



Bundesamt
für Bauwesen und
Raumordnung

Federal Office
for Building and
Regional Planning

RESEARCH NEWS

Editorial

On 1 May this year ten countries joined the European Union: Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Malta, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, and Slovenia. Altogether twenty-five EU Member States currently are building up what is called the House of Europe. Time to reflect a bit on this issue. The Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) therefore takes the opportunity to design its first volume of the year's 2004 Research News in the light of EU Enlargement. In-depth articles will deal with this issue as the BBR takes an active role in a series of spatial-and-urban-development-related initiatives and programmes on the European level – such as INTERREG and ESPON – and carries out policy advising research for the German Government, e.g. with respect to EU Structural Funds and new neighbouring relations of the European Union.

Apart from that one of the main 2004 topics was the issue of demographic change and its spatial relevance. A joint conference was held by the BBR together with the German Academy for Spatial Research and Regional Planning (*Akademie für Raumforschung und Landesplanung* – ARL) in Magdeburg in June this year to discuss the question and strategies of how to deal with it. The Federal Minister of Transport, Building and Housing, Manfred Stolpe, participated actively and pointed out that it will be of utmost importance to maintain a good and affordable regional and supraregional infrastructure under the conditions of a declining and ageing population. As one of the speakers stressed the point: to spatially design the motto of “less is more” will be a core future issue. The BBR prepared well this discussion by publishing beforehand a thematic volume of its series “Informationen zur Raumentwicklung – IzR” (Information on Spatial Development) which focuses on lessons to be learned from European experiences. In that context “INKAR PRO” – a CD-ROM containing BBR's Population Projection 2020 – is available from the BBR, too.

Wishing you a pleasant reading!

The editors

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Demographic Change in Space

For further information on the event please refer to www.bbr.bund.de/Neues.htm (in German) The BBR published in its series of "Informationen zur Raumentwicklung – IzR" (Information on Spatial Development) a volume on the issue of "Demographic Change and Infrastructure in Rural Areas – Lessons to be Learned from European Experiences? (IzR Volume 12.2003).

The joint conference of the German Academy for Spatial Research and Regional Planning (ARL) and the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) on the theme "Demographic Change in Space: What Are We Doing?" on 17–18 June 2004 in Magdeburg met with great interest in science and practice. More than 350 participants met at the impressive conference location, the *Johanniskirche*. In lectures and panel discussions they considered and discussed the impacts of demographic change on spatial development as well as the conclusions for spatial policy and planning.

The policy statement of the Federal Minister of Transport, Building and Housing, Manfred Stolpe, attracted great attention. He called for an examination of previous spatial planning models, goals and strategies with open results and without taboos. According to the minister, a central task is the maintenance of a good and affordable regional and supraregional infrastructure under the conditions of a declining and ageing population. In this connection spatially differentiated minimum standards would possibly also have to be considered.

Dieter Oberndörfer upheld the thesis that Germany will become a country of immigration far more than in the past and that the acceptance of immigrants by the receiving society is of fundamental significance for their integration. "Learning to live with diversity, that is our task. Without this the integration of immigrants cannot succeed."

Planners are called upon to be "champions of space", believed Marta Doehler-Behzadi. The issue is to design declining cities and regions according to the motto "less is more", since this aims at leaving former growth paths. However, if the history of decline has nothing else in stock for many people than "less is less" – then how can one manage this in a decent way?

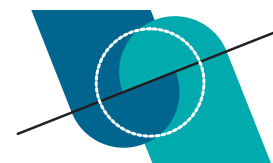
Conclusion: the challenges have been recognized, work on the solutions has begun.



"INKAR PRO" CD-ROM
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Integrating Old and New EU Member States through INTERREG Transnational Cooperation Projects



On 1st May 2004, ten new Member States have joined the European Union. New preconditions for territorial cooperation and cohesion will emerge. Most of the new members participate already in programmes of transnational cooperation for spatial development (INTERREG IIC III B) since the year 2000. Eight of them cooperate amongst others with German partners in three transnational programmes. Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland take part in the transnational cooperation around the Baltic Sea. The Czech and the Slovak Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia cooperate with 13 other countries in the so-called Central European, Adriatic, Danubian and South-Eastern European Space (CADSES). Moreover Slovenia takes part in cooperation activities in the Alpine Space.

Despite the relatively small financial share of the INTERREG III B programmes (0,6% of Structural Funds), this cooperation has significant political and economic impacts. It has accompanied the process of EU Accession and promoted integration of larger European territories across state

boundaries. The countries have identified common strategic objectives for spatial development of the respective territories. Common work contributed to better acquaintance with EU economic, financial and legal system and regulations. Even more concrete mutual learning processes were induced through cooperation in common projects. Thus, advanced experience on planning, legislation, public administration, public-private partnership, management etc. were exchanged between partners. This helped in particular the regions of Eastern European countries to prepare for EU Membership and created better preconditions for economic cooperation in an enlarged European Union.

At mid-term of programme implementation (April 2004), partners from the eight analysed new EU Member States take part (with at least one partner) in almost 80% of the transnational projects approved so far for the three cooperation areas with German participation. All together 427 partner from the new Member States are involved (see table).

Participation of new EU Member States in transnational projects (April 2004)

Programme Area	Approved Projects (number)	Projects with partners from new Member States (number)	Share of new Member States in all projects (%)	Partners (number)	Partners from new Member States (number)	Share of new Member States in project partners (%)
Alpine Space	35	22	63	386	26	7
CADSES	73	57	78	957	169	18
Baltic Sea	49	42	86	1132	232	20
All Areas	157	121	77	2475	427	17

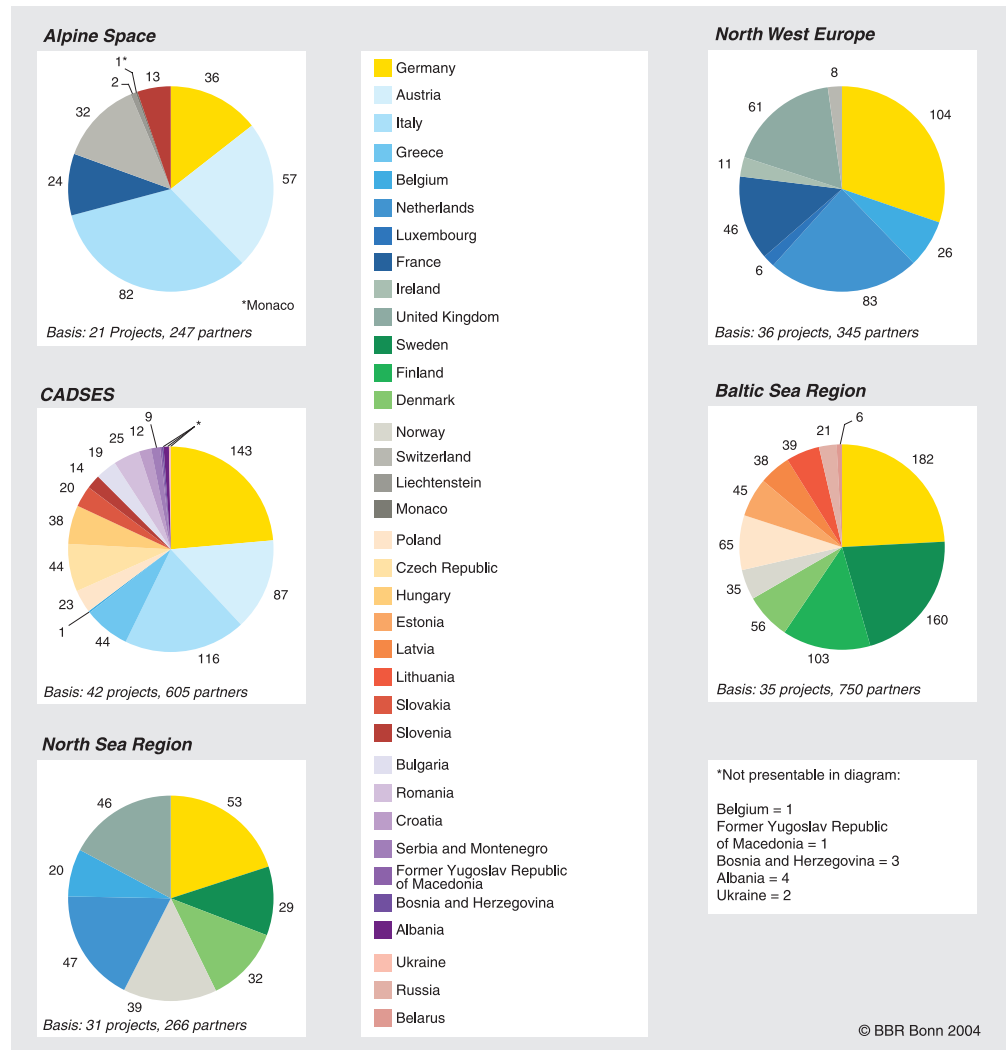
Source: BBR's INTERREG III B Project Data Bank

The structure of partnerships of all projects with German participation can also be seen in the respective figures considering the five cooperation areas (see figure 1). It underlines not only the close cooperation within the European Union of formerly 15 EU Member States but also a significant share of partnerships with new EU Member States in the Alpine Space, the Baltic Sea Region and CADSES. In the Baltic Sea Region, the four new EU Member States participate almost as intensively as the other EU Member States (see figure 2).

The projects contribute to better common utilisation and development of resources of the participating countries and regions such as qualification, economy, infrastructure, cultural and natural heritage. Involvement in strategic networks and partnerships opens up for new opportunities in business development.

A group of projects supports to combine the European Transport Network with sustainable regional development. Thus, the project "SIC!" – Sustrain Implement Corridor – (see map 1) aims at elaborating

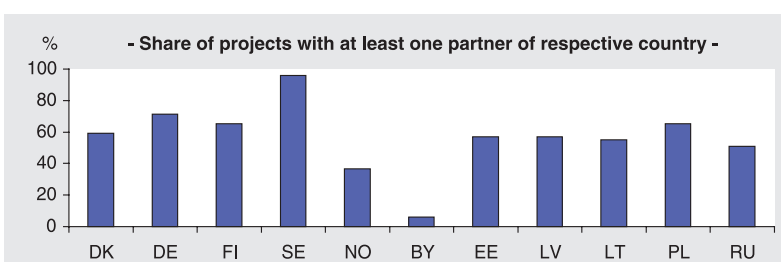
Figure 1:
Partners of Projects with German Contribution by Country of Origin



a transnational infrastructure investment master plan for railways, roads and transport nodes (passenger and cargo). This should optimize the trade-offs between regional development benefits through improved regional accessibility by EU Enlargement, national transport master plans and trans-national network requirements, budgetary restrictions by suggesting public-private-partnership schemes for functionally and / or regionally defined parts of the railway infrastructure. Besides, the project "ALPFRAIL" started in 2004 and supports

the elaboration of operational solutions for railway freight traffic considering the sustainable management of connections between economic areas within the Alpine Space. A major target is to enhance railway freight traffic load and transport speed, e.g. between the harbour of Koper (Slovenia) and German gateways. The project "SuPortNet" helps establishing, developing and marketing networks of sport boat harbours in the light of sustainable spatial development. It pays attention to requirements of environment, existing infrastructure and appropriate distances. The project results contribute to the development of harbour-related economy, tourism and services. Another project, "VIA ALPINA", is a project promoting sustainable tourism along an alpine trail which crosses eight alpine countries throughout the alpine arch from France to Slovenia. Apart from that the projects "ELLA" (Elbe-Labe Flood Management Measures by Transnational Spatial Planning) and "ODERREGIO" refer to the transnational cooperation of regional

Figure 2:
Participation of countries in transnational projects 2003 (Programme Interreg III B for Baltic Sea Region)



spatial planning authorities in the river basins including catchment areas, i.e. the development of an action program of spatial planning for preventive flood protection, transnationally agreed between different countries in question.

**Map 1
SIC! - Project Partners**



**Map 2:
European Route of Brick Gothic
- Project Partners**



**Map 3
TUSEC-IP - Project Partners**



With regard to cultural and natural heritage and their added value for regional economic development, through the project “EuRoB – European Route of Brick Gothic” (*Europäische Route der Backsteingotik*) partners from old and new EU Member States try to maintain and use their Gothic heritage in the Baltic Sea Region (see map 2). The project supports to establish a transnational tourism route. Following similar ideas the project “IdeQua” fosters the establishment of an identity and quality axis starting at the Baltic Sea and leading to the Aegean Sea through strengthening regional identity and structures of centres.

Moreover, several projects pay attention to the development of balanced settlement structures and decentralization of administrative functions. Through the project “CITYREGIO“ for instance, the regions of Leipzig, Linz and Pilsen market themselves as interlinked location.

Considering environmental and soil-related issues, the project “TUSEC-IP“ (Technique of Urban Soil Evaluation in City Regions – Implementation in Planning Procedures) involves inter alia metropolitan regions of Munich, Zurich and Maribor and develops proposals on planning-oriented soil evaluation and its application for city development (see map 3).

The results mentioned above were already achieved before EU Accession and despite obstacles caused by different financing instruments (INTERREG, PHARE) with different criteria, time horizon and decision-making. From 2004 on, project development and implementation from one financial source and on equal terms for all countries will be possible. It is expected that cooperation will then further be intensified and be made more efficient and will thus lead to even more tangible results.

To foster transnational cooperation – even with the new neighbours in the Eastern European Hemisphere – the New Neighbourhood Initiative was launched by the EU Commission. In implementing this initiative the new neighbours – e.g. Belarus, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine shall be integrated in the European way of thinking and acting. To achieve this, commonly financed and jointly carried out projects will be supported. Both the Baltic Sea Region and CADSES thus will become Neighbourhood Programmes.

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Convergence and Competitiveness – Potential Objective 1 Regions in the European Union after 2006

With the intention to concentrate the Structural Funds means to the „poorest“ regions of the enlarged Union in the Third Cohesion Report the Commission of the Union pays attention to the considerable aggrandisement of regional disparities due to the enlargement. In this sense, the concentration within the Cohesion Fund is thought to support growth in the least favoured Member States and within the framework of Objective 1 of the structural funds in the regions.

In the redesign of regional funds, the Commission does not only acknowledge the still existing structural problems in the new Member States but also in the old Member States, especially in those regions with a per capita GDP below 75% of the EU 15 but no longer below the corresponding threshold of the EU 25. In order not to threaten the emerging process of convergence, the regions affected by the so-called “statistical effect” should profit from a transition regulation.

In the funding period by 2006 almost all regions of the acceded countries apart from Praha, Bratislava and Cyprus are integrated into the existing Objective 1 setting (see map 1). About 158m inhabitants, that means 35% of the total population of the EU 25 live in those economically handicapped regions. In the new Member States with 72m this are 98% of the population. In the old Member States, about 84m people, i.e. 22% of the population live in these economically backward regions (NUTS 2 regions as per 2003 version).

In the conception of the Commission for the determination of potential Objective 1 regions, a regional division of the by now enlarged Union into a two-class delineation is foreseen using 75% of the regional GDP in Purchasing Power Standards.

To elaborate the “real” Objective 1 regions, the 75% threshold of the GDP of the current EU 25 will be used. To determine the region of the “statistical effect”, a second delineation will be undertaken on the basis of the no longer existing 75% GDP threshold of the old Member States.

In 2001, the average GDP in PPS of the enlarged Union reaches 91% of the according value of the EU 15. The mean value of the Accessing Countries lies at about 50% of the EU 25 average value.

Using the GDP of 2001 and the 75% threshold of the EU 15, the former regional setting more or less persists. The different economic developments of the Member States only lead to minor regional adjustments (see map 2):

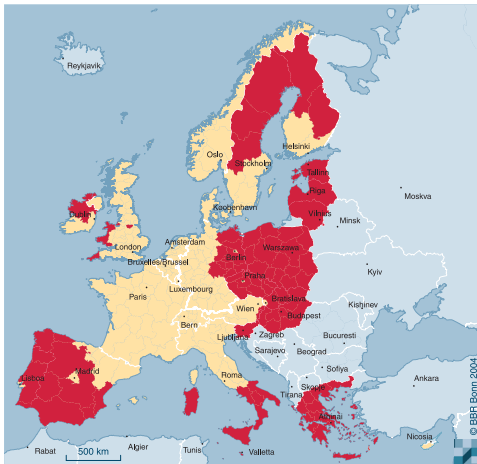
- Within the old EU, the region Sterea Ellada north of Attiki and the western part of Ireland will no longer belong to the Objective 1 regions.
- The Spanish regions of Castilla y León, Comunidad Valenciana and Canarias are also above this average.
- In the Member States, the region Közép-Magyarország near Budapest is above the EU 15 average.

Table 1
“Phasing-out” and “phasing-in” regions

“Phasing-Out“: regions affected by the „statistical effect“		“Phasing-in“: Objective 1 regions of the existing Structural Funds period with a GDP above 75% of EU 15 average in 2001	
Belgien :	Prov. Hainaut, Prov. Luxembourg	United Kingdom:	South Yorkshire
Deutschland:	Brandenburg – Südwest, Leipzig	Österreich:	Burgenland
Spanien:	Principado de Asturias, Comunidad Región de Murcia	Espana:	Castilla y León, Valenciana, Canarias
Griechenland:	Dytiki Makedonia, Attiki	Ellada:	Sterea Ellada, Notio Aigaio
Italien:	Basilicata	Suomi-Finland:	Itä-Suomi, Pohjois-Suomi
Portugal:	Algarve	Sverige:	Mellersta Norrland, Norra Mellansverige, Övre Norrland
Merseyside, West Wales and The Valleys, Highlands and Islands		Magyarország:	Közép-Magyarország
Malta		Portugal:	Região Autónoma da Madeira
		Ireland:	Border, Midlands and Western
		Italia:	Sardegna

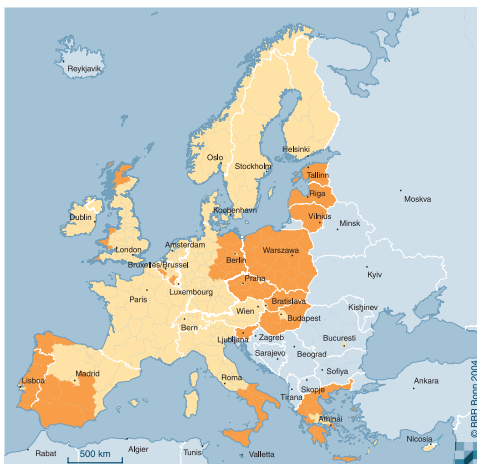
Source: Own calculations; origin of data: Eurostat

Map 1
Objective 1 regions 2004 to 2006



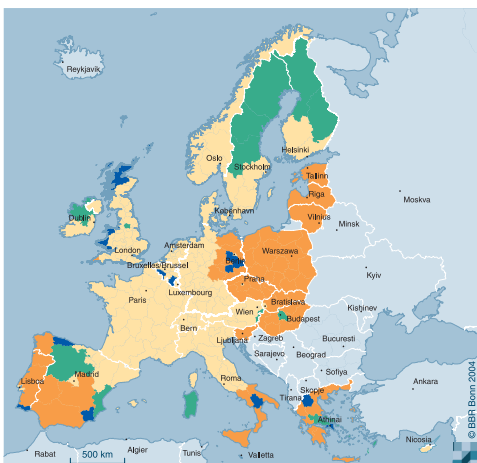
■ Eligible regions of existing period 2004 to 2006

Map 2
Regions below 75% of EU 15 GDP average



■ Regions with GDP below 75% of EU 15 average 2001

Map 3
Potential objective 1 regions after 2006



■ Regions with GDP below 75% of EU 15 average 2001
■ Regions of the so called 'phasing out'
■ Regions of the so called 'phasing in'

- Additional regions in the old EU 15, which do not belong to the existing Objective 1 setting but will potentially join it in the future, are the regions of Luxembourg and Hainault in Belgium.

This leads to the assignment of potential “proper” Objective 1 regions on the basis of available data for 2001. From the point of view of the European Commission, all regions below 75% of the EU 15 average form eligible regions with regard to convergence and competitiveness. This group will be divided into

- Objective 1 regions with a GDP per capita below 75% of the EU 25 average;
- “phasing out” regions with the so-called “statistical effect”;
- “phasing in” regions of now existing eligible regions which do not fulfil the convergence criteria even without the statistical effects of the enlargement

with different intensities of assistance.

The “phasing-in” regions mark the transition from the aim of convergence to the new Objective 2 supporting regional development in respect to regional competitiveness and employment:

- The new potential regional setting of assistance, which has developed from the existing Objective 1 regions, will look as follows (see Map 3). The „real“ Objective 1 regions will concentrate in the new cohesion countries, parts of Eastern Germany and one region in the United Kingdom.
- The regions of south-east Brandenburg and Leipzig will be the „statistically affected“ regions in the Eastern part of Germany.
- Italy and Portugal are, compared with Greece and Spain, less affected by out-phasing regions.
- In Northern and Western Europe only Cornwall remains an Objective 1 region. While Wales and the Scottish Highlands and Islands are “statistically affected”, all other regions in Ireland and Scandinavia will lose their Objective 1 status.

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For all maps:

Source: Continous Spatial Monitoring of Europe of the BBR;
Origin of data: Eurostat; Geometrical basis: Eurostat GISCO

■ other EU 25 - regions

* Regions NUTS 2 of the 2003 version

As the example of Belgium shows, the set of eligible areas is fundamentally determined by the economic development. In some cases, an assignment of the regions at the very moment is difficult due to the

existing data base. Regions like Dytiki Makedonia in Greece or Hainault in Belgium with a GDP per capita of 75.1% or 75.5% of the EU average respectively are to be seen as uncertain candidates.

Table 2
Population in potential eligible areas after 2006

Member state	Population 2001	Population in objective 1 regions* 2004-2006*		Population in regions* with GDP per capita 2001 below 75% of the EU15 average		Population in regions* with GDP per capita 2001 below 75% of the EU25 average		Population in regions* affected by the „statistical effect“	
		total	total	in % of total population	total	in % of total population	total	in % of total population	total
Österreich	8032203	275473	3,4						
Belgique-Belgie	10281095			1529171	14,9			1529171	14,9
Deutschland	82339416	13788382	16,7	13788382	16,7	9576650	11,6	4211731	5,1
Danmark	5356993								
Espana	40266315	23445621	58,2	15150116	37,6	12958389	32,2	2191727	5,4
Suomi-Finland	5188100	1306999	25,2						
France	59188063								
Ellada	10937790	10937790	100,0	10083367	92,2	5885457	53,8	4197910	38,4
Ireland	3852994	1015616	26,4						
Italy	57927001	19231604	33,2	17585478	30,4	16981371	29,3	604108	1,0
Luxembourg	442000								
Nederland	16043205								
Portugal	10293190	7689862	74,7	7445609	72,3	7051943	68,5	393666	3,8
Sverige	8896002	1716601	19,3						
United Kingdom	58838309	4983425	8,5	4086319	6,9	502101	0,9	3584218	6,1
Kypros	705998								
Ceska Republika	10220016	9055583	88,6	9055583	88,6	9055583	88,6		
Eesti	1367002	1367002	100,0	1367002	100,0	1367002	100,0		
Magyarország	10187986	10187986	100,0	7357984	72,2	7357984	72,2		
Lietuva	3481013	3481013	100,0	3481013	100,0	3481013	100,0		
Latvija	2355003	2355003	100,0	2355003	100,0	2355003	100,0		
Malta	392999	392999	100,0	392999	100,0			392999	100,0
Polska	38640027	38640027	100,0	38640027	100,0	38640027	100,0		
Slovenija	1991996	1991996	100,0	1991996	100,0	1991996	100,0		
Slovenská Republika	5402980	4801420	88,9	4801420	88,9	4801420	88,9		
EU15	377882675	84391372	22,3	69668442	18,4	52955911	14,0	16712531	4,4
Acceded countries	74039021	72273029	97,6	69443026	93,8	69050027	93,3	392999	0,5
EU 25	452627694	156664400	34,6	139111468	30,7	122005938	27,0	17105531	3,8

Source : Spatial Monitoring System of Europe of the BBR; origin of data: Eurostat

* Region NUTS 2 in 2003 version

Russia – A New Neighbouring Relation in the East

The European Union is being enlarged and new neighbouring relations do acquire attention. One of them – the Russian Federation – has been shifting steadily into the focus of European affairs. Yet the country – although being Member State of the Council of Europe since 1996 – is generally looked at as one somewhere out there. Daily press often shows black and white pictures, objective facts are seldom given, and work in practice related to subjects of spatial and urban development being carried out at stage in Russia are still as rarely to be found as the Blue Mauritius Post Stamp.

But first back to the roots: An important objective of the European Council is to consolidate local democracy and community. Democratic structures at the regional and local level, however, only function in an adequate economic and social environment. Therefore, the tasks of the European Council are among other things to strengthen social cohesion in Europe and thus to create the bases for a sustainable development of the European continent. The spatial integration of the European regions and municipalities is a process of small steps for which cross-border, transnational cooperation among the Member States of the European Council plays a key role. A precondition for a successful transnational cooperation is the orientation towards joint spatial visions.

On the occasion of the 12th Session of the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning (Conférence Européenne des Ministres responsables de l'Aménagement du Territoire – CEMAT) during the EXPO 2000 in Hanover, first pan-European spatial development visions – the „Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent“ (CEMAT Guiding Principles) – have been adopted as a basis for future cooperation in the field of spatial planning. In Hanover the Ministers agreed upon a „10-Point Programme for Greater Cohesion among the Regions of Europe“ serving to implement the CEMAT Guiding Principles. With the project „CEMAT Model Regions“, the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing of Germany (BMVBW) / the Federal Office for Building and Regional

Planning (BBR) in cooperation with the Russian Federation implemented the Ministers' recommendations of the „10 Point Programme“ to apply the CEMAT Guiding Principles through concrete transnational projects.

Russia was selected for the exemplary implementation of the CEMAT Guiding Principles as the backlog demand of Russian regions with regard to regional development and regional planning was evident. Excellent planners and dedicated politically responsible persons today have to find new ways of communication there in order to cope creatively with the present challenges of regional development and to use them in a future-oriented way by actively involving the local level in the elaboration of regional development concepts.

Furthermore, following signing by the president of the Russian Federation, the Act on General Principles of the Organization of Local Self-Government in the Russian Federation has come into force in October 2003. This act enables to amend the Russian local government law and to introduce a second local level (system of two-tier self-government), i.e. to create up to 30 000 new municipalities in Russia.

The CEMAT Model Regions Project could be successfully completed in summer 2003. Insights gained from the project were presented on the occasion of the 13th Session of the European Conference of Ministers Responsible for Regional Planning in September 2003 in Ljubljana. There, the European Regional Planning Ministers also adopted Resolution No. 2 on „Training of Authorities Responsible for Sustainable Spatial Development“ which also includes the establishment of a Pan-European Network of „CEMAT Model Regions – Regions of Innovation“. Last but not least, the insights and positive results gained from the CEMAT Model Regions Project led to the adoption of the resolution.

The initiation of the CEMAT Regions of Innovation Project, which shall be implemented in the framework of the German Action Programme „Demonstration Projects of Spatial Development“ and which has been drawn up as follow-up

For further information please refer to [www.bbr.bund.de /](http://www.bbr.bund.de/) [www.cemat-region.ru /](http://www.cemat-region.ru/) www.coe.int/http://www.coe.int/T/E/Cultural_Co-operation/Environment/CEMAT

The project's outcomes were presented in Ljubljana by a quadrilingual sixteen-page booklet and a feature of fifteen minutes in English and Russian language. Besides, volume 7.2003 (ISSN 0303-2493) of the BBR journal „Informationen zur Raumentwicklung“ (Information on Spatial Development) dealt with various aspects of the Council of Europe's Spatial Planning Policy.

CEMAT Regions of Innovation



The CEMAT Regions of Innovation Project is carried on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing (BMVBW) and the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) by OST-EURO Beratungs- und Betreuungs GmbH in cooperation with University of Bayreuth / Chair of Economic Geography and Regional Planning

project to the one mentioned before, has provided the basis for the Pan-European Network demanded by the Ministers and has prepared the working contents of this network. The project aims at exemplary implementing the CEMAT Guiding Principles in other European regions, especially in the new Member States of the Council of Europe – meanwhile Armenia became as well a network member –, and at continuing the already started process of establishing local and regional cooperation structures and its political monitoring.

With the Russian regions Kaliningrad Oblast, Leningrad Oblast, Moscow Oblast and Pskov Oblast (especially EUREGIO PSKOV-LIVONIA) predestinated Russian regions have been newly selected for the project or existing partnerships in already selected regions have been taken up. Besides, pilot rayons (counties) are selected in each oblast, if required due to specific problems, in order to test the new planning philosophy at the local level. The oblasti have a key function in integrating the Russian Federation into the activities of the Council of Europe and the European Union. The admission of Armenia into the project expresses the necessity of conveying the planning philosophy of the Council of Europe, especially as the project touches other cultures and new neighbours as well.

The political relevance of the project has been underlined by a High-Level Network Conference with predominantly political character and 100 participants staged on 18 and 19 May 2004 in St Petersburg. It was headed by the Parliamentary State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing, Iris

Gleicke, and also involved a high-ranking representative of the Council of Europe as well as the participating CEMAT Regions of Innovation or further European regions interested respectively. The conference was thematically prepared by different regional seminars held in the regions involved in the projects. The conference's aim was to scientifically and politically discuss the experiences gained from the project – especially the application of the Act on Local and Regional Self-Government – within a European context, to intensify interregional and cross-border cooperation as well as the exchange between the regions involved in the project – considering German experiences – and thus to meet the philosophy of the Network of CEMAT Regions of Innovation, reading that regions support each other.

The German side underlined the positive role of the local authorities and of the Federal states in the Eastern German transformation process and stressed the project's pilot function not only for the other Russian regions but for the new Eastern German *Länder* in general establishing an administration which is closer to the people. According to the representative of the Council of Europe, special attention has to be given to the education and training of the new so-called „communal managers“. The Council of Europe has explicitly expressed its interest in using the network initiated by the project for such training measures. The Russian contributions showed that the establishment of a local decision-making and administrative level in the Russian Federation enables new forms of regional economic cooperation as in the context of this reform, the political demand for the improvement of housing, infrastructure and public services grows. On the other hand, first examples show that local self-government contributes to more competition and to an environment attracting investments.

Up to now, the project was able to give useful impetuses to especially implementing the local reform in the Russian Federation but also to intensifying cross-border activities at the new external borders of the European Union as well as in the border regions of the Council of Europe's territory – all this within an innovative environment and in accordance with the CEMAT Guiding Principles.

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Short News

2nd National Urban Development Conference, Bonn, 10-11 May 2004

During the 2nd National Urban Development Congress on 10-11 May 2004 in Bonn, experts from the administration, science and practice discussed about how to organize urban development in the future in view of complex challenges and scarce resources. Keynote speeches and panels inter alia discussed possibilities and limits of Public Private Partnerships in urban planning in the area of conflict between public responsibility and private initiative. How should cooperations be organized? What should be the responsibility of the Federal Government, the *Länder* and of local authorities? What should be the responsibility of commerce, private investors and housing economy? The congress was organized by the German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing in cooperation with ARGEBAU (Working Committee of *Länder* Ministers responsible for Building and Housing), the German Association of Cities and Towns and the German Association of Towns and Municipalities. For further information on the 2nd National Urban Development Congress please refer to www.exwest.de or the congress documentation (forthcoming publication).

EUROPOLIS

BMVBW and BBR are participating in the INTERREG III B project EUROPOLIS in the North West Europe (NWE) Cooperation Area. The project aims on the one hand at improving the exchange of experience between European medium-sized cities on current urban development tasks. On the other hand, it shall identify innovative approaches on urban renewal and urban extension. Against the background of concrete urban development projects, instruments and strategies shall be analysed in a comparative way and further developed. For this purpose, an action platform has been founded bringing together two central groups of actors. Apart from representatives from the local planning level, the project involves representatives of state and regional planning authorities. In the framework

of so-called Operational Urban Task Forces (three-day events each), the partners intensively discuss procedures, instruments and strategies on urban development based on an upcoming planning task in a partner city. Furthermore, (urban) audits are planned dedicated to specific planning issues of certain partner cities. 15 partners in total from Belgium, Germany, France and the United Kingdom are participating in the project. The French Ministère de l'Équipement, des Transports, du Logement, du Tourisme et de la Mer is the Lead Partner.

Forthcoming Publications

Les Villes Européennes.

Analyse Comparative (Die Städte Europas. Eine vergleichende Analyse / European Cities. A Comparative Analysis)

Céline Rozenblat and Patricia Cicille, scientists at the French DATAR, have taken up the insights of the study about European cities executed by Roger Brunet more than ten years ago. In view of the increasing competition between cities they have now presented a new research study completing the European urban system of Brunet and evaluating the attractiveness of subareas, especially of cities. The study will be published in German in the framework of the BBR series „Forschungen“ (No 115). For a French version please refer to www.ladocfrancaise.gouv.fr and follow the advice on the web site.

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Publications

**Demographic Change and Infrastructure
in Rural Areas
– Lessons to be Learned from European
Experiences?
(IzR Volume 12.2003)**

The German population is ageing and declining. This lingering process has reached public awareness only slowly. During the 1980s and 1990s high international net in-migration and the birth numbers of strong age groups have obstructed the view of the process of decline that has set in decades ago. Only when the drastically declining birth numbers in the new *Länder* led to the closure of kindergartens and schools, greater attention was devoted by politicians and planners to the impacts of population decline. Thus, inter alia, the centennial work "generation contract" was put on the agenda, and the discussion has created public awareness for the coming decades through numerous demographic excursions. The issue is now to learn from the experience of other European countries in dealing with demographic change.

**Spatial Development Scenarios
from Neighbouring Countries
(IzR Volume 1/2.2004)**

Spatial planning policy of the next years will include the development of a new political framework or programme for spatial planning. One step in this process will be to develop concepts. This implies that spatial planning policy already has some ideas about the probable long-term perspectives of the change of the spatial and settlement structure which again would provide the basis for developing concepts, strategies and instruments of spatial planning. As a contribution to designing the future, it is necessary to critically analyse reality and to estimate what is feasible in the future. This volume would like to contribute to this.

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