



Bundesamt
für Bauwesen und
Raumordnung

Federal Office
for Building and
Regional Planning

RESEARCH NEWS

Editorial

The current issue of the Research News puts its main emphasis on some work of the BBR concerning spatial development in Germany and Europe.

A new Regional Planning Forecast with a perspective until 2020 and regarding some features even until 2050 has just been completed. It comprises general demographic trends, parts of the labour market and the housing market.

Spatial planning faces new challenges to provide public services in the context of decrease and ageing of the population. In numerous Demonstration Projects of Spatial Development these challenges were considered and strategies and concepts for adapting the infrastructure developed. A related brochure with good examples and recommendations is now available.

Furthermore, a new issue of the CD-ROM "INKAR indicators and maps on spatial development" has been published. The CD-ROM with around 800 indicators for 23 topics enables a detailed analysis of the regional living conditions.

In the European context, the "Open Method of Co-ordination (OMC)" is a new policy instrument which aims at the co-ordination of member states' informal cooperation. The BBR organised an expert workshop in September 2005 in Bonn which aimed at the identification of potentials and limitations of the application of the OMC for the purposes of European spatial development.

With the draft Structural Funds regulations for the period 2007-2013 "European Terri-

torial Cooperation" was suggested to be one of the new three priorities of future cohesion policy. Against this background, the BBR has submitted various publications on transnational cooperation within the Community Initiative INTERREG III B. The publications deliver comparative analyses on implementation, good project examples and achieved results of the cooperation programmes with German participation as well as on challenges for the new period 2007-2013.

The newly founded project group "Eastern Europe" in the BBR placed special emphasis on international cooperation with Eastern European countries in the field of housing, building, municipal economy and urban development. During a German-Russian conference in February 2006 strategic issues of housing policy and urban development were discussed.

In the ESPON network the BBR was the lead partner of the project 2.4.2 "Integrated analysis of transnational and national territories based on ESPON results". The final report was presented in December 2005.

Beyond the European scope there is also growing interest in the world-wide international exchange of experiences. A short article informs about two conferences in Daegu (Korea) and Taipei (Taiwan).

Wishing you a pleasant reading!

The editors

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Spatial Monitoring System Live: INKAR 2005 CD-ROM



CD-ROM „INKAR – Indikatoren und Karten zur Raumentwicklung, Ausgabe 2005“
ISBN 3-87994-926-3
65.00 euros (reduced price: 42.25 euros) plus dispatch

Indicators, time series, maps and diagrammes on spatial development in Germany and Europe

The latest issue of the CD-ROM “INKAR Indikatoren und Karten zur Raumentwicklung” (INKAR Indicators and maps on spatial development) shows the current status of spatial development in Germany and Europe in a comprehensive way. The variety and diversity of indicators offered enables detailed comparative, spatial and time analyses of the living conditions.

The completely revised version for 2005 of the CD-ROM has been published with a new design – and this time contains around 800 indicators for 23 topics in total. They include unemployment, population and settlement structure, employment, age and social structure, economy, transport and accessibility, public budgets and finances, education, medical care, building and housing, land use as well as income. With the topics “population forecast” and “regionally significant public expenditure”, the variety of indicators is enlarged by two new perspectives: for the first time, INKAR includes regionalised indicators from the BBR’s Population Forecast 2020 (Bevölkerungsprognose 2020) for the whole Federal territory. Furthermore, it offers detailed information on the regional distribution of financial transfers and important selected Federal assistance programmes.

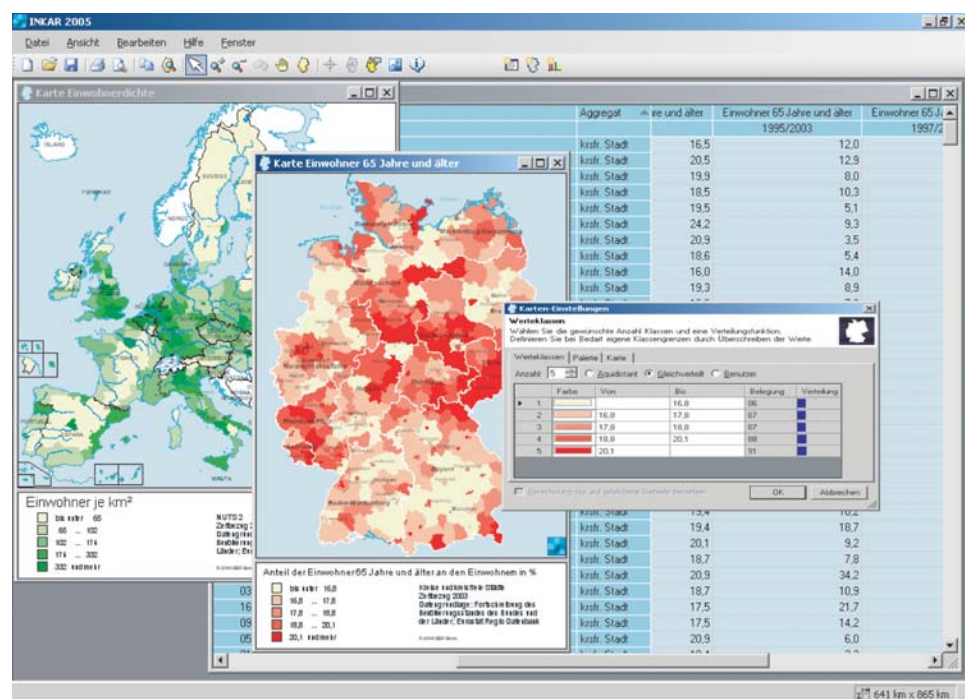
The Federal Republic of Germany forms the spatial reference level for about 700 indicators differentiated according to administrative (e.g. counties, Länder) and non-administrative (e.g. spatial planning regions, types of settlement structures) spatial references. Compared with the previous versions, it is new that the whole local level is now illustrated and not only those local authorities with more than 20,000 inhabitants. As usual, NUTS-0, 1 and 2 indicators for the European Union on the demographic and age structure, employment and unemployment are provided as well.

Generally, the end of the year 2003 is used as a time reference. This time a large number of indicators has been calculated as a time series including values for individual years starting from 1995.

INKAR 2005 presents itself as a work aid which is up to date and which gives access to a lot of regional statistical information. A new assistant concept offers numerous options for a comparative spatial and time analysis of regional living conditions. Indicators from different topics as well as different spatial and time references can be combined and clearly illustrated in tables. An easily operated cartographical and graphical programme respectively enables the user to produce presentable thematical maps and diagrammes with only a few mouse clicks.

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Regional Planning Forecast 2020/2050

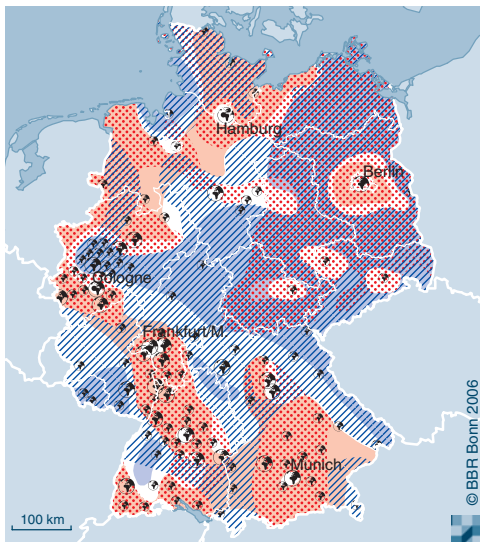
During the last 25 years, the BBR has developed a future-oriented information system, the "Raumordnungsprognose (ROP)" (Regional Planning Forecast). A system of models assesses selected benchmark figures of spatial trends of the next about 20 years to come. The main purpose of these forecasts is to consult the federal government in their activities of regional policies.

A new revision of the Regional Planning Forecast has just been completed and published both on paper (volume 23 of the series "BBR-Berichte") and on CD-ROM. The CD also includes a large range of data, charts, maps and graphics. The perspective of this current forecast lasts until 2020, regarding some features even until 2050. The benchmark figures observe the general demographic trends (population, private households), parts of the labour market (active population) and the housing market. The results provide a differentiated insight into the impact of the demographic change including its spatial effects on essential policy fields.

The population dynamics is characterised by a permanently low level of fertility, by a constantly increasing life expectancy, by international migration gains and by relatively stable migration patterns between the administrative units. The recent population size, its composition by age and gender as well as its spatial distribution largely determine future dynamics. An expected side by side of growing and shrinking populations will require contrary action strategies on the regional level. By contrast, the ageing of population exists everywhere but at different speed and for various reasons. At last, international migration will generate a political need for action by posing integration tasks mainly in central cities and agglomerations with a strong economy. The components of demographic change as well as the problems caused by them show a concise spatial pattern. The regional dimension of political action therefore becomes more and more important.

By their trend towards people living alone, private households also contribute an

Demographic change in the regional dimension – a synthesis

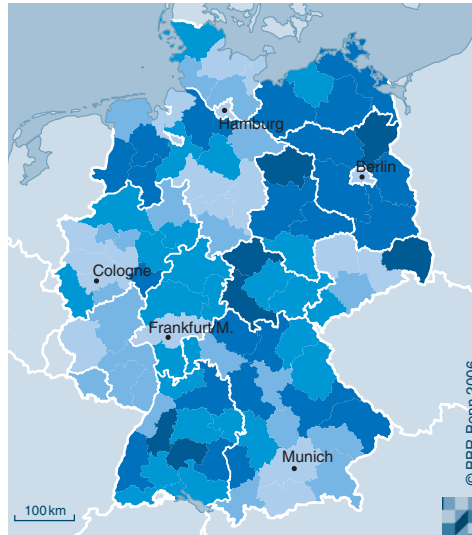


Characteristics of demographic change

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| Dynamics | Immigration |
| strong decrease | strong |
| strong increase | very strong |
| Ageing | |
| strong decrease of school attendanced persons | |
| strong increase of persons in advanced ages | |

Source: BBR-Bevölkerungsprognose 2002-2020/Exp

Future changes of the average household size

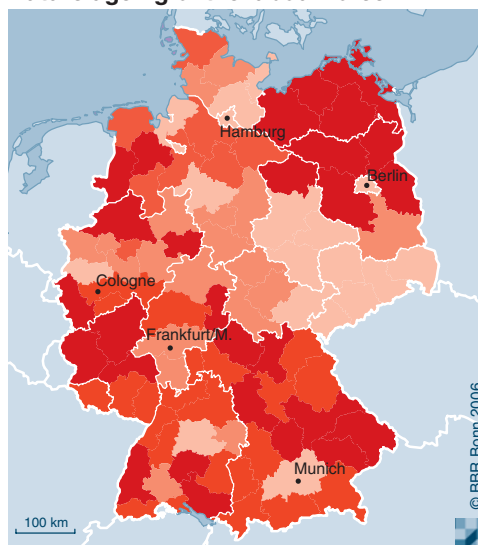


Average number of persons per household, difference between 2002 and 2020

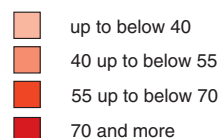
- up to below -0,16
- 0,16 up to below -0,14
- 0,14 up to below -0,12
- 0,12 up to below -0,10
- 0,10 and more

Raumordnungsregionen, Stand 1.1.2000;
Source: Mikrozensus 2003,
Calculations of BBR,
BBR-Haushaltsprognose 2002-2020/Exp

Future ageing of the labour force



Increase of labour force aged 55 years and more between 2002 and 2020, percentage



Raumordnungsregionen, Stand 31.12.2001
Source: BBR-Erwerbspersonenprognose 2020

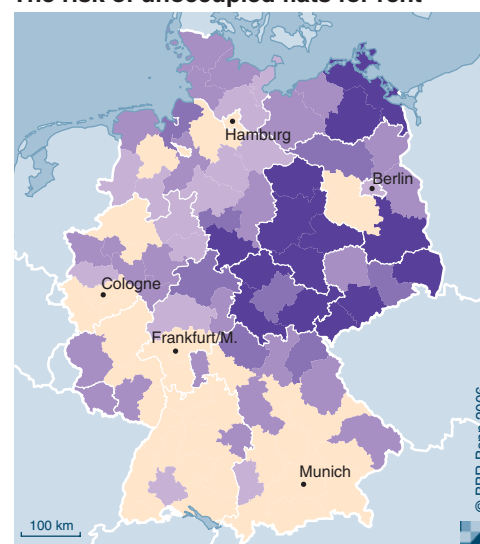
important characteristic to the demographic change. The number of singles and couples is increasing whereas large families tend to be marginal groups. The latter can be found more frequently in suburban and rural regions due to long-dated segregation processes caused by migration from the city to the neighbourhood. The future dynamics of households also reveals a gradient along the urban system showing a weak dynamics or even decrease in central cities but an increase in the surrounding areas instead.

Demographic change within the labour market leads to a decrease and - currently much more important - to an ageing of the active population. The age groups of a low birth level during the post-war period are going to retire and may relieve the labour markets to a small extent only. Up to 2020, the number of active persons will roughly remain constant, the younger ones (aged less than 45 years) decreasing by about one seventh, the older ones (aged 45 years or more) strongly increasing by nearly a quarter. The future regional distribution is strongly correlated to the economic dynamics: The West German labour force is expected to grow by four to five percent, in East Germany they are estimated to decrease by around a sixth. The baby boom generation will contribute to the ageing of the labour force. With the young labour

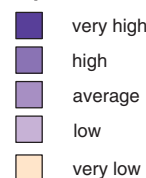
force running short at the same time, this trend poses several challenges to the corporate sector, the education system and the economy in general.

Growth trends of the housing markets, which have lasted for decades, are challenged by the demographic change - with the delay of nearly one generation. Shrinking markets in the new Länder, however, were intensified by transformation processes of reunification and have an impact today whereas this effect is expected to arrive the old Länder only some decades later. The housing markets will have a splitted dynamics of demand with different effects on the home ownership and the rent sector. The level of regional planning regions still reveals new demands among owner-occupied households. Within the rented housing sector, the new land demand is limited to regions with both economic and demographic dynamics. Demographic change, economic dynamics and demand preferences for owner-occupied housing or at least for small residential buildings lead to a certain concentration of the vacancy risk on multi-storey housing. Its spatial patterns reveal a clear east-west divide with a north-south gradient in the old Länder, which has been well known from previous decades.

The risk of unoccupied flats for rent



expected risk is...



Raumordnungsregionen, Stand 31.12.2001
Source: BBR-Wohnungsmarktprognose 2020

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Services to the public and demographical change

The Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs (BMVBS) and the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) have presented a brochure with good examples and recommendations gained from that to ensure and advance institutions providing public services against the background of demographical change. The good examples have been developed in the context of the Federal programme "Demonstration Projects of Spatial Development" and are supposed to give incentives for imitation. The annex includes documents of the German Standing Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial Planning on the topic "Ensuring and advancing services to the public against the background of demographical change".

Public services in the fields of education, health, social affairs, supply and disposal, transport and environment count among the essential fundamentals of life. The central political task is to provide and guarantee such services in a demand-oriented way all over the country and at acceptable prices for everyone. Spatial planning faces new challenges with regard to fulfilling these tasks and in the context of the decrease and ageing of the population, which becomes spatially apparent in various ways. Above all the financial shortage in the public sector does not allow to sustain public facilities that fall short of their carrying capacity. A supply shortage especially in sparsely populated regions with a population decrease requires wise locational decisions as well as new forms of supply and accessibility strategies in order to provide the regional population adequately and at affordable costs. The rapid social ageing process confronts nearly all cities and municipalities with the question how infrastructural supply could be organised in a flexible, compatible and demand-oriented way.

Numerous Demonstration Projects of Spatial Development supervised by the BBR consider these challenges and develop strategies and concepts for adapting the infrastructure. Depending on the demographical development, economic prosperity, initial conditions of the settlement structure and the specific regional political goals, the model regions concentrate on quite different main focuses

of action. They include adjustment strategies in the fields of education, local public transport and medical care in the case of a declining population, the creation of family-oriented infrastructure facilities as well as the region-wide establishment of supply facilities for more than one generation and for the elderly. Within further approaches of action, special decentral supply concepts for sparsely populated areas are prepared and the concept of central places as an appropriate instrument to combine and utilise infrastructural facilities is advanced.

All demonstration projects have inter-municipal cooperation, the interdisciplinary coordination of concept ideas and the cooperation between different institutions in common, which are indispensable preconditions for political consensus, economic carrying capacity, acceptance by the population and thus for the implementation of future-oriented forms of supply of services to the public.

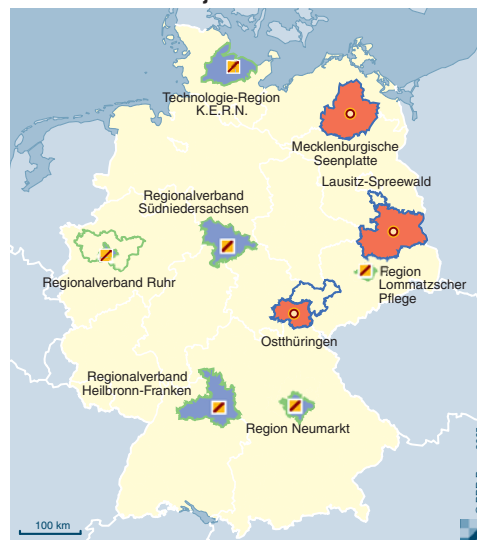
The brochure can be downloaded from

http://www.bbr.bund.de/veroeffentlichungen/download/oeff_daseinsvorsorge.pdf


Abstracts of the text in English language can be found at:

<http://www.bbr.bund.de/veroeffentlichungen/sonderveroeff.htm>

Demonstration Projects



 **Demonstration projects**
"Adjustment strategies for rural/peripheral regions
with strong demographic decline in the new Länder"

 **Demonstration projects**
"Infrastructure and demographic change"

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BBR meets Asia – exchange of experiences on spatial planning with Korea and Taiwan

The BBR is an essential supporter in formulating, implementing and scientifically monitoring German and European spatial development policy. The BBR's comprehensive experience increasingly also attracts attention outside Europe, in a worldwide setting. In the context of the dynamic economic development and the globalisation of economic processes, the issue of an efficient spatial development policy equally fostering growth and cohesion has become particularly important in Asian countries. The BBR has recently actively participated in two conferences serving the international exchange of experiences - in Korea and Taiwan. Both conferences revealed that the German experiences in Asia are very much esteemed. Furthermore, the wish that German representatives should be more involved in such conferences was expressed.

Daegu, Korea

The international conference "Best Practices for Regional Innovation" took place from 5 to 7 October 2005 in Daegu, Korea in the framework of the "2nd Korea Regional Innovation Convention & Exposition" (KRICX). It was hosted by the Presidential Committee on Balanced National Development, the Korean Ministry of Industry and the City and Regional Council of Daegu. It was organised by the Korea Institute for Industrial Economics & Trade (KIET).

The Presidential Committee on Balanced National Development was established by the present Korean government in 2003 based on the fact that South Korea is highly centralised and spatially concentrated. Nearly half of the population and almost 90 % of all state and private industrial management functions are concentrated in Greater Seoul. The considerable modernisation and growth successes of South Korea in the past decades have been accompanied by growing disparities. There is a growing awareness among experts as well as in the public opinion that this growing polarisation might turn into a serious growth and modernisation barrier in Korea. Therefore, it is planned to develop



Exhibition and Convention Center (EXCO), Daegu, Korea

a new policy mainly aiming to ensure the basic supply in all regions of Korea and to adjust development opportunities by strengthening regional growth potentials and industrial clusters, e.g. by relocating authorities, to provide subsidies to economically weak regions and to establish special "deregulation zones".

Five experts from the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Canada and Japan participated in the conference in Daegu. Peter Schön, BBR, presented approaches and experiences of a balanced spatial development policy in Germany aiming to achieve equal living conditions, horizontal and vertical financial equalisation and general European conditions such as the cohesion objective, the European competition rules as well as the realisation of regional and structural policies.

Taipei, Taiwan

The Council for Economic Planning and Development, Executive Yuan (CEPD), and the Institute for Physical Planning and Information (IPPI) organised the International Seminar-panel on European Experience and Innovation in National Spatial Planning in cooperation with the International Urban Development Association (INTA) from 5 to 9 December 2005 in Taipei, Taiwan. Experts from several European countries (Portugal, France, Germany, Netherlands, United Kingdom) were asked to report about their spatial planning experiences at the urban, regional, national and European level. At the end of the conference, the results were presented to the Deputy Prime Minister of Taiwan.

The present development concept of Taiwan aiming to restructure the country into a “green silicon island” gave reason to make the conference. Main emphasis is put on increasing the quality of life e.g. by reducing land consumption, by intensifying nature protection, developing the transport infrastructure in using a high-speed train and by pursuing cluster policies in the field of biotechnologies.

The BBR provided two lectures for the conference. The first lecture dealt with “European Strategic Planning: New Challenges - New Responses” (Peter Schön), which showed that the topics and strategies of spatial development currently discussed in Taiwan are very similar to those in Europe despite quite different initial geopolitical conditions. The second BBR lecture dealt with the topic “Spatial Development in Germany: Overcoming Region Disparities” (Rupert Kawka). Here, the central statements of the Spatial Planning Report 2005 and new spatial development concepts were presented.

Conclusion

Both conferences have shown that discussions on an international level are of high importance and that there are global topics currently being of high importance both in Europe and in Asia: the conflict of objectives between the balancing and the growth objective, globalisation and - both in Korea and Taiwan - the competition of low-wage countries, the transformation



International Seminar Taiwan – Europe, Taipei, December 2005

into a knowledge society, future technologies in which both continents have to position, and - as potential solutions - strategies to form clusters and to foster growth poles. Thus, an exchange on the same level and with a similar background is possible and necessary.

It also became clear that Germany has valuable experience with issues which now become a topic in Asia, i.e. generally with regard to increasing the environmental quality and maintaining the cultural heritage, especially regarding demographic change, restructuring old industrialised regions, recycling wasteland in inner cities and promoting compact settlements. Furthermore, Asian contact partners show growing interest in European approaches, e.g. strengthening decentral settlement structures or multi-level governance oriented towards the principle of countervailing influence. Especially the German and European methods of evidence-based planning and coordination by information have met the particular interests of the Asian experts. Vice versa, Asian knowledge and success - e.g. in the case of sectoral and cluster policy and spatially concentrated growth promotion - are very important for Germany in order to learn from these experiences and to think about their transfer to the Federal German territory.

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The project group “Eastern Europe” has started

The new project group was established in the BBR a few months ago. It supports the Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs in the field of international co-operation with Eastern European countries. Furthermore, the project group oversees research work and best practice projects on relevant issues such as housing, building, municipal economy and urban development.

The main objectives of the project group are the following: to support experts and to steer conferences with East European partners.

The project group also performs tasks of monitoring the Interreg III B project „Baltic energy efficiency network for the building stock“ and auditing as an external first-level control institution for one project part. The project's lead partner is the Berlin Government, Senate Department for Urban Development.

For further information see:
www.been-online.net.

In order to get an overview of bilateral and multilateral projects involving German governmental and non-governmental institutions and private companies, the project group started an institutional survey of ongoing projects in Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries on the following relevant issues: building, housing, energy-saving measures and urban development.

Furthermore, we have assumed the monitoring of the current projects “Refurbishment of a multifamily building in a housing association in St. Petersburg” and “Efficiency analyses of housing management in Slovakia and conceptions of vocational and training measures”. Slovakia's reform programme has brought impressive results over the past five years and has increased the pace of catching up with the living standards of wealthier nations. However, the reform process has a long way to go and there are a number of serious challenges to be tackled. Some policies - such as housing policy - still need urgent attention.

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3rd German–Russian conference on cooperation in the housing and utility industry

The 3rd German–Russian conference was organised on 1 to 3 February by the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs in Leipzig. About 400 high-level representatives of the German and Russian economical, political and municipal administration attended the conference in order to discuss economic potentials and concrete measures of cooperation in the fields of housing, urban development and utility industry.

The conference was held at a time in which an increasing German-Russian cooperation and reforms of the Russian Government encourage investments in real estate and municipal infrastructure. The conference was aimed at facilitating the exchange of information and experience as well as at establishing links between companies, associations and municipalities.

The Federal Minister of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs, Wolfgang Tiefensee, recognized the increasing opportunities for German real estate and building companies in Russia. There will be expected investments in refurbishment, in the new building of flats, in urban development

and municipal infrastructure. The Russian building industry is considered to have big difficulties to meet the high demand in the next years. There is a shortage of planning instruments, building materials and utility systems. The Russian representatives emphasized that the modernization of the municipal industry is an important point of the Government project “Living affordably and comfortably”. Potential German investors are invited to use the new Russian financial support instruments and regional guarantees.

Furthermore, possibilities of cooperation in vocational and training measures were discussed. The Russian Federation urgently needs know-how and qualified staff in the municipal and building industry and in housing administration. While involving private companies and associations, projects and training measures will be initiated focusing on these issues.

A joint declaration of future cooperation in the housing and municipal economy of both countries was initiated. Both sides declared the willingness to arrange a follow-up conference in 2007 in Russia.

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Options for the application of the “Open Method of Co-ordination (OMC)” in European spatial development

Workshop at the BBR in September 2005

Since the adoption of the Lisbon Strategy (2001), the White Paper on European Governance (2001) and the European Convention (2003), the “Open Method of Co-ordination (OMC)” has become an important issue of the debate regarding European Union’s future and the reform of European governance. The OMC is a new policy instrument which aims at the co-ordination of member states’ informal co-operation. It can be applied in policy fields for which the European Commission does not have any competence but for which it needs the member states’ agreement.

The OMC is used on a case-by-case basis. It offers a possibility of encouraging co-operation, the exchange of best practice and agreeing common targets and guidelines among member states, sometimes backed by national action plans. The OMC therefore goes beyond the Community Method by not replacing but complementing and extending Community actions.

Given the current general conditions of spatial development on the European level (no formal competence for the European Commission, necessity of a Europe-wide co-ordination of spatially relevant issues), various links for an application of the OMC in spatial development can be derived.

The BBR thus organised an experts workshop on 2nd September 2005 in Bonn which aimed at the identification of potentials and limitations of the application of the OMC for the purposes of European spatial development. International experts with broad experiences in either the application of the OMC or the transferability of the method to different policy fields have been invited to discuss related questions. The results of these discussion were manifold.

Currently, the two best developed OMC processes are those regarding the European employment and social inclusion strategy. These processes contain all OMC elements defined by the Lisbon Strategy including national action plans and progress reports. Beside these fully developed OMC processes, a few others can be identified which only cover some of the elements. This leads to the conclusion that there is not only one

“silver bullet” of the OMC but that there are various OMC processes with differing interpretations and implementations of this new governance mode.

Due to empirical deficits, a systematic evaluation of the results of OMC processes gained has not been undertaken up to now. However, some remarkable effects on the member states’ behaviour - caused by the OMC - can be stated. Particularly in the field of employment and social inclusion strategies an increased political importance and ambition with regard to national politics is identifiable. This could also happen in spatial development policy.

The OMC can be seen as one - but not the only - stimulus to reform the member states’ policy orientations. It can be stated that the method rather supports multi-level governance than intergovernmental exchange processes.

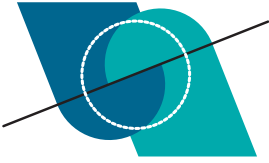
Regarding a possible application of the OMC for the purpose of European spatial development the most important question to answer is: What will be the added value gathered by an OMC process? This method offers potentials in creating a specific policy-making architecture. It opens possibilities for a better integration not only of policy-makers but also of non-governmental-organisations (NGOs), a better salience and an improved horizontal and vertical co-ordination of policies and their aims. Simultaneously, increased public awareness can be reached which leads to an advanced way of European governance.

For future discussion it might be worthwhile to elaborate different scenarios for the application of the OMC in European spatial development. In this respect, bilateral approaches, e.g. regarding interrelations between transport and environmental issues, could be an appropriate starting point. The experts finally agreed that the elements of the OMC could be used in spatial development policy and offer potentials for an improved co-ordination and co-operation of related policy decisions. But at the moment there does not seem to be a strong support for an application of the OMC in European spatial development.

Results of the workshop will be published in more detail within a special issue of “European Spatial Research & Policy” scheduled for fall 2006.

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New Reports about Transnational Cooperation on Spatial Development in Europe

With the publication of the cohesion report and the draft regulations on the Structural Funds for the period 2007-2013 by the European Commission, the discussion on the spatial/territorial dimension of development policy has become more dynamic. The promotion of territorial cohesion has been set on the political agenda and "European territorial cooperation" was introduced as one of the new three priorities of cohesion policy. Thus, the achievements of the Community Initiative INTERREG III on cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation have been recognized as an important factor for European integration and the cohesion process. For the future, new requirements for cooperation programmes have been formulated.

In this context, the BBR has submitted various publications on transnational cooperation. The BBR aims to contribute to the discussion about the future building-up of transnational programmes and projects. As the five transnational cooperation areas with German participation are supported by the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning, a centre of competence for transnational cooperation has developed here over years.

Germany is the EU member state with the largest number of neighbour states and transnational programmes on the European continent. Only France also participates in five out of ten large transnational cooperation programmes.

Against this background, comparative analyses on content, implementation procedures and structures, projects and results of transnational cooperation programmes have been requested and produced from the very beginning. They have served as a basis for utilizing experience and knowledge of individual programme areas for others. The BBR started producing regular progress reports on performance and results of transnational programmes on behalf of the German Government. Due to the interest also from outside Germany, the BBR has started to work out more information also in English language.

Report „Transnationale Zusammenarbeit 2005 - TransCoop 2005“

The bilingual (English and German) report "Transnationale Zusammenarbeit 2005 - TransCoop 2005" marks the start for regular reporting in the series „Berichte“ of the BBR. The next report, foreseen for 2007 following the end of the Structural Funds period 2000-2006, should have a still stronger emphasis on transferable results and impacts of transnational projects. The current report starts with an overview of the current state of programme implementation in all five INTERREG IIIB cooperation areas with German participation (see map Interreg IIIB – project-municipalities in cooperation areas with German participation). Based on this, some focal issues have been particularly compared across cooperation areas such as the institutional set-up of project partnerships, the linking of strategic and investment approaches, the integration of private actors in project implementation and the need of further education activities. The third chapter deals with these specific characteristics of the individual transnational cooperation areas. The following fourth chapter focuses on innovative approaches and transferable results of projects which up to now have been realised or are still

Bundesamt für Bauwesen und Raumordnung (Hrsg.): Transnationale Zusammenarbeit 2005 – TransCoop 2005. Berichte, Band 22, 114 pages (bilingual report: German / English), price: 15 euros (plus postage and packing).

Bundesamt für Bauwesen und Raumordnung: Aufbau Ost – Europäisch vernetzt. Bonn 2005 (in German language). Price: only postage and packing. Download will be provided at <http://www.bbr.bund.de>.

Transnationale Zusammenarbeit zur Raumentwicklung – Transnational Cooperation on Spatial Development. Informationen zur Raumentwicklung, Heft 11/12.2005, pages 657-751 (German and English articles), price: 12 euros (plus postage and packing).

Abstracts of the articles can be downloaded as pdf file from the BBR's homepage at http://www.bbr.bund.de/veroeffentlichungen/download/izr11_12_2005.pdf

The publications can be obtained from

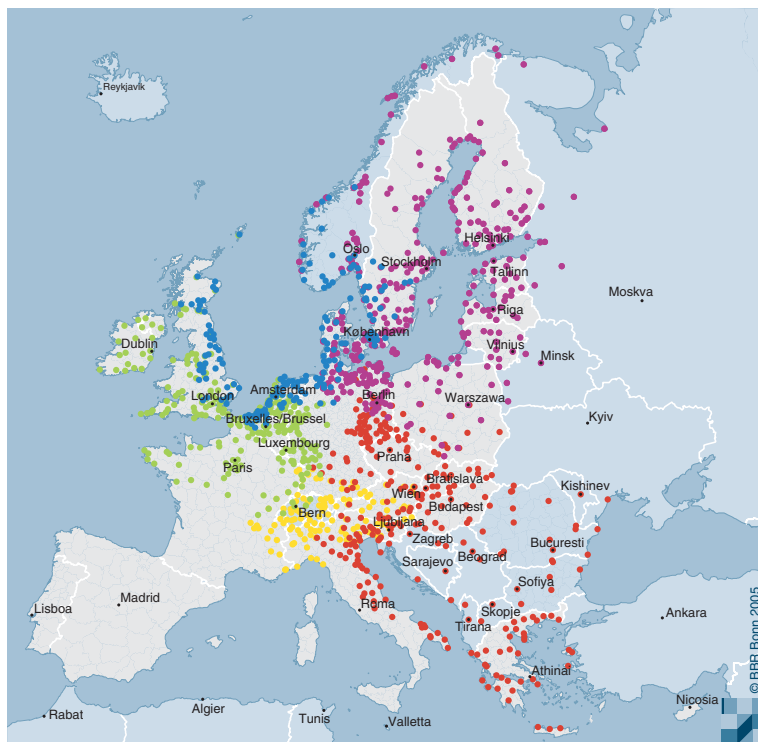
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53156 Bonn
Germany
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being realised in the programme areas with German participation. Although only a few transnational projects have been finished, it was examined how far applicable exemplary solutions on key themes of European spatial development were produced. The report shows that INTERREG creates networks of thousands of actors from various institutions, administrative levels, companies and states that lend a concrete structure to European integration. Finally, the report presents proposals for the further development of transnational cooperation.

Based on the above-mentioned report, the BBR investigated which specific role transnational cooperation plays for East Germany. The respective report was produced under the title "Aufbau Ost - Europäisch vernetzt" on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs.

Publication "Transnational Cooperation for Spatial Development - Milestone for Territorial Cohesion in Europe?"

In the issue "Transnational Cooperation for Spatial Development - Milestone for Territorial Cohesion in Europe?" the BBR informs about transnational cooperation in Europe for the second time in its series "Informationen zur Raumentwicklung" (Information on Spatial Development). Whereas in the publication of 1997 the background and the beginning of the INTERREG IIC Community Initiative were the focal point of interest, now main emphasis is put on the description of achieved results of cooperation in the final stage of INTERREG IIIB and of challenges for the new period 2007-2013. Researchers and programme participants from the BBR, from Germany and other European states present results of cooperation, discuss current problems and demonstrate example approaches and solutions in German or English language. Researchers of the BBR give a comparative overview of the five cooperation programmes with German participation. Comparisons have been drawn between the quality of projects concerning criteria like "transnationality", territorial effectiveness, cross-sectoral approach, sustainability and economic value. For the first time, the BBR shows which national and regional cooperation clusters arise from the multitude of project networks. In one article, the contribution of transnational cooperation to territorial



INTERREG IIIB project municipalities in cooperation areas with German participation
Municipalities in which at least one project partner is located.

- Alpine Space
- CADSES
- North Sea Region
- North-West Europe
- Baltic Sea Region

- EU member state
- Non-EU member state

Geometric basis:
Eurostat GISCO
Source: INTERREG database of the BBR

cohesion has been analysed. The issue of learning and social capital-building in transnational cooperation projects in the field of spatial planning is addressed in another article. It is also described how strategic spatial development is realized in Europe in practice. Furthermore, the question was raised, how the INTERREG programmes can be used to finance investments. Taking flood protection projects as examples, the most important conditions for investments and possible implications are discussed. Afterwards, the Swedish perspective on transnational cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region is presented. The article stresses the need of continuing transnational cooperation in macro-regions (large development zones), linking neighbouring subregions across the Baltic Sea within a long-term engagement in socio-economic and spatial development. Finally, the significance of transnational cooperation for the new member states Poland and Slovenia are analysed. The issue ends with a hypothetical outlook at the potential future of spatial development policy in Europe.

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Zooming in on the European territory – European, transnational and national spatial patterns

The ESPON 2006 programme now reaches its last year. With the end of 2005, 16 out of 30 ESPON projects in total have presented their final reports giving new insight into the territorial development in Europe and the territorial effects of sector policies. Another 14 projects will be completed in the course of this year.

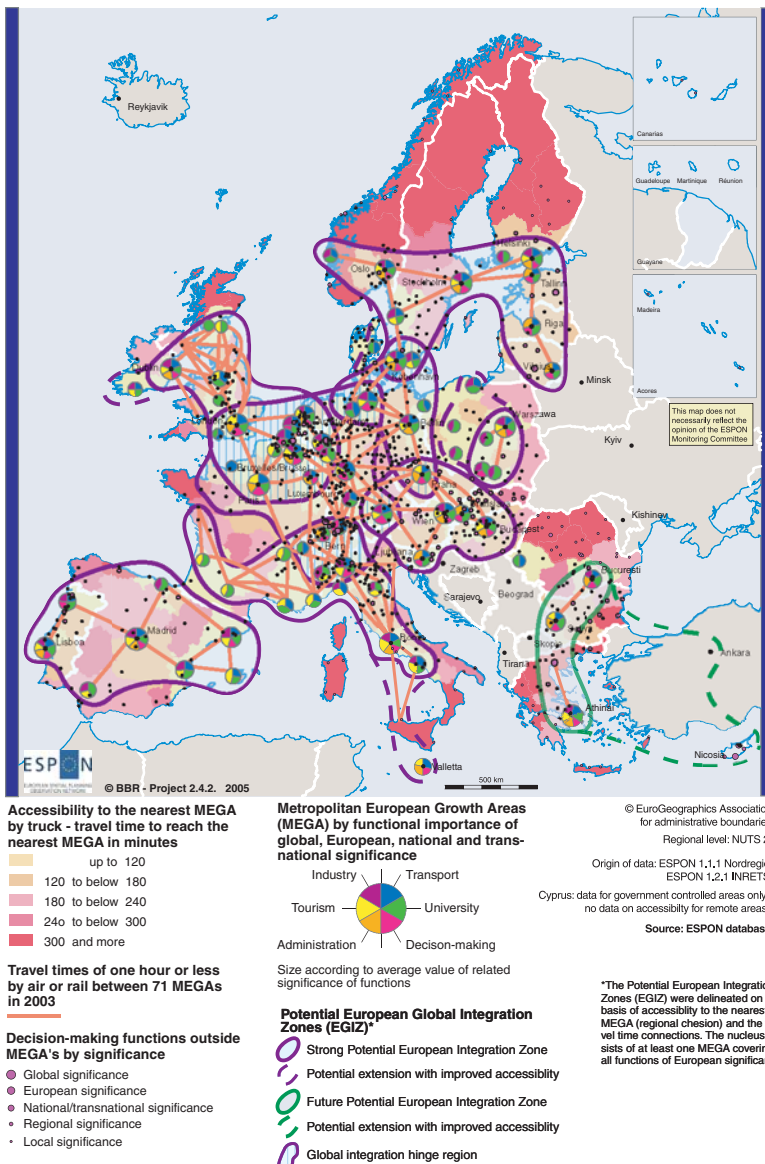
To provide an integrated and structured analysis of the finalised and the ongoing ESPON project results, project 2.4.2 was launched to “zoom in” on different territorial

contexts and scales in order to identify existing spatial patterns and territorial specificities and complementarities.

The BBR was the lead partner of this project leading a transnational team with altogether 9 partners and experts. At the end of December 2005, the project presented the final report.

The specific target of the project was to analyse the specific weaknesses and opportunities of different territorial contexts of the European territory focusing on different territorial levels, the European scale (macro scale), the diversity of transnational spatial contexts (meso scale) and each national territory (micro scale).

Global integration zones in Europe



Source: ESPON 2.4.2 final report, December 2005

The analysis of regional patterns in Europe: a multi-method approach

The analysis of the European level resulted in a so-called regional situation analysis of Europe which combines different regional statistical multivariate approaches originally resulting from the project itself and thematic overlay and new interpretation of selected results of other ESPON projects. One fundamental part of this analysis was a regional classification of European regions according to their economic situation, potential of restructuring, labour market, population-related challenges, accessibility, naturalness, and hazards. The thematically orientated regional classification was done in the form of standardised sum indicators for each theme on the basis of altogether 30 regional indicators covering the whole territory of the EU 25 +2+2 regions (EU 25, Switzerland, Norway, Bulgaria and Romania).

Through this situation analysis a thematically orientated, more detailed and complex assessment of the main European territorial structures became visible. The analysis of the regional setting was undertaken within 5 synoptic spatial presentations targeting on the spatial structure, the Lisbon performance, the natural assets and the exposure to natural and technological hazards, the territorial condition related to accessibility and transport and last but not least global integration zones. The latter was analysed paying special attention to the functional situation of the main European

centres (identified as Metropolitan European Growth Areas - MEGAs in ESPON) as well as to accessibility components covering inner-regional cohesion as well as sufficient connectivity between centres.

Transnational spatial patterns and thematic orientation of co-operation

On the so-called meso level of the European territory, the analysis principally aimed at contributing to the understanding of transnational spatial patterns, at identifying those spatial patterns which contain a high potential for added value through transnational co-operation and at pointing out imbalances, bottlenecks and barriers hampering territorial co-operation.

By means of cluster and discriminant analyses spatial patterns were analysed under consideration of different thematic aspects. This enabled the identification of transnational, spatially connected and unconnected areas with specific common characteristics and thus primarily focused on co-operation aspects in the light of homogeneity.

At the same time, existing patterns of transnational co-operation were examined from different perspectives on the basis of an ESPON 2.4.2 project survey on Interreg IIIB projects. For several thematic fields these two approaches culminated in a joint consideration of spatial patterns and concrete co-operation activities.

National profiles - fact sheets on spatial patterns and policy priorities

Related to the national level - the micro level in the project context - an integrated analysis for each national territory of ESPON has been elaborated on the basis of ESPON results with regard to a qualitative and quantitative description of major territorial trends, imbalances and potentials.

An analysis of the coherence between the identified spatial development patterns and national policy approaches and the relation between national and EU spatial policies round up the national profiles, e.g. in terms of needs for better coordination of both policy levels and the development of ideas related to strategic projects to support territorial cohesion and co-operation.

Thus, micro level analysis contributes to a deeper understanding of the diversity

Territorial cluster on the basis of all regional classification themes of Europe



Source: ESPON 2.4.2 final report, December 2005

of spatial patterns on national level and allows for conclusions on a comprehensive differentiation of policy options of European spatial policy to different national territories.

For additional information on the ESPON 2.4.2 project "INTEGRATED ANALYSIS OF TRANSNATIONAL AND NATIONAL TERRITORIES BASED ON ESPON RESULTS" please see:
[http://www.espon.lu/online/documentation/projects/policy impact/policy impact 176.html](http://www.espon.lu/online/documentation/projects/policy%20impact/policy%20impact%20176.html)

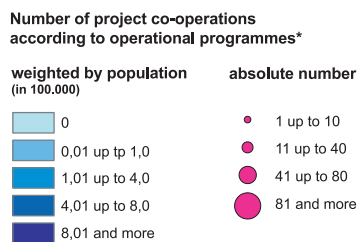
For additional information on the ESPON programme in general please see:
<http://www.espon.lu>

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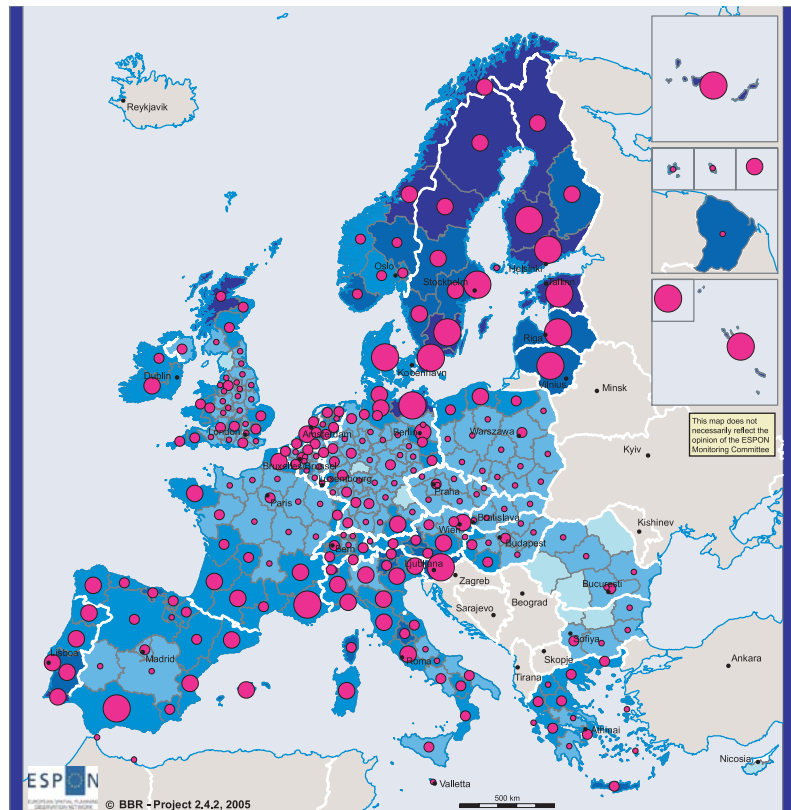
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Overall intensity of co-operation in Interreg areas



© EuroGeographics Association for administrative boundaries
Regional level: NUTS 2
Origin of data: ESPON 2.4.2, INTERREG project survey
Cyprus: data for government controlled areas only
Source: ESPON database

* based on the INTERREG co-operation areas:
Alpine Space, Atlantic Area, Baltic Sea Region,
CADSES, Caribbean Area, Madeira - Azores,
Canary Islands, North Sea, North West Europe,
Northern Periphery, South West Europe, Western
Mediterranean, Indian Ocean Area



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Policy 2006
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to be published in
summer 2006.

“German Annual of Spatial Research and Policy”

The Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) together with the four institutions of the Leibniz Association involved in spatial research

- Academy for Spatial Research and Planning (ARL)
- Leibniz Institute of Regional Geography (IfL)
- Leibniz Institute of Ecological and Regional Development (IÖR)
- Leibniz Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning (IRS)

publish an English-speaking yearbook from 2006 on. The annual should contribute to the information and discussion about spatial and urban development, spatial planning and spatial research, regional policy as well as structural policy on the EU level. It is directed to researchers, students and planning experts in the above-mentioned fields outside Germany.

The current Annual will reflect on restructuring Eastern Germany. The following articles are foreseen:

- Perspectives and Options for Economic Policy in Eastern Germany - With Special Reference to Aspects from the Spatial Sciences

- On the Difficulties Involved in the Examination of Complex Policy Agendas
- Regional Disparities in the GDR - Do They Still Matter?
- Equal Living Conditions and Their Fiscal Bases
- Interregional Support Policy for East Germany's Regions: Present State, Impacts on Economic Development and the Need for Re-Arranging the Current System of Support Measures
- New Spatial Patterns of the Population Development as Factor in Restructuring Eastern Germany
- Strengthening the Human Resource Base in East German Regions
- Strategies for Urban Regeneration - Transformation of Cities in Northern England and Eastern Germany
- Urban Development with Olympic Games and World Exhibitions - Is It Possible to Plan Usage?
- Countries Performing Transformation - “New” European Neighbours in Spatial Planning

The next Annual will concentrate on the topic of territorial cohesion.

New reports on the promotion of construction research

Based upon § 43 of the Federal Housing Promotion Act, the Federal Government promotes research on reducing construction costs and rationalizing construction taking ecological construction and healthy living into account. The promotion of construction research is annually advertised by the BBR. Companies, research institutes and planners are eligible for application. The following article presents research projects which have recently been completed.

Concepts for post-war rental residential accommodation

Postwar dwellings (1949 to 1965) make up about a quarter of the available rental residential accommodation. These dwellings were built in the face of an extreme scarcity of resources. In spite of the extensive modernisation work in the past, most of these dwellings are small and constricted, and they fall largely short of today's technical standards. And some of them are situated in less favourable areas.

This study shows what chances there are for this existing accommodation, which will not attain high rents due to the local conditions, and also for those dwellings which are not suitable for a classical adaptation for structural reasons or because of the ownership situation. The study is based on an analysis of relevant literature, on expert discussions and on extensive primary surveys of sample situations.

The existing accommodation is not homogeneous enough to provide the background for business decisions, prospects and the necessary action. However, full modernisation does not automatically lead to „marketability“, but it definitely destroys a whole segment which is urgently needed to provide accommodation for lowbudget households.

Against this background, there cannot be a global concept. First of all, a decision on the general direction must be made for each individual case. This can take on three forms: Conservation (preserving the status quo), Stabilisation with the prospect of further development or a clean break.

In such cases, it is always necessary to ask who should benefit from any change. When work is carried out, the owner hopes for some reward and therefore aims at specific groups. These groups must be present in

the location and “accessible”. The research report quotes examples to show different measures for different target groups - such as changes in the range of apartments offered in the district, measures adopted by tenants, marketing and fixing the rent.

Housing vacancy management in buildings made from prefabricated slabs in financial, technical and social terms

Approximately 1.3 million flats are vacant in the new federal states. Vacancy is especially focused on residential estates with buildings made of prefabricated concrete slabs. Especially housing companies, which have to manage considerable financial strains, as well as the remaining tenants are affected by housing vacancy.

Therefore, the analysis of vacancy management included an encompassing summary of social, technical and financial prerequisites and consequences. A thorough look at the accumulated practical knowledge in solving related problems is provided by three case studies in Schwedt (Brandenburg), Leinefelde (Thuringia) and Stendal (Saxony-Anhalt). As a conclusion, strategies show how to manage the housing vacancy with a financial expenditure and social burdens being as low as possible.

The analysis points out that in order to keep costs under control, vacancy should be concentrated. Moreover, a shutdown of entire blocks is recommendable with an overall vacancy above 50 %. The remaining tenants therefore have to be cooperative.

Cooperation between housing companies and tenants was facilitated when adequate substitute flats were offered and professional support for the relocation was given.

Despite good experiences many communities will have to live with a considerable amount of empty housing. The financial means cannot be raised to do both to demolish vacant flats and to modernize the remaining stock. Thus, concepts are needed to define areas which should be maintained and areas which should be given up. Accordingly, a longer-term perspective is a necessary precondition to further redevelopment. In addition, small-scale measures should also be checked such as joining flats and modifying floor plans as well as utilizing flats for other purposes.

Concepts for post-war rental residential accommodation

Researcher: ARGE Kirchhoff/Jacobs, Hamburg

Housing vacancy management in buildings made from prefabricated slabs in financial, technical and social terms

Researcher: Weeber + Partner, Stuttgart

The complete research reports can be obtained from:

Informationszentrum
Raum und Bau (IRB)
Nobelstraße 12
70567 Stuttgart
irb@irb.fraunhofer.de
www.irbdirekt.de

For abstracts in English language (pdf-Datei) please contact
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**Forum for spatial and transport planners
in Central and South-East Europe**

Central and South-East Europe currently witnesses the emergence of various projects and initiatives devoted to the development of urban networks and transport corridors. So far, there is no exchange or co-ordination taking place between such projects and initiatives.

That is one of the reasons why the Planners Network for Central and South East Europe (PlaNet CenSE) is arranging a forum for spatial and transport planners. The underlying idea of the forum is to establish a platform for promoting, developing and discussing ongoing or future projects with similar aims and overlapping geographies. Bringing different actors together the forum aims at initiating a constant and ongoing dialogue between various initiatives to better utilise synergy effects and to avoid a duplication of work.

The forum's thematic outline is focused upon metropolitan networks and transport corridors in Central and South-East Europe. Besides addressing the question of developing new networks and corridors, the forum will also take up the question of analysing possible territorial impacts. It, in particular, addresses actors involved in European projects (e.g. INTERREG IIIA, B or C, TINA actors, Marco Polo etc.) and other regional or national stakeholders dealing with transnational urban networks and transport corridors in Central and

South-East Europe. Participants will benefit from a mutual exchange of first-hand information, knowledge and experience.

The BBR is organising the forum in cooperation with the Institute of Urban Development, Krakow. Both institutions are partners within PlaNet CenSE. It will be held 18.-19. May 2006 in Krakow. Please visit www.planet-cense.net for further information on the event.

**Completed Projects of Departmental
Research now online**

The English Website of the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) is currently enhanced by completed departmental research projects of the Federal Ministry including the research programmes General Departmental Research, Experimental Housing and Urban Development (ExWoSt), Demonstration Projects of Spatial Planning (MORO) and Development of Eastern Germany.

The projects were conducted and supervised by the scientific department of the BBR.

Please visit

http://www.bbr.bund.de/english/departmental_research/index.html

<http://www.bbr.bund.de/english/exwost/index.html>

<http://www.bbr.bund.de/english/moro/index.html>

http://www.bbr.bund.de/english/aufbau_ost/index.html