



## RESEARCH NEWS

Bundesamt  
für Bauwesen und  
Raumordnung

Federal Office  
for Building and  
Regional Planning

### Editorial

Sustainable development – a *leitmotif* that has been stressed more than ever. Involved in a number of policy advising research projects and project monitoring in general, the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) has contributed substantially to this subject.

The European Community Initiative INTERREG III B, just to state one example of transnational cooperation, is oriented on recommendations which are laid down in the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP). In the ESDP document sustainable development is explicitly mentioned as a goal for spatial development policies. The BBR consults the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing (BMVBW) in the five INTERREG III B transnational cooperation areas in which Germany is involved: the Baltic Sea Region, the North Sea Region, North-Western Europe, the Alpine Space and the Central and South-Eastern European Space (CADSES).

Both the projects “Cities of the Future” and “Regions of the Future” are conducted by the BBR on behalf of the BMVBW. The project “Cities of the Future” is to test quantitative and qualitative standards for the evaluation of progress in sustainable urban development in practice. Model cities agreed to “*control the success accompanying the planning process*”. The competition “Regions of the Future” was devoted to promoting the sustainable design of the development of regions taking into account ecological as well as economic and social objectives. The article “Regions and Cities

on their Way towards the Future” reports on both.

Finally, the 25th Special Session of the United Nations’ General Assembly, so-called *Istanbul +5*, which took place in New York recently, is to be mentioned in this context. Five years after HABITAT II, the United Nations’ Conference on Human Settlements held in Istanbul in 1996, a first assessment of how far the HABITAT Agenda has been implemented in Member States was undertaken. In New York Member States presented their National Reports and illustrated herewith the Agenda’s implementation degree in their respective country. Germany put emphasis in its report on the issue of adequate shelter, sustainable settlement development, society, economy and institutions and on international cooperation. The German National Report was edited and printed at the BBR.

The editors

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## Regions and Cities on their Way towards the Future

The Earth Summit in Rio and the United Nations' Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT II) in Istanbul have stressed the importance of cities and regions for the realization of sustainable strategies. On the occasion of the conferences "Rio +10" and "Istanbul +5" the question arises which contribution the federation has made to sustainable development in the Federal Republic of Germany. From the wide range of measures two projects in the portfolio of the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing (BMVBW) are presented in the following text, both of which are carried out by the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR).

### Cities of the Future

The aim of the project "Cities of the Future" is to test quantitative and qualitative standards for the evaluation of progress in sustainable urban development in practice. The model cities Münster, Heidelberg, Dessau and Güstrow have committed themselves in a contract with the federation to carry out a "control of success accompanying the planning process". The basis of the cooperation project of the federation and the model cities is the "quality agreement", which lays down the common objectives, the data which have to be collected and the conditions of support.

In addition to approximately 50 implementation measures, a periodic control of success is supported with federal funds. Reporting from the model cities includes surveys in deadline years on the basis of fixed data. Two dozen "indicators of success" provide exemplary information about the progress which has been reached on the way towards the future and which obstacles still need to be overcome. In this sense the model cities are "laboratories of urban development".

A balance between the "accuracy" of measurement techniques and "intelligibility" had to be achieved in the selection and formulation of indicators. Ultimately the selected indicators have the objective to make developments in the cities transparent, to show undesirable developments and to promote positive changes. In the environmental sector a tradition of municipal reporting has

established itself more than a decade ago. In the transportation sector, too, the application of indicators for the justification of measures and the assessment of their impacts has been established. Considerable deficits are still found in the treatment of land use with respect to data as well as with regard to the procedures of an economical land management.

It has become apparent in the model cities that long-term programmes must be enriched with perceivable success. Evaluation standards which are understandable for everyone are indispensable to show whether we are proceeding in the right direction and have made progress. We need "indicators" for the sincerity and the consequent realization of effective ideas. Conflicts between different objectives mostly become apparent only when measures are realized; indicators provide the evidence. Indicators serve as a measure of changes and provide test values for the achievement of objectives. Indicators must be formulated in a social dialogue and decided politically, cannot always be defined in a "scientifically exact" way, must be evaluated with spatial differentiation and are of varying significance in terms of time. They are an expression of political consensus. The following catalogue of urban development strategies constituted the common basis of the transaction:

#### Economical land management

- B 1 Reduction of the increase in the built settlement area
- B 2 Re-use of derelict urban land and empty buildings
- B 3 Optimal utilization of urban density
- B 4 Maintenance and networking of climatically effective open areas
- B 5 Reduction of land sealing

#### Precautionary environmental protection

- U 1 Energy conservation and extension of the share of regenerative energy sources
- U 2 Reduction of air pollution and greenhouse gases
- U 3 Protection and maintenance of groundwater and local water resources
- U 4 Strengthening of substance cycles and reduction of residual waste

For further information on "Cities of the Future" please refer to [www.bbr.bund.de](http://www.bbr.bund.de) and follow the advices of the website.

## City-compatible mobility management

- M1 Connection of housing areas and workplaces to local public transport
- M2 Reduction of the land requirements of motorized personal traffic
- M3 Extension of the cycle path network
- M4 Improvement of attractiveness for pedestrians

## Socially responsible housing supply

- W1 Resource-saving housing construction at reduced cost
- W2 Provision of housing for persons with special housing needs
- W3 Promotion of self-help in neighbourhoods
- W4 Maintenance of the supply of basic services close to housing

## Economic promotion to safeguard locations

- Ö1 Maintenance of industrial and commercial locations in inner cities
- Ö2 Creation of workplaces which are compatible with housing areas
- Ö3 Strengthening and development of inner-city centres
- Ö4 Targeted promotion of locations for environment-friendly firms

Although absolutely valid criteria for the sustainable city do not exist according to current knowledge, useful “orientations” can be derived. With the project “Cities of the Future”, quantitative and qualitative standards for the evaluation of urban development policy and of spatially effective activities and measures are developed and the claim of operationalization is fulfilled. Hence the question concerning the application of concrete “orientation values” is of particular significance. The orientation values mentioned below can be conceived and applied as medium-term objectives in municipal practice. They form the core of the quality agreement for practical application in the model cities of the demonstration project “Cities of the Future”:

- Settlement area: reduction of the increase of the built settlement area (Orientation: internal development before external development with a ratio of 3:1)
- Drinking water: limitation of the water consumption of private households to less than 110 litres per day and person

- Residual waste: limitation of the amount of residual waste of private households which cannot be recycled to less than 10 litres or 2.5 kilogrammes per week and person
- Modal split: environmentally compatible means of transport (walking, cycling, use of local public transport) with a ratio of 2:1 against motorized traffic

In spite of all endeavours of the model cities to provide area-wide data for the indicator-based control of success, the approach of an indicator set which is valid for the entire area of the Federal Republic of Germany has its limitations. The formulation of generally valid, precise indicators is made more difficult by the lack of data and especially by regional problems, which vary between the old and the new Länder. The same objectives quite possibly require different approaches to measure their successful realization. However, at present there is hardly a realistic alternative to an indicator-based control of success. In spite of the critical points mentioned above, the determination of indicators of success and the description of measurement standards already constitute a milestone for the control of the success of sustainable urban development.

The experience of the model cities has been positive. The cooperation of sector planning authorities is put on a data-supported and mutually verifiable basis and creates trust through transparency. In transportation planning data on traffic volumes have already been applied for a long time as a qualified justification of necessary transportation measures. Draft resolutions of the municipal council can be provided with information about the consumption of resources – comparable to the financial requirements in the municipal budget. The publication of data on local development provides reliable decision-making bases for investors and private households. The application of indicators leads to the data-based examination of objectives and of the impacts of projects which have been realized. Periodical reporting about local building activity provides up-to-date information about the development of the housing market. The presentation of selected environmental data in public places informs about the current state of the quality of life in the city. Indicators of success can help to quantify

soft location factors and thus to put the image campaigns on an objective basis.

An indicator-based control of success is indispensable if one wishes to go beyond postulates. It must be recognizable in the course of the planning process with the aid of agreed standards which objectives have been reached and whether the applied approach is still correct. Politically determined objectives are only worthwhile to if it can be tested whether they are realized in practice. For this purpose indicators provide a reliable and understandable instrument for the control of success of a sustainable urban development.

The development of the increase in settlement area is considerably influenced by meta-trends (inter alia by building land policy, tax law, disposable income). For this reason the framework conditions set by the federal government are also under scrutiny. A sustainable urban development policy cannot be achieved in an isolated way within local boundaries and restricted to federal political competence. Therefore cooperation within the region is of central importance. The future of the city lies in the future of the region.

### **Regions of the Future**

And the future of the region lies in a sustainable design of their development. In order to promote such a development, which takes account of ecological as well as economic and social objectives, the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) has offered a public reward in the competition "Regions of the Future – Regional Agendas for a Sustainable Spatial and Settlement Development" in September 1997.

The task of the participants laid down in the invitation was to develop innovative approaches for a sustainable spatial and settlement development in the regions during the three-year term of the competition and to realize the first steps until 2000. The competition has now ended, and the winners received awards during the Global Conference on the Urban Future (URBAN 21) in 2000. How did this competition work, which results were reached and how will it continue?

The competition "Regions of the Future" is an element of the "Demonstration Projects

in Spatial Planning". Normally individual regions are supported in these demonstration projects in order to develop exemplary approaches and to provide stimulating examples for other regions. In contrast, the demonstration project "Regions of the Future" tried to promote corresponding processes simultaneously in many regions or to get them going by means of a competition.

This competition was conceived as a competition for ideas and their realization. It was not only concerned with good concepts for a sustainable regional development but especially with the realization of concrete projects which could fill these concepts with life. The concepts can only unfold their force if the way from the blueprint leads to regional practice.

Competition and cooperation – these were the two sides of one medal in this demonstration project. The competition has provided an incentive for the regions to seek new and innovative concepts and projects and to convey them from theory to practice. But they have also learned from other regions and their good examples. Cooperation, this "looking over each other's shoulders" was just as much a component of the competition as competitiveness.

Good practical examples of solutions to the problems arising in urban development, transportation, land use, energy supply, material flows and tourism can be observed in many of the regions which participated in the competition. The competition served this purpose, and it was one of its successes that it could stimulate and intensify the exchange of experience between the different regions.

But back again to the beginning of the competition. In the first step of the demonstration project "Regions of the Future", interested bodies were asked to submit first drafts of a regional agenda. Concepts and projects were required which aimed for instance at a traffic-reducing settlement structure, economical land consumption and a better protection of open areas. Particular significance was attached to the design of regional cooperation and dialogue processes.

Ecological, social and economic objectives were laid down by the organizers of the competition as an orientation. These objectives provided a framework and were

The website of the competition at [www.zukunftsregionen.de](http://www.zukunftsregionen.de) provides information about "Regions of the Future".

largely capable of consensus in abstract terms, but their realization can still not be taken for granted. They had to be adapted by the agencies in the regions according to the respective situation and to be put into concrete terms.

#### Ecological objectives

- Reduction of claims on open areas for settlement purposes
- Promotion of local and regional energy and material flows
- Economical use of non-renewable raw materials and energy sources
- Reduction of the release of harmful substances and emissions into nature

#### Social objectives

- Equal participation and consideration of the interests of all regional agencies and population groups

#### Economic objectives

- Preservation and creation of regional employment in innovative, environmentally oriented firms
- Maintenance and improvement of financial public scopes of action

The offer of a public reward was directed to administrative planning areas as well as to parts of these areas, to public or privately supported regional initiatives. The spatial structure and the organization responsible for the respective region were considered to be variable in this context. In the competition itself a decision had to be reached which "regions" and which "responsible bodies" proved to be successful in the realization of a sustainable spatial and settlement development.

87 regions had submitted application papers – their first draft of a regional agenda – until the end of January 1998, in order to qualify for participation in the competition for ideas and realized projects. At the end of May an independent jury selected 26 regions as participants in the competition "Regions of the Future".

The resonance created by the offer of the public reward, which was unexpectedly high even for the initiators of this competition, indicates the sense of a new era which is beginning in the regions. An atmosphere has developed in which shifts in policy at the level of objectives and

activities have a greater chance again. The competition strengthened this dynamic force by providing impulses and support.

However, these processes have to be carried by the municipalities and regions themselves. The precondition for this is internal dialogue and external cooperation. The active involvement of citizens – or put more comprehensively: of all social interest groups – in the realization process of a sustainable development obtains its significance from the experience of many years that the realization of corresponding concepts can only succeed in the dialogue with all participating agencies.

For this purpose, too, the participants of the competition "Regions of the Future" have created corresponding structures. Starting out from the insight that a better management, coordination and implementation allows a better solution of the arising problems, they have begun to enter into a dialogue with their citizens and to cooperate with other relevant institutions and agencies.

The competition has ended at the Global Conference on the Urban Future (URBAN 21). The best regions received awards, and all regions together presented themselves to the public with an exceptionally successful exhibition. In retrospect the competition has been positive – many impulses were provided for a sustainable regional development.

Even though the competition ended at URBAN 21 – sustainable regional development continues. And the regions which feel committed to such a development will continue to be supported. The continuation is named "Network Regions of the Future". In this network the exchange of experience and learning from the good examples of others continue to be cultivated – a strong pillar of development in the regions. Furthermore selected model regions are coached to find exemplary solutions for the removal of remaining weaknesses – for instance the treatment of subjects fraught with conflicts. If the engagement of the regions continues to be as pronounced as it was observed in the competition, the network also has a promising future.

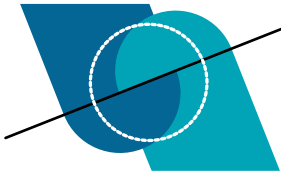
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## Preparation of New Programmes within the Community Initiative INTERREG III B

Germany and other European partner states have submitted five INTERREG programmes to the European Commission for approval. As soon as the programmes for the five cooperation areas have been approved, in which Germany participates within the framework of the EU Community Initiative INTERREG III B, they can be implemented by means of concrete transnational projects. The first projects will probably start at the end of 2001.

INTERREG III B is a Community Initiative by which the European Union supports cooperation among the Member States and their cities and regions in the field of spatial development in large transnational cooperation areas. It takes up the previous Initiative INTERREG II C, which, for the first time, between 1996 and 1999 supported transnational cooperation at European level.

Under the umbrella of INTERREG III B Germany intends to cooperating with European partner states in five transnational areas: the Baltic Sea Region, the North Sea Region, North-Western Europe, the Alpine Space and the Central Adriatic, Danubian and South-Eastern European Space (CADSES).

For the period 2001–2006, an amount of around 1,480 million Euro is available for transnational spatial development projects in these cooperation areas, approximately 744 million Euro of them being provided by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The remaining part is cofinanced by EU Member States. These are preliminary figures. They will be fixed on approval of the programmes.

### Which projects can be funded?

The priorities for measures eligible for funding listed up in the INTERREG Guidelines are specified and put into concrete terms in the so-called Community Initiative Programmes (CIP), which have been elaborated by the partner states and the regions participating in a cooperation area (see boxes on pages 8 and 9). Transnational cooperation proposals should be based on the experience gathered in the Community Initiative INTERREG II C and should take account of Community

policy priorities such as Transnational European Networks (TENs) as well as of recommendations for the development of the European territory laid down in the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP). Support may be requested in order to:

- elaborate operational spatial development strategies on a transnational scale, including cooperation among cities and between urban and rural areas, with a view to promoting polycentric and sustainable development;
- promote efficient and sustainable transport systems and improved access to the information society;
- promote the environment and wise management of cultural heritage and natural resources, in particular water resources;
- promote integration between maritime regions, and of insular regions, each through a specific priority with an appropriate financial allocation;
- promote the integrated cooperation of the outermost regions.

The measures selected must underpin an integrated territorial approach that responds to common problems and opportunities and leads to genuine benefits for the transnational area. While in the case of most INTERREG II C projects the exchange of experiences and joint studies were in the centre of attention, transnational projects, which demonstrate concrete, visible and innovative results, shall be given priority now. Due to limited financial resources, only small-scale infrastructure can be taken into consideration. Motorway, main road construction and other similar infrastructure are excluded. Apart from transnational studies and concepts for spatial development, the following activities, for instance, may be given a deeper thought of:

- preparatory investment studies, e.g. the evaluation of spatial and environmental compatibility, subregional and preparatory land use plans, technical and economic studies, reports;
- financing of structures implementing the results of transnational studies, e.g. regional development managers, moderators and agencies;

- concrete small infrastructural investments based on preparatory transnational studies and being a first step towards larger investments;
- marketing strategies as a result of projects combining planning phases and market-oriented activities.

#### Who can apply for projects?

Possible fund applicants for INTERREG III B projects might be e.g. national, regional and local authorities, universities, research institutes and non-governmental organizations. The application is based on the so-called *Lead Partner Principle*, i.e. the participating project partners agree upon a partner assuming the overall control of the entire project. This Lead Partner submits the joint project application, receives funds for the entire project, presents the project reports and is responsible for project management. Applications are submitted to the programme secretariats of the cooperation areas.

The programme secretariats undertake a first evaluation of applications and provide potential applicants with information during the application process. They also support to finding project partners by organizing the exchange of projects in cooperation areas. Dates for these exchanges are announced on the secretariats' homepages.

Project applications are not decided upon by the European Commission, but by a joint steering committee involving the participating EU Member States and Third Countries. The German delegation is headed by the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing (BMVBW). Two delegates from the German *Länder* are involved, too.

#### Support of transnational cooperation

Both the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing (BMVBW), being in overall thematic charge for INTERREG II C respectively INTERREG III B, and the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) support transnational cooperation in multifold ways. Three main tasks may be distinguished:

1. Steering of programmes in the framework of international monitoring and steering committees:

In Germany a national committee for each cooperation area, headed by a *Land*, has been set up. The Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing (BMVBW), the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (BMWi), the supreme regional planning authorities of the *Länder* participating in a cooperation area, the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) as well as economic and social partners are represented in these committees. The advisory committees prepare the German delegation's position in the transnational monitoring and steering committees of the cooperation areas. They especially provide recommendations regarding the approval of concrete project applications.

2. Assessment of transnational cooperation activities, organizing an exchange of experiences and public relations work:

The Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) reports regularly on the transnational cooperation process. For every cooperation area with German participation leaflets have been produced providing information about the respective eligible area, the priorities and measures for funding as well as about application and approval procedures. Furthermore the BBR regularly reports on the progress of implementation of the transnational cooperation programmes with German participation. The latest report (as to April 2001) includes a list of all INTERREG II C projects and additionally informs about the status quo of the new INTERREG III B programmes' preparation proceedings. The report can be downloaded from the homepage of the BBR ([www.bbr.bund.de](http://www.bbr.bund.de)). Examples of good projects shall be presented in a brochure (forthcoming publication by the end of 2001) in order to foster the exchange of experiences and to ensure the results of cooperation availability for other regions.

Information and useful links: [www.bbr.bund.de](http://www.bbr.bund.de)

### 3. Support of innovative transnational spatial development projects:

Herewith, promising projects underlining the added value of transnational cooperation shall be generated and – as good examples – provide ideas for a sustainable spatial development policy in a European context. The BMVBW intends to initiate and promote selected INTERREG III B cooperation projects of special Federal interest in each cooperation area in the framework of the spatial planning action programme “Demonstration Projects of Spatial Planning”. The BBR consults and supports the BMVBW in generating project ideas and in setting thematic focuses. In this context, *leitmotifs* proposed by the BBR have been discussed with delegates from the regional and local level and with association and research institutes during an INTERREG III B forum in early June 2001. They involve important and typical spatial development issues in each cooperation area being relevant from the Federal point of view.

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The discussion and exchange among INTERREG III B projects, which may be subsumed to a *leitmotif*, should provide an added value and should contribute to answering a transnational spatial planning issue being especially relevant from the Federal point of view. The following *leitmotifs* for transnational cooperation projects are under discussion:

- Baltic Sea Region: Integration of the New German *Länder* into the Baltic Sea Region and Pre-Accession-Strategies for the Countries in Central and Eastern Europe
- CADSES: Strengthening of Decentralized Structures in an Enlarging Europe through Transnational Cooperation
- North Sea Region: Spatial Planning Strategies for a More Integrated Management of Coastal Zones
- North-Western Europe: Integrated Spatial Development – New Forms of Cooperation for a Region without Borders
- Alpine Space: Model Region for Spatial Planning Policy Strategies and Measures towards Sustainable Development

#### CADSES

##### Partner states

EU Member States Austria, Germany, Greece, and Italy, seven Accession Countries and seven non-EU Member States

##### Eligible areas in Germany

Bathe-Wuerttemberg, Bavaria, Berlin, Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia

##### Programme Funds (2000–2006)

Total cost: approximately 240 million Euro  
Community participation (ERDF) 132,2 million Euro

##### Priorities

1. Sustainable spatial development and social and economic cohesion
2. Efficient and sustainable transport systems and access to the information society
3. Promotion and management of landscape, natural and cultural heritage
4. Environment protection, resource management and risk prevention

##### Programme Secretariat

The Programme Secretariat, which will be established in the City Hall of Dresden, will provide further information. By then, any information or contacts can be obtained from the participating German *Länder* or the Federal Government at [www.bbr.bund.de](http://www.bbr.bund.de)



#### North-Western Europe

##### Partner states

EU Member States Belgium, Germany, (Northern) France, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands (except the north), and United Kingdom, non-EU Member State Switzerland

##### Eligible areas in Germany

North Rhine-Westphalia, Rhineland-Palatinate, Saarland, Hesse, Bathe-Wuerttemberg, Bavaria (regional districts of Upper, Central and Lower Franconia, Swabia)

##### Programme Funds (2000–2006)

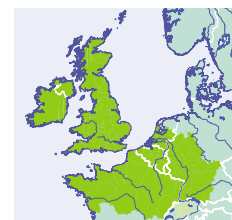
Total cost: approximately 655,1 million Euro  
Community participation (ERDF) 329,8 million Euro

##### Priorities

1. An attractive and coherent system of cities, towns and regions
2. External and internal accessibility
3. Water resources and the prevention of flood damage
4. Other natural resources and cultural heritage
5. Promoting territorial integration across seas of North-Western Europe

##### Programme Secretariat

The Programme Secretariat, which will be established in Lille (France) will provide further information. By then, any information or contacts can be obtained from the participating German *Länder* or the Federal Government at [www.bbr.bund.de](http://www.bbr.bund.de)





**Baltic Sea Region**

**Partner states** EU Member States Denmark, Germany, Finland, Sweden, non-EU Member States Belarus (Oblasti Brest, Grodno, Minsk, Vitebsk), Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland and Russia (Republic of Karelia, St. Petersburg, Oblasti Leningrad, Kaliningrad, Murmansk, Novgorod, Pskov)

**Eligible areas in Germany** Berlin, Brandenburg, Bremen, Hamburg, Mecklenburg-West Pomerania, Schleswig-Holstein, Lower Saxony / Regional District of Lüneburg

**Programme Funds (2000–2006)** Total cost: 182,5 million Euro  
Community participation (ERDF) 97,1 million Euro

**Priorities**

1. Promotion of spatial development approaches and actions for specific territories and sectors
2. Promotion of territorial structures supporting sustainable Baltic Sea Region development
3. Transnational promotion of institution building, strengthening the capacity for spatial development activities

**Programme Secretariat** INTERREG II C Common Secretariat  
Joint Financial Body  
Grubenstr. 20  
18055 Rostock  
Germany  
Tel.: +49 381 454845281  
Fax: +49 381 454845282  
bsda@spatial.baltic.net  
www.spatial.baltic.net



**Alpine Space**

**Partner states** EU Member States Germany, Austria, France, and Italy, non-EU Member States Liechtenstein, Slovenia, Switzerland


**Eligible areas in Germany** Bavaria (Regional Districts of Upper Bavaria and Swabia), Bathe-Wuerttemberg (Regional Districts of Tübingen and Freiburg)

**Programme Funds (2000–2006)** Total cost: approximately 121,7 million Euro  
Community participation (ERDF) 58,6 million Euro

**Priorities**

1. Promotion of the Alpine Space as a competitive and attractive living and economic space in the scope of a polycentric spatial development in the European Union
2. Development of sustainable transport systems with particular consideration of efficiency, inter-modality and better accessibility
3. Wise management of nature, landscapes and cultural heritage, promotion of the environment and the prevention of natural disasters

**Programme Secretariat** The establishment of a joint Programme Secretariat is planned. By then, further information can be obtained from the previous national secretariat for Art. 10 ERDF in the Alpine Space:  
Alpenforschungsinstitut  
Kreuzeckbahnstr. 19  
82467 Garmisch-Partenkirchen  
Germany  
Tel.: +49 8821 183300  
Fax: +49 8821 183310  
www.alpenforschungsinstitut.de



**North Sea Region**

**Partner states** EU Member States Denmark, Belgium (Flanders), Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, and United Kingdom, non-EU Member State Norway

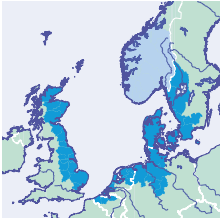
**Eligible areas in Germany** Bremen, Hamburg, Lower Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein

**Programme Funds (2000–2006)** Total cost: 278,058 million Euro  
Community participation (ERDF) 129,029 million Euro

**Priorities**

1. Transnational spatial development strategies and actions for urban, rural and maritime systems in the North Sea Region
2. Efficient and sustainable transport and communications and improved access to the information society
3. Sustainable management of the environment, natural resources and cultural heritage
4. Water management

**Programme Secretariat** North Sea Region Programme Secretariat  
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Skottenborg 26  
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Danmark  
Tel.: +45 87271999  
Fax: +45 86626862  
crbbj@vibamt.dk  
www.interregnorthsea.org



## ESPON – European Spatial Planning Observation Network

The *Final Report* (in English: vol. 103.2) and the Working Group Report *Economic Strength* (in German: vol. 98.1, in English: vol. 98.2) have already been published and can be obtained for a price of DM 10 (working group reports) and DM 15 (Final Reports) plus postage and packing each from the following address:

Selbstverlag des Bundesamtes für Bauwesen und Raumordnung  
Am Michaelshof 8  
53177 Bonn  
Germany  
Tel.: +49 1888 4012209  
Fax: +49 1888 4012292  
selbstverlag@bbr.bund.de

The Final Report also includes a CD-ROM with the Working Group Reports.

Information on the Study Programme on European Spatial Planning can be obtained from the website of the programme coordinator, Nordregio, at [www.nordregio.se](http://www.nordregio.se) and on the website of the BBR at [www.bbr.bund.de](http://www.bbr.bund.de)

The European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) adopted in Potsdam in May 1999 represents a political evaluation of the development of the European territory, which, for the first time, has been jointly elaborated and supported by the Member States of the European Union and the European Commission. It identifies spatial development problems and derives needs for action and policy options in the European context. The ESDP is based on scientific analyses and groundworks of national spatial research institutions. Already in 1994 in Leipzig, the Ministers responsible for Spatial Planning of the EU Member States emphasized the necessity to establish ESPON (European Spatial Planning Observation Network) in order to support the cooperation in spatial planning policy.

In December 1998, the European Commission launched the Study Programme on European Spatial Planning under Art. 10 ERDF. It served as a test phase for cooperation among national research institutes providing policy advice within a EU-wide network as well as to elaborate bases for decision with regard to a future ESPON cooperation.

In March 2000, the Study Programme was finished by presenting the Final Report (see Research News No 1 / 2000). This report was elaborated by a coordination team on behalf of the European Commission and directed by Nordregio (The Nordic Centre for Spatial Development, an institution established by the Nordic Council of Ministers in Stockholm), in close cooperation with national research institutions, the so-called *National Focal Points*. The German *National Focal Point* was represented by the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing (BMVBW). 13 transnational working groups in total produced studies on the three main topics of the Programme (*Criteria for the Spatial Differentiation of the EU Territory, Regions and Urban-Rural Partnerships, Spatial Images – Innovative Cartographical Representation of European Spatial Development Policies*).

The Working Group Reports on the topics *Geographical Position, Economic Strength*

and *Cultural Assets*, being three thematic fields of the main topic *Criteria for Spatial Differentiation*, in which Germany participated, will be published in English and in German within the *Forschungen* series of the BBR and can already partly be obtained from the BBR's Selbstverlag. Furthermore, the Final Report of Nordregio will be published in the original English version and in German within these series.

The application of the BBR to participate in the Study Programme had already attached great importance to the information of the EU Accession Countries about the results of the Study Programme. In the framework of the ESDP Action Programme, adopted by the Ministers responsible for Spatial Planning in the EU Member States in Tampere in October 1999, Germany also assumed the overall charge of integrating the EU Accession Countries and spatial research providing political advice in these countries into the European Union.

For this purpose, the BBR held a symposium in Stockholm on 26 and 27 April this year under the Swedish EU Presidency entitled *Research on the Spatial Development of an Enlarging European Union*. The event was mainly financed out of national German funds and funds of the European Union. It was organized and implemented by Nordregio. The symposium's goal was, on the one hand, to inform the EU Accession Countries about the Study Programme and to impart its basic messages to these countries. On the other hand, the draft programme jointly elaborated by the EU Member States for the period 2001–2006, within which the ESPON shall be established under the EU Community Initiative INTERREG, was discussed in the plenum and in different working groups. Apart from representatives of the Ministries responsible for Spatial Planning in the EU Member States and spatial research institutes providing policy advice, representatives from nearly all EU Accession Countries as well as Norway and Switzerland attended the symposium. Not only the Study Programme outcomes found a large interest and agreement especially among the representatives from the EU Accession Countries. The draft programme elaborated under the overall charge of

Luxembourg, as well, found a broad assent among the participants of the symposium. The German representatives proposed to intensify cooperation, particularly with the EU Accession Countries, which was welcomed by all participants. The latter also reaffirmed the necessity to execute spatial research in Europe not only on the territory of the EU Member States, but also within a larger Europe.

The ESPON draft programme for the period 2001–2006 has been revised by Luxembourg owing to the large number of remarks and was presented to the Committee on Spatial Development (CSD) in the middle of May 2001. The Programme will be transferred to the European Commission in July 2001 to be adopted in the framework of the INTERREG programme. It is intended to report about the further developments in one of the next

editions of the *Research News* as well as on the BBR website.

Integral part of the Study Programme and of the next ESPON period are the national networks supporting the *National Focal Points* in spatially analysing the larger European territory. In Germany this means e.g. to inform the partner institutes of the BBR, the Executive Committee of the Standing Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning of the German Länder and the spatial monitoring systems of the Länder regularly. The BBR used, just to mention an example, the *2nd Workshop on Spatial Monitoring at Federal Government and Länder Level*, which took place on 28 and 29 March 2001 in the Gustav-Stresemann Institute in Bonn, to inform about the Study Programme, especially about the *Criteria for the Spatial Differentiation of the EU Territory* analysed there.

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## 25th Special Session of the United Nations' General Assembly (Istanbul +5)

For further information on "Istanbul +5" please refer to  
[www.istanbul5.org](http://www.istanbul5.org)  
[www.urban21.de](http://www.urban21.de)

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The documentation of the Global Conference on the Urban Future (URBAN 21) is now available as download from the internet at [www.urban21.de](http://www.urban21.de)

In June 1996, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT II) took place in Istanbul. At that time the international community and representatives from local government, regional authorities and non-governmental organizations emphatically confirmed their intention of striving towards the goal of sustainable development of settlements within the framework of a global partnership. In the HABITAT Agenda, guidelines were laid down which all countries committed themselves to implement. Five years after HABITAT II, the Special General Assembly (Istanbul + 5) held in New York in 2001 should make a first interim assessment, i.e. verify the degree of implementation of the HABITAT Agenda (see page 15).

Istanbul +5 centred on the final consultations about the draft of a "Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium" and – for the first time during a Special General Assembly – about the contributions of accredited partners of the HABITAT Committee (inter alia of local authorities, cities, non-governmental organizations) within a so-called *Thematic Committee*. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, acknowledged the broad engagement of local representatives and non-governmental organizations in Istanbul +5 as "largest ever gathering of local authorities at the UN".

Delegates from over 130 states made plenary statements based on the National Reports concerning status and future focuses and requirements in implementing the HABITAT Agenda. The statements clearly declared themselves for a further implementation of the HABITAT Agenda. They also demanded to balance the north-south divide, to continue financial support, to consider national peculiarities (developing countries) and to strengthen local self-government mechanisms (industrial countries).

In the German statement, the Head of the German Delegation, Erich Stather, State Secretary in the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), pointed out that in Germany as well the topic "sustainable urban and

settlements development" had considerably gained importance since HABITAT II took place in Istanbul in 1996. This was inter alia shown by the nearly 1,700 local decisions in the context of the Local Agenda 21 expressing a new communication culture among administrations, municipal councils, citizens, associations, trade, industry, churches and many other sectors. Awareness had largely grown for the fact, that a sustainable development of cities was a central element of global sustainable development, which, since the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992, had become a principle and political programme, cities being an important key to sustainable development here.

In organizing the Global Conference on the Urban Future (URBAN 21) in July 2000 in Berlin, Germany had provided an opportunity to discuss central problems of cities. More than 4,000 politicians, businessmen, scientists and representatives from both the public sector and from non-governmental organizations had come to Berlin to attend the Conference. In his opening statement, the Secretary-General of the United Nations had pointed out the special importance of cities for a global sustainable development in the 21st century. The Final Declaration of URBAN 21 was a clear declaration for strengthening local self-government and urban management. The results of URBAN 21 will be acknowledged in the UNCHS Report on Istanbul +5.

Special attention was paid to the "Day of the Cities and Local Authorities" on the day before the Special General Assembly. In the presence of the chairman of the Special General Assembly of the United Nations, Harri Holkeri, and of the Secretary-General of the United Nations urban networks and cities presented their considerable successful outcomes and efforts in implementing the Habitat Agenda and emphasized the importance of cities with regard to the fight against poverty, to economic development and resource protection. Bärbel Dieckmann, Mayor of the City of Bonn, said in her statement during the Assembly that scopes for decision and competences provided essential opportunities for exhausting the potential of cities for the sustainable development of cities.

## CEMAT Guidelines – Exemplary Implemented in a Russian Region

On the occasion of the 12th Session of CEMAT (*Conférence Européenne des Ministres responsables de l'Aménagement du Territoire*) which was held in Hanover, 7-8 September 2000, Ministers of the Council of Europe being responsible for Regional Planning presented the "Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent". The Guiding Principles stress the territorial dimension of human rights and democracy. Their objective is to define measures of spatial development policy by which people in all Member States of the Council can achieve an acceptable standard of living. This is an essential precondition for the stabilization of democratic structures in Europe's regions and municipalities.

Applying and implementing the Guiding Principles in European regions is certainly one of the major tasks in the near future. Therefore the Guiding Principles will be exemplary implemented by shaping a regions-tandem which will be composed of a Russian region and a German one. Under the umbrella of the German Federal Research Programme "Demonstration Projects in Spatial Planning" implementation procedures will be carried within the framework of a research project in the period 2001–2003. It will be conducted by OST-EURO Beratungs- und Betreuungs GmbH on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing (BMVBW). The Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) monitors the process.

It is planned to present the projects' outcomes at the 13th Session of CEMAT which will take place in Ljubljana, 11–12 September 2003.

The CEMAT Guidelines constitute the basis for a regionally more balanced development. Principles are:

- Promoting territorial cohesion through a more balanced social and economic development of regions and improved competitiveness
- Encouraging development generated by urban functions and improving the relationship between town and countryside

- Promoting more balanced accessibility
- Developing access to information and knowledge
- Reducing environmental damage
- Enhancing and protecting natural resources and the natural heritage
- Enhancing the cultural heritage as a factor for development
- Developing energy resources while maintaining safety
- Encouraging high quality, sustainable tourism
- Limitation of the impacts of natural disasters

The research project aims at implementing these guidelines adjusted to the specific situation in the Russian region in question supported by the German tandem-region. A regional development concept, jointly elaborated by all actors, is seen as means to fulfil the task. To ensure the projects' success the exchange of information between all actors involved will be promoted through staging conferences and workshops.

The Guiding Principles can be downloaded from the website of the BMVBW at [www.bmvbw.de](http://www.bmvbw.de)

Further information on the project will soon be available on the website of the BBR at [www.bbr.bund.de](http://www.bbr.bund.de)

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German-Russian Consultations, April 2001



Photo: Bundesbildstelle

## Scientific Advisory Board of the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) – New Appointment

The members of the new Scientific Advisory Board of the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) were appointed by the Federal Minister of Transport, Building and Housing, Kurt Bodewig. Members of the Board are 13 experts from research and practice representing the functions of spatial planning, urban development, building and housing. One of these experts is an elected scientific collaborator of the BBR:

- Dr. Heidede Becker  
Deutsches Institut für Urbanistik Berlin
- Professor Hans Heinrich Bloetevogel  
Gerhard-Mercator-Universität Duisburg  
Institut für Geographie
- Professor Harald Bodenschatz  
Technische Universität Berlin  
Institut für Soziologie
- Professor Ingrid Breckner  
Technische Universität Hamburg-  
Harburg
- Professor Andreas Faludi  
Universität Nijmegen
- Professor Peter Hansen  
Gundlach Gruppe Hannover
- Professor Hermann Hill  
Deutsche Hochschule für  
Verwaltungswissenschaften Speyer  
Lehrstuhl für Öffentliches Recht und  
Verwaltungswissenschaften
- Catherine Hoja  
Freie und Hansestadt Hamburg  
Stadtentwicklungsbehörde  
Landesplanungsamt
- Professor Helmut Holzapfel  
Universität Gesamthochschule Kassel  
Fachgebiet Verkehrsplanung
- Professor Wolfgang Pelzl  
Universität Leipzig  
Stiftungslehrstuhl Grundstücks-  
und Wohnungswirtschaft
- Professor Gerd Schmidt-Eichsteadt  
Technische Universität Berlin  
Institut für Stadt- und Regionalplanung
- Professor Ulrich van Suntum  
Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität  
Münster  
Institut für Siedlungs-  
und Wohnungswesen
- Professor Barbara Zibell  
Universität Hannover  
Institut für Architektur-  
und Planungstheorie

The chair of the new Scientific Advisory Board, Professor Barbara Zibell, was elected during a constituent session on 16 March 2001.

In accordance with the Foundation Act from 15 December 1997, the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) conducts scientific research in the sectors of spatial planning, urban development and housing in the framework of the tasks of the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing (BMVBW). In order to fulfil this function and with regard to basic building issues and their integration, the BBR requires scientific advice. With the approval of the BMVBW, the Scientific Advisory Board has been established in the BBR, which supports the BBR in the fields of Spatial Planning, Urban Development, Housing and Principle Concerns of Construction in the realization of its work programme and the evaluation of results, including publications.

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Vice-President and  
Professor of the BBR

## Publications

### **Journal *Informationen zur Raum-entwicklung* – IzR (Information on Spatial Development)**

### **European Metropolitan Regions – Core Objectives for a Future-oriented Development**

Starting point of this volume is the special role which the metropolitan regions play for the spatial, economic, ecological and social development in Europe. Solely the high demographic share of the metropolitan regions and their common economic potential underlines their importance. They are furthermore the cultural centre and turntables of international transport. The dangers of an overburdening of the metropolitan regions are, however, unmistakable. A too high transport load, ecological burdens, social polarization etc. impair the quality of life in the metropolitan regions and represent an essential challenge to the political and planning sector. Sustainability as a concept is explicitly based on the networking of ecological, social and economic requirements. The guiding principle of sustainable development intends economic prosperity, social security and stabilization of ecological systems, considering resource protection for future generations, to be equal objective dimensions. To achieve these objectives and to orientate urban and regional policy accordingly is a decisive future task, above all in the metropolitan regions. Thus it is necessary to elaborate and to implement – principally suprasectoral – strategies and measures, so that a sustainable development can be realized in the metropolitan regions. It is therefore the aim of the volume to point out innovative strategies to implement a sustainable development, to discuss new approaches to regional planning and management as well as to classify and reflect the importance of cooperative solutions at the regional and interregional level in order to realize a future-oriented, sustainable development in the European Metropolitan Regions. This volume can be obtained from Selbstverlag of the BBR (price 20 DM). Abstracts are available as downloads at the website of the BBR.

### **Towards Sustainable Human Settlements Development – National Report of the Federal Republic of Germany to the 25th Special Session of the United Nations (Istanbul +5)**

In June 1996, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (HABITAT II) took place in Istanbul. At that time the international community and representatives from local governments, regional authorities and non-governmental organizations emphatically confirmed their intention of striving towards the goal of sustainable development of settlements within the framework of a global partnership. Five years after HABITAT II, the Special Session of the United Nations' General Assembly "Istanbul +5" held in New York in June 2001 made a first interim assessment (see page 12). The Member States have been asked to draw up reports on the degree of implementation of the HABITAT Agenda in their countries, thus accounting also to themselves. Germany was pleased to respond to this request and submitted its National Report. The present report addresses the calls for adequate shelter, for the sustainable development of settlements, society, the economy and institutions and for international cooperation and closes with an overview of the future tasks of settlements policy in Germany. In this connection the report looks at what progress has been achieved and what obstacles have been encountered, at the activities underlying this progress, at lessons learned and at future priorities. The National Report was edited and printed at BBR and can be obtained from the BBR (Beatrix Thul, Tel.: +49 1888 4012333, Fax: +49 1888 4012260, e-mail: beatrix.thul@bbr.bund.de) as free copy as long as stock is available. The report can be downloaded from the website of the BBR.

### **Forthcoming Publication**

### **Spatial Planning Report 2000 – Short Version in English**

The National Spatial Planning Report 2000 (see Research News No 2 / 2000) will soon be available in English as short version.



### **Orders and subscriptions**

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**Events**

Bonn

15–16 November 2001

“Zukunftsforum RaumPlanung”  
(*Forum on the Future of Spatial  
Planning*)

Permanent urbanization, an  
increasing development of  
sparsely populated areas,  
regional consequences of  
transformation processes, the  
growing EU integration and  
globalization imply new chal-  
lenges for spatial planning.  
Spatial planning in the  
Federal Republic of Germany,  
on the one hand, claims for  
strengthening and, on the  
other hand, demands a critical  
assessment. The Academy for  
Regional Research and  
Regional Planning (ARL) and  
the Federal Office for Building  
and Regional Planning (BBR)  
would like to use the  
“Zukunftsforum RaumPlanung”  
to take up actual spatial  
planning issues and to  
discuss them within a larger  
circle:

Further information on the  
Forum can be obtained from:

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**Zukunftsforum RaumPlanung – Draft Programme**

15 November 2001

- 10.30 Welcome and Introduction by the organizer  
11.00 Opening Speech “Spatial Planning of the Future – Between National Design and European Integration”  
Henner Wittling, State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing  
11.30 Speech on Changed Framework Conditions  
Wolfgang Clement, Minister-President of the Land of North Rhine-Westphalia  
12.00 Speech on the Society’s Responsibility for Space  
Ralf Fücks, Senator for Urban Development and Environmental Protection retired, Board of Heinrich Böll Foundation  
14.00 Panel 1: Changed Framework Conditions for Spatial Development  
16.30 Panel 2: Possibilities to Manage Spatial Planning and Policy

16 November 2001

- 09.00 Panel 3: Understanding Planning  
13.30 Panel 4: Popularizing the Problems, Tasks and Chances of Spatial Planning, Policy and Research  
15.45 Final Speeches  
Professor Wendelin Strubelt, Vice-President of the BBR  
Dr. Ernst Hasso Ritter, State Secretary retired, President of the ARL  
16.30 End of Forum

**Obituary**

Richard H. Williams, known by his colleagues and friends as Dick, member of the BBR’s Scientific Advisory Board from 1998 to 2000, died in January this year. He studied geography at the University of Nottingham and first worked as urban planner in Lancashire and Nottingham. Since 1975, he has been teaching as Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Research in European Urban Environments (C.R.E.U.E.) of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. Apart from numerous special teaching posts in Great Britain, Denmark and Finland, Dick Williams was Secretary-General of the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP). His scientific interest was particularly dedicated to the spatial planning policy of the European Union and its Member States. Dick Williams and the BBR have maintained intensive scientific and friendly contacts for a long time. We have pleasant memories of our close cooperation within the Study Programme on European Spatial Planning and his services to it. It was also the last occasion for us to meet him.