

Bundesamt
für Bauwesen und
Raumordnung

Federal Office
for Building and
Regional Planning

RESEARCH NEWS

New English Language Publications in Germany

Spatial Research and Spatial Planning (*Raumforschung und Raumordnung* – RuR) is an interdisciplinary scientific journal dedicated to issues of spatially relevant research and planning particularly in the fields of development and planning at national, Länder, regional, and urban level as well as in the fields of landscape and environmental planning.

Those who are working in spatially relevant scientific areas of research and teaching as well as students are the target group of RuR. This is the same for planning experts of all administrative levels and expert fields in the respective German speaking community. RuR is the information media for transferring findings within and between the scientists' and practitioners' communities. Scientific articles from all spatially relevant areas which reflect fundamental, theoretical, programmatic and policy- respectively practice-oriented topics will be published. These contributions will be reviewed according to international standards. Reports from research and practice will be published additionally.

Against the background of communicating knowledge from the European and international context to the German speaking spatial research and spatial planning community the editors of RuR – the Academy for Spatial Research and Planning (*Akademie für Raumforschung und Landesplanung* – ARL) and the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (*Bundesamt für Bauwesen und Raumordnung* – BBR) decided to host articles in English language at RuR and thus presenting international subjects to the German speaking public.

If you would like to write a contribution to RuR, please address Dr. Andreas Klee at ARL (email: klee@arl-net.de) or Dr. Hans-Peter Gatzweiler at BBR (email: hans-peter.gatzweiler@bbr.bund.de). Thank you very much in advance for your commitment!

German Annual of Spatial Research

The following German institutions have initiated an Annual which will first be published this year. The 2005 Annual will reflect on the notion of transformation.

- Academy for Spatial Research and Planning (*Akademie für Raumforschung und Landesplanung* – ARL)
- Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (*Bundesamt für Bauwesen und Raumordnung* – BBR)
- Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (*Leibniz-Institut für Länderkunde e.V.* – IfL)
- Leibniz Institute of Ecological and Regional Development (*Leibniz-Institut für ökologische Raumentwicklung e.V.* – IÖR)
- Leibniz Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning (*Leibniz-Institut für Regionalentwicklung und Strukturplanung* – IRS)

Wishing you a pleasant reading!

The editors



Contents

Pilot Project on the
European Urban
Knowledge Network

Spatial Planning Report
2005

The ESPON 2006
Programme Approaches
the Last Third

INTERREG III B Trans-
national Cooperation
– Who Cooperates with
Whom?

CEMAT Regions of
Innovation Project –
Competition amongst
Municipalities in
Armenia

Journal “*Informationen
zur Raumentwicklung*
– IzR” (Information on
Spatial Development).
Retrospective 2005

Short News

Pilot Project on the European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN)

For further information on the EUKN see: www.kcgs-i.nl/duec/nieuws/2004/12/7910_1000.html

During the Informal Conference of EU Ministers at the end of November 2004 in Rotterdam, Germany has confirmed to participate in establishing a European Urban Knowledge Network. The Dutch Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations (BZK) and the *Kenniscentrum Grote Steden* (KCGS) have submitted a joint action plan for the implementation of the pilot phase of the project. Sixteen EU Member States have agreed to participate up to now.

Main element of the EUKN is to connect existing "knowledge databases or networks respectively" at the local, regional and national level and to build up a joint platform. Decision-makers at different levels shall be enabled to gain a well-funded overview on current developments of urban policies and planning concepts by linking up „owners and users of knowledge“. For this purpose, the EUKN must be demand-oriented, i. e. to provide information quickly and reliably is an essential objective of the project.

During the EUKN pilot phase, which will last until the end of 2006, the effectiveness of cooperation between the different institutions involved shall be tested and the permanent implementation of the EUKN

during the next EU programme period (2007-2013) shall be prepared. The basic technical structure shall be established by September 2005 within the current preparatory phase and the possibilities to use the EUKN shall be presented against the background of a limited thematic input. The EUKN is then supposed to be expanded step by step technically and thematically.

The four focuses "Social Inclusion", "Housing and Urban Sustainability", "Safety and Security" and "Knowledge Economy and Employment" have been determined as key topics for the starting period. Main element of the knowledge transfer is the establishment of an Internet platform providing selected good practices, research reports as well as political reports and programmes on key urban development topics thus becoming available for knowledge transfer. An EUKN Secretariat linked to the KCGS has been established to manage and coordinate the pilot phase. Its main tasks include to implement and coordinate the network. Being the main office of EUKN the secretariat will support the EU Member States in building up national subnetworks and establishing Focal Points. Besides, it will be in charge of the organisation of technical infrastructure and of the coordination of information exchange.

In view of the very different starting positions in the EU Member States the Focal Points are supposed to assume coordination tasks at the national level. In Germany, the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing (BMVBW), has taken over this task. The National Focal Points will inform about the EUKN and involve all the relevant actors. They will organise the EUKN input and the distribution of the information provided by the EUKN Secretariat. Furthermore, they will be involved in the monitoring and evaluation of the EUKN.

The kick-off conference for the German EUKN Subnetwork was held on 5 July 2005 in Bonn. The positive reaction to the invitation by the BBR has shown the great interest of associations, research institutions and the scientific sector in the EUKN.

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Explanatory note: dark blue = participating countries
medium light blue = interested countries
light blue = other countries

Spatial Planning Report 2005

According to § 21 of the German Federal Regional Planning Act the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) is obliged to submit a spatial planning report to the Federal Ministry responsible for spatial planning to be presented to the German Bundestag in regular intervals. The following topics have to be covered according to the Federal Regional Planning Act: the facts on which to base spatial development within the Federal territory (spatial survey, development trends), spatially significant plans and measures that have been or are to be realised, the impact of the policy of the European Union on the spatial development of the Federal territory.

The Spatial Planning Report 2005, which has been published within the BBR series *Berichte*, gives a detailed report of these topics. It has been transferred to the Bundestag in spring 2005 together with a comment of the Federal Government and has been presented to the delegates of the German Bundestag on 1 June 2005 in the form of the printed matter of the Parliament no 15/5500. The report consists of two parts: Part 1 "Spatial Development" and Part 2 "Spatially Significant Plans and Measures" and ties up to the Spatial Planning Report 2000 of the BBR.

Part 1 gives an indicator-based spatial survey of spatial development of the recent past as well as a forecast of spatial development tendencies to be expected by 2015/2020. The spatial survey is principally based on the spatial information system of the BBR called Spatial Monitoring System. The report includes an initial attempt to measure the state of sustainability in spatial development based on an intensively discussed catalogue of indicators. Sustainability deficits are based on target values, i.e. regional minimum or maximum standards for each sustainability indicator.

Part 2 of the Spatial Planning Report 2005 presents the spatially significant plans and measures realised in the reporting period. Apart from presenting the activities of spatial planning at the Federal and at Länder level as well as spatial planning cooperation in the framework of European spatial planning policy it includes an analysis of spatially significant sectorial policies with their investive spatially significant expenditure. Furthermore, it presents some sectorial

policies and planning which involved spatial planning with regard to the development of planning procedures with spatial planning criteria, e.g. transport and environmental policy.

Concomitance of growth and shrinkage determines spatial development

The following two basic spatial development trends, which are characterised by growth and shrinkage, can be derived from the spatial survey:

- The spatial development of the 1970s, which was characterised by economic growth on the whole territory, has been broken by the changes of the demographic and economic structure: Apart from growing and further prospering regions, large parts of Germany are affected by decline and shrinkage.
- At the same time, the settlement and transport development trends indicate growth. The related loads are not spatially balanced. Settlement areas and transport also grow beyond growing regions and are partly not related to the demographic and job development.

Growth and shrinkage in spatial development happen in different spatial contexts: Suburbanisation, which is rather regionally relevant, is the driving force for the small-scale distribution of growth and shrinkage within city regions. Shrinking with all its consequences, which is rather significant at the supraregional level, confronts regions with the problem of ensuring services for the public in the long-term. However, growth as well can be observed in a large regional context and requires strategies to ensure and sustainably support this development to the benefit of the "growth regions" and the whole national economy.

Regions, in which population and employment grow simultaneously and sustainably and are likely to grow in the future, can exclusively be found in the west. Apart from metropolitan regions with metropolises in the centre such as Munich, Hamburg, Stuttgart, Cologne, Rhine-Main and Rhine-Neckar, also larger areas in rather rural regions such as Oldenburg, Emsland, Osnabrück, the Upper Rhine and Lake Constance have a growth potential. Regions with a clear population and employment decline can mainly be found in the east.

The Spatial Planning Report 2005 (in German) can be obtained from

Selbstverlag des BBR
Postfach 21 01 50
53156 Bonn
Germany

Fax: +49 1888 4012292
email: selbstverlag@bbr.bund.de

The report is published in BBR's series *Berichte*. Single copies (10,00 € plus postage and packing), a data file on CD-ROM (12,50 € plus postage and packing) or both as set (20,00 €) can be ordered.

The comment of the Federal Government and a power-point presentation containing core statements (incl. core maps) of the report are also available (free of charge) as downloads (pdf format) at the web site of the BBR at www.bbr.bund.de/veroeffentlichungen/berichte/band21.htm

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Info Box: Presentation of Spatial Development Trends

The trends of future development presented in the Spatial Planning Report are based on assumptions updating present developments with a view into the future without being influenced by political interventions and regulations. Unforeseeable changes of general social and economic framework conditions as well are not taken into account. The summary of single trends in this Report is a kind of representation which hides the possible real future development. It should not be confused with forecasts. Its function is, however, to show policy-makers where to take measures in order to avoid undesired developments and not to impede or retard desired developments.

They are a special challenge for a balance-oriented spatial planning policy.

Future spatial challenges

There are various future spatial challenges.

The demographic change characterised by population decline, ageing and internationalisation will soon affect the whole of Germany and pose the question how to ensure services for the public in the future. The impacts will be regionally very different though as the regional initial situations are very different and migrations modify the developments. Furthermore, a large divergence with regard to the perspectives of regional economic development becomes apparent in the context of international competition. There are large discrepancies between regional driving forces of growth and shrinkage or stagnation areas. Parts of old industrialised areas as well as sparsely populated, peripheral areas are affected in a particularly negative way. New kinds of uses in more sparsely populated, rural regions (e.g. wind energy use, cultivation of renewable resources) bring about new challenges for a resource-conserving spatial planning policy. Economic use interests and the need for protection in flood-threatened

river areas and at sea come increasingly into conflict.

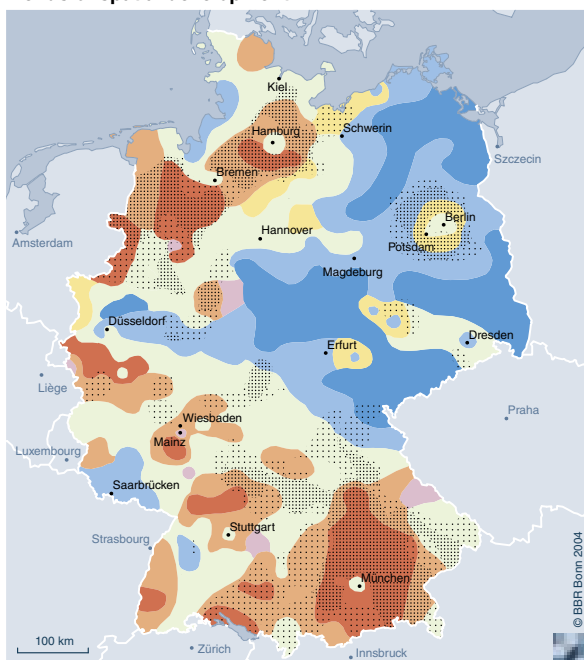
The handling of these spatial challenges by spatial planning policy must be oriented towards the key objectives of sustainability in spatial development and towards achieving equal living conditions in all subareas. Sustainable spatial development means above all to ensure the various spatial functions by actively managing spatial resources and uses in the context of increasing use conflicts in many regions. The creation of equal living conditions in all subareas must meet the concerns of demographic and structural framework conditions, which change differently in each region.

The large differences in regional unemployment have increased in the last few years. Therefore, a growth-oriented regional development aiming to create and secure jobs is of special importance for spatial planning policy. The regional unemployment situation is presented in a spatially differentiated way in the report and confronted with the regional development potentials. A growth-oriented regional policy is supposed to start from existing regional development potentials in growth centres, which will be presented by the cases of East and West Germany.

Due to the consumption of new areas for settlements and transport, which has become weaker but is nevertheless further growing, open areas, being a finite resource which cannot be enlarged, are under pressure. Here the provision of the population with land becomes a problem which is different in every region. Apart from the central cities and suburban area more and more rural regions are affected by the consumption of open areas for building purposes. This problem is as well presented in a regionally differentiated way before solution strategies for an area-saving spatial planning and landscape development to be discussed are proposed.

The Spatial Planning Report 2005 offers informative fundamentals for advancing the development of spatial planning concepts and action strategies. The discussion about it has already started accompanying the compilation of the Spatial Planning Report 2005. In 2006, new "Principles and Action Strategies of Spatial Development" are to be submitted to the German Standing Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial Planning.

Trends of spatial development



Areas in which the demographic development and employment are characterised by

- strong shrinkage
- low shrinkage
- diverging trends (shrinking population, increasing employment)
- stagnation
- diverging trends (increasing population, shrinking employment)
- low growth
- strong growth

Growth of settlement areas and transport

- strong
- very strong

Sources:
BBR Spatial Monitoring System, SuV-Trendrechnung 2020,
BBR-Bevölkerungsprognose 2002-2020/Exp,
ITP-Intraplan Consult GmbH,
Databases: BVWP-Verkehrsprognose 2015,
Beschäftigungsstatistik der Bundesagentur für Arbeit,
Flächenerhebung nach Art der tatsächlichen Nutzung des Bundes und der Länder

The ESPON 2006 Programme Approaches the Last Third

The ESPON 2006 Programme was started in 2002 and was set up to run until the end of the current Structural Funds period, i.e. end of 2006. When the last of the ESPON projects will deliver its final report in October 2006, about 30 projects will be completed covering a broad range of topics related to the territorial structure and development of Europe. The discussion about a continuation of ESPON after 2007 has already started.

Intermediate results of the programme

During the last ESPON Seminar in Luxembourg, 17 to 18 May 2005, the Co-ordination Unit handed out the latest printed ESPON Synthesis Report II. The purpose of the report is to synthesise and communicate some of the most recent results available at the beginning of 2005 on basic structures, dynamics and policy impacts in order to support ongoing European policy developments related to the European territory. The Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) was partner in the drafting team of this report. Main part of the maps came from the BBR as lead partner of the ESPON Project 2.4.2 "Integrated Analysis of Transnational and National Territories Based on ESPON Results". A special focus of the contributions by the BBR was given to regional potentials. The report can be downloaded from the ESPON homepage.

Until spring this year 15 projects finalised their work. Other 15 projects are ongoing or are in the phase of call for tenders or contracting. Please see list below. Some of the 15 latter mentioned are so called studies or scientific support projects and have a shorter life time. Most of the ongoing projects will present their final reports in May 2006. The next ESPON Seminar, which will take place in Manchester (United Kingdom) in autumn this year, can be seen as very important as it will be the last possibility to discuss crucial issues such as the projects' approaches, methodologies and tentative results.

BBR as a lead or project partner in ongoing projects

At the beginning of this year the ESPON confirmed the successful completion of project 3.1 "Integrated Tools for European Spatial Development" and the termination. BBR was the lead partner for this project. As ESPON Contact Point (ECP) Germany the BBR took over the role as a lead partner

for the ECP transnational activity "ESPON YoungStars Seminar". The seminar intended especially for the young European scientific community, i.e. students and young professionals interested in European spatial planning issues, took place on May 30 and 31, 2005, in Ljubljana with more than 60 participants and ten speakers. A second seminar is on the agenda of the ESPON programme for the year 2006.

The BBR participates in four projects at the moment. For the project "Integrated Analysis of Transnational and National Territories Based on ESPON Results" the BBR is the lead partner. In the projects "Small and Medium Sized Towns", "Spatial Scenarios and Orientations in Relation to the ESDP and EU Cohesion Policy" and "Modifiable Areas Unit Problem" the BBR participates as a project partner.

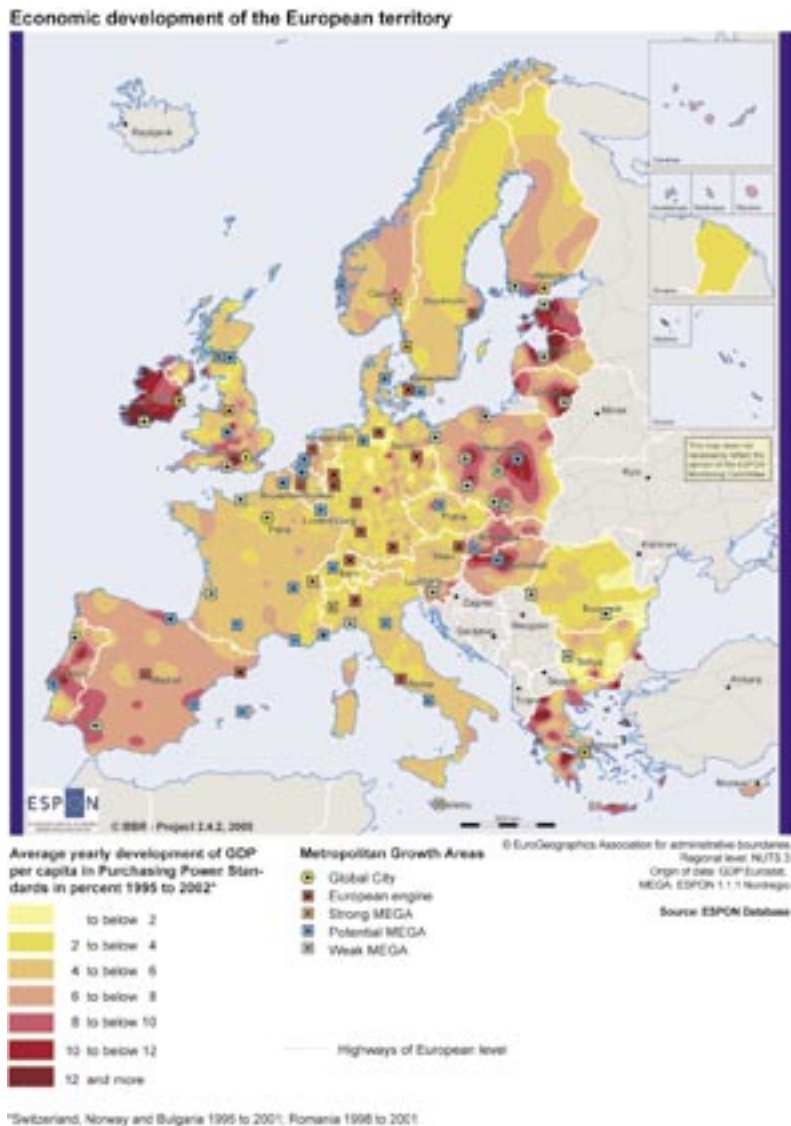
The ESPON Project 2.4.2 "Integrated Analysis of Transnational and National Territories Based on ESPON Results" ("Zooming In")

Since October 2004 the project with a duration of 15 months works on integrated and structured analysis of the results of the ongoing and finalised ESPON project results, "zooming in" on different territorial contexts and scales in order to identify existing spatial patterns and territorial specificities and complementarities. The integrated analysis will in principle be conducted including all themes covered so far by ESPON and the related core indicators.

The approach is to come via a quantitative statistical analysis on the European transnational level and a quantitative / qualitative analysis of country case studies on the national level in connection with results on thematic orientations of INTERREG projects in 10 INTERREG cooperation areas to an overview on spatial potentials and difficulties as well as on potential future fields of transnational cooperation and its form of organisation. The bases are in the first instance results provided by finalised or ongoing ESPON projects. Results for all three levels will appear by using this methodology. For the European level the identification of possible Structural Funds areas will be possible. On the national level missing links between identified national challenges and Structural Funds will be revealed. The meso (transnational) level has a "sandwich

The 7th ESPON Seminar will be held on 7 / 8 September 2005 in Manchester, United Kingdom





The ESPON Project 1.4.1 “Small and Medium Sized Towns”

With this project the ESPON Programme 2006 approaches an issue which has been neglected for a long time in the programme as well as on the agenda of European and national spatial planning. During the last years metropolis and the related research on metropolitan areas predominated the discussion. Nowadays the importance of clarifying the diversity of roles and functions of small and medium sized towns (SMESTO) in the different contexts of the spatial network is recognised by researchers and politicians. The contexts have to be related to levels (European, transnational, national or regional-local), economy, infrastructure, etc.

The project should lay methodological ground for a bigger study on the issue in an ESPON Programme II. The main objectives could be grouped in three. The first objectives is to develop an approach for a European definition of small and medium sized towns. The second is to analyse the role small and medium sized towns play in spatial development concerning their geographical and economical context, their function and sizes, their accessibility and their specialisation in specific sectors. The third one is the development of regional typologies of small and medium sized towns on NUTS 2 and 3 level.

A first meeting took place in the office of the lead partner, the Austrian Institute for Regional Studies and Spatial Planning (Österreichisches Institut für Raumplanung – ÖIR) in Vienna in April this year. A first interim report will be published in September this year.

The BBR expects positive synergetic effects. It contributes as a project partner with its knowledge from the ongoing discussion in Germany to the project. Furthermore, it will transfer the project results to the national discussion, which during the last time became more and more systematic.

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position” and will profit from the two former analysis by combining own results and those of the higher and lower level.

The second interim report of the project was published in March this year. With its very specific approach and work the project supported significantly the above mentioned ESPON Synthesis Report II. The third interim report will be available at the end of September. Besides the BBR nine institutes or companies from nine countries are involved. The report can be downloaded from the ESPON homepage.

The above mentioned are members of Unit *European Spatial and Urban Development*.

INTERREG III B Transnational Cooperation – Who Cooperates with Whom?

Eight years after starting transnational cooperation in Europe, it is worth analysing the cooperation structures: Did the programmes help integrating the cooperation areas? Are there any regularities and regional cooperation clusters? Do the structures suggest changes in the delimitation of cooperation areas?

After first analyses of the INTERREG II C programme considering the Baltic Sea Region, the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) has analysed for the first time all five transnational cooperation areas in which Germany takes part in the context of INTERREG III B programmes. The analysis comprised 320 projects which were included in the BBR Project Data Base in March 2005. The recent analyses are based on project participation of all partners of different states.

The recent cooperation structure still follows the process of EU formation. Thus, the EU 15 states cooperate most intensively among themselves. The same is true for Norway and Switzerland which have contributed with considerable own financing to transnational cooperation. The eight new EU Member States which participate in the above mentioned five areas form the second group. Their involvement in transnational cooperation is continuously increasing since accession to the EU in May 2004 although the Baltic States, Poland and Slovenia took already part relatively intensive in the Baltic Sea Region and Alpine Space respectively. The EU Neighbouring Countries are less intensively involved in transnational cooperation networks although their participation is also increasing. This is particularly true for Russia in the Baltic Sea Region as well as for Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania in CADSES. Because of the different representation of the three above mentioned groups in the five areas, cooperation structures of North Sea Region, North West Europe and Alpine Space are more balanced than those of CADSES. That area faces the most difficult situation in particular because of the problems in the Balkan countries. On the contrary, the Baltic Sea Region shows already a very balanced participation of all states due to a history of cooperation tradition.

Two EU Member States, France and Germany, participate with parts of their

territories in five cooperation areas. Both countries are intensively involved in transnational projects in all areas. In the five transnational cooperation areas with German participation, the following states play the most active role:

States with most intensive participation in transnational projects inside the respective cooperation area (% of all projects)
(project participation of at least one partner of the respective state)

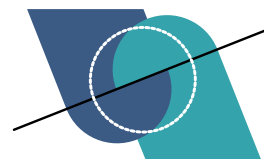
1. Italy 98,2 (Alpine Space)
2. Sweden 92,1 (Baltic Sea Region)
3. Austria 88,9 (Alpine Space)
4. United Kingdom 88,8 (North Sea Region)
5. Germany 83,3 (North Sea Region)
6. Italy 80,8 (CADSES)
7. Netherlands 79,6 (North Sea Region)
8. United Kingdom 72,4 (North West Europe)
9. Netherlands 72,4 (North West Europe)
10. Germany 71,4 (Baltic Sea Region)

Who takes the leadership?

Although the Lead Partner function is in many cases only attributed to one partner, it often means to develop the project strategy and structure and to incorporate views of other partners. It is therefore interesting to look at – in that respect – the “driving forces” in Europe. The dominant Lead Partner role is assumed in Alpine Space by partners from Italy (40 % of all lead partners) and Austria (24 %). The same is true for CADSES with 42 or 23 % of all Lead Partners coming from those two countries followed by Germany with 21 %. In North West Europe and North Sea Region the Lead Partner function is taken by partners from the Netherlands (30 and 35 %) and from United Kingdom (29 and 20 %). In the Baltic Sea Region Swedish partners are most often leading projects (40 %) followed by German partners (27 %).

Who cooperates most intensively with new EU Member States

Intensity of cooperation with the new EU Member States is again mainly determined by geographical proximity, accessibility and direct neighbourhood. It is therefore not surprising that Germany is the most frequent partner of the new EU Member States (see



Areas with German participation are Alpine Space, Baltic Sea Region, Central European, Adriatic, Danubian, South Eastern European Space (CADSES), North Sea Region and North West Europe.

More information on cooperation structures will be provided in the BBR publication *Transnational Cooperation for Spatial Development – a Milestone for Territorial Cohesion in Europe* in “Informationen zur Raumentwicklung – IZR” (11/12.2005). BBR’s TransCoop 05 Report will also contain information on that topic (in English and German). Previous reports in German language can be downloaded as pdf file from BBR’s homepage at www.bbr.bund.de

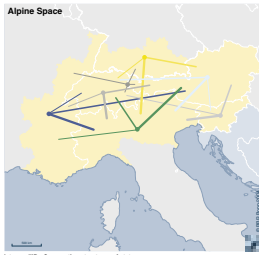
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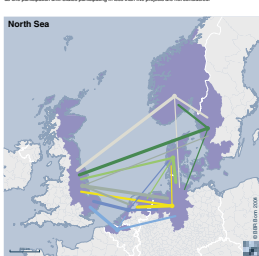
The above mentioned are members of Unit *European Spatial and Urban Development*.



Interreg IIB - Cooperation structures of states regarding transnational projects in the Alpine Space



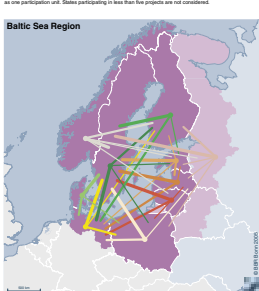
Interreg IIB - Cooperation structures of states regarding transnational projects in CADSES



Interreg IIB - Cooperation structures of states regarding transnational projects in the North Sea Region



Interreg IIB - Cooperation structures of states regarding transnational projects in North West Europe



Interreg IIB - Cooperation structures of states regarding transnational projects in the Baltic Sea Region

Table 1
Cooperation of partner states with the new EU Member States

Area	States	Number of projects	State participation (%)
Alpine Space	Austria	48	18,0
Alpine Space	Italy	53	17,6
Alpine Space	Switzerland	36	16,8
Baltic Sea Region	Germany	45	47,3
Baltic Sea Region	Sweden	58	45,3
Baltic Sea Region	Finland	43	43,8
CADSES	Germany	42	38,7
CADSES	Austria	47	36,2
CADSES	Croatia	22	32,7

Share of new EU Member States in project participation (>10 projects) of the respective partner states

Table 2
Cooperation of partner states with East European Neighbouring Countries of the EU

Area	States	Number of projects	State participation (%)
Baltic Sea Region	Norway	23	11,6
Baltic Sea Region	Sweden	58	10,6
Baltic Sea Region	Finland	43	10,3
CADSES	Greece	40	34,4
CADSES	Italy	59	29,9
CADSES	Slovenia	24	27,4

Share of neighbouring states in project participation (>10 projects) of the respective partner states

table 1). The main German partner states are Poland and the Czech Republic.

Who cooperates most intensively with EU Neighbouring Countries in the East?

Geographical proximity is the most important factor also with regard to cooperation with non-EU Eastern European countries. Thus, the Nordic countries in the Baltic Sea Region as well as Italy, Greece and Slovenia in CADSES establish the most intensive project cooperation with that group of countries (see table 2). Other neighbours, like Hungary follow closely.

Who cooperates with whom inside the transnational areas ?

Inside the cooperation areas the most intensive cooperation takes place between EU Neighbouring Countries in particular if they are (EU 15) neighbours in a traditional sense. **The Alpine Space** (see map 1) is characterised by a relatively balanced co-operation structure between all countries. The original division between Western and Eastern Alps is only partly visible on regional but not on state level anymore. Thus INTERREG has promoted cooperation across the whole Alpine Space.

In CADSES (see map 2), the cooperation networks follow geographical proximity and neighbourhood mainly. There are however a number of important projects which go across the whole area. This tendency is currently increasing with a more intensive participation of the Balkan countries in projects. For future considerations on area delimitation, the argument to foster integration of Balkan countries with Central Europe should not be neglected. Such a political objective supports the maintenance of the existing large CADSES area.

In the **North Sea Region** (see map 3), the main direction of cooperation is across the North Sea. Most of the partners from all states cooperate with partners from the United Kingdom. At the same time, neighbourhood cooperation is evident such as between Germany and the Netherlands and “Scandinavian“ cooperation between Denmark, Norway and Sweden.

In the transnational cooperation area of **North West Europe** (see map 4), relations across the English Channel are dominant between France, United Kingdom, Belgium and the Netherlands. There is also intensive cooperation between Germany, the Netherlands and Switzerland. The more peripheral countries in that area – Ireland and Switzerland – cooperate with their direct neighbours but also with states more remote from them.

In the **Baltic Sea Region** (see map 5), neighbourhood cooperation – between Germany and Poland or Denmark respectively and between the Nordic countries is also the dominant feature. However, intensive cooperation takes place also across the Baltic Sea between Germany and Finland. The Baltic States and Russia cooperate especially intensive with Swedish partners.

Despite prevailing imbalances in partner activities of different states, the transnational programmes have supported integration of Europe across state territories. The positive impacts on European integration can even be strengthened in the near future if a more equal access to transnational programmes is granted also to Eastern European countries in the framework of the EU Neighbourhood and Partnership Initiative. This will even more promote a thinking towards strategic solutions and mutual assistance which does not stop at borders but goes across large areas of different states. It might also be considered a model for other parts of a more globalised world.

CEMAT Regions of Innovation Project – Competition amongst Municipalities in Armenia

Another milestone! Spatial planning in times of transformation needs time. But finally success breaks through. In the framework of the CEMAT Regions of Innovation Project an international network conference was held on 7 / 8 April 2005 in the Armenian capital of Yerevan. The conference was opened by the Parliamentary State Secretary at the German Federal Minister of Transport, Building and Housing, Iris Gleicke, together with the Minister of Urban Development of the Republic of Armenia, Aram Harutyunyan.

In her Opening Address Iris Gleicke explained the role of spatial development policy in transformation processes. She pointed out that local self-government constitutes an important basis for future-oriented spatial and urban development. A more European way of thinking in that respect is essential. Iris Gleicke referred in her speech to experiences being made in East German municipalities.

The event in Yerevan was part of the CEMAT Regions of Innovation Project. Armenia is one of a number of CEMAT Regions of Innovation forming a Pan-European Network under the umbrella of the Council of Europe. The admission of Armenia – and the results being achieved there so far – into the project underlines the necessity and the success of conveying Council of Europe's planning philosophy, especially to new Member States of the Council of Europe. The work having been carried out in Armenia within the project scope so far emphasises the need to develop new cooperation structures in spatial planning taking into account the issue of local self-government. To overcome the transformation period spatial planning and regional development have to coexist.

To stimulate local self-government and to communicate the spatial potentials of local entities the CEMAT Regions of Innovation Project has initiated a coordinated spatial planning and development competition amongst municipalities in Armenia. Eleven municipalities from all over the country took part and – after several months of intensive work and profound discussions – they presented their strategic development concept on the occasion of the international network conference.

The four best were awarded by Iris Gleicke together with the evaluation team, in the

presence of the Deputy Minister of Urban Development of the Republic of Armenia, Rouzan Alaverdyan, and the representative of the Council of Europe, Catherine Roth. These four convinced the evaluation committee through their way of presenting the concepts – by the way a situation which was unaccustomed for most of them – and the essence of their strategies. The winning cities of Goris, Jermuk, Ararat and Arzni will make use of their local potentials accordingly (such as realising a park to bridge a settlement gap, enhancing cultural heritage as starting point and added value for local and regional development, gathering different societal groups [Assyrians and Armenians] in order to investigate their potentials, fighting against pollution and environmental damage) to promote a future-oriented spatial development.

For further information please refer to www.cemat-region.net

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Parliamentary State Secretary
Iris Gleicke awarding winner
municipalities

Map on municipalities taking part in the competition





Journal “*Informationen zur Raumentwicklung – IzR*“ (Information on Spatial Development) Retrospective 2005

The journal “*Informationen zur Raumentwicklung – IzR*” (Information on Spatial Development) is a specialist journal for spatial planning and policy well-established since more than 25 years. It is published by the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) and is conceived as a collection of topical volumes commenting on present and middle-term tasks in the fields of spatial planning, urban development, housing and building. The themes of each volume are especially determined by the tasks of the BBR departments I (Spatial Planning and Urban Development) and II (Building, Housing, Architecture). A short retrospective shall illustrate what was commented on within 2005 so far.

Currently available volumes are dealing with:

Volume 2/3.2005
The Socially Integrative City – A Programme is Being Evaluated

Volume 4/5.2005
Quantitative Regulation of the Growth of Settlement Areas by Planning and Certifying

Volume 6.2005
Strategies for Historic Urban Centres

Volume 7.2005
Metropolitan Regions

Volume 8.2005
Small and Medium-Sized Towns in City Regions

Volume 9.2005
Urban Governance

The Socially Integrative City – A Programme is Being Evaluated

Monitoring and evaluation have increased in importance in the framework of urban development policy also in Germany in recent years. This increasingly focuses the discussion on the question of the effectiveness and success of integrated urban development approaches. In 1999 the German Federal Government initiated the programme “Social City” together with the Länder. The programme aims to counteract the socio-spatial division within the cities and the related negative development of socially disadvantaged urban quarters in a comprehensive way. It enjoys high acceptance and broad support at all government levels, in associations and among independent organisations as well as in other social facilities and institutions. After the successful implementation of the programme its evaluation has received an important rating. It serves to assess the followed strategies and the success that has been reached in the realisation of the programme in the Federal Government, the Länder and the municipalities and to draw conclusions for the future design of the programme. In this volume the background and the major elements of an interim assessment as well as the specific *Länder* perspectives are presented. Furthermore first impulses and general directions for the future realisation of the programme are indicated in an outlook.

Quantitative Regulation of the Growth of Settlement Areas by Planning and Certifying

With the National Sustainability Strategy, the German Federal Government has committed itself to reduce the growth of settlement and transport areas in Germany from 129 ha in 2000 to 30 ha per day by the year 2020. It would like to achieve this objective mainly by running a more consequent inner-city development policy – especially through increased land recycling. Therefore, the Federal Government envisages a ratio of inner-city development and expansion outwards by 3:1. These ambitious objectives are largely accepted by the political and the scientific sector and by the public. This was the result of four dialogue conferences organised by the German Council for Sustainable Development and of a current survey among planning practitioners and scientists. 90 % of interviewees in total accept the need to achieve the 30 ha objective but only a third of interviewees think that it can be achieved. Without using new instruments or fundamentally improving the steering function of already existing instruments it is realistic to curb the growth of settlement and transport areas at least in case of a continuously low economic growth and private consumption. This opinion is also shared by the Federal Government which thinks that the 30 ha objective can only be achieved if an overall concept including planning legal and economic instruments is implemented at the Federal, Länder and local level. This *IzR* volume does not only inform about steering potentials of spatial planning and possible reform options, it also documents the various research results on the topic “Feasible Rights of Land Designation”.

Strategies for Historic Urban Centres

Historic centres of many cities still epitomise European urban culture. Above all in times of social transformation these places represent historical identity and continuity and are an important location factor within the economic and touristy competition of cities at the same time. Especially in the new *Länder*, large efforts have been made during the last fifteen years to preserve

and to reconstruct the building fabric in old centres. Against the background of the demographic and economic structural change, however, the use of the building fabric has become an increasing problem. Preserving or restoring the liveliness of inner cities is a basic condition though to maintain historical city centres permanently. Cities have always been subject to permanent changes. A careful renewal meeting the needs of the non-movable heritage requires more time and persistence than assumed for the time being. It is important to keep as many options for the future as possible by firstly securing the endangered building fabric thus enabling to act in a sober-minded way. Instead of destroying buildings of past times overhastily and irrevocably, waiting should be taken as a chance for the future. This IzR volume presents different strategies for historic city centres.

Metropolitan Regions

The concept of metropolitan regions is a successful story of spatial planning policy. It happened rarely before that only a strategic concept contributed to initiate and successfully foster new regional initiatives without using additional assistance or planning instruments. A series of German city regions has realised that it is necessary to find a position within European competition and to focus regional powers beyond local borders. The spatial development policy of the Federal Government and the *Länder* supports these initiatives and will consider them when updating the concepts and action strategies. The metropolises must see themselves as nodes of regional networks achieving their goals only in cooperation with the partners of their rural suburban areas. In the long term, this should result in the development of self-organised regional communities of responsibility not replacing the existing administrative spatial structure of *Länder* and regions but reasonably complementing them. The relevant topical volume presents methodical approaches to analyse the European and global urban system. This happens against the background of a permanent globalisation process implying a “felt” or really experienced growing locational competition. Therefore the question about the own position becomes decisive, especially in metropolitan regions being the most exposed to international locational competition.

Small and Medium-Sized Towns in Urban Regions

Small and medium-sized towns have recently received high attention – indirectly as research object and directly in the context of the present urban development policy. In the European context, the definition of small and medium-sized towns seems to be even more complicated than in the national context. From the analytical point of view, the size of small, medium-sized and large towns and cities cannot be clearly delimited and the indicators, which define the size, cannot be identified. A project implemented in the framework of the current European Spatial Planning Observation Network (ESPON) programme presently investigates the functions and potentials of small and medium-sized towns in Europe. In the German national context, especially smaller and medium-sized cities in the new *Länder* – rather than large cities – are affected by population declines and economic negative growth processes. New strategies in coping with these processes are more than ever needed. Therefore, innovative planning strategies to cope with demographic changes are tested in the framework of the Demonstration Projects of Spatial Development Action Programme run by the Federal Government and the *Länder*. This includes that several projects focus on regional cooperation between smaller towns in rural peripheral regions. Every analytical concept and relevant recommendations pays attention to the fact that each small and each medium-sized town is individual. Cities can only be defined by means of their population figure and – as is mostly added – by means of their centrality. Urban development structures, accessibilities, functionalities, labour market centralities etc consequently form interfaces between cities of different sizes. Apart from other factors, the development of small and medium-sized towns depends on their spatial situation. This IzR volume focuses on the specific role of small and medium-sized towns in the periphery of large cities.

Urban Governance

The present popularity of the urban governance concept rather reflects a term which is up-to-date than it is based on a further development of its theory. The field “urban governance” is part of those discussions about governance which have been the most productive in the past. Up to

Forthcoming volumes will focus on:

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English summaries are also available as downloads (pdf format) at the web site of the BBR at www.bbr.bund.de

Please follow the advice at the web site.

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now, the German scientific press has dealt only rarely with this topic. Therefore, the conference *“Auf Augenhöhe agieren – Urban Governance durch neue Formen öffentlich-privater Kooperation“* (Acting at Eye Level – Urban Governance by New Forms of Public-Private Cooperation) held by the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) and the interdisciplinary research group POLIS of the University of Bonn, held on 14 May 2004 at Universitätsclub Bonn, has provided a fruitful platform for interdisciplinary exchange. This is documented by the conference contributions published in this volume. It is based on two main motives. Firstly it is supposed to draw a first conclusion: What are the latest trends in urban governance and where have older trends established? The changes observed do not provide a consistent overall picture. Secondly the volume aims at showing the problems resulting from new coordination mechanisms. Therefore, practitioners and theoreticians present their opinions on different aspects. It is intended to initiate a productive dialogue between science and practice.

Short News**Talks on Europe in the Heart of Europe –
Bonn, 30 November 2005**

The Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) and the Representation of the European Commission in Bonn are currently organising a series of Talks on Europe (in German). These talks aim at discussing European topics beside the track of daily focuses. The first one to be held on 30 November will be dedicated to Turkey and the notion of “Urban Preference – Rural Preference”. The talk will be held at BBR’s premises in Bonn-Mehlem, DeichmannsAue 31-37 early evening (**Contact:** André Müller, Tel.: +49 1888 4012304, andre.mueller@bbr.bund.de).