health, and transport sectors. Within the framework of this research, we aim to identify key concepts of a transborder urban cluster, which are suitable for Mongolian conditions, and make qualitative, quantitative, and spatial analysis on this cluster by the means of certain criteria and Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP). We selected eight transborder urban cluster alternatives connecting four with Russia and four with China. Compared to other alternatives, the Ulan-Ude-Sukhbaatar urban cluster has the lowest distances between the two cities, free economic zones, transit of international border crossings, and good transport conditions; therefore, the cluster received the highest score in this study.

**Keywords:** Transborder Urban cluster, AHP method, Regional development, Economic corridor