

Bundesamt
für Bauwesen und
Raumordnung

Federal Office
for Building and
Regional Planning

RESEARCH NEWS

You never leave completely...

On 9 November 1981, Wendelin Strubelt became the head of the former Federal Research Institute for Regional Geography and Regional Planning, BfLR. Today, in December 2008, after having been devoted to spatial research in a non-university institution for 27 years, he, the Vice-President and Professor, says good-bye to the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning, the BBR, leaving into the well-earned retirement.

The ambivalence of the BfLR or the scientific branch of the BBR respectively, its institutional reality between think tank and back office of the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs has also influenced his work. Nevertheless, it was always of central concern to Wendelin Strubelt to maintain and enlarge the scientific identity of the BBR. The fact that the scientific branch of the BBR so far could regard itself as belonging to the accepted research institutes of the Federal Government is also due to him. It was furthermore important to him to stabilise the position of the scientific branch on the European and international level through continuous research activities.

Looking for and maintaining international contacts as well as enlarging cooperation has always been a main concern to Wendelin Strubelt. Long before the fall of the Iron Curtain, he has therefore searched for contacts with spatial research institutes in the former GDR, in Poland, Hungary and the CSSR, which later have been very useful. His permanent efforts to integrate the BfLR/BBR into European research networks like ESPON, in which he was significantly and successfully involved over many years, also

have to be emphasised. Finally, he always strived to involve German experiences in tackling transformation processes in international exchange and learning processes. He thus tried for establishing a rather continuous relationship to the KRIHS/South Korea – including making attempts to create an opportunity for exchange to Northern and Southern Korean scientists in Germany even if these contacts finally failed through adverse conditions.

Wendelin Strubelt always set the course for the future, last but not least for a successful future of our office as an internationally accepted research institute aiming at keeping the balance between science and service orientation. For this and for a time of fruitful cooperation we would like to thank him.

In the future as well, the BBR will be required to respond to new issues, situations and requirements in terms of policy advice. Urban and spatial development policy will be required to respond to the future, to develop concepts, measures and instruments to implement a sustainable urban and spatial development in Germany, Europe and worldwide. As these policy areas are very important for the living conditions of the population, for the environment and the development opportunities of cities and regions, a qualified scientific policy advice is especially important here. Thanks to the endeavours of Wendelin Strubelt, we feel ready to face these challenges.

On behalf of all internationally oriented colleagues in the BBR

Hans-Peter Gatzweiler
Karl Peter Schön

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euregia 2008: BBR events were in the centre of attraction



The Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) and the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs (BMVBS) were once again prominently represented at this year's euregia – a specialist trade fair and congress on “Local and Regional Development in Europe”. During the fair, which took place on 27–29 October 2008 in Leipzig, the BBR was represented with an own stand where the interested specialist public could inform about current projects of the scientific part of the BBR and about its publications. More

than 2,200 visitors from home and abroad used the trade fair and congress this year for the technical exchange and to inform about urban and regional development trends.

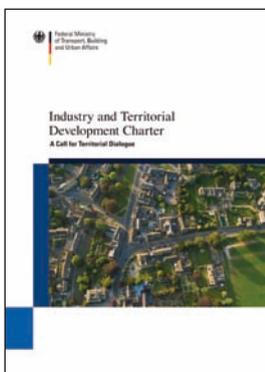
In the context of the congress, the BBR was represented with three special events on the following subjects:

- “Supraregional partnerships – innovative projects to promote cooperation among city regions, networking and to share responsibility over a large area”
- “JESSICA and urban development funds”
- “Transnational cooperation: effects, strategical projects and support in the context of the Federal programme”

The euregia started with the BMVBS conference “Industry and Territorial Development”.

The four subjects demonstrate important focal points of the spatial and urban development policy in Germany more deeply treated in different research programmes of BMVBS and BBR. The events gave the interested specialist public the opportunity to inform about current results of these projects and to discuss them. All four events were in the centre of attraction and very well frequented. The following four articles in this issue provide information on the four projects and events.

Conference “Industry and Territorial Development” adopts charter for a territorial dialogue



The Charter can be ordered at buergerinfo@BMVBS.bund.de

During the international conference “Industry and Territorial Development” on 27 October 2008 in Leipzig, high-ranking representatives of the business and political sectors discussed the chances and opportunities for a future successful development of the European territory which might arise from their close cooperation. The approaches for this new form of cooperation are provided by the objectives of the European territorial development policy laid down in the Territorial Agenda of the European Union (TAEU).

At the conference, the business representatives and the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs, during the conference represented by

Parliamentary Secretary Dr.-Ing. Lütke-Daldrup, emphasised their appeal for more cooperation in adopting the „Industry and Territorial Development Charter: A Call for Territorial Dialogue“.

The territorial dialogue is aimed at establishing a continuous exchange between companies and regions and at developing ways to reformulate planning and legal framework conditions to facilitate the economic commitment. It also reflects the willingness of the business sector for a stronger regional commitment in times of growing globalisation. The territorial dialogue offers the chance to politicians to get an idea of the businesses' expectations towards a modern administration.

Around 30 companies and the BMVBS jointly drew up the „Industry and Territorial Development Charter: A Call for Territorial Dialogue“ in the course of a moderated discussion process. They argue for the territorial dialogue to be established as a new cooperation form for taking political decisions, which have an considerable impact on the spatial development of regions in Europe and on the economic framework conditions of businesses. The businesses consider the priorities of the dialogue to be in the fields of mobility, settlement development, networking and economically oriented research.

- Thus, with regard to the mobility industry, the Charter highlights the area of conflict between the necessity to expand transport networks and efforts to reduce harmful substance emissions. The Charter appeals to the regions to closely involve the mobility industry in the further planning of infrastructure projects so that they might use the knowledge of enterprises about existing tendencies and needs for their projects. At the same time, the Charter calls on entrepreneurs and politicians to make joint efforts to reduce CO₂ emissions.
- In the field of the settlement development, the Charter encourages both cities and municipalities to better cooperate with each other and with their local businesses. The Charter appeals to all stakeholders involved to add cooperative elements to existing steering instruments. Furthermore, the Charter reveals potentials for the optimisation of regional cooperation by reducing the duration of planning and permit procedures and by streamlining regulations for the award of public contracts. Additional incentives for energy-efficient building are also to be created, for example by preferring investors of energy-efficient building projects when selling public properties.
- The territorial cohesion is largely dependent on the connection of regions to efficient energy and telecommunication networks. Especially with regard to rural areas the Charter highlights the chances which might arise from a mixture of standard and alternative technologies. Especially in rural areas, telecommunication and IT-based learning opportunities might be of special importance in order to ensure modern learning opportunities. In the



Source:
Leipziger Messe, 2008

field of energy production, the Charter calls for streamlining planning and permit procedures especially to promote the expansion of bioenergy plants and of the offshore wind energy use. Finally, it appeals to businesses and regions to develop joint solutions to develop intelligent energy networks contributing to minimising the energy consumption and to avoiding energy shortages.

- Researching businesses are especially dependent on the exchange with universities. The Charter therefore encourages to promote the integration of public research institutions when building up information networks between businesses and regions. For the industry, environmental standards are a considerable location factor. In order to avoid distortions of competition, the Charter appeals for implementing and applying such standards consistently in all parts of Europe. It encourages the regions and their local businesses to make joint agreements on the implementation of European climate protection goals.

The signatories of the Charter appeal for continuing the territorial dialogue. They argue for testing the cooperation models proposed in the Charter in the context of model projects. In a current research project a concept will be developed how these cooperation models be tested and implemented in model projects.

The Charter primarily addresses regions as well as other businesses, which have so far not participated in the dialogue. The aim is to encourage them as well to participate in the exchange and to give them incentives for concrete measures of cooperation.

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JESSICA and urban development funds in Germany

JESSICA – Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas – is a joint initiative of the European Commission and the European Investment Bank (EIB). The JESSICA initiative is supposed to improve the general conditions for investments in a sustainable urban development.

Member states have the chance to convert a part of the EU subsidies from the Structural Funds into revolving instruments such as equity capital, loans or guarantees in order to finance projects generating yields on the one hand and on the other hand being an inherent part of integrated urban development plans.

JESSICA's aim is to counteract a market failure regarding targeted investments in a sustainable urban development with new financial instruments. The initiative concentrates on projects and investments in depressed urban neighbourhoods which give impetus to urban development but, due to their high risks, cannot be solely implemented by the private industry.

Urban development funds are to support the financing of these projects. An urban development fund is a fund investing in public-private partnerships and other projects being part of an integrated urban development plan. Urban development funds can be established at the national, regional or local level thus meeting the concerns of integrated urban development plans and the investors' interests.

Advantages of JESSICA or urban development funds

- Urban development funds enable key investments in depressed urban areas, which, due to the high risk, cannot be solely made by private investors.
- With JESSICA it is possible to reuse ERDF funds if urban development funds invest all their resources in projects eligible for funding before the Structural Funding period expires (2013+2 years, i.e. by the end of 2015). Yields or earnings from these investments can either be kept by the fund or be reused for funding purposes or be returned to the managing authorities to support new urban development projects.
- By using adequate strategies of spreading the risk between public and private investors, additional private capital

can be directed to urban development investments in using Structural Funds.

- JESSICA improves the flexibility in using ERDF funds. This is true with regard to the fact that more expenses are eligible and that JESSICA funds may be provided in the form of equity capital, loans or guarantees.
- JESSICA will generate financial instruments to promote long-term urban development investments which again supports the growth of markets for investments in sustainable urban development.

On 28 October 2008, the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) presented the development work on urban development funds in Germany at a joint conference during the euregia in Leipzig and gave further impetus to the exchange between practitioners in the financial and urban development sectors.

After the European Investment Bank had presented the JESSICA initiative and the state of implementation in the EU member states, the BBR introduced the research project "Urban development funds in Germany". The project aims at developing initial urban development funds together with the Federal states of Brandenburg, Hamburg, North-Rhine Westphalia and Rhineland-Palatinate and with the "Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW)", to put them into practice and to check whether the advantages of the JESSICA instruments described can be realised. The research project is to produce results by the end of 2010 so that urban development funds might receive more weight in using ERDF funds at the mid-term evaluation of the European Structural Funds.

During the conference, the Federal states involved in the pilot project and the KfW discussed their specific approaches when developing innovative funding and financing instruments in terms of the JESSICA initiative.

Further information:

Urban development funds. IzR 9.2007, Ed.: BBR (with 3 articles in English language). The journal can be obtained from selbstverlag@bbr.bund.de

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Demonstration project “Supraregional partnership”

In June 2006, the Standing Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial Planning passed the new concepts and strategies for spatial development in Germany (cf. the article of H. Lutter in Research News on p. 15). One of these concepts is entitled “Growth and Innovation” and provides one important assignment for spatial planning, i.e. the formation of supraregional partnerships. In short, the goal of this partnership is as follows: All types of regions are asked to contribute to growth and innovation according to their potentials. But all types of regions also have the right to participate in growth and innovation. The strategy behind is that the strong regions serve as motors for spatial development and that they discover their responsibility with the weaker regions. This leads to co-operations far beyond the urban-suburban context or simply between cities. In contrast to this, these partnerships comprise central and peripheral, urban and rural as well as economically strong and weak regions. This strategy does not only bring the German concept into action. It also supports the idea of urban-rural partnerships according to the Territorial Agenda of the EU.

Since the beginning of 2008, the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs and the BBR have been financing a demonstration project to promote supraregional partnerships. Seven regions are subsidized for a period of two years to find out how these partnerships can be organized and filled with life. The aim is to provide good practice so that other regions can benefit from this experience. Furthermore, some questions of interest are:

- Which legal, financial and infrastructural framework supports the development of supraregional partnerships?
- Which instruments of spatial planning promote these partnerships and the achievement of growth and innovation?
- Which regional actors have to be included?
- Which governance models support a successful partnership?

Based on a call of interest and 60 project proposals, seven model regions – as shown in the map – were chosen.

Topics for co-operation are, among others, clusters and networks, regional planning,

qualification and the promotion of a knowledge-based society, regional chains of value added, transport infrastructure, internal and external marketing and the establishment of appropriate governance structures. Cross-border co-operation is a topic, too, as many of the seven model regions reach external borders or even exceed them.

At the euregia in Leipzig, some interim results of the project have been presented. Parliamentary State Secretary Ulrich Kasparick stressed the high importance of co-operation between municipalities and regions. He also promoted the idea that regions could specialise their economies in core competences to strengthen their own position in the supraregional partnership.

In this respect, a new demonstration project closely related to this one has to be mentioned. Since this autumn, three more regions – Aachen, Saarland and Oberrhein – are being promoted by the federal government to test supraregional partnerships in border and cross-border regions.

Further information
(only in German):

www.bbr.bund.de>>
Forschungsprogramme
>> MORO >>
Forschungsfelder
>> Überregionale Partnerschaften

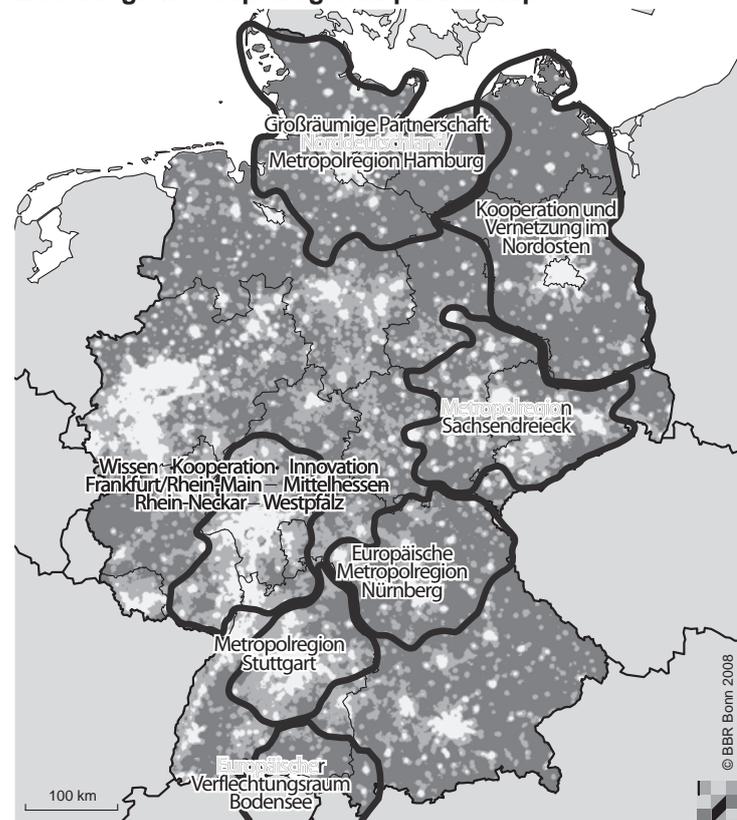
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Model regions "supraregional partnership"



Areas with
 rural character
 mixed character
 urban character

Transnational cooperation: effects, strategic projects and support in the context of the federal programme

Forthcoming:

"Impacts and Benefits of Transnational Projects (INTERREG IIIB)", *Forschungen*, issue 138, Eds.: BMVBS/BBR, Bonn 2009

„Developing and Assessing Strategic Transnational Cooperation projects (INTERREG IVB)", Special Publication, eds.: BMVBS/BBR, Bonn 2009

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Further information:

www.bbr.bund.de >>
Research programmes >>
Demonstration Projects
of Spatial Planning >>
Studies

This is the title under which the BBR held a symposium on transnational cooperation (INTERREG III B/INTERREG IV B) during this year's eureka on 29 October 2008. About 130 participants used the opportunity to inform in three symposium blocks about the effects of INTERREG III B projects, about the preparation of strategic projects and financial assistance options of the federal "Transnational Cooperation" programme.

"The central use of transnational projects can be identified in four central impact areas" as Dr. Michael Hübner summarised the results of a two-year research project in his entry speech to the **block "Effects of INTERREG projects and how to influence them"**. This research project concentrated on the issue which "long-term" effects transnational projects achieve beyond the concrete project results. In the context of the event chain "output-result-impact", often used for evaluations, the effects searched for were to be looked for in the area of the „impacts". Thus, the most important impacts of transnational cooperation projects are to be found

- in the introduction of a regional quality management,
- in innovations in the field of new brands, standards and procedures,
- in the mobilisation of financial resources and
- in the development of regional control competence (cf. the related article in *Research News 1/2008*, p. 2).

First of all, the panel discussion underlined the impacts of INTERREG presented through the impact analysis and revealed the diversity of transnational cooperation and its effects. Furthermore, the round showed that the federal states may increase the benefits of INTERREG for their own purposes: Baden-Württemberg for example highlighted so-called "lighthouses" among the projects and developed an own federal state strategy on Interreg.

The opening of the panel towards the audience also revealed that Interreg is an instrument which shows its impacts in terms of quality and less in terms of countable effects. According to the opinions, this aspect would have to be highlighted more than before in the future. Otherwise one would not come up to the benefits of the

instrument, or better, the Interreg project partnerships.

The results of the research projects will soon be published within the BBR series "Forschungen" (in English and German).

Strategic projects of transnational cooperation were in the centre of the second symposium block. For the current programming period the Community Initiative Interreg was integrated into the new objective "European Territorial Cooperation". In this context, the goal of transnational cooperation has changed: More than before, transnational projects face the challenge to unroll a strategic benefit for, if possible, a whole cooperation area. This gave reason to the BBR to contribute to the preparation of strategic projects in the cooperation areas in the course of a research project.

Dr Mark Fleischhauer and Marco Stüber presented the most essential research results of the project. It became clear that all operational programmes of the INTERREG IV B cooperation areas with German participation deal with strategic projects. The intensity of dealing with such projects and the understanding of what makes up a strategic project are very different here. Each cooperation area pursues and defines an own – cooperation area-specific – standard of strategic projects.

In the context of the research project, a guideline serving as a basis to assess the strategic quality of projects of transnational cooperation was therefore produced. This guideline provides orientation on the following questions:

- What does "strategic" mean?
- Strategic for whom?
- What is the difference between strategic and "good" projects?
- What are the features by which strategic projects are characterised?
- When is a project said to be strategic?
- How can programme managers support the development of strategic projects?
- How can project partners develop strategic projects?

The guideline will shortly be published as a special publication of the BBR (in English and German).

The following discussion with experts and project participants showed how vague the topic “strategic projects” still is and how open it is still discussed. Insofar, the discussion did not reach any consensus how projects can become more strategic. What is crucial to assess a project is the understanding of the term “strategic”. It also became clear that local strategic goals can definitely be harmonised with higher spatial strategies and that the local or regional level may find its “strategic niche”.

The federal “Transnational Cooperation” programme, with which the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs (BMVBS) has been supporting selected projects of special federal interest since 2004, was in the centre of the third symposium block. Jens Kurnol and Verena Hachmann, BBR, pointed out in their introductory speech on the federal programme that transnational cooperation makes an important contribution towards implementing the objective of territorial cohesion. Findings from the local and regional practice, which had been collected in the framework of federal programme projects, have been incorporated in the political discussion at the national and EU level (Territorial Agenda, Leipzig Charter) or can give further important input to the current discussion about the Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion or to the development of the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. Apart from a survey of approved projects 2007/2008 (see article on page 11), they gave useful advice the programme (budget, quality criteria etc.) and concerning the application procedure.

A specialty of the federal programme is that funded projects are supported with regard to their strategic public relations work and communication of the project results. For the German Association for Housing, Urban and Spatial Development, commissioned by the BMVBS regarding this programme, Dr. Hans-Michael Brey explained the goals according to which these projects are funded and how such a strategic involvement of projects into the technical and political discussion looks like concretely. The spectrum ranges from talks with German Bundestag and European Parliament delegates to the submission of documents and political messages into relevant working groups and to the awareness raising among the public by doing well-targeted media relations work.



All in all, according to the positive summary of Dr. Hans-Michael Brey, the project results had absolutely unfolded a “control effect”. Both national and European considerations concerning how to use public funds were underpinned by results from the federal programme projects.

In the following panel discussions, project stakeholders underlined the benefit of a project funding from the federal programme. According to these discussions, the German Association thus could present positive project results at the local and regional level more neutrally. The internal discussion would gain in power and the awareness raising among the federal state governments and other associations would be more successful. There was consensus that the political support is very important to achieve coordination within a region or among different political portfolios or to attract attention for example in the European Parliament or in the EU Commission. A continuous target group-oriented communication is therefore crucial. The benefit of funding applications (the so-called pre-financing) was also positively stressed again.

In his closing words, Peter Jung, BMVBS, was optimistic that the funding of federal projects could be continued next year. From the federal point of view, the thematic focus has to be put on spatial and urban development in the sense of the Territorial Agenda (TAEU) and the Leipzig Charter. With regard to the TAEU, an even greater success concerning the involvement of businessmen and other stakeholders in the discussion about spatial development policy has to be ensured.

Further information:

www.bbr.bund.de >>
Research programmes
>> INTERREG >>
National funding

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Germany in Europe: An assessment of the ESPON results of 2006 for German regions

The report will be published under the scientific „Forschungen“ series and can be ordered at beatrix.thul@bbr.bund.de.

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More than 25,000 report pages of 34 projects implemented are the result of the ESPON (European Spatial Planning Observation Network) 2006 programme. They were worked out in cooperation with European research institutions and experts in transnational project groups and provided numerous and comprehensive analyses on European spatial development.

But which relevance and evidence do they have with regard to Germany and its regions? This was the question which a team of German ESPON experts analysed

on behalf of the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning while working out the most important ESPON results for Germany.

The European Spatial Planning Observation Network (ESPON) was created in 2002 and serves to observe European spatial development and the related policy in a politically oriented way. When developing the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) already it became clear that Europe-wide data and analyses lacked. As a consequence, comparable analyses of the European regions were executed in the context of ESPON 2006 for a variety of topics for which datasets and indicators, which already existed or were generated within projects, served as a basis. They were, if possible, compiled for the whole European territory by always international project teams.

National and regional analyses could therefore only be rudimentally discussed. The project “Germany in Europe” was carried out by a team of German ESPON experts under the BBR programme “General Departmental Research”. The project’s goal was to evaluate existing ESPON results and to process them in a well comprehensible way for German scientific, political and administrative stakeholders.

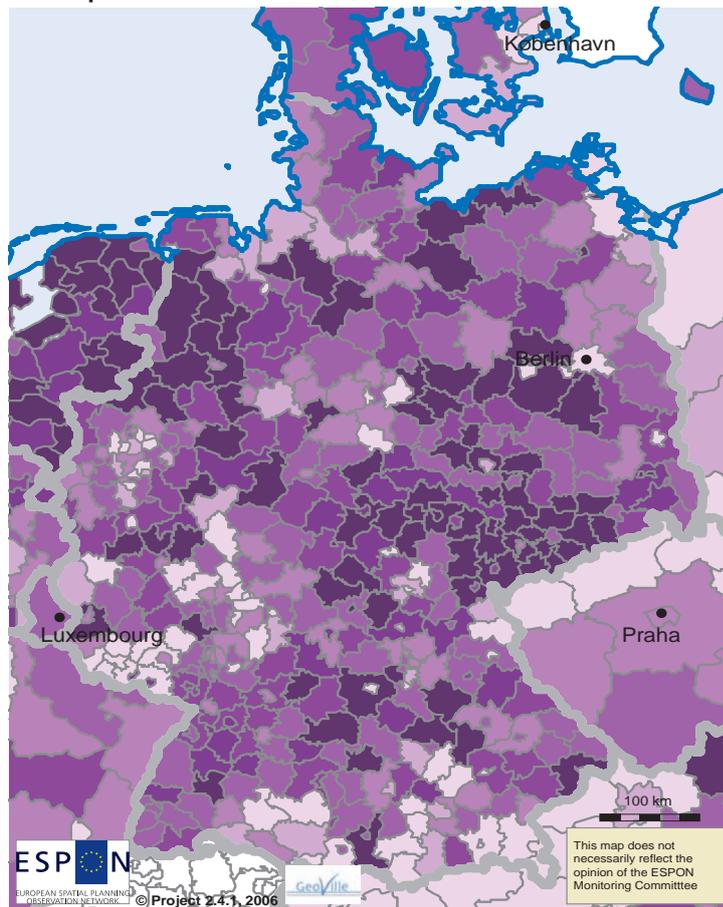
The results of the following six selected thematic fields with a close reference both to German spatial planning concepts and to the priorities of the Territorial Agenda of the European Union (TAEU) were assessed and analysed:

- urban system and polycentrality,
- semiurban and rural areas,
- network infrastructures as transport and communication infrastructures,
- environmental and risk management,
- demography,
- competitiveness and innovation,

Furthermore, an additional and future-oriented evaluation, which highlights possible perspectives and trends for Germany and its regions, was carried out based on the ESPON scenarios.

The results of the project were visualised with many figures and maps. The German-speaking long version covers about 100 pages, a short version is offered as well.

Development of Industrial Real Estate



Relative growth in %



© EuroGeographics Association for the administrative boundaries
Origin of data: CORINE changes 1990-2000: European Environment Agency. Regional level: NUTS 3
Source: ESPON Data Base

CORINE changes 1990-2000 do not exist for Cyprus, Finland, Malta, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the remote areas of France and Portugal.

This map does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the ESPON Monitoring Committee

European policy of territorial cohesion – European legal framework and national implementation

With the beginning of the Structural Funding period 2007–2013, the funding of transnational cooperation was converted from an EU Community Initiative (Interreg B) into Objective funding and integrated as “European Territorial Cooperation” objective into the “mainstream funding” activities of the European structural policy. This has partly led to the view that the competences of the Federal Government and the Federal states in Germany have changed, which means that the Federal states are exclusively responsible for transnational territorial cooperation. The role of the Federal Government would primarily be the coordination and combined representation of Federal state interests. In this context, the question arises whether the so far practised participation of the Federal Government in transnational cooperation can be maintained. This issue and the reorientation of the legislative competences of spatial planning following the reform of the federal system gave reason to go into the question concerning the Federal Government’s transnational territorial cooperation competences by means of a constitutional law-oriented legal opinion.

In their legal opinion, Ulrich Battis and Jens Kersten conclude that neither the Structural Funds reform nor stage I of the reform of the federal system change the proportionate responsibility of the Federal Government and the Federal states in implementing transnational cooperation: “The Federal Government and the Federal states cooperate with regard to European spatial development. Concerning their involvement in transnational cooperation, each of them has its own respective competences. Depending on the structural conditions of supralocal planning in the multi-level system, a clear line must be drawn between the respective competences and functions of the Federal Government and those of the Federal states.” The two experts analyse this functional differentiation of the respective competences with regard to the external representation competence, the conception competence and the coordination competence for European spatial development and especially for transnational cooperation and its financing and related assumption of liability. In doing

so, the legal framework for implementing transnational cooperation in Germany has been demonstrated, especially with regard to the differentiation of competences between the Federal Government and the Federal states as well as between the Federal ministries. The related results support the assessment of the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing and the practised procedure in the field of transnational cooperation thus giving orientation for further practice in the field of transnational cooperation.

The legal opinion at hand, however, goes far beyond the concrete legal assessment of the competence issue: Ulrich Battis and Jens Kersten highlight the promotion of transnational cooperation as a European spatial development strategy and trace the development of a new understanding of European spatial development policy, called “European Territorial Governance”, in legal, political and theoretical terms. In doing so, they follow an interdisciplinary concept in order to develop territorial cohesion as a new paradigm of an integrated European spatial development. This concept emanates from a political examination of European spatial development consequences after 1989 and analyses them in the context of a spatial turn in Europe inspired by cultural science.

The legal opinion does not only give orientation for the further transnational cooperation practice in Germany but also provides a substantiated basis for an intensive scientific discourse about the formation and differentiation of the “European Territorial Governance” concept as a new planning paradigm. The legal opinion has been issued as a special BBR publication with the title „European Policy of Territorial Cohesion – European legal framework and national implementation”.



The German-speaking publication can be ordered without charge at Beatrix.Thul@bbr.bund.de (keyword: legal opinion of Battis/Kersten).

An English-speaking abstract of the legal opinion is provided as download at www.bbr.bund.de > English > Research Programmes > General Departmental Research > Spatial Planning

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New transnational projects launched!

The new European Territorial Cooperation programmes, commonly known as INTERREG IVB, have gained momentum during 2008. By the end of the year, all five programmes with German participation have had at least one open call for proposals. The North West Europe and the North Sea Programme have just closed their third call.

The start of the new programme period was quite a success. By August 2008, more than 450 applications and expressions of interest were received asking for 1.15 billion euros of European Regional Development Funds (ERDF). Of these applications 104 were approved, comprising some 295 million euros of ERDF.

The new Cooperation programmes basically cover four fields of intervention: “innovation”, “environment and risk management”, “transport and accessibility” and “competitive cities and regions”. The figure shows the demand for the different themes of the five programmes. With the exception of the Alpine Space, “competitive cities and regions” is the most popular topic followed by “innovation” and “environment”. “Transport and accessibility” is less popular, a trend that was already observed in the predecessor programmes.

A key feature of INTERREG IVB is its **territorial approach**. Project examples contributing to better territorial cohesion between European cities and regions are *SoNorA* and *Via Regia*. Projects such as *MANDIE* and *ACT4PPP* deal with urban development, i.e. with cohesion within

cities. For more information on these projects, please check the article by Verena Hachmann on the Federal Programme on Transnational Cooperation in this issue.

Another key topic among the approved projects is **energy**, ranging from energy efficiency to increased use of biomass. To name just a few: *UrbEnergy* aims at an energy-saving refurbishment of apartment blocks in the Baltic Sea Region. Activities are embedded into integrated urban development strategies. *AlpEnergy* will develop innovative and cooperative business cases for so-called virtual power systems. They offer an alternative to large-scale conventional energy supply by using ICT technologies for intelligent combinations of renewable energy sources, load management and storage. *4Biomass* addresses the risk that an increased use of biomass in the EU may lead to an unsustainable, intensified agricultural production and import of “cheap” biomass.

Innovation has got a new meaning for the transnational programmes. Basically there are two types of innovation in the new programmes: the first cuts across all funding priorities and includes to support new, innovative processes in different fields (“horizontal approach”). Second, innovation has become a separate funding priority (“vertical approach”) relating to the ambition of the European Union to become more competitive and to create new and better jobs (the so-called Lisbon Agenda). The transnational INTERREG programmes can play a role in improving the framework conditions for innovation such as a better infrastructure and international networking.

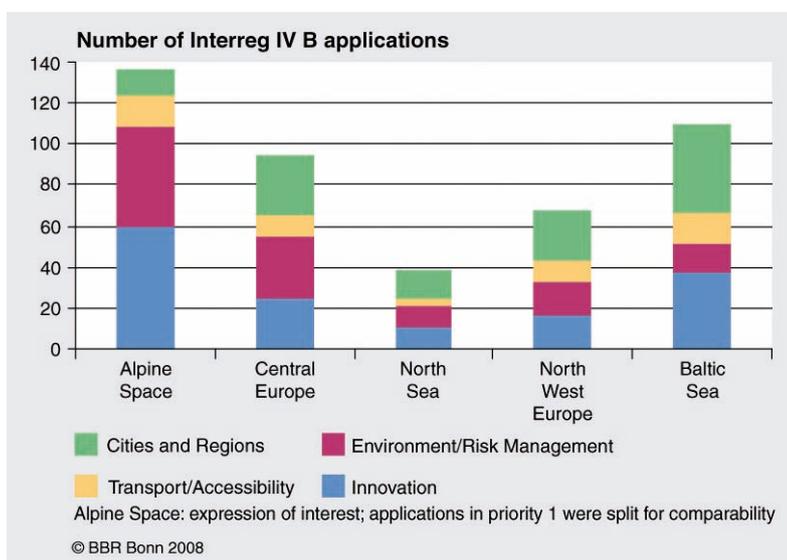
There is a great interest in the new programmes indicated by many excellent applications and heavily overbooked budgets. This shows that the strategic approach aimed for by the programme stakeholders is quite important, not only to reach increased visibility and to improve the profile of programmes, but also to give guidance to project developers. Partner search fora, pre-assessment procedures and thematic seminars offer excellent opportunities for meeting other project developers, Contact Points and programme managers to discuss the possibilities for future projects.

Further information:

www.alpine-space.eu
eu.baltic.net
www.central2013.eu
www.northsearegion.eu
www.nweurope.eu
www.interreg.de

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German Federal Funding Programme „Transnational Cooperation“

With its „Federal Programme Transnational Cooperation“, the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs supports transnational projects (INTERREG IVB) with thematic and spatial priorities which are of specific national interest. As under INTERREG IIIB, selected projects receive financial support, targeted and strategic publicity and with respect to their high relevance for national politics, particular political support. A detailed overview of supported INTERREG IIIB projects can be found in the brochure „Europa wächst zusammen“ (German only).

The central objectives of the federal programme include:

- involving of East-German actors in European networks
- strengthening the “Europe competence” of local and regional actors
- building up long-lasting and cooperative relations and public-private partnerships
- preparing and planning of investments
- developing skills and standards for strengthening the competitiveness of towns and regions
- supporting relations with the new Member and Accession States as well as third countries and their integration into strategies of spatial development policies
- implementing the EU’s Territorial Agenda and contributing to the implementation of the Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategies objectives on the spot

This year, the Federal Programme for Transnational Cooperation has so far been supporting six INTERREG IVB projects from four of the cooperation areas in which Germany participates. Half of these projects are from the Central European Space, another two from the Baltic Sea Region and one each from the Alpine Space and Northwest Europe respectively. These projects cover a range of urban and regional development issues.

The Alpine Space project CLISP as well as the Central European project LABEL VISION work with aspects of climate change. CLISP (‘Climate Change Adaptation by Spatial Planning in the Alpine Space’) follows in the steps of the INTERREG IIIB project ClimChAlp and will look more deeply into



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 Sonderveröffentlichungen

the consequences of climate change on spatial and economic development. LABEL VISION (‘Adapting to flooding risks in the river Elbe catchment area’) also builds on successful INTERREG IIIB projects such as ELLA (‘Preventive flood management measures by transnational spatial planning’) and ODERREGIO (‘Spatial Planning for preventive flood protection in the Oder catchment area’) and works on further implementing measures that have been developed by its predecessors.

VIA REGIA PLUS (‘Sustainable Mobility and Regional Cooperation along the Pan-European Transport Corridor III’) and SONORA (‘South-North-Axis’) are two Central European projects developing spatial corridors. While VIA REGIA PLUS aims at developing a growth region between Eastern Germany via Southern Poland into Ukraine with particular focus on increasing accessibility within and between agglomerations, SONORA is looking southwards from Scandinavia via Eastern Germany, Austria and Hungary to Croatia and Italy.

Finally, ACT4PPP (‘Transnational Action for Public Private Partnerships’) supports the collaboration between public and private actors for restructuring processes, urban renewal and increased public services in the Central European Region, while MANDIE (‘District Centre Management’) intends to sustain urban polycentricity by strengthening the attractiveness and competitiveness of local shopping centres.

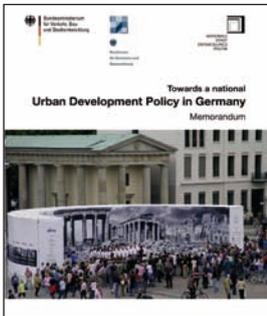
Additionally, the programme supports a variety of projects in their preparation of sound project applications for the INTERREG calls.

Further information:
www.interreg.de

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National Urban Development Policy in the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG)



The English version of the Memorandum can be downloaded from the National Urban Development Policy homepage as pdf: www.nationale-stadtentwicklungspolitik.de >> Veröffentlichungen >> BMVBS/BBR (Eds.): Towards a national Urban Development Policy in Germany. Memorandum, Bonn 2007

With the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities the responsible EU ministers invited to establish an urban development policy on the national level as well. In July 2007, Federal Minister Wolfgang Tiefensee started the initiative for a National Urban Development Policy in the FRG. This initiative has meanwhile taken root via various activities, projects and programmes.

Urban development policy on the overall national level in Germany is a complex and at the same time sensitive matter: Complex because the German urban system is very heterogenous; sensitive because the responsibilities for cities within the system of Federal states are divided up between the local, the Laender and the Federal level. It is the more remarkable that local associations, Federal states and the Federal Government together with different societal stakeholders have shortly reached a concerted action for cities.

This concerted action for the future of cities had been prepared by the memorandum „Towards a National Urban Development Policy in Germany”. The national urban development initiative is aimed at supporting the sustainable development of cities. For this purpose, it offers platforms to exchange urban trends and possibilities of action and organisation. The initiative is supposed to be a place for all those who deal with the future of cities: citizens and organisations representing the economic, cultural and scientific sector.

Six thematic fields and two strands of action

The initiative for a National Urban Development Policy was created as a long-term campaign. It is aimed at turning the city issue into a matter of everyone individually and of all people together. The thematic focus is on the following fields of action:

- Civil society: activating citizens for their town or city
- Social city: creating chances and preserving cohesion
- Innovative city: motors of economic development

- Climate protection and global responsibility: building the city of tomorrow
- Building culture: shaping cities in a better way
- Regionalisation: the region is the city's future

All persons interested may participate in this thematic framework by different contributions on urban development. In general, two strands of action are pursued by the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs (BMVBS), which are the following:

- Developing and spreading good practice in the context of urban development support
- Launching a series of projects to promote new ideas and civil commitment for city and urbanity

In the context of urban development support, the programmes for urban rehabilitation and development, for urban districts with special development needs, for the protection of historical monuments in the context of urban development and for urban reconstruction are enhanced. At the beginning of 2008, the programme for active urban or municipal district centres was started. The future demands to urban development support will be discussed at regional conferences and Federal congresses.

In order to generate good ideas for future-oriented cities and to promote the commitment of urban development stakeholders, the BMVBS executed two calls for project proposals. Around 40 projects have arisen from the first call in 2007, which will be funded as projects under the National Urban Development Policy. Approx. 200 proposals were submitted following the second call in 2008. Up to 30 projects of them are to be selected by the end of this year.

Good ideas for good practice

The Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning's (BBR) task is to monitor the call for project proposals, the selection, implementation and evaluation of projects

Further information (in German):

www.nationale-stadtentwicklungspolitik.de

dealing with city and urbanity. Within this framework, the BBR supports the BMVBS and the National Urban Development Policy committees as well as the project participants. In doing so, the BBR cooperates with other experts and institutions.

The national urban development projects are selected within a multilevel procedure. The public start of the project search is combined with a call for project proposals in the context of large congresses. At first, the incoming proposals are registered and assigned to a thematic field of action. Then the BBR executes an ex-ante evaluation in cooperation with an external specialist institute and gives recommendations for the further selection process. On this basis, the National Urban Development Policy working group with representatives of the Federal Government, the Laender, local associations and of urban development research develops a selection proposal. Finally, the National Urban Development Policy project committee decides upon this proposal.

Both calls for project proposals have produced a large pool with altogether more than 500 proposals which include very innovative approaches. The range of project types goes from professional conferences and exhibitions as well as art campaigns, real and virtual discussion fora, game and other communication forms to experimentation, planning and realisation projects in the field of urban development.

The project proposals come from all regions and Federal states and represent all sizes of towns and cities. All in all, it is striking that large cities and metropolitan regions are disproportionately represented compared with small and medium-sized towns. With regard to the thematic fields it can be said that many proposals have been submitted for all fields of action of the National Urban Development Policy. It is remarkable that proposals in the fields of action "social city" and "building culture" are represented in a comparably strong way. It is positive that within the field of action "civil society" civil initiatives come to light which so far have hardly been visible in the context of conventional urban development activities. It is also positive that in the field of action "climate protection" a number of advanced urban development concepts with comprehensive approaches in the field of resource and climate protection were launched.

The first National Urban Development Policy projects were implemented in 2007, others will follow this and in the next year. This means that in the next years innovations and findings from altogether 60 examples can be expected. The national urban development homepage does already inform about initial states and perspectives of a number of city and urbanity projects and further project information will be added. As soon as there is suitable practical experience, the knowledge is to be made accessible beyond the local level. The National Urban Development Policy projects do not least provide a source of experience and information which is also to be used for the European Urban Knowledge Network.

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Population development in Europe – losses during transition

For more information on regional structures and trends in Europe please see:
www.raumbeobachtung.de

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The change in the population development for many European regions came in the 90s of the last century – especially in the Eastern part of the continent. Looking 25 years of population development back, the transition phase in these countries turned the population development of most of the regions into the negative. Up to this moment, most of the regions showed increasing numbers of inhabitants.

The metropolitan regions in Eastern Europe in most cases are the winners in the population development. In Poland, the population of these regions has increased over the whole period from 1981 to 2006 whereas the population of the capital regions in Bulgaria, Belarus and Russia has been increasing again since 2001 after having decreased in the 90s.

Especially Western European regions show increases in the population, most of them being considered for the whole period. The share of the population of this group, ‘growing’ regions of the European continent, rises from 44% to almost 50%, in the regions of the European Union from 52% to 57%. Three quarters of the people of the European Union have been living in regions with an increasing population at least since 2001. The different points in time of the beginning increase reflect structural changes and the redevelopment of the Western European regions quite well.

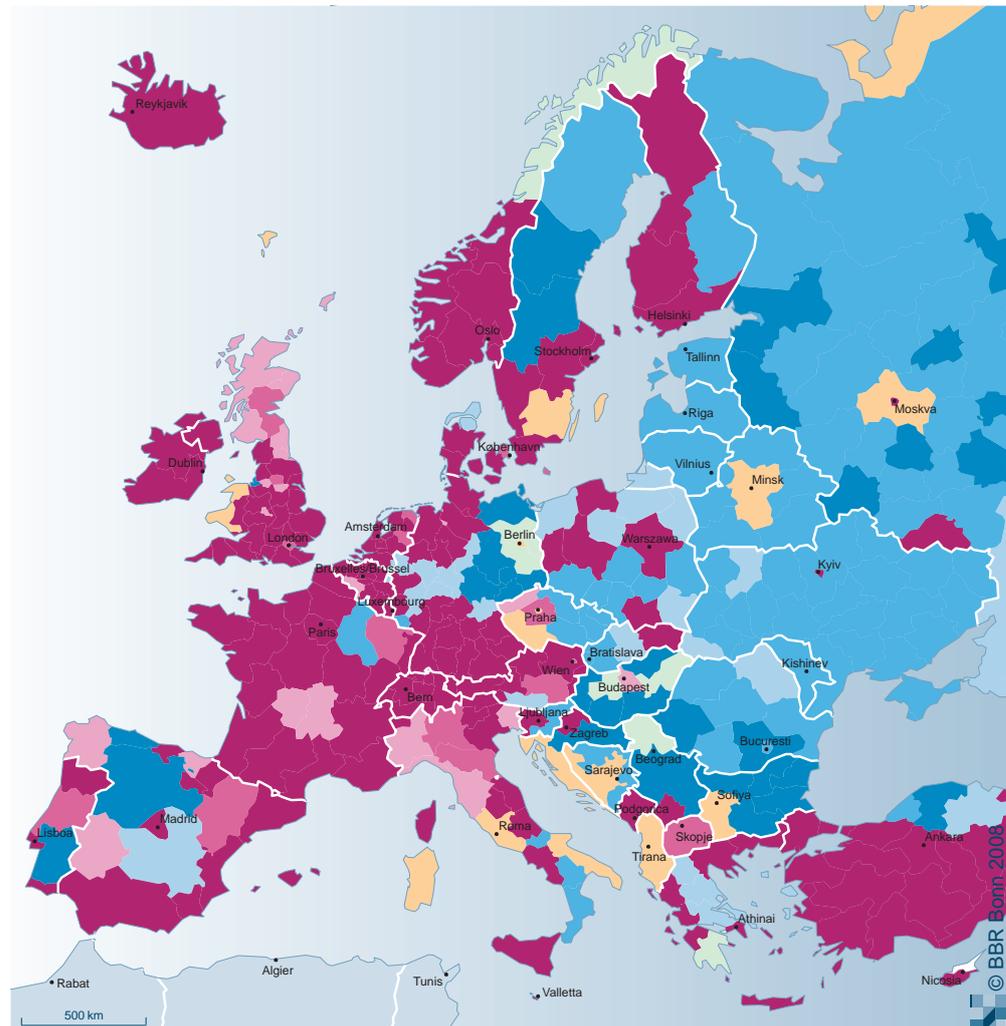
Nevertheless, there are some regions losing population in the long run in Western Europe, most of them since 1981. The proportion of people living in regions with a decreasing population since then has almost been 7% both for the Continent and the European Union.

Population development in selected periods between 1981 and 2006 *

	1981	1991	2001	2006
Dark Red	+	+	+	+
Red	-	+	+	+
Light Red	-	-	+	+
Orange	+	-	+	+
Light Green	-	+	-	-
Light Blue	+	+	-	-
Dark Blue	+	-	-	-
Very Dark Blue	-	-	-	-

Data base: Laufende Raumbeobachtung Europa. Origin of data: Eurostat, national statistical offices.
 Administrative boundaries: GFK MACON, NUTS 2 regions
 Cyprus data for the government-controlled area only

* Increases and decreases within the different periods do not reflect the total development from 1981 to 2006. A region with a population decline since 2001 may have a population increase in total between 1981 and 2006.



Concepts and Strategies for Spatial Development in Germany

Adopted by the Standing Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial Planning on 30 June 2006

According to Section 18 Subsection 1 of the Federal Regional Planning Act, a task of the cooperation between the Federal and the Laender level in the field of spatial planning is to develop spatial development concepts for the Federal territory.

During the 33th Standing Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial Planning on 30 June 2006, the Federal and Laender ministers responsible for spatial planning adopted new "Concepts and Strategies for Spatial Development in Germany".

They are the result of a large discussion process to revise the "Guidelines for Regional Planning" in force since 1992.

The new concepts for spatial development in Germany are based on three guidelines which were developed during the multi-faceted discussion and which give an overview of the focuses of spatial planning activities for the next few years. The core messages of the guidelines are as follows:

- Spatial planning at Federal and Federal state level will contribute to promoting economic growth and development in Germany. Cores and networks of **economic growth** and **innovation** have to be supported and spatially concentrated development strategies have to be pursued. At the same time, the development of polycentric urban networks and the advancement of communities of shared responsibility involving centres, hinterland and periphery as well as the permanent establishment and extension of cooperation among metropolitan cores and other city regions in metropolitan networks have to be aspired.
- Under the changed demographic and structural framework conditions as well **infrastructure and services for the public** will be guaranteed especially in regions with a strongly ageing population and in sparsely populated areas showing a population decline. A prerequisite for this is a reorientation of strategies, standards and instruments of spatial planning so that equal living conditions can be ensured in all subareas of Germany in the



The publication is free of charge and can be ordered at Referat-I1@bbr.bund.de, reference: Concepts and Strategies

future as well. A framework is to be given which, following a broad public debate, defines and ensures minimum standards of services for the public which are comparably oriented to regional demands, acceptable accessibility conditions and financial possibilities. In doing so, it is not only necessary to accommodate the changing needs of an ageing society but also to utilise all chances and regional potentials in order to offer better future chances to families with children. The concept of central places has to be adapted to these challenges and to be added by other flexible forms of ensuring services for the public.

- **Sustainable spatial development** above all means to ensure the manifold spatial functions through an active management of spatial resources and uses in the context of increasing conflicts of use in many regions and against the background of the necessity of an economical use of soil as a resource. The task of coordinating the different plans on an interdisciplinary and supralocal level has to be strengthened. A special focus must be laid on shaping cultural landscapes.

The booklet includes the official text and the maps related to the concepts as well as the wording of the decision of the Ministers.

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The BBR in Guangzhou, PR China “Germany and China – Moving Ahead Together”

“Germany and China – Moving Ahead Together” is an event series of the Federal Republic of Germany and People’s Republic of China aiming at a better relationship as a base for successful cooperation in the fields of culture, economy, education, science and environment and at promoting the image of Germany as a country of innovation.

The patronage of the event series has been assumed by Horst Köhler and the Chinese president Hu Jintao. The Foreign Office is the promoter of the event series; the Asia-

Pacific Committee of German Business (APA), the Goethe-Institut and the initiative Deutschland – Land der Ideen (Germany – Land of Ideas) are lead partners.

Between fall 2007 and spring 2010, the event series was or will be hosted in several Chinese regional capitals: the first station was Nanjing (fall 2007), the second Chongqing (spring 2008), the third Guangzhou (fall 2008). Two or three more events will take place in 2009 and 2010. The last station will be the World EXPO “Better Cities – Better Life” in Shanghai 2010.

The event series’ main themes are urbanisation and urban life. The fast process of urbanisation causes severe social, ecological and economic challenges to China, so Germany wants to support the process by communicating its know-how in the field of sustainable urban development.

As the highlight of the third station of the event series “Germany and China – Moving Ahead Together”, the Germany Esplanade in Guangzhou took place in the Tianhe Stadium South Square on November 7 to 15, 2008. For the first time, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) has taken part in the exhibition and presented several German research institutes. One of them was the BBR with its scientific branch. As the federal research agency and German competence centre in urban and regional sustainable development the BBR presented problem-solving options and visions for ecologic, social and economic sustainable urban development.

Under the motto “Providing Evidence for Planning” the main topics of the BBR’s presentation in Guangzhou were the following:

- Introduction on the institution and work of the BBR (contents and competences)
- Sustainable spatial development (regional and climate risk zones, cities as location of renewable energies, energy-efficient buildings)
- Social and demographic sustainability (integration of different cultures and ages, demographic change an urban spatial indicators for sustainable development)





- Saving of space (recycling of waste lands and new types of building)
- Climate change and renewable energies (identification of implications for planning)
- Sustainability of economical competitiveness and transport systems (metropolitan gateway functions, balanced economical growth, performance of public transport)

Six wall-posters, a flash-presentation and three-dimensional models of economic and demographic indicators for Germany illustrated the various facets of the BBR's work in the field of sustainable development. Peter Schön and Dirk Gebhardt presented the exhibition in Guangzhou and answered questions of the interested visitors.

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Journal „Informationen zur Raumentwicklung (IzR)“ – new issues

The journal „Informationen zur Raumentwicklung – IzR“ (Information on Spatial Development) is an established specialist journal for spatial planning and policy. It is published in thematic issues that comment on present and middle-term tasks in the fields of spatial planning, urban development, housing and building. A short retrospective is supposed to present the latest issues.

Migrations and spatial development – new trends and perspectives

Every year, several millions of people change their dwellings, the urban district, the municipality, the Federal state or immigrate from abroad. These migrations do not only throw light on the quality of life in migration areas – e.g. on the housing and labour market, the socio-spatial or environmental situation. In view of the standstill of the natural demographic development they also decide more than ever on general spatial trends, on winners and losers among them.

Migrations thus pose a lot of questions. Spatial scientists and planners are currently discussing how societal and economic changes such as the demographic change or the “knowledge society” might be reflected in migrations and thus in spatial trends. Which areas and types of regions win and which ones lose in return? Are cities the winners, according to the reurbanisation thesis, and will migration “into the country” be stopped? Which role do differences in prices and offers on the housing and real estate markets as well as age- or job-related lifestyles play? Or are the migration trends rather dependent on the attractiveness of so-called metropolitan regions, which are said to be the main motors of our economic and societal prosperity? The present IzR issue deals with these and other questions. It presents empirically verifiable trends but also reveals a lot of open questions related to migrations and their research.

The journal is available in German language with English abstracts. Some issues contain articles in English language. The abstracts are available as free downloads www.bbr-bund.de >> publications >> IzR.

The journal can be obtained from the publishing department of the BBR (selbstverlag@bbr.bund.de) and from bookshops. The issues cost 6 (single issue) or 12 euros (double issue). All prices plus postage and packing.



The latest IzR issues deal with the following topics:

Issue 3/4.2008
Wanderungen und
Raumentwicklung – neue
Trends und Perspektiven
(*Migrations and spatial
development – new
trends and perspectives*)

Issue 5.2008
Raumordnungsplanung
und Kulturlandschaft
(*Spatial planning and
cultural landscape*)

Issue 6/7.2008
Räumliche Anpassung
an den Klimawandel
(*Spatial adaptation to
climate change*)

Issue 8.2008 Raum-
und Stadtentwicklung in
Asien (*Spatial and urban
development in Asia*)

Issue 9/10.2008 Wo
steht das Ruhrgebiet?
(*The Ruhr Area in the
focus: today's situation
and the road ahead*)

Spatial planning and cultural landscape

Whatever means „landscape“ to us in general or to individual persons or only appears to be “landscape”, increasingly calls for being saved from trends of landscape destruction. While this “saving” so far included the protection and preservation of certain landscape elements or biotopes worthy to be protected, it now also requires a general planning and development of cultural landscapes, for good reasons. Thus, according to the new spatial planning concepts and the European Landscape Convention, spatial and landscape development processes have to be jointly steered in a way which creates a generally liveable and likeable spatial environment for people within this rapid transformation process. However, this requires a lot of answers, e.g. what is or does landscape mean – subjectively in our minds and objectively in plans? Who is responsible for the planning and developing of cultural landscapes and with which plans, principles and objectives does spatial planning contribute to it? Which rank do very urbanised areas and suburban landscapes have? This issue deals especially with such open question from the point of view of spatial planning. At the same time it presents examples of regions which have already successfully practised cultural landscape planning by means of spatial planning.

Spatial adaptation to climate change

There is no doubt that we are already in an intensive climate change. We know that in the future we will be increasingly concerned by weather extremes and basic climate changes. This is why our habitats change rapidly. Today already we have to develop and implement strategies to prevent and to adapt to the climate change. Climate-oriented, resistant and adaptable spatial structures are required and thus spatial planning. Their task is to assess cross-sectoral and spatial vulnerabilities, to foster and moderate an interdisciplinary dialogue to develop concrete adaptation measures aiming to proactively promote spatial structures adapted to the climate change. The issue informs about the current state of knowledge and measures. It illustrates regional climate models and projections, necessary or already launched adaptation strategies in Germany and Europe, options to overcome insecurities and barriers,

especially vulnerable spaces and systems as well as concrete regional and sectoral case studies.

Spatial and urban development in Asia

Asia, especially China and Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, does not only challenge the Western world, it also faces large challenges itself. This concerns its balanced and sustainable spatial development, which often still lags behind the rapid economic and demographic development or is even hampered by it. Harmonising the economic, environmental and demographic development with spatial and urban development is therefore on the agenda of many Asian countries, regions, towns and cities. China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Beijing and Tokyo are the places concretely dealt with in the current “Asian” Information on Spatial Development issue apart from other articles related to larger spatial contexts in Asia. In their articles on spatial and urban development in Asia German but also scientists and planners from the above-mentioned countries highlight the local spatial development and planning.

The Ruhr Area in the focus: today's situation and the road ahead

The sky above the Ruhr Area, which in the meantime has become blue, cannot hide the fact that this regions still faces many problems and restructuring challenges. There is also a backlog demand, especially with regard to growth markets and secure jobs. Its cities accumulate more social problems than elsewhere and an immense number of brownfields still waits for new uses. At the same time, nearly all local municipalities have an urgent financial lack and the cooperation of Ruhr cities – the so-called “unified Ruhr Area metropolitan region” – nevertheless is still at the beginning. However, this issue does not only deal with these problems. Its articles and concrete examples attest to many improvements in restructuring and realigning the Ruhr Area.

Research News – Hello, goodbye!

At the end of this year, I will retire as the head of the scientific part of the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning. Looking back, I realize that I have been working in a research institute outside the university concerned with spatial analysis for more than 25 years.

When I started as the head of the Federal Research Institute for Regional Planning and Regional Geography (BfLR), the scenery for spatial research, spatial planning and spatial policy in the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) was quite established. However, the BfLR was the only research institute at the federal level helping the ministry to implement its regional and spatial policy while its administrative implementation was mostly in the responsibility of the Länder and the cities. However, on account of the constitutional prerequisites to guarantee the quality of living in every part of the region, the Federal Government was not only supposed to analyze and report about the current situation in a regionally differentiated way but it was also supposed to implement factual inputs by some sort of persuasive rather than directing policy.

In the 80s, the idea of equivalent living conditions was integrated into the more general idea of sustainable development in its three main dimensions economic, ecological and social development.

But the normality of our counseling and analyzing work was really questioned at the end of the 80s when, with the fall of the iron curtain, the FRG was united with the former German Democratic Republic (GDR). This meant for our institute, on the one hand, to enlarge our analytical capacities to the new territory of a united Germany and, on the other hand, we had to face the fact that the united Germany in the context of Europe had to find a new position as well and our institute all the more because new options and forms of cooperation were needed. This was a new challenge, not only in the analytical respect but also with regard to integrating colleagues from former East German institutes into our institute as well.

Through unification, the German landscape of scientific institutes was enlarged by those of the former GDR, which survived their evaluation. This resulted in the fact, that another three institutes for fundamental

research in the field of spatial analysis existed on the federal level. It created a much larger diversity of different institutes in Germany but it did not result in the creation of an enlarged national institute as could have been expected. But still the BfLR remained the only scientific counseling institute for our Federal Ministry for Regional Planning, Building and Urban Development.

At the end of the 90s, our Research Institute was fused with the Federal Building Office with the idea to create a national office enabling the Federal Government to do physical and architectural planning, on the one hand, and to analyze and shape spatial policies, on the other hand. In some way, this resulted in a loss of scientific independence while the service orientation of our scientific part as a back office for the Government became more important. However, due to our continuous research, based on a solid basis of data, we could maintain our scientific standard, which was even proven by the evaluation of our scientific part by the German Council of Science and Humanities. Through this evaluation our precarious institutional reality between think tank and back office for a ministry became quite evident. This is all the more the fact in a field like ours where the applied function is much more present than in other national research institutes which are concerned for instance with natural sciences like health care or agricultural research. In this way, our institute has to fulfill the requirement of a research institute, on the one hand, but, on the other hand, to run political counseling for the Ministry including a lot of services. Looking back, I can say that our research branch of the BBR and its predecessor, the BfLR, have maintained a standard of analysis and counseling in the field of urban and regional planning and housing since more than 30 years. We could do this as a research institute belonging to the ministry responsible for urban and regional planning and housing on a continuous base which, if we compare the European scenery, is quite rare. This competence as a national institute enabled us to participate in the European endeavour to create an analytical and advising scenery within the European community. The ESPON Programme, the European Spatial Planning Observation



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Network, as a common endeavour by the European Union and the member states tried to combine and concentrate all analytical background on urban and regional planning in Europe in order to standardize the analytical observation and to harmonise the political counseling for the national and European agencies and ministries. From the start, our institute was quite engaged in it and I think we could successfully integrate our analytical and counseling base into this growing European system. In the meanwhile, we have become part of this ESPON family in Europe and we have other contacts with international agencies engaged in our field. Here I think I especially have to name the Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements (KRIHS), which became interested in German affairs after the unification because they thought and prepared themselves for a possible Korean unification according to the example of Germany. Via some exchanges – colleagues visited us and we visited them in Korea – we could create some analytical background which is now a good basis to inform other international institutes and colleagues about Germany and to learn from them about the impacts international, namely globalisation processes have on

their countries. In this way, we are able to fulfill our part as a research institute on the national basis for our government and for the scientific community in the German context but also to enlarge our horizon and to enlarge other horizons by participating in international contexts and conferences and common research projects. I am quite proud that we could stand this challenge and I hope we can stand the challenge in the future as well. We have an engaged and competent staff and I hope that my successor will in the same way as me have a satisfying job by guiding and representing this national agency as the head of an efficient scientific institute.

In this way, I wish my follower as the head of the scientific part a good hand to continue and to maintain our reputation as a scientific institute and as an able think tank for the Government.

Good luck, good bye and thanks to all the people who cooperated with me and who created an atmosphere of cooperation in Germany and Europe.

We count on you while the show must go on.

Wendelin Strubelt