



Federal Institute for
Research on Building,
Urban Affairs and
Spatial Development

within the Federal Office for
Building and Regional Planning



RESEARCH NEWS

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Dear Reader,

The launch of the new Federal Government on 14 March 2018 has also marked a new chapter for the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR). The BBSR, that had previously belonged to the portfolio of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, now belongs to the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, which is now also responsible for building and community. This involves a reunion of the competences for urban and regional development, which had been performed by different federal ministries during the last four years. The exact shape of the community department in the new Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, which will also include the task of spatial planning, and related new priorities will be defined in the next few weeks. As the BBSR key activities are research and knowledge-based services in the fields of urban and spatial development, housing, real estate industry and building, this will support the coordination of its activities across the fields of urban and spatial development. An integrated examination of urban and rural areas is important when it comes to creating and preserving equal living conditions.

According to such an integrated approach, we will as usual present new results and projects from our key activities in the fields of spatial and urban development, housing, real estate industry and building in this issue.

With this in mind, enjoy this issue!

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Spatial Development

2017 Spatial Planning Report “Ensuring the provision of public services”

On 18 October 2017, the German Federal Cabinet adopted the BBSR's Spatial Planning Report. Now the publication can be ordered by interested persons. The BBSR presents the Report as an independent report according to Section 25 (2) of the Federal Spatial Planning Act. For the first time, the Report is thematically focused and supports the implementation of the “Ensure the provision of public services” concept. It contains 140 pages and presents regionally differentiating results by numerous maps and illustrations.

The empirical analyses of the Spatial Planning Report 2017 are based on current data. Estimations on the future development are mainly based on the BBSR's 2035 Spatial Planning Forecast. It could not yet take the increased international immigration flow since 2015 into account. Nonetheless, through scenarios and qualitative assessments, the Spatial Planning Report shows its impact on the spatial structure with regard to the public service supply.

The inhabitants are demanders for public services. Changes in the number and structure of the population require different adjustments in the various areas of public service supply depending on trend and dimension. The economic development, whose central components are economic growth and jobs, via the tax revenue determines the public sector's financial resources to ensure public service supply. The private income provides the financial basis of each individual to use privately organised and public services of general interest. In view of these connections, the Spatial Planning Report first of all points out the basic relationships between

demographic and economic development on a regional level.

Public services in the context of federal state and regional planning

A central chapter explains the present role of public services in the context of federal state and regional planning. An empirical basis is provided by an analysis of all federal state and regional plans based on the BBSR's ROPLAMO, a nationwide information system for monitoring and evaluating federal state and regional plans. Another focus is on the relationship between formal and informal spatial planning instruments. Furthermore, the Report shows in how far the German federal states have advanced their central-place concepts. In this context, it also deals with local services and the adjustment of peripheral settlement structures.

All in all, it can be said that, owing to the ongoing population decline, especially the new plans cover the area of public service supply in more detail. Additionally, the central-place concepts have differently advanced in the federal states. In future, federal state and regional planners must deal with the various fields of action of public services more intensively and in more detail than before. The willingness to do so does not only depend on the demographic pressure to act but also on the available staff and thematic capacities of regional planning institutions.

Challenges of the demographic change

Against this background, the Report also deals with the interaction of spatial planning

Strategic development of the central-place concepts



and sector planning. A focus is first of all on the role of spatial planning regulations. The Spatial Planning Report subsequently shows that the sector planning disciplines have already since the 2000s reacted to the demographic change by adapting standards. For special public service areas, which are important in terms of spatial planning policy, the report points out the challenges of the future demographic development. Among the selected public service areas, the three target dimensions of spatial planning policy (specific service quality with acceptable accessibility at affordable prices) are differently affected depending on the specific service delivery and the demographic development. Accessibility is a key dimension here.

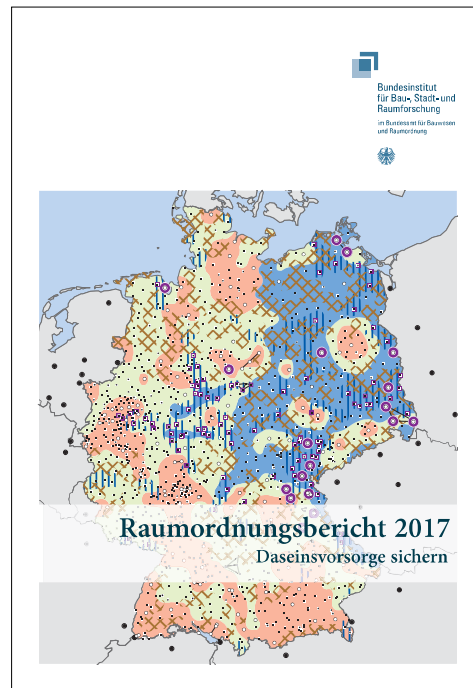
Mobility and digitalisation: new concepts

Another aspect is the role of mobility and digital infrastructure in the context of public services. In future, integrated mobility concepts as well as flexible and alternative forms of use are required, which better consider the individual needs of the various groups of users. In order to use digitalisation to ensure public service supply, supportive measures apart from expanding infrastructures are needed, that means an expansion strategy shaping digital instruments and media with regard to special target groups and at the same time promoting the digitalisation of the civil society. Especially with regard to public service delivery, the discrimination of population parts, who are not acquainted with digitalisation, has to be avoided. At the same time, the digital progress will have an impact on the various areas of public service supply.

Public service supply: ensuring and expanding services

The Report finally presents central empirical results, analyses and basic recommendations for action. Although the problems of ensuring regional public services will increase in the future, the report shows that many adjustments have already been done and that appropriate approaches exist.

It is now important that available public services in the main target regions and cities of international and regional migration are ensured and that they are expanded with regard to the specific needs of individual



Cover of the Spatial Planning Report 2017

Source: BBSR

groups. The locational structure in rural and shrinking regions has to be secured. Nevertheless, a regional concentration of certain services will be a consequence which requires new concepts by which the mobility of a target group can be guaranteed.

Regional concentration enables to exploit synergy effects, which altogether leads to qualitatively better offers. In so far rural areas may test innovative solutions and assume a pioneering role for other regions. In view of the emerging challenges and the basic role of public services, a societal consensus on the key elements of regional public service supply and its financing is required. Only then, equal living standards can be guaranteed.

The German-speaking Spatial Planning Report "Ensuring the provision of public services" (in German: Daseinsvorsorge sichern) can be downloaded from the BBSR website <http://www.bbsr.bund.de/BBSR/DE/Veroeffentlichungen/Sonderveroeffentlichungen/2017/rob-2017.html>. The printed version (in German) can be ordered free of charge at the BBSR at ref-1-1@bbr.bund.de; reference: ROB 2017.

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Urban Development

SDG Indicators for the local, regional and national level

Further information:

inkar.de
monitor-nachhaltige-kommune.de

The revision of Germany's National Sustainable Development Strategy and the Indicator Report on Sustainable Development in Germany of DESTATIS as well as the SDG indicator set of EUROSTAT are oriented towards the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This orientation is given for the national and European level. Yet, the local as well as the regional level gain more importance in implementing the SDGs since the adoption of the New Urban Agenda of the United Nations in 2016 and its confirmation by the UN General Assembly in 2017 as well the agreement on the Urban Agenda for the EU under the umbrella of the Dutch EU Council Presidency in 2016 and the envisaged further development of the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities under the auspices of the German EU Council Presidency in 2020.

These conditions constitute the starting point for an initiative aimed at detailing and communicating the SDG indicators for the local, regional and national level in Germany. The initiative was born in the context of the national interministerial working group "Sustainable urban development from a national and international perspective" and brought together the Association of German Cities (whose board supports the implementation of the SDG indicators with a decision taken on 17 April 2018), the German Association of Towns and Municipalities, the German County Association, the Bertelsmann Stiftung, the German Institute of Urban Affairs, the Service Agency Communities in One World and the BBSR. In the context of

this initiative, the BBSR will further develop its INKAR product and thus also present the SDG indicators.

The initiative builds upon the DESTATIS Indicator Report and the EUROSTAT SDG indicator set. On this basis and on the basis of additional relevant sources (amongst others ISO and OECD) it develops a manageable catalogue of indicators for local practice. It first evaluated the relevance of each single SDG indicator for the local level in Germany with reference to municipal tasks and challenges and with the help of a problem and task check. It thus became clear that not only the so-called urban SDG 11 but almost all SDGs are relevant for municipalities in Germany. Secondly, the initiative detailed existing indicators by taking seven steps and in single cases – with particular reference to the New Urban Agenda – developed new indicators. It also defined approximately three indicators for each SDG, whose values may be aggregated on the regional and national level based on the EU INSPIRE Directive. Thirdly, the indicators are collected and analysed by the initiative. Collecting the indicators is carried out on the basis of official statistics and other publicly available sources for all cities and municipalities with more than 5.000 inhabitants as well as all counties (e.g. the Hackday Niederhein being staged in the German City of Moers to activate and use open data in a welfare-oriented manner). Fourthly, the initiative will present its working results to a specialist audience. The report of the initiative will be published on the website of the sustainable community monitor of the Bertelsmann Stiftung in due time.

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The initiative in dialogue with participants of the 10th National German Sustainability Award



Source: Christian Köster

Obviously, the initiative is fast-moving, which is proved by various requests from the European and international scene to present this interdisciplinary and practice-oriented approach. Detailing and applying the SDG indicators was not only a European topic during the EU Cities Forum hosted by the European Commission in Rotterdam in 2017 but also during the COP 23 in Bonn in 2017 and the 10th National German Sustainability Award in Düsseldorf in 2017. The initiative presented its work to the world public in the framework of the World Urban Forum IX of the United Nations staged in Kuala Lumpur in 2018.

The white paper “Green Spaces in the City”

Urban green spaces are under pressure by urban densification, structural use claims and ecological qualification, by design demands and municipal resource depletion. But a functioning urban society needs green infrastructure more than ever: as a physical and mental compensation to built infrastructure, as a place for recreation, meetings and participation, for health prevention, sports and leisure, for nature experience, climate protection or for resistance against natural hazards.

Studies and forecasts by the BBSR show that through reurbanization processes in Germany more and more people live in urban areas. In particular in the growing large metropolitan areas, it will therefore come to recompression. This requires new concepts for green infrastructure and urban development.

In 2013 the European Union has published its concept for green infrastructure, addressing rural and urban settings. In an urban context, all types of vegetation and water-dominated areas as well as individual elements of (urban) green infrastructures may form or become green infrastructure. The German Federal Government in 2013 started a huge process and for the first time placed the theme of urban green infrastructure on the agenda as a comprehensive, interdepartmental issue. The overarching goal was to place the issue of green spaces in urban development on the political agenda and to trigger discussion processes.

In 2015 seven German federal ministries worked together to publish the green paper “Green Spaces in the City”, representing the state of research on urban green areas. It was conceived as a discussion paper with the aim of initiating a broad dialogue with respect to the significance of urban green spaces in integrated urban development.

The next step therefore involved developing a white paper with concrete recommended measures for the Federal Government to implement more green spaces in towns and cities. The underlying basis for this white paper was developed by the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and

Spatial Development (BBSR), the Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), the German Environment Agency (UBA) and the Julius Kühn Institute – Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants (JKI).

In 2013 and the BBSR established a “Green in the City” research cluster working on topics like Garden City 21, Environmental Justice Objectives for Urban Green and the Green Urban Labs model projects. The results of completed and ongoing research projects and federal pilot initiatives were integrated into the white paper together with conclusions of expert reports and specialist workshops. It is therefore the result of a comprehensive process of discourse. It should be regarded as one module of a longer-term initiative for high-quality green spaces in our towns and cities. The white paper defines ten fields of action with concrete measures for protecting and enhancing urban green and open spaces. The objective is to achieve better legal integration of urban green infrastructures, to introduce targeted support measures, to develop guidelines and tools, to carry out pilot and research projects and to improve communication on the subject.

In future, the Federal Government will report on the white paper’s implementation and on the results of the accompanying research projects in its next urban development report and consolidate the exchange of experience between all active parties.

The white paper „Green Spaces in the City“ can be downloaded from www.bmub.bund.de/en/service/publications.

Further information:

www.gruen-in-der-stadt.de and www.bbsr.bund.de/initiative-gruen

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Hofgarten in Bonn

Foto: Stephanie Haury

Housing

New BBSR research project: housing policies in the European Union

National characteristics, common scopes and reform issues from a comparative perspective

The Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) and the Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community (BMI) are conducting a new research project on the different types of housing policies in the 28 member states of the European Union. In preparation for the German EU Council Presidency in 2020, the research project aims at providing a comprehensive overview of the different programmatic approaches and characteristics of national housing policies in the light of the respective market conditions, national legal regulations and funding-policy measures. Constitution, self-understanding, intensity of steering mechanisms as well as the strategic focus of the member's housing policy are the centre of the research interest for this study.

With regard to similar challenges of housing provision, a comprehensive and systematic overview of goals, problems, steering approaches and actors shall be given. This includes the current status of housing policies in all EU member states as well as recent changes in challenges and responses. This overview shall be used to identify structural similarities among the housing policies and to build a country cluster. Against the

background of cross-border developments through economic interdependencies and supranational policies, the relevance of European activities for the national housing policies shall be sketched.

The conceptual approach involves a systematic comparison of policy goals and instruments as well as their underlying conditions. It is based on a qualitative survey of country experts. The questionnaire will also be sent to the National Focal Points on Housing Policy in each country and will include closed questions e.g. regarding the existence of specific regulation as well as open questions e.g. to describe the function of financial instruments. It will be supplemented with an analysis of secondary statistical data on the housing markets to support the responses of country experts.

Resting on this data collection a computer-based qualitative comparison by cluster analysis and qualitative comparative analysis (QCA) will be made. Due to the theory-driven and empirical based clustering approach, divergences from established clusters of welfare states are possible. An additional in-depth survey of exemplary country cluster representatives will focus on the European dimension of the national housing policy as well as the developments in the context of the financial crisis.

These working steps will be supported by three international workshops whose results will be discussed. Additionally, the research process is supported by an advisory board of international experts on housing policy which will help to validate and consolidate the findings with their long-standing experience of international comparative studies of housing markets.

The research project, commissioned by the BBSR, is performed by the Institute for Housing and Environment (Institut Wohnen und Umwelt IWU) and the TU Darmstadt (Technical University of Darmstadt; Institute of Political Science). The kick off for the research project has recently taken place; final results can be expected for mid-2020. Further information and updates can be found at www.bbsr.bund.de.

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Research questions:

- What are the leading principles for the housing policies of the single EU member states?
- Which responsibilities do exist in the horizontal and vertical dimension?
- Which actors are relevant for policy formulation and implementation?
- Which subsegments, target groups and provider structures shape housing markets and policies in the EU member states?
- Which policy instruments exist and which importance do they have for housing provision?
- What does the housing provision in the single EU member states look like and what problems are relevant?
- Are there reform approaches and trends of instrumental change in the single EU member states?
- Do convergent and divergent developments between the EU member states exist?
- Which role does the EU play for the national housing policy?

BBSR Housing Transaction Database – transactions with small housing packages become increasingly significant

An analysis of the transaction market by the BBSR shows that 84,000 apartments were sold in 125 transactions of housing portfolios with 100 units and above in 2017, representing a significantly lower figure than the previous year. Market activities with housing packages of 800 housing units and above continued to lose momentum. In 2017, the BBSR Housing Transaction Database recorded the sale of 32 residential portfolios containing more than 800 units with 58,000 sold housing units in total. This represents the lowest number of transactions since 2011 and, regarding the sales volume, the lowest figure since the year 2010.

The average portfolio size has decreased to 1,800 sold units; only one portfolio with more than 5,000 traded apartments was sold over the course of the last twelve months. On the other hand, 21 transactions with 800 to 2,000 units were recorded last year. Since only few larger housing portfolios are available on the market, investors increasingly focus on smaller packages with 100 to 800 units. Last year, the BBSR Housing Transaction Database registered 93 sales in that segment.

Both listed companies with a large number of shareholders (and without controlled owners) and other private investors expanded their portfolios last year. The driving force behind

the current phase is still the relatively small group of listed companies and other private companies. Their market activities focused on a few federal states, above all North Rhine-Westphalia and Berlin. Furthermore, investors also acquired notable housing stocks in Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Brandenburg and Lower Saxony. The public sector has mainly refrained from any market activities. It did not acquire any stock with more than 800 units and in one case acted as the selling party.

The BBSR Housing Transaction Database

Sales of housing portfolios as well as transactions of entire housing companies have increased since the late 1990s. To observe market activities, analyse changes in the ownership structure, and detect dynamics in the German real estate market at an early stage, the BBSR developed a housing transaction database for residential portfolios. The semi-annual analysis and interpretation give useful suggestions for housing policies. The database includes large-scale portfolio deals with more than 800 housing units since 1999 and – starting in the second half of 2006 – small transactions with 100 up to 800 units.

The detailed analysis of last year's market activities can be found in BBSR-Analysen KOMPAKT 05/2018 (in German).

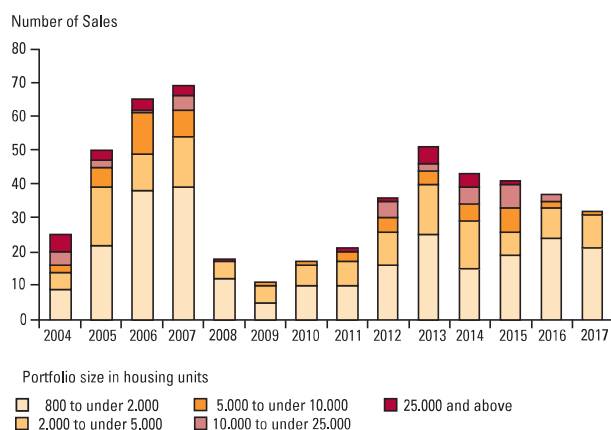
More information:

BBSR-Analysen
KOMPAKT 05/2018: Handelsaktivitäten mit Mietwohnungsportfolios im Jahr 2017 auf niedrigem Niveau
Themen > Wohnen und Immobilien > Marktakteure > Projekte und Fachbeiträge > BBSR-Datenbank
Wohnungstransaktionen

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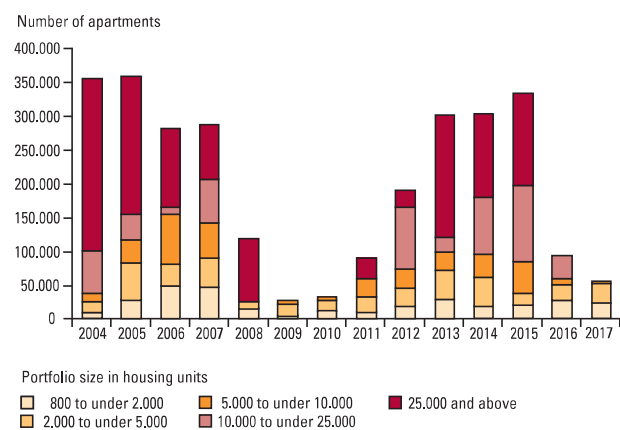
Sale transactions according to portfolio size, 2004–2017



Source: BBSR Housing Transaction Database

© BBSR Bonn 2018

Sold apartments according to portfolios size, 2004–2017



Source: BBSR Housing Transaction Database

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Building and Architecture

Testing new forms of living with the 'Vario Apartments' program



With various pilot projects the realization of innovative living concepts for students and trainees is tested by building sustainable and low-cost vario apartments. The BBSR supervises the pilot projects and analyzes planning, building and re-use strategies and processes.

The demand for housing has been increasing in German cities and metropolitan areas for several years. The BBSR is estimating that at least 350,000 new apartments have to be built per year to cover the demand. Especially students and trainees as well as elderly people, refugees and people with a secondary residency are in need of affordable housing.

The gap in the market could be bridged by increasing the supply of small and adaptable apartments. The Federal Ministry of Building has therefore established a funding program for pilot projects in order to test the sustainable and affordable construction of so-called vario apartments. Funds are available for housing projects for students and trainees with rents per domicile lower than 320 euros a month. At

the same time, the projects have to provide solutions for innovative, fast erectable as well as sustainable housing concepts.

The concept of re-using and repurposing a vario apartment has to be planned from the beginning. Initially, the apartments are meant to be used by students or trainees and later on by elderly people or families depending on the demand. For this purpose, for example, two or more accommodation units should be easily combinable.

About 20 pilot projects were selected ranging from 25 to more than 300 accommodation units. The vario apartments are developed in the form of new buildings as well as conversions, like unused buildings made from prefabricated slabs or listed buildings.

Besides analyzing the individual pilot projects, overall living concepts and construction methods are part of the research activities. Central questions are how construction times can be diminished, costs be saved, planning processes be optimized and building panels and modules for new as well as existing buildings be prefabricated. Further questions are the factors for the implementation of successful communal living and ecologically friendly outdoor spaces.

The aim is to evaluate the typology of the vario apartments and to establish a base for the further development and sustainable usage of this kind of buildings. A platform for networking and exchange amongst professionals has been established which also serves the purpose of public relations.

Vario apartments in Bochum, Halle/Saale, Hamburg, Heidelberg, Erfurt, Bremerhaven, Berlin, Chemnitz, Frankfurt/Oder

Sources: ACMS Architekten GmbH, Nuckel Architekten, Winking Froh Architekten GmbH, Drexler Guinand Jauslin Architekten GmbH, ARGE baukonsult-knabe-stadelmann-plandreier, thoma architekten, schultz sievers. architektur gbr, raumfeld architekten, Schuster Architekten

www.
forschungsinitiative.de/
variowohnungen
(in German)

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International standardization work on Environmental Product Declarations to be used with BIM applications

The environmental impacts of building materials and products are an important element of assessing the sustainability of buildings and are identified by means of the Life Cycle Assessment (LCA). Using LCA data (based on Environmental Product Declarations EPD) in Building Information Modeling (BIM) systems is increasingly discussed at the international level. Within these processes, the BBSR is an important stakeholder as the LCA infrastructure developed for the Assessment System for Sustainable Building (BNB) in Germany is internationally recognized. Basic data by data suppliers (e.g. programme operators for Environmental Product Declarations) are online transferred into the ÖKOBAUDAT database. The data, which are quality-checked by the BBSR, can then be imported into the building-related Life Cycle Assessment eLCA tool or be used for other calculation tools like BIM applications. A precondition for this is the "ILCD+EPD" data format which was developed by the BBSR and follows international standards. A wide-

ranging use of this data format, as proposed by the InData International Open Data Network for Sustainable Building initiated by the BBSR, enables an exchange and use of LCA data in subsequent calculation tools on an international level. Especially the transfer of Environmental Product Declarations into a data format compatible with BIM applications has been the new task of the international ISO/TC 59/SC 17/WG 3 "Environmental declaration of products" standardization working group. The BBSR was appointed as a member. During the first meetings on 27/28 November 2017 in London and on 7/8 February 2018 in Paris, the BBSR had the opportunity to considerably contribute to the discussions with its knowledge about the BNB/LCA infrastructure and from the InData working group. It will be necessary to define, which information from the EPD are required for the LCA applications within BIM systems. In a next step it will have to be determined in which form they have to be submitted for data import and calculation.

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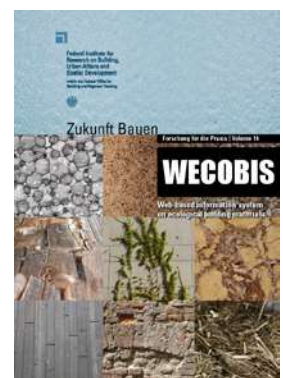
WECOBIS web-based information system on ecological building materials

WECOBIS is a web portal providing information on building materials for health-aware and eco-conscious construction. With comprehensive, product-independent information regarding constituent materials, problematic emissions in lifecycle phases, legal requirements and product labelling as well as material-related ecological requirements, it offers assistance with the planning and tendering process.

WECOBIS is therefore ideal for choosing eco-conscious products and is aimed at building professionals and prospective clients with an interest in sustainable building including architects, planners, construction companies and building users. From the first stroke of the planner's pen to the demolition of a building: WECOBIS does not just examine the process for developing the building, but also its utilisation phase and the reuse of building materials. Major development was focused on

more practical assistance in tendering material quality according to several BNB Criteria. The first development phase in 2016/2017 focused on the BNB Criterion 1.1.6 (Risks for the local environment). Further text modules have been published for BNB Criterion 3.1.3 "Indoor air hygiene" and 4.1.4 "Demolition/separation/recycling". The comprehensive information now provided in WECOBIS helps planners and clients in a variety of ways to make environmentally responsible, health-aware and quality-conscious material and product choices.

Specific information, like the planning & tendering assistance, is configured for the German market according to relevant German laws and rules. An English information brochure is available for download at www.WECOBIS.de.



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Publications

Demographic forecasts: looking into the future based on assumptions



(Demografische Prognosen: per Annahme in die Zukunft) Informationen zur Raumentwicklung (IzR), Issue 1.2018, Ed.: BBSR, Bonn 2018

Scientists work with exact data, complex models and modern instruments. Nevertheless, they sometimes forecast trends which do not become true in this form – especially if they look far into the

future. If forecasts to not become true, this is because related events cannot be anticipated on a linear basis. It is evident, why they are nevertheless strongly requested: political and economic action is future-oriented. This especially applies to the sectors of urban development and spatial planning. And many forecasts, of course, report correct and important trends regardless of exact figures. The issue therefore deals with various questions: Who makes forecasts on which levels? How must a forecast be understood? Who uses forecasts and for what purpose? And most important: What can a forecast do and what not?

Online participation in urban development



(Online-Partizipation in der Stadtentwicklung) Informationen zur Raumentwicklung (IzR), Issue 6.2017, Ed.: BBSR, Bonn 2017

Generally many different actors are involved in the processes and projects of urban development. This is also due to the fact that the conception of participation has changed in the

past decades. Meanwhile, cities offer various procedures with which they enter into a dialogue with the citizens. Although it is still relatively young, online participation has also evolved considerably: cities, enterprises and citizens spread information on websites, videos or newsletters and exchange opinions in chats, blogs and other dialogue-based offers. However, cities let citizens participate very differently in qualitative terms. This is why this issue considers the question where the chances of online participation can be found and which problems still have to be solved.

The journal IzR is available in German language with English abstracts. Some issues contain articles in English language. The abstracts are available as free downloads (www.bbsr.bund.de > English > publications > Informationen zur Raumentwicklung).

Trends in urban and regional development

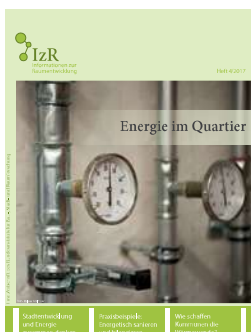


(Trends in der Stadt- und Regionalentwicklung) Informationen zur Raumentwicklung (IzR), Issue 5.2017, Ed.: BBSR, Bonn 2017

Cities and municipalities are affected by every trend in one way or another. In addition to current tasks, municipalities must therefore also consider the future. However, they often lack the funds

to react appropriately to forecasted trends. Must they and can they do this all the time? How do they handle contradictory information on trends? And from when is a trend a trend? The search for appropriate strategies for or against the trend also occupies politicians and the administrative sector in urban and regional development. The issue contributes to this by probing into the "trend towards the trend": how do the persons responsible on the different policy levels recognise which trends are important for them and whether and how they can react?

Energy in the quarter



(Energie im Quartier) Informationen zur Raumentwicklung (IzR), Issue 4.2017, Ed.: BBSR, Bonn 2017

In order to slow down climate change we need to save energy, live more efficiently and reduce the emission of CO₂. Buildings still offer great potentials for savings. This issue shows how the existing building stock can be developed

further in a way that is appropriate for the climate and saves energy. Taking the KfW programme "Energy-Efficient Urban Redevelopment" as a point of departure, the authors report on heterogeneous quarter approaches in this issue, which they have tested in initiatives and projects for six years. Integrated quarter concepts, instruments for energy-efficient redevelopment, possibilities for the participation of owners or the intelligent application of innovative technologies are in the focus of the projects. But do the projects really achieve the envisaged goals?

The IzR can be obtained from the Franz Steiner Verlag (service@steiner-verlag.de) and from bookshops as single issue or by yearly subscription. The price for a subscription is 72 euros, a single issue costs 19 euros. All prices plus postage and packing.

Remittances – informal financial flows supporting urban and regional development

Urban and regional development is supported by national as well as supranational policies and funding programmes – as prominent documents, like the New Urban Agenda of the United Nations or the Urban Agenda for the EU, highlight. Yet, this development is also determined by remittances – and in some cases to a significantly higher degree. Based on earlier research the BBSR took again a closer look at global remittance flows to provide respective evidence.

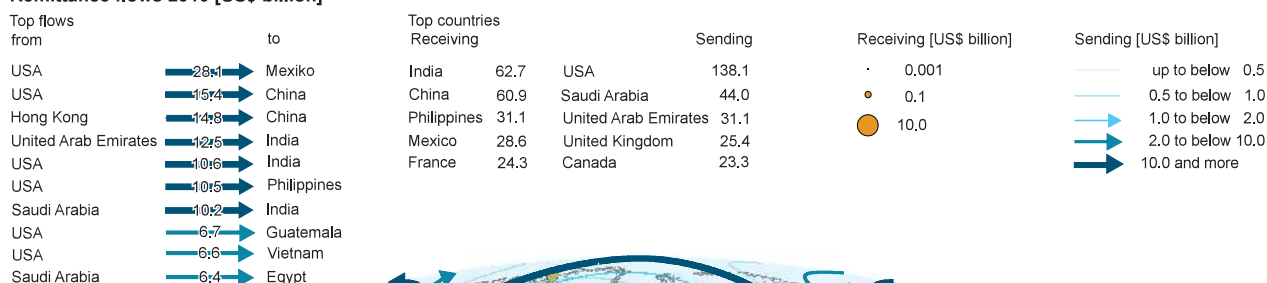
Taking 2016 data, it becomes clear that the top five receiving countries of remittances are India, China, the Philippines, Mexico and France, whereas the top five sending countries are the USA, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, the United Kingdom and Canada. The top five remittance flows can be found between the USA and Mexico, the USA and China, Hong Kong and China, the UAE and India as well as the USA and India (World Bank et al. 2016).

Although these flows are national ones, one may assume that the remittances are mostly spent in cities and city regions – provided the fact that 54% of the world population lived in urban areas in 2014 and a respective percentage of 66% is forecasted for 2050. Overall, almost US\$ 574 billion were remitted in 2016 to home countries (World Bank et al. 2016) constituting nearly 1% of the global gross domestic product (GDP) of US\$ 625 trillion (World Bank, OECD 2015/2016). If one goes a step further and compares the amount of remittances to the official net development aid and assistance received by countries, it becomes apparent that all remittances having flown in 2016 together form the quadruple amount (4.1 times to be precise) of this development aid and assistance (World Bank et al. 2016). Taking Mexico as an example, one may say that this country received 45 times the amount of remittances compared to the development aid and assistance in 2016.

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Remittance flows 2016 [US\$ billion]



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News**National Focal Point for Mobility Management in the BBSR**

Since January 2018, Germany has a newly established National Focal Point for Mobility Management. As a member of the European Platform on Mobility Management (EPOMM), Germany is part of the EPOMM's network of governments in European countries that are engaged in mobility management. The countries are represented by ministries that are responsible for mobility management, which is the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure in Germany. Each member country also has a National Focal Point (NFP), and the new NFP for Germany is within the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR).

The EPOMM aims to promote and further develop mobility management in Europe. Mobility management is a concept to promote sustainable transport and manage the demand of car use by changing travellers' attitudes and behaviours. At the core are measures such as information and communication, organizing services and coordinating activities of different partners. The tasks of the NFP include linking key players of mobility management on a national level and act as a platform for exchanging good practices. Furthermore, the NFP is the link between the national level and the European level, the EPOMM, to ensure an international exchange of experiences, lessons learned and good examples of mobility management.

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Since the turn of the year, there have been some changes in the BBSR's European Spatial Development division. After the long-standing head of division and of its ESPON activities, Peter Schön, retired, Volker Schmidt-Seiwert has assumed the ESPON Contact Point. Since the beginning of the year, the European

Spatial and Urban Development division and its ESPON team are supported by Claire Duvernet as a project coordinator. The ESPON team looks forward to new challenges and to an active presence of Germany within ESPON giving the chance to shape the future of the network.