



Bundesamt
für Bauwesen und
Raumordnung

Federal Office
for Building and
Regional Planning

RESEARCH NEWS

Editorial

The support of international cooperation in the field of spatial and urban development through research, scientific policy advice as well as through programme and project management has become a key task of the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning in recent years. Transnational cooperation in the framework of the “European Territorial Cooperation” objective of the EU structural policy (INTERREG IVB) and an active participation in the European Spatial Planning Observation Network ESPON are especially important here. The issue of the Research News on hand pays special attention to these key activities.

By three articles current results from research projects are presented, for which the BBR had concluded contracts for monitoring the INTERREG programmes.

- The project „Analysis of the impacts, benefit and implementation of INTERREG III B projects“ looks back to the past programming period. It is aimed at reconstructing the manifestation of positive project effects so that they become useable for the German INTERREG strategy.
- Future transnational projects (INTERREG IVB) will much more face the challenge to evolve a strategic profit for the entire cooperation area of concern. Against this background typical attributes of strategic projects will be worked out in a second project and made useful for the development of strategic projects.
- The project “Cross-border cooperations to support an interconnected developing region in Central Europe” dealt with the question which cross-border projects in

the larger German-Polish and German-Czech border region might be promising from the transnational perspective as well.

As in the past Structural Funding period, the BBR will also assume the ESPON Contact Point function for the new ESPON 2013 programme. We will inform about the status quo of the programme.

The perspective of the project “CEMAT Model Regions – Regions of Innovation” outreaches the EU. The project intended to promote up-to-date regional planning approaches primarily in regions belonging to the Council of Europe’s newer member states. Some results will be presented.

Two articles deal with the follow-up of the German EU Council Presidency 2007 during which the two documents “Territorial Agenda of the EU (TAEU)” and “Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities (LC)” were adopted.

- The federal programme “Social City – education, economy, labour in the neighbourhood” will be introduced, which is a new contribution to implement the LC at national level.
- The conference „Business and Spatial Development“, which will take place in October 2008 in Leipzig, is another step in the implementation process of the TAEU and the LC.

Further articles will present new projects, BBR publications and events.

Wishing you a pleasant reading!

The editors

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Analysis of the impacts, benefit and implementation of INTERREG III B projects – new results

The research project carried out under the programme “Demonstration Projects of Spatial Planning” is to determine the various effects of INTERREG III B projects with regard to all five cooperation areas with German participation. The prime focus of observation does not lie on quantifiable outputs achieved by INTERREG III B but rather on identifiable effects manifesting themselves in particular beyond the confines of the project structures or occurring in the wake of the actual projects themselves. The research objective is to re-construct the manifestation of positive project effects so that they become useable for the German INTERREG strategy.

At the beginning of 2007, altogether 496 INTERREG III B projects were implemented in the five cooperation areas with German participation. In a multi-level selection process, 20 projects were selected having particularly representative effects for the totality of projects. They are thus able to demonstrate the benefits and impacts of the “INTERREG B” instrument in a special way. These 20 projects were analysed in more detail. In doing so, apart from project partners, persons from the “periphery” of projects were interviewed on their effects. The term “periphery” marks the circle of players who – beyond partnership – are able to assess the project effects or who benefit from the effects of a project.

In the course of the case studies, the following four main impact areas were identified which help to define the benefit of INTERREG projects:

Developing a regional, transnational network of governance

Transnational governance in this case marks the ability of decision-making structures to take decisions binding for all parties. A part of the INTERREG projects brings about transnational ability to act within areas relevant for the Lisbon and Gothenburg objectives: These areas include topics such as the development of market-oriented transport corridors or transit routes, climate protection in the Alpine Space or flood management in the catchment areas of larger rivers. These and other examples show beyond their special topics that INTERREG projects improve transnational governance by developing stable cooperations between the responsible authorities and institutions.

It can help to gradually build up a transnational control or decision-making competence for the related areas.

Mobilising capital

Normally, INTERREG projects are not regarded as investment projects. They nevertheless often have a leverage effect on financial resources: Depending on approach and way of implementation they may contribute to control or forward investments. The benefit of projects is mainly to forward and better target follow-up investments, which again generates multiplier effects.

Quality management in cities and regions

INTERREG projects lead to a better quality of regional decision-making: In cities or regions which have participated in INTERREG projects (even several times), learning is no coincidence anymore. The projects rather generate a systematic quality management implying that players evaluate relevant milestone projects and analyse their own decisions against this background. Urban and regional policy thus achieves better results in the long term.

Innovation, new standards, procedures and brands

Normally, INTERREG projects do not produce technical inventions holding their ground on the market. But many projects are innovative with regard to their relevant topic: They develop new procedures by which follow-up activities of other players can be handled more efficiently. They partly also create the preconditions facilitating the work of future cooperations. Brands finally constitute a special form of innovation as they guarantee a consistent appearance of related offers and activities and contribute to developing transnational quality standards for tourist offers.

In the last phase of the research project, the results from the case study interviews executed in spring 2008 will be further concretised in several workshops and the conditions of the generation of project effects will be investigated together with selected experts. During the final conference on 29 October 2008 at the euregia, exemplary effects and their factors of success will be discussed with the public and consequences for the conception of projects will be reconsidered (see also article on page 15).

Further information:

www.bbr.bund.de
 >> Research programmes
 >> Demonstration Projects of Spatial Planning
 >> Studies >> Analysis of the impacts, benefit and implementation of INTERREG IIIB projects

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Strategic attributes of transnational cooperation projects

Future transnational projects (INTERREG IV B) will much more face the challenge to evolve a strategic profit for the entire cooperation area of concern. Against this background, the main focus of the project "Preparation of strategic projects of transnational cooperation" – carried out under the programme „Demonstration Projects of Spatial Planning” – is the conceptual preparation of strategic projects of transnational cooperation.

In the following, typical characteristics or "strategic attributes", that have been identified during the research work, will be presented. They have been identified in an explorative approach by analysing relevant documents and conducting expert interviews.

1. Political attribute: Strategic projects are of political importance. They deal with a subject that is involved in an explicit public and political discussion. Furthermore, those projects may contribute to formulating and implementing new policies.

2. Geographical attribute: Strategic projects have an impact on the whole or on large parts of the cooperation area. Furthermore, project results and effects may also be relevant for areas that do not immediately belong to the project area.

3. Economic attribute: Strategic projects cause explicit economic effects. They activate public or entrepreneurial investment decisions or promote conditions for such investments.

4. Programmatic attribute: Strategic projects show a strong orientation towards superordinated programmatic goals: technical and programmatic goals at European scale, directives concerning the cooperation area; national directives.

5. Vertical attribute: Strategic projects include the different administrative levels. They range from the local to the European level. The integration of national structures in particular is a feature of strategic projects.

6. Horizontal attribute: Strategic projects are characterised by a strong integrative and/or interdisciplinary character at the horizontal level: integration of social groups, establishment of public-private-partnerships, involvement of different policy sectors. Multidisciplinarity: integration of different disciplines/subjects into a project.

7. Sustainable (long-term) attribute: Strategic projects are sustainable as they have long-term impacts of their results beyond the end of projects. They permanently leave new conditions, new structures and new procedures.

8. Structural policy attribute: Strategic projects have structural effects in line with the objectives of European regional policy. These objectives include those of cohesion policy as well as the new requirements of a competition-oriented European structural policy according to the Lisbon objectives.

9. Cross-programme attribute: Strategic projects are looking beyond INTERREG to synergies with other European or important national programmes. Those considerations mainly target mainstream Structural Funding programmes, other INTERREG programmes as well as at the programmes for rural development.

10. Communication attribute: Strategic projects use high-quality media and public relations to better raise awareness and interest for the project contents, the process and the results in the long term. Communication is used as an instrument itself to realise the project purposes.

11. Ability attribute: Strategic projects stand out as they help to create ability-oriented project partnerships. This means that project partners are explicitly chosen according to their specific abilities – which are also unique for the cooperation area.

The strategic attributes contribute to the ongoing discussion on increasing the strategic quality of transnational projects. The current work phase focuses on the preparation of strategic projects. According to the specific characteristics of the five cooperation areas with German participation, suggestions for projects, that are of strategic importance for the particular areas, are to be developed. Furthermore, a supporting document will be developed which can be used to evaluate strategic projects and, serving as a guideline, to give some orientation to applicants and partners of future INTERREG B projects. During the final conference on 29 October 2008 at the euregia, attributes of strategic projects and improvement opportunities will be discussed (see also article on page 15).

Further information:

www.bbr.bund.de >>
Research programmes
>> Demonstration
Projects of Spatial
Planning >> Studies >>
Preparation of strategic
projects of transnational
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From cross-border towards transnational cooperation – approaches and project ideas for the new EU programming period 2007–2013

The final report can be downloaded from the “Publications” section (see BBR Online Publications).

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Which spatial development topics are up-to-date in the enlarged border region to Poland and the Czech Republic? How can cooperation across the border and transnational cooperation be linked more closely? Which new partners can be won for the projects and how can the Lisbon and Gothenburg objectives be put in the centre of project development? The BBR research project „Cross-border cooperations to support a largely interconnected developing region in Central Europe“ provides answers to these questions.

The number of projects in the field of transnational spatial development shows the need for cooperation between regions and cities within Europe. Cooperation at different levels is funded by the INTERREG programmes in the context of the „European Territorial Cooperation“ objective of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The funding is concentrated on cross-border, transnational and inter-regional cooperation.

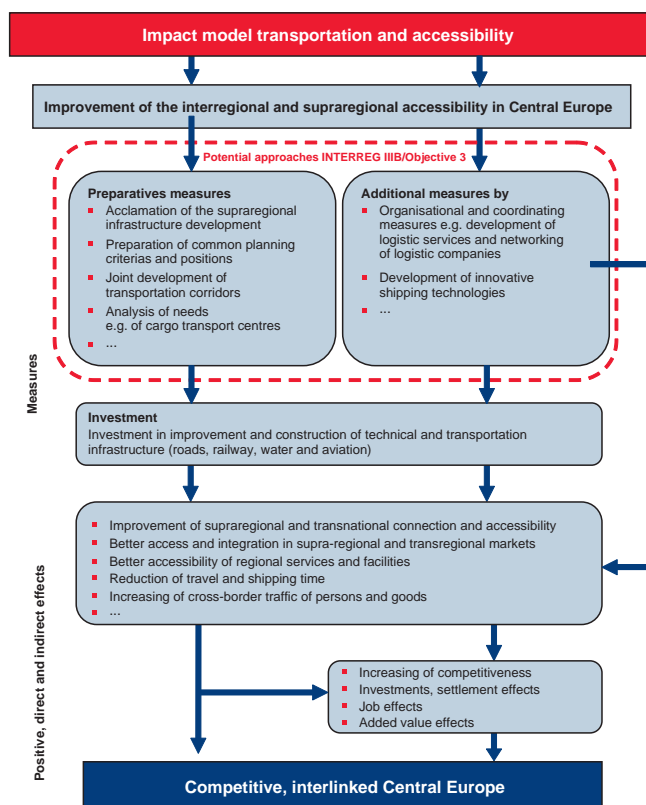
In the framework of a research project funded under the German programme „Development of Eastern Germany“, a consulting firm analysed on behalf of the BBR which projects implemented in the enlarged border region are especially promising for future larger-scale cooperation. They should meet with the requirements and needs of the Federation, the Eastern German federal states and regions and at the same time promote activities supporting a Central European developing region.

Several hundred projects of cross-border cooperation (INTERREG III A), which in the last few years had been implemented together with Poland and the Czech Republic in the Eastern German border region, were analysed as a starting basis. The analysis focussed on projects, whose effects and benefits tend to outreach the smaller border regions. Possible topics for transnational cooperation were identified by means of desk research and feedback workshops with regional players, e.g.

- development and coordination of logistic cooperations,
- cooperation of towns above all in terms of demographic change,
- cooperation in the field of flood and environmental protection,
- cooperation in the field of economic development and technology transfer.

Concrete project ideas were among other things mentioned for the topic “innovation and technology transfer”. Hence small and medium-sized enterprises and founders of start-ups may be better supported by measures to activate, accelerate and improve the technology transfer and technology-oriented foundations in Central Europe. Another approach is to involve transnational partners in existing cross-border technology networks, e.g. in the field of plasma technology.

All in all, the analysis revealed that the results and experiences of already implemented projects and existing project ideas should be better spread and new partners be involved. The websites of the cooperation areas offer a platform to present project ideas of transnational cooperation and to search for appropriate project partners.



ESPON 2013: the European observation network on territorial development and cohesion

Europe is a continent of large territorial diversity offering assets to be better capitalised and at the same time offering major challenges and sources of disparities and risks for a favourable, sustainable and balanced development of Europe as a whole. This is especially true after the last EU enlargements in 2004 and 2007 when not only the territory of the EU grew considerably but also its regional socio-economic disparities. The need of sound data and knowledge about spatial structures, trends and scenarios is important for political decisions. That's why the European Commission established the ESPON programme in 2002.

The progress made by the ESPON 2006 Programme shall be further deepened and widened depending on the demand expressed by policy-makers involved in ESPON 2013. ESPON 2013 will provide approximately 45 million euros for the implementation of projects during the new Structural Funding period. Partners from 27 EU countries as well as from the neighbouring countries Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland will participate and implement projects. ESPON 2013 focuses on different research approaches.

Exploratory efforts and perspective studies shall support policy-relevant themes of the future. The applied research projects under Priority 1 shall pave the way for integrated analytical activities in concrete territorial contexts. The framework for applied research is organised in 3 thematic axes:

- (1) Territorial development and the competitiveness of regions, urban and rural territories.
- (2) Territorial cooperation.
- (3) Territorial impact of EU policies

Especially Priority 2 gives **European cities and regions** the possibility to propose common topics of interest for providing evidence and knowledge-based results on the strengths and weaknesses of individual regions and/or larger territories seen from a European perspective.

The three types of actions are the following:

- Integrated studies and thematic analyses
- Knowledge support to experimental and innovative actions

- Joint actions related to other Structural Funds programmes

A **Sounding Board** will be made up of two experts for each project, ideally one scientist and one practitioner, both experienced in the respective thematic field of research. This composition shall ensure a high scientific quality and improve the user-friendliness for practitioners. Experts in a Sounding Board will play an advisory role, providing continuous feedback and guidance to the transnational project group (TPG).

The **ESPON Database**, providing the basis for the development of a scientific platform and of scientific tools, shall help to continuously assess and monitor territorial development dynamics in view of territorial policy objectives at European level. Four types of actions are planned to be financed within this Priority:

- ESPON Database and data development
- Territorial indicators/indexes and tools
- Territorial monitoring system and reports
- Targeted actions for updating indicators and maps

Simultaneously with the tendering procedure of the first projects, the ESPON 2013 Programme started a discussion process on the demands and formulation of territorial indicators to support European policy developments especially regarding territorial cohesion.

In this respect, a workshop took place in Esch-sur-Alzette, the seat of the ESPON Co-ordination Unit in Luxembourg, on 2nd April 2008 to exchange ideas on the demands, definition and construction of territorial indicators. ESPON 2006 Programme project partners and experts from the European Commission, Eurostat, EEA, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the OECD served with expertise and advice based on their activities and results. Much scope was given to reflect on policy needs and to formulate territorial policy-related demands and to discuss about how to match scientific approaches and the information needed from the political side to ensure a sound construction of an evidence-based territorial policy.

The BBR is the national ESPON Contact Point (ECP) in Germany. If you are interested in finding German partners for ESPON projects or should you have other questions concerning ESPON in Germany, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Further information:

www.bbr.bund.de >>
English >> Research programmes >> ESPON

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CEMAT Model Regions – Regions of Innovation

The project “CEMAT Model Regions – Regions of Innovation” has reached a new stage of implementation in its last phase. It had been launched in 2001 in the Russian Federation as an activity to help implementing the “Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent” adopted at the European Conference of Ministers for Regional Planning in Hanover in 2000. The project intended to promote up-to-date regional planning approaches primarily in regions belonging to the Council of Europe’s newer member states. Consequently, in the second project phase Armenia was additionally supported. In 2005, the project had been extended to regions in four additional countries – with a focus on the Black Sea Region. Thus, apart from Armenia and Russia, regions in Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania and Ukraine (cf. map) as well were involved. Hence, CEMAT Model Regions contributed to a growing and strengthened pan-European network of innovative regions as requested at the CEMAT conference 2003 in Ljubljana. The project was commissioned by the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Transport, Building and Urban Affairs.

The work during the final project phase (2005–2007) was carried out by GTZ – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit. While besides the CEMAT Guidelines a more recent guidance to spatial development, such as the Territorial Agenda of the EU and the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities, was discussed, a focus was laid on hands-on aspects as well. Thus, a more action- and project-oriented

understanding of spatial development was promoted in the partner regions. Actors were provided with training measures and acquainted with the preparation of applications for transnational support programmes. Furthermore, the exchange of good practice and tying networks formed part of the activities. As a principle, the co-operation was organised as a multi-level stakeholder approach while the bottom-up character was stressed. In parts, involved actors were not yet familiar with the potentials of a competition-oriented cooperation of politicians, administrators, researchers and entrepreneurs. The practical orientation was combined with tackling concrete needs in the regions such as enhancing an energy-saving spatial development through increased use of renewable energy sources and improved energy-efficiency in the housing sector.

To summarise, CEMAT Model Regions has strongly enhanced the competences of actors in the field of spatial development with regard to cross-border and transnational cooperation. Project partners have also been strengthened to develop own project concepts together with collaborators under CEMAT Model Regions or within their regions alone, some of them have been enabled for the first time.

The economic and societal process of transformation will continue. It is intended to provide further inputs to that and to help the regions in the Council of Europe’s newer member states to apply the most advanced spatial planning and development approaches in those processes.

CEMAT = Conférence européenne des ministres responsables de l'aménagement du territoire (European Conference of Ministers responsible for Regional Planning)

More information as well as final reports (English and Russian short versions) will also be available in some weeks at www.bbr.bund.de and at the project homepage www.cemat-region.eu.

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Leipzig Charter and support of local labour markets and economy

Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities

During the German EU Council Presidency, the EU ministers responsible for urban development signed the "Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities" (LC) at an informal meeting on 24th May 2007. In the LC the ministers make two guiding recommendations which are connected with different strategies for action.

They recommend to make greater use of integrated urban development policy by

- creating and ensuring high-quality public spaces,
- modernizing infrastructure networks and improving energy efficiency and
- promoting proactive innovation and educational policies.

Another recommendation is to give special attention on deprived neighbourhoods by

- pursuing strategies for upgrading the physical environment,
- strengthening the local economy and local labour market policy,
- promoting proactive education and training policies for children and young people and
- promoting socially acceptable urban transport.

Another recommendation is to implement urban development policy at the national level. To realise this recommendation, the policy initiative "Towards a National Urban Development Policy in Germany" was started on 2nd July 2007.

The Leipzig Charter and the BIWAQ programme

A new and important contribution to implement the LC at the national level in Germany is made by the federal programme "Social City – Education, economy, labour in the neighbourhood" (*short BIWAQ: Soziale Stadt – Bildung, Wirtschaft, Arbeit im Quartier*) partially funded by the European Social Fund (ESF). The programme is included in the integrative approach of the Federation-Länder programme "Districts with Special Development Needs – the Socially Integrative City" (short: Social City) and will be realised in the areas of the programme "Social City". Therefore, it follows the recommendation to concentrate the efforts on deprived neighbourhoods.

BIWAQ was started in April 2008 and supports non-investitive measures in the field of social area-based labour market and economy promotion. The promotion focuses on

- the local economy,
- the integration of long-term unemployed people and/or young people into training or into the labour market and
- the support of changing from school to job.

With these aims BIWAQ especially joins the following strategies for action: "strengthening the local economy and local labour market policy" and "proactive education and training policies". The integration of migrants is a central principle.

As a supporting programme BIWAQ is part of a holistic approach of social urban development which joins social and urban development measures. With the area-based approach the programme furthermore follows the suggestion of the LC which assessed local economy and labour market policies, which are tailored to the needs of individual neighbourhoods, to be appropriate instruments to secure the economic stabilisation of deprived neighbourhoods.

BIWAQ continues the ESF programme "Employment, education and local participation" (*short BBT: Beschäftigung, Bildung und Teilhabe vor Ort*), which is being realised between April 2007 and September 2008 with a programme volume of 13m euros. The programme was initiated by the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs and the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. In the programme section "Social City" it has the same aims as BIWAQ and supports 48 projects in 59 programme areas. The projects range from qualification measures (e.g. Halle) to the funding of businesses in the social economy (e.g. Sulzbach/Saar), as mentioned in the LC.

To obtain sustainable effects in deprived neighbourhoods of the "Social City" programme, the new programme is endowed with a volume of 160m euros (100m euros from the ESE, 60m euros from national funds). BIWAQ shall be realised in a long-term perspective, in two support periods from 2008 to 2015 with terms of four years each and shall contribute to further stabilising local labour markets and the local economy in deprived neighbourhoods.

Tasks of the BBR

The Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) is responsible for scientifically accompanying the programmes BBT (programme section "Social City") and BIWAQ. Its tasks include to design the programmes, to report about their implementation, to support the project management with regard to technical questions, to transfer knowledge and to evaluate the programmes.

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The report (in German language only) can be ordered at the price of 12,50 euros plus dispatch from the BBR publishing department selbstverlag@bbr.bund.de.

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Regional barometer for the new German Länder Sixth summary report

More than 17 years since the German reunification, the sixth regional barometer has been published, which considers itself to be a regular monitoring and evaluating tool of this profound structural change in the new Länder. As usual, the articles cover a large range of topics of the Eastern German transformation process. They range from the successful development of the industry to the integration of Eastern German regions into European transnational cooperation.

Some main statements of this report will be presented in the following:

The Eastern German manufacturing industry continues its positive development. The growth rates of production are much higher than in the old Länder. Especially abroad, Eastern German companies have success on the markets which, however, is only sporadically reflected in the regional employment figures.

The east-west disparities still appear in various structures, i.a. in the commuter patterns of the old and new Länder. In 2005 e.g. far more than 80,000 persons employed per day commuted from the Eastern part of the former border region to the Western part while it was only 9,000 commuters in the opposite direction.

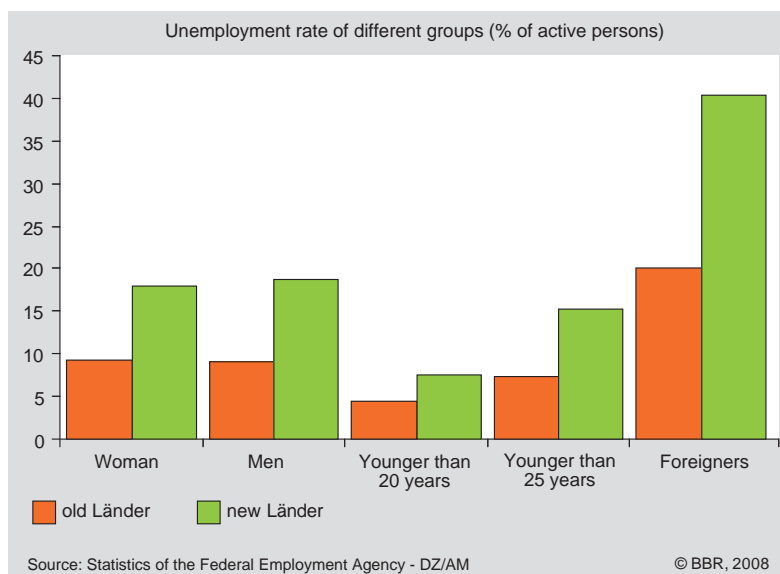
The spatial position, the share of persons employed with a technical profession in all persons employed as well as the average size of companies are main factors of influence on the regional production level (gross domestic product per employed person). A peripheral position rather tends to have a negative effect on the productivity. The position or connection of a region has the best influence among all variables considered. With regard to all these factors, the new Länder still have a more unfavourable position.

The income disparities still mainly appear within the East-West dimension. The regional living costs are not able to compensate for the nominal income disparities – neither between city and countryside nor between centre and periphery nor between the old and the new Länder.

On the labour market the East-West disparities still dominate (see figure). The consolidation of the labour market problems, which is still reflected in the long-term unemployment level, also affects many Western German regions.

With regard to the infrastructure, the Western German regions are on average still better equipped than their Eastern German equivalents. Only six of the 50 best equipped labour market regions are situated in Eastern Germany. These differences are i.a. a result of the settlement structure since the Eastern German regions are much less densely populated.

Eastern Germany has good prerequisites to make the housing market sustainable. Despite continuing East-West migration trends, the demand for flats has been rather stable so far, which is mainly due to the dynamic development of households. In the regional context the situation may, however, be much more precarious as the demand might decline by a two-digit percentage. In the regions affected further buildings need to be demolished and a professional building vacancy management will be required.



Urban energy – potentials of blank urban spaces for renewable energies

Although renewable energies have been boosted in recent years, they only have played a minor role in urban redevelopment so far. This is especially true when derelict urban space is to be revitalised. In addition, many spaces within an urban environment, such as roofs and facades, can be utilised to produce green energy. The ExWoSt research project aims at investigating the potential of open urban spaces for renewable energy production. The project was launched in 2007 by the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning in Bonn (BBR) and is conducted by Nordhausen University of Applied Sciences.

The background of the project is twofold: It has a political as well as an urban and regional planning background. On the one hand, the project should search for possibilities to support two political aims. The first one is to increase renewable energies in the German energy mix as laid down in the Integrated Energy and Climate Programme, inter alia:

- by increasing the share of renewable energies in the power production to 25-30 % by 2020,
- by doubling the proportion of power generated from combined heat and power to approximately 25 % by 2020 or
- by guaranteeing by 2020 that blends will contain approx. 20 % biofuels by volume (equivalent to 17 % by energy content).

The second political aim to be implemented is to decrease the consumption of open and green spaces, mainly:

- by restricting the increase of new settlement areas,
- by fostering decentralised concentration of new settlement areas with an orientation towards cities
- by improving existing settlements.

On the other hand, with regard to urban and regional planning, three motives were decisive for the project:

- to search for reasonable uses for urban open spaces,
- to exploit possibilities for the production of renewable energies on these spaces,
- to improve and enhance urban development.

Since municipalities are rarely aware of their complete space potentials, they can

hardly assess the opportunities these spaces bear. Due to the variety of green energy production strategies, these spaces can, however, be utilised for energy production. Instead, green spaces are consumed to produce energy, often far away from those places where the energy is needed. Since the German Government has launched a national strategy of sustainability, the resource land should be used wisely. In fact, land consumption is to be reduced to 30 hectares per day by 2020. This means, that used land, i. e. brownfields, but also so far unused open spaces have to be screened regarding their suitability for green energy production. The project thus focuses on questions such as the following: Which options of renewable energy production are appropriate in an urban environment? What are the prerequisites? What are the requirements concerning infrastructure, planning procedures and legal aspects? May green options also be utilised temporarily? Can they easily be dismantled? Are there mobile options? Are they economically feasible? Besides answering these questions, a good-practice reference book shall be compiled to illustrate innovative solutions.

On 5th November 2007, this research initiative was officially launched with a symposium held at the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs (BMVBS) in Berlin. This meeting brought together experts from all over the nation to discuss possibilities and chances of introducing green energy production in urban spaces. Dr. Engelbert Lütke-Daldrup, State Secretary of the BMVBS, well formulated the challenge: The future city must be compact and climate-friendly. This research project tries to add a building stone for achieving this goal.



More information
(German language):

www.bbr.bund.de >>
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Mont-Cenis Adacemy on the old site of the former Mont-Cenis coalmine. This project combines public use with innovative architecture and technology in a sophisticated way. It includes the utilisation of mine gas from a neighbouring shaft, a block-unit heating plant, a battery storage and a micro-climate glass structure covered with a roof-integrated solar power plant and houses a hotel, a library, a restaurant and other public facilities.



„Wohnungs- und Immobilienmärkte in Deutschland 2006“, Berichte Bd. 27, 2007

Ed.: Bundesamt für Bauwesen und Raumordnung

ISBN 978-3-87994-077-6

Price: 25,00 €, to be ordered at: selbstverlag@bbr.bund.de or at bookshops

BBR (Eds.): Housing and Real Estate Markets in Germany 2006 – Brief Summary, BBR Online Publication 8/2008.

ISSN 18632-8732

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Rents and property prices remain largely stable

BBR presents report “Housing and Real Estate Markets in Germany 2006”

In the majority of cities and districts, the rents for flats and the house prices are stagnating or dropping in 2006. With 4.84 euros/sqm the net rent in Germany has nearly remained unchanged, the prices for new one-family houses including plot remain at around 215,000 euros. At the same time, the housing vacancies have stabilised in many areas. In the context of the housing market crisis in the United States, the feared impacts of the big real estate deals to foreign investors but also the challenges connected with the demographic change, the analytical results of the BBR stress a constitution of the housing and real estate markets in Germany which is comparably robust.

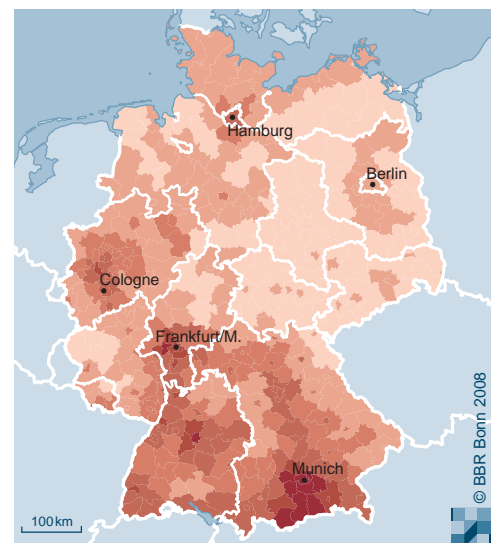
On over 300 pages and provided with just as many figures, the BBR report “Housing and Real Estate Markets in Germany 2006” does not only present an intensive monitoring of prices and rents but also a large survey of different market segments and processes. The regionally differentiated analytical results underline the well-known discrepancy between growth regions, characterised by high regional rents and prices as well as a short housing supply, and structurally weak regions with low rents and significant vacancies. The differences between growing and shrinking regions persist but do not increase in 2006. As the markets are largely relaxed, the market shares move from rural-peripheral areas into the cities and their surrounding areas where the price level continues to be much higher. The result are higher purchase prices per square metre especially in the case of building land turnovers and also the prices of the sold residential properties on average are much higher than in previous years. These spatial structural effects concerning the turnovers suggest a rise of rents and prices although the regional price level has hardly changed.

The BBR has extended its market monitoring activities to commercial real estate as well and for the first time presents central market parameters for the two important submarkets office and retail real estate.

Especially the component of the office employment forecast impressively illustrates the regionally very heterogeneous commercial market constellations.

Besides the market perspective, the report deals in more detail with social, urban development- and settlement structure-related topics, such as the residential situation of households or the reaction of the building land markets to the development of settlement areas. The report also takes up the current „renaissance of cities“ topic. Cities as residential locations are highly appreciated. But migrations to surrounding areas can only be reduced by cities which provide enough housing.

Prices for Single-Family Standard Houses 2005/2006



House Prices for single-family standard houses (asked prices) 2005/2006 in euro

	to below 150,000
	150,000 to below 200,000
	200,000 to below 250,000
	250,000 to below 300,000
	300,000 to below 350,000
	350,000 and more

Districts, date 31.12.2004 (modified)
Data base: BBR housing market monitoring system,
IDN Immodaten GmbH

National urban policies in the context of European integration

“Raumforschung und Raumordnung” (Spatial Research and Spatial Planning) 2/2008, ISSN 0034-0111

A current volume of the scientific journal “Raumforschung und Raumordnung”, published by the Academy for Spatial Research and Planning and the BBR, is dedicated to national urban policies in Europe in the context of European integration. The reason for having chosen this topic was the growing strategic importance of cities within European (structural) policies or when implementing the Lisbon Strategy. It requires (the complex) urban development to be directed towards coherent objectives – and thus towards comprehensive national urban policies.

The issue has three focuses:

- Urban development of the EU

Urban development has become a pan-European challenge. Not only the EU but also most of the member states are interested in more opportunities to exert influence on the development of their cities and city regions. This is due to finally the same set of cultural, economic, social and political-institutional reasons: What is important is the “European city” and its possibilities to serve identity development, economic competitiveness (keyword: “Lisbon Strategy”) and at the same time regional development by strengthening the city as an economic „engine“, social integration in (large) cities, in which social and ethnical issues are increasingly concentrated, good governance in cities as a prerequisite for an urban development jointly borne by the citizens, by the business and the administrative sector. This volume as well deals with the question whether all these objectives – especially economic and social ones – and the interests of the city and its surrounding region will be able to mesh.

- National urban policy in Germany

Since mid-2007, Germany has been explicitly running a national urban development policy. Due to its federal structure this requires an especially subtle balance between the competence of local authorities, federal states and the Federation. This is proven by the fact that the “national urban development policy” initiative, launched by the German Federal Government, was jointly created by the Federation, the federal states and the municipalities and is aimed at cooperation between all these levels. More than elsewhere in Europe, maybe, it is also necessary in Germany to balance the historic interests of the city and the countryside convincingly within such an “urban policy”. This initiative, the changed framework conditions of urban development and the necessity to have a national urban development policy in Germany and last but not least the special political environment for such a policy will be discussed in more detail in the second part of this volume.

- “National urban policies” of some European countries

The issue closes with articles on the urban policy in England (Manchester serving as an example), on the understanding of urban planning and development in France, on the development of urban policy in the Netherlands as well as on the urban development problems of the new EU member states in Central and Eastern Europe.

All in all, the volume delivers good insight into the challenges which urban development and urban policy face Europe-wide and into the trends of urban policy both in the European Union and in some member states.



The publication can be ordered at “Heymanns Verlag” (www.heymanns.com) in Cologne, Germany, or bought in bookshops: National urban policies in the context of European integration “Raumforschung und Raumordnung” 2/2008, ISSN 0034-0111

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The latest IzR issues are dealing with the following topics:

Issue 10/11.2007
Historische Determinanten der Raumanalyse (*Historic determinants of spatial analysis*)

Issue 12.2007
Raumbilder und Stadtentwicklung (*Spatial images and urban development*)

Issue 1/2.2008
Infrastruktur und Daseinsvorsorge in der Fläche (*Area-wide provision of infrastructure and services of general interest*)

The journal is available in German language with English abstracts. Some issues contain articles in English language. The abstracts are available as free downloads (www.bbr.bund.de) >> Veröffentlichungen >> IzR.

The journal can be obtained from the publishing department of the BBR (selbstverlag@bbr.bund.de) and from bookshops. The issues cost 6 (single issue) or 12 euros (double issue). All prices plus postage and packing

Journal „Informationen zur Raumentwicklung (IzR)“ – new issues

The journal „Informationen zur Raumentwicklung – IzR“ (Information on Spatial Development) is an established specialist journal for spatial planning and policy. It is published in thematic issues that comment 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 is supposed to present the latest issues.

Historic determinants of spatial analysis

Although in recent years the so-called “spatial turn” in the field of cultural sciences has generally upvalued the category of spatial planning/development in scientific terms, a real dialogue between the relevant disciplines has not yet started though. Many spatial analyses e.g. are still without history, i.e. they refer exclusively to the present and to structures and vice versa many historical and/or social analyses do not have any concrete spatial reference. The complex picture of our social and spatial state is, however, likely to be concretised through better interdisciplinary research. This issue is taken up by this IzR issue. It has a look at this complex field of research and, especially by the example of historical and spatial science, questions possible internal and interdisciplinary references which do already exist and have to be fostered.

Spatial images and urban development

Media and images increasingly influence our view of the world in terms of often specifically constructed, selected or treated signs, symbols and definitions. This issue analyses whether and how this “image community” also becomes manifest in spatial and urban terms, within urban development and policy and what are the consequences of this. In doing so, it draws various, quite critical bows between theory and practice, between the stereogram-based

concept of spatial and urban research and the professional production of images and spaces – called “imageengineering” – of project developers, urban developers, regional and event managers, last but not least between the economically governed or traditional “mainstream” of imageries and bold “small” images of the city.

Area-wide provision of infrastructure and services of general interest

Services of general interest, like water, energy, telephone, kindergardens, schools and hospitals are taken for granted all over in Germany. However, public finances are increasingly running short, formerly public services are provided by private companies and in some regions the population is decreasing to the critical point where services become increasingly unsustainable. Is on that condition the principle of equivalent living conditions including its area-wide guarantee of infrastructure still applicable? The IzR volume on hand analyses this question. It gives an informative and critical survey of the legal bases of services of general interest in general as well as of some specific services. It especially deals with the question how these services can be adjusted to the changed framework conditions in a citizen-friendly way. For this purpose, spatial planning and its strategies to cope with the related challenges are examined.

German Annual of Spatial Research and Policy 2007 – Territorial Cohesion

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

- ARL – Academy for Spatial Research and Planning, Hannover,
- IfL – Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography, Leipzig,
- IÖR – Leibniz Institute of Ecological and Regional Development, Dresden
- IRS – Leibniz Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning

have been publishing an English-speaking yearbook (*German Annual of Spatial Research and Policy*) since 2006. The first *German Annual* of 2006 concentrated on restructuring Eastern Germany. The current *Annual 2007* puts the main emphasis on territorial cohesion.

The various regions within the EU are marked by a high degree of disparity with regard to their economic performance and productivity and as regards their labour markets. Facing these regional differences, the task of regional and spatial sciences is to develop concepts and strategies to reduce and prevent territorial imbalances. Thus, “territorial cohesion” stands for a more balanced spatial development and aims for improving integration throughout the EU. Although the term is used in many EU documents and strategies, its meaning remains vague and unclear. The scientific articles in this annual deal with the interpretations of this term, the challenges of European spatial development policy and the problems and concepts involved in achieving territorial cohesion. Furthermore, two short reports illustrate the implementation of territorial cohesion on the basis of two research projects.



Territorial Cohesion

Series: German Annual of Spatial Research and Policy

Scholich, Dietmar (Ed.)

Springer-Verlag Berlin Heidelberg 2007

ISBN:

978-3-540-71745-4

Between think tank and back office – Report of the Scientific BBR Departments 2004/2005/2006

Between think tank and back office – this is how the scientific departments of the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) can be described. In the fields of spatial planning/development, urban planning/development, housing and general building issues they fulfil important analytical and technical tasks for the Federal Government and especially for the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs (BMVBS). Being a research institute affiliated to this Ministry, their tasks i.a. include to make scientific analyses, especially for providing political advice, to implement research programmes, to represent the BMVBS in political committees and to write reports.

With this report, the scientific departments intend to publish the results of their work between 2004 and 2006 and, in parts, also from 2007. One focus is to present the comprehensive reporting and information system. Furthermore, current and completed projects funded under the research pro-

grammes supervised by the BBR as well as results of the European Spatial Planning Observation Network ESPON and of transnational cooperation (INTERREG B) will be presented, the BBR's involvement in research networks and initiatives will be highlighted and future research focal points be outlined.

All in all, the report gives a sound survey of the variety of tasks of the scientific BBR departments as well as of recent important working results and publications.



BBR (ed.): Bericht des Wissenschaftlichen Bereiches 2004/2005/2006, Sonderveröffentlichung, Bonn 2007

urn:nbn:de:0093-SO1707EVP1

The report (in German language only) can be ordered free of charge from the BBR publishing department selbstverlag @bbr.bund.de.

It can also be downloaded from the BBR website: www.bbr.bund.de >> Veröffentlichungen/Sonderveröffentlichungen



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www.bbr.bund.de >>
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>> Allgemeine
Ressortforschung >>
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der Europäischen
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Book announcement

Wendelin Strubelt /Grzegorz Gorzelak (eds.): City and Region. Papers in honour of Jiri Musil

This book deals with the development of cities and regions in times of decisive transformations in Europe throughout the past twenty years. The Western parts of European cities and regions were challenged by globalisation from the outside and by technological and demographic change from the inside. Furthermore, the Eastern parts were confronted with deep restructuring processes enforced by the transition from socialist to capitalistic structures. By now, all European cities and regions are confronted with challenges stemming from a new global competition for jobs, population and status. Authors from different national backgrounds of Central Europe analyse and reflect on these changing structures and processes. The articles included reflect the current situation of cities and regions in Central Europe.

Those scientists, who have contributed to this book, have been working together

for many years. Almost thirty years ago, they started their scientific intercourse as a group of urban sociologists from Poland, Czechoslovakia (now Czech Republic and Slovakia) and Germany. These were the times when such an exchange, crossing the Iron Curtain, was not quite easy. However, they stayed in contact throughout the interesting and difficult times of change after 1989.

Professor Jiri Musil was one of the central figures within this group. All of us admired his intellectual inputs to discussions and surely, we have always liked him and seen him as what he has always been: a generous and inspiring colleague. These papers are dedicated to him, to his 80th birthday.

It is a joint publication of the European Institute for Regional and Local Development, Warsaw, and the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning, Bonn.

Conference "Business and Spatial Development" during the Euregia Fair on 27 October 2008 in Leipzig

During the German EU Council Presidency, the "Territorial Agenda of the European Union" (TAEU) and the "Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities" (LC) were adopted. With that the ministers for spatial and urban development of the EU member states created a new basis to the European spatial development. Their aim is to qualify Europe's regions and cities for a sustainable growth policy, which requires stronger cooperation with local companies and social players. On 27 October 2008, the conference "Business and Spatial Development" (*Konferenz Wirtschaft und Raum*) will take place during the Euregia Fair in Leipzig. Business representatives together with Federal Minister Wolfgang Tiefensee and representatives of other EU member states as well as of the EU Commission will discuss about a better integration of the economy into spatial and urban development policy. The conference's objective is to formulate a joint declaration „Business and Space“.

In the TAEU, the dialogue between the business and the political sector is identified as an especially important method to structure the future spatial development policy. With this approach, it follows a new understanding of planning and development policy according to which all players in spatially relevant measures should be involved in the framing of spatial development policies within the EU and participate in their implementation.

The effects of the conference should not be limited to Germany. It rather intends to involve other member states in order to identify ways and chances for a successful cooperation between the political and the business sector in realising the provisions and principles of the TAEU and the LC. The conference's main attention is on strengthening the private sectors' awareness of the objectives of the Territorial Agenda and of the Leipzig Charter and to illustrate the potentials for commercial involvement when

implementing it. In this respect, it will also focus on possibilities to optimise the political and legal conditions in Germany so that the private sector can best fulfil its role as an important player in spatial development.

At the conclusion of the conference, the business representatives are supposed, by adopting the joint declaration "Business and Spatial Development", to openly signal their readiness to cooperate regarding spatial development policy measures thus assuming responsibility for the achievement of the objectives of the TAEU and the LC.

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Further BBR events in the context of the EUREGIA 2008

At this year's EUREGIA, a specialist trade fair and congress on "Local and Regional Development in Europe", the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) will participate with several events. The EUREGIA 2008 will take place on 27-29 October 2008 in Leipzig.

Tuesday, 28 October 2008

Symposium of the BMVBS and the BBR
"Supraregional partnerships – innovative projects to promote cooperation among city regions, networking and to share responsibility over a large area"

With "Demonstration Projects of Spatial Planning" the Federation aims to promote the guiding principle of spatial planning which is to share responsibility for growth and innovation in large spatial contexts. A related research programme in selected greater regions was launched by BMVBS and BBR in 2008. During the symposium, the started projects will be presented, contents and objectives will be discussed and first results be presented.

Tuesday, 28 October 2008

Symposium of the BBR and the EIB:
"JESSICA and urban development funds"

In launching the JESSICA (Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas) initiative, the European Commission has put the idea of urban development funds to finance investments in European cities on the agenda. Main idea of this new approach is to exchange from a primarily grants-based support of urban development to so-called revolving credit- or equity-based instruments. In Germany, the JESSICA initiative has started discussions about the question in how far the new instruments proposed by the EU Commission and the European Investment Bank might be implemented in a reasonable way – i.e. in creating additional benefit.

The event, which is jointly executed by the BBR and the European Investment Bank (EIB) provides an insight into the development activities on urban development funds and offers the chance to practitioners in the field of financing and urban development to exchange experiences on a professional basis.

Wednesday, 29 October 2008

Symposium of the BBR:
"Transnational cooperation: effects, strategic projects and support in the context of the Federal programme"

In the current Structural Funding period 2007-2013, the European Union promotes transnational cooperation between the member states and their cities and regions in the context of the "European territorial cooperation" objective with the aim to promote an integrated territorial development (INTERREG IV B). As in former programming periods, Germany is involved in five transnational cooperation areas. Cities and regions as well as other players in the field of spatial development therefore have the chance to strengthen their competence regarding Europe and to carry through transnational projects on spatial development.

The symposium aims at increasing the effectiveness of transnational projects as well as their strategical relevance for the implementation especially of the Territorial Agenda of the EU (TAEU).

For regional players and other project applicants the symposium is supposed to give some advice

- how to design projects in order to make them more effective,
- how to give projects a more strategical orientation,
- in how far the Federal programme "Transnational cooperation" might provide support.

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www.euregia-leipzig.de

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Short news**European Spatial Research and Policy – the BBR as a new co-publisher****Further information:**

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Since 1994, the University of Łódź, Poland, the University of Groningen, Netherlands, and the Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, have been publishing the review European Spatial Research and Policy (ESRAP). In future, the BBR will also be a co-publisher of the ESRAP.

European Spatial Research and Policy is an international review concerned with the problems of the organisation of social and economic spaces at a local, regional and supranational level. The journal, comprising both theoretical and empirical aspects of spatial analyses, is aimed at academic persons, policy-makers and practitioners interested in a broad range of spatial development in contemporary Europe. The scope of the journal is defined by the concepts of space, environment, society and economy rather than by names of specific disciplines. Its main areas of interest i.a. include regional policy, spatial planning, European integration processes, locational studies, labour market developments, foreign investments, environmental problems and other crucial issues influencing the shape of the contemporary and future European space. Contributions prepared by geographers and regional scientists as well as economists, planners, architects, sociologists and histo-

rians, who do spatial research within their respective disciplines, reflect the interdisciplinary character of the review.

European Spatial Research and Policy is published annually as one volume consisting of two issues and includes refereed articles, notes, commentaries, reports and book reviews. The journal, being itself a result of close academic links between scholars and universities representing different countries, is an important forum for international exchange of information and opinions in the field of spatial studies.

Volume 14, No. 1/2007 was edited by Nicole Schäfer and Wendelin Strubelt (BBR) as guest editors and focused on the Open Method of Co-ordination (OMC). In the issue, Andreas Faludi *inter alia* highlights the “Open Method of Co-ordination in EU Territorial Cohesion Policy”, Nicole Schäfer analyses the relations between the “Territorial Agenda for the European Union” and the OMC and Ingmar von Homeyer deals with the question whether the role of the OMC in EU environmental policy can be characterised as innovative or regressive.

Volume 14, No. 2/2007 puts the main emphasis on the “Polish Space in Integrating Europe”.