



RESEARCH NEWS

Federal Institute for
Research on Building,
Urban Affairs and
Spatial Development
within the
Federal Office
for Building and
Regional Planning

New: Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development

As from 1 January 2009, the scientific sector of the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR), i.e. Department I "Spatial Planning and Urban Development" and Department II "Building, Housing, Architecture" together with the newly integrated Institute for Rehabilitation and Modernization of Buildings (IEMB), Berlin, have been merged into a Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) within the BBR. This was done to make the scientific department as independent as possible within the administrative structures of the BBR and to strengthen its identity as an independent research institution in the portfolio of the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs (BMVBS).

The scientific self-conception of the BBSR is based on the concept for modern ministerial research adopted by the Federal Government in 2007. Covering the scientific and the political sector, ministerial research has some special features: it is problem- and practically oriented, interdisciplinary, it involves users and appliers of this knowledge in a transdisciplinary way, it mainly generates transfer knowledge and combines scientific competence, which is available at short notice, regarding requirements resulting from the tasks of the ministries, with the ability to work on long-term tasks in a continuous and research-oriented way.

The BBSR's profile as a ministerial research institution is based on the task to consult and support the BMVBS in national and

European urban and spatial development, housing and real estate as well as building policies through both research and development work and scientific services. The growing involvement of these policies in the European context is becoming increasingly important for the tasks of the BBSR.

It may be self-confidently argued that, without the information, advice and support by ministerial research institutions, many tasks would not have been tackled that way in the past, for which the BBR also takes credit. Due to continuously changing tasks, close relations to other policies, the special dependence on societal and economic developments, but mainly due to the concrete importance of building, urban and spatial development policies for the living conditions of the population, for the environment and the development opportunities of cities and regions, a competent scientific policy advice is especially important for these policies.

Building, urban and spatial development policies will be required to respond to the future, to develop concepts, measures and instruments for a sustainable, future-oriented spatial and urban development. Between growth dictates and the reality of negative growth, applied research has to develop new political forms of action and has to make contributions to coping with the societal and economic transformation processes in cities and regions. The new BBSR faces these challenges in a conscious and dedicated way.

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New domain:
www.bbsr.bund.de

The European Spatial Development Perspective – ten years after



Ten years ago, on 10th and 11th May 1999, the European ministers responsible for spatial planning met in Potsdam following the invitation of the German EU Presidency and agreed upon the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP). Subtitled “Towards Balanced and Sustainable Development of the Territory of the EU”, the ESDP was a milestone in the strategic discussion and cooperation of the EU ministers in the field of European territorial development. With two more German EU presidencies in 1994 and 2007, Germany has played a major role in the European cooperation in spatial and urban development policies. Both ministerial meetings were held in Leipzig. The first one led to the Leipzig Principles for a European Spatial Development Policy (1994) reaching a political consensus on the subject and paving the way for the drafting of the ESDP. The recent one (2007) produced a follow-up document to the ESDP, the Territorial Agenda of the European Union, and the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities (LC).

As a think-tank and a departmental research institution in the portfolio of the German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs (BMVBS), the BBSR was deeply involved not only in the drafting of the ESDP during the long and intense discussion process in the 1990s, but also in its implementation and the follow-up processes. So today, in 2009, ten years after the historical Potsdam ministerial meeting on the ESDP, we have every reason to look back to the last decade and to give a short reflection and review of the ESDP adoption and the ten years that have followed it.

The ESDP was the first document worldwide that offered a joint spatial development perspective for a larger international macro-region. The ESDP of 1999 had a territorial reference to the then 15 EU member states (with an outlook included for the next EU enlargement) with almost 400 million inhabitants and a total area of 3.2 million km². The Territorial Agenda of 2007 refers to 27 EU member states with almost 500 million inhabitants, a total area of 4.4 million km². Today, the EU 27 has a total gross domestic product (GDP) of

about 18 trillion USD which is equivalent to about 30 percent of the world's goods and services. Although many world regions have shown interest in this joint international approach, there is at present no equivalent broad strategic territorial development approach in the world which would try to get a common understanding of the international territorial situation and trends and, based on this common understanding, would try to achieve an agreement on the joint political strategies how to cope with such challenges.

Main messages of the ESDP

The ESDP promoted some new ideas and concepts on the level of European development. It strongly supported a balanced and polycentric spatial development for Europe as a whole and a smart balancing of the three main components of a sustainable development for Europe regarding the challenges of economy, ecology, and society. It put high emphasis on the need to strengthen the multi-level governance system and, in particular, to accept the subsidiarity principle acknowledging that cities and regions play an important role in the European integration. As a document in a policy arena that is highly dependent on the interplay with other actors the ESDP has widely relied on good arguments and persuasion strategies thus giving the generation of evidence and knowledge an important role in this policy process.

The ‘European Pentagon’ as a symbol for concentration in Europe

One of the most influential pictures of the European territory, that has been presented in the ESDP, and a symbol for its core-periphery imbalances was also coined by the BBR: the so-called European Pentagon. In this core European area, shaped in the geometrical form of a pentagon, with the metropolitan regions of London, Paris, Milan, München and Hamburg building its five corners, an easily memorized proportion can be observed: this pentagon area has 20 percent of the total EU area with 40 percent of its population living in this area producing 50 percent of the total economic outcome (GDP) of the EU.

These numbers, as the ESDP in general, refer to the EU of 1999, i.e. the EU-15. But in the enlarged EU-27 this concentration is certainly not smaller.



Research; establishment of ESPON

Already at the Leipzig ministerial meeting of 1994, a document, brought into debate by the German Presidency, had demanded for joint research on European spatial development in the form of a joint observatory formed as a network by the member states. But only after the adoption of the ESDP in 1999, this proposal could gain momentum and was finally ready for take-off. After a test phase of 2000–2001, the European Spatial Planning Observation Network, or ESPON, was eventually established in 2002. The first ESPON phase until 2006 with 35 projects and 25,000 pages of report results brought a new stock of knowledge on the European territory. In the present second programming period of 2007 to 2013, the ESPON budget has reached 45 million euros, providing good opportunities to support European territorial policies with solid scientific knowledge and evidence. In its function as the German ESPON Contact Point the BBSR brings in the German expertise into the European research network and connects ESPON with research and policy in Germany.

Cooperation; INTERREG B

Another important element of implementing the ESDP is the programme on transnational cooperation. This programme, co-financed

by the European Commission, started as a Community Initiative (Interreg II C, III B) and now, in the current period 2007–2013, is part of the Structural Funds Objective 3 on territorial cooperation. In parallel, the focus has shifted from a former exchange of experiences to an instrument of joint strategic action and preparation of strategic investments nowadays. Today, transnational cooperation has become the central tool for the implementation and application of a European spatial development policy through urban and regional authorities and institutions. For Germany, the transnational cooperation of its cities and regions is of particular importance. Germany is a large country in the heart of the European Union and has the largest number of direct neighbours of all European states. The German participation in five transnational cooperation areas is managed and supported by the BBSR, which has the role of a German focal point in these matters.

Territorial cohesion (TC)

In the years following the adoption of the ESDP, a new buzzword emerged in the field of European spatial development which is today the most prominent – and at the same time – still disputed concept in this policy field: territorial cohesion. Territorial cohesion is of particular importance because it has found its way into the so-called Treaty of Lisbon, which is supposed to follow the present Treaty of Nice but which still waits for its Europe-wide ratification. It introduced territorial cohesion as a major goal of the European Union adding a third dimension to economic and social cohesion.

Territorial Agenda of the European Union (TAEU)

The introduction of territorial cohesion into the Lisbon Treaty has triggered a new activity of the EU ministers responsible for spatial planning, that finally ended in the adoption of the Territorial Agenda for the European Union (TAEU) in Leipzig 2007. The TAEU did not only react to the new Treaty but also to new developments like the EU enlargement by 12 new member states in 2004 and 2007 and to the so-called Lisbon and Gothenburg Strategies of 2000 and 2001 aimed at making Europe the most innovative and competitive economy in the world while at the same time respecting the principles of sustainability and



EUROPEAN SPATIAL PLANNING
OBSERVATION NETWORK

www.espon.eu



www.interreg.de

Source:

European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP).
Online: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/reports/som_en.htm

Territorial Agenda of the EU. Online: http://www.bmvbs.de/Anlage/original_1005295/Territorial-Agenda-of-the-European-Union-Agreed-on-25-May-2007-accessible.pdf

The Territorial State and Perspectives of the European Union. Online: http://www.bmvbs.de/Anlage/original_1005296/The-Territorial-State-and-Perspectives-of-the-European-Union.pdf

Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities. Online: http://www.bmvbs.de/Anlage/original_998680/Leipzig-Charter-on-Sustainable-European-Cities-agreed-on-24-May-2007.pdf

Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion – Turning territorial diversity into strength. Online: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/consultation/terco/index_en.htm

Treaty of Lisbon – consolidated version (2008). Online: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cmsUpload/st06655-re01.en08.pdf>

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including 'new' themes like climate change, energy supply, and demographic change, population decline and ageing.

Evidence base and stakeholder participation

Two new features were applied in the drafting process of the TAEU: an evidence-based approach combined with an open discussion process involving the participation of stakeholders. Both elements are based on the fact that the European territorial development is a very complex matter which is influenced by many actors ('stakeholders') from different fields (sector policies, specific regional associations) and spatial (EU, national, regional, local) levels who all act in their own responsibilities. Therefore it needs a solid stock of knowledge and 'evidence' about the trends, problems and necessities of European spatial development and a close communication between all 'stakeholders' to reach a successful European multi-level and multi-actor approach of the territorial development policy. The TAEU drafting process was open to the public: several draft versions were published in the internet and subject to open public debate. The Territorial Agenda was accompanied by a background document from a group of scientific experts entitled "The Territorial State and Perspectives of the European Union (TSP)". ESPON as well as the BBR played a major role in drafting this document.

The Leipzig Charter

The Leipzig ministerial meeting also reflected the growing interdependence of territorial and urban matters. Actually, Leipzig saw two back-to-back meetings of ministers: that of ministers responsible for spatial development and territorial cohesion and that of ministers responsible for urban development; in about half of the EU member states these two ministers are identical, in the other half different. The first adopted the TAEU, the latter the Leipzig Charter on sustainable urban development. In the Leipzig Charter the ministers argued that territorial cohesion is not only a large-scale territorial subject but also a small-scale inner-urban challenge, especially in deprived urban neighbourhoods. In this context, not only the poorer lagging regions but also the integration of deprived neighbourhoods in cities and metropolitan

regions should be a focus of the territorial cohesion policy in Europe.

The Green Book on Territorial Cohesion

This debate gives a glimpse of the wide range of interpretations of the territorial cohesion concept. Furthermore, beside the reduction of disparities between European regions and the inner-urban challenges of deprivation and integration, the significance of specific geographical challenges, the integration of mountain regions, peripheral regions, islands etc. for the territorial cohesion in Europe was given a voice by different interested regional groupings. The European Commission took part in clarifying the TC concept by presenting a Green Book on TC in autumn 2008. It summarizes the diversity of the different opinions of the EU member states and other stakeholders. Results and conclusions of the ongoing consultation process will be published later this year.

Action programme 1, revision of the TAEU, Structural Funds 2013ff.

The Territorial Agenda came along with an action programme for its implementation, focussing on five main lines of action: (1) to implement the TAEU in the fields of own political competences, (2) to influence EU key dossiers and sectoral policies, (3) to strengthen the multi-level territorial governance, (4) to further assess the territorial state, perspectives, trends and policy impacts from the view of territorial cohesion and (5) to coordinate and monitor the action programme and to assess and review the Territorial Agenda. By 2011, the Territorial State and Perspectives (TSP) document shall be updated and the Territorial Agenda will be evaluated and reviewed.

The contribution of transnational projects to implementing the Territorial Agenda of the EU

In May 2007, the Territorial Agenda of the EU, TAEU in short, was adopted by the EU ministers responsible for spatial development. It gives political recommendations for action how an integrated spatial development policy might mobilise the potentials of regions and cities in Europe for a sustainable economic growth and more jobs. It also demands an intensified and continuous dialogue among the important stakeholders in the field of spatial development e.g. stakeholders in the economic or scientific sector, from local authorities, regions, NGOs and of sectoral policies. Transnational cooperation in the context of the Objective 3 funding is also mentioned as being an efficient instrument for implementing the TAEU.

Both in the political and the economic and societal context, transnational cooperation (INTERREG) of cities, regions, scientific institutions and private stakeholders has been a great success to the European Union. Cooperation among the different stakeholders does not only provide for a balanced and sustainable spatial development within Europe by reducing regional disparities, it also fosters the competitiveness of regions. The bottom-up approach helps regions and cities to jointly develop solutions for specific thematic areas thus having an own share in designing and developing Europe.

The MORO project "The contribution of transnational projects to implementing the Territorial Agenda of the EU" was launched in September 2008. Its aim is to evaluate transnational cooperation (INTERREG) projects with reference to specific topics. This includes to analyse how the projects in selected thematic fields have already contributed to implementing the TAEU and in how far their results have been considered and used for EU policies. Furthermore, the purpose of the project is to create synergies with national projects with similar thematic orientations.

The purpose of the first work phase was to check, which two of the five thematic fields (integrated maritime policy including marine spatial planning, impact and adaptation strategies to tackle the demographic change, innovation and spatial development, urban-

rural partnerships as well as strategies to tackle the climate change and to achieve an alternative production, use and saving of energies) available would have to be worked on intensively in the course of the project. Based on the goals of the research project, the following superior assessment criteria were formulated for this thematic analysis:

- high relevance of the thematic field for the territorial cohesion policy (especially with regard to the Territorial Agenda of the European Union)
- practical relevance of the thematic field for transnational cooperation (i.e. in terms of present INTERREG III B projects and the priorities of the Operational Programmes of the current programming period)
- high local, national and European relevance

The thematic analysis executed is primarily based on an analysis of cohesion policy documents (the Territorial Agenda and its background document), on programme documents and overviews on territorial cooperation as well as on an Internet search among sectoral policy institutions and local, national and European networks. Furthermore, the most important political processes and initiatives of the next years as well as the BBSR's INTERREG database were analysed.

The topics "Innovation and spatial development" and "Strategies to tackle the climate change and to achieve an alternative production, use and saving of energies" were selected for further investigations in 2009 and 2010 respectively.

In the course of the project, finished and ongoing transnational projects will be analysed in the field of innovation and climate change by means of a catalogue of criteria and selected for the further work. An analysis of documents and guideline-based interviews with key actors will be used to intensively investigate the projects. Thematic workshops will provide the projects with the chance of exchange and networking in order to increase synergy effects, identify better ways of implementation and realise new challenges.



For more information please see:
www.bbsr.bund.de >>
 Forschungsprogramme >> MORO >> Studien >> Der Beitrag transnationaler Projekte zur Umsetzung der Territorialen Agenda ... (only in German)

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VASAB stands for "Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea" which was the title of the first vision for spatial development of 1994 and later on became the synonym for the cooperation of ministers responsible for spatial planning and development of the countries around the Baltic Sea.

The Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) is the governing body of the "Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area" - more usually known as the Helsinki Convention. HELCOM works to protect the marine environment of the Baltic Sea against all sources of pollution through intergovernmental cooperation. For further information see: www.helcom.fi.

The Council of the Baltic Sea States is an overall political forum for regional intergovernmental cooperation. The Council consists of the ministers for foreign affairs from each Member State and a member of the European Commission. For more information see: www.cbss.st

Strategic perspectives for the Baltic Sea Region

The year 2009 might become an important starting point for more focussed and coordinated development efforts in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR). The Baltic Sea Region already today is an outstanding example of a world macro-region where dozens of transnational governance and cooperation structures exist. However, so far a common strategic denominator has been missing. This might now change through the elaboration and implementation of three closely interlinked strategic documents. The envisaged "EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region" and the related action plan covers the most important and urgent activities for the BSR development across all sectors. The "VASAB Long Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region" sets out spatial development measures on selected issues. The "HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan" has already been in an implementation phase since the end of 2007 and focuses on protection measures for the marine environment. Some key issues of HELCOM and VASAB will be supported through the new Strategy of the European Union (EU). Moreover, there is a transnational Baltic Sea Region Programme in place at least for the period 2007–2013. This programme is rather small in financial terms but will allow for the development of pilot solutions and framework conditions and the preparation of investments in all key fields of the above-mentioned strategies.

Historic roots

Especially in the beginning of the 1990s, several strategic initiatives were launched which covered the whole Baltic Sea Region. Among the initiators were the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), sectoral ministries but also the European Commission. A prominent example was the adoption of a worldwide first spatial vision for a large transnational area by the ministers responsible for spatial planning and development in 1994. The name "Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea Region 2010" or "VASAB 2010" later on became the abbreviation for the whole cooperation. Beside multinational efforts of other sectors such as environment, the European Commission as well developed strategic perspectives for larger territories such as the Baltic Sea Region. Thus, a "Baltic Sea Region Initiative" was launched in

1996. This Initiative was later on extended to the Northern Dimension Policy in 1998. It remains on the political agenda and will be in particular used for coordinating efforts with neighbouring countries, such as Russia. At the same time, a more focused and renewed EU policy specifically for the Baltic Sea Region was requested by the CBSS. The related strategy and action plan is now under preparation and is intended to be adopted by the end of 2009 under the Swedish EU Presidency.

A strategy of the European Union for the Baltic Sea Region

The EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region intends to prioritise the most urgent development efforts. The priorities include to maintain and improve the environmental status of the Baltic Sea as a main common resource and to develop the knowledge society. Other action fields concern the development of a BSR energy grid, the promotion of renewable energies and of energy-saving, external and internal accessibility as well as maritime safety and risk prevention. To implement the related action plan, lessons from previous strategic efforts have already been incorporated. Thus, the Strategy was discussed with all relevant stakeholders and builds on their intensive involvement. Responsibility for actions might be assigned to both transnational organisations and lead countries represented within them. This might give a better political backing to the relevant lead countries but also ensure the "engine function" of one or a group of countries. The Strategy will not create new funding instruments but will use existing ones and help to further focus them. Moreover, the priorities of the Strategy will serve as a basis for a more targeted dialogue with and an involvement of international financing institutions and private actors in order to finance key investments. Finally, the action plan will be a "rolling document" which would allow adjustments and the incorporation of lessons learned from the implementation.

As mentioned above, other strategic activities, especially the HELCOM Action Plan, are closely linked with the EU Strategy. The alarming state of the Baltic Sea was the most important trigger to work out

a strategy involving all relevant actors in order to improve the situation and to assist HELCOM in key activities. With regard to the cohesion and territorial development objectives, the “Long Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region” is another important accompanying initiative.

The Long Term Perspective on the Territorial Development of the BSR

This guidance document for territorial development is currently being prepared by the ministers responsible for spatial planning and development and is expected to be adopted together with an action plan in autumn 2009. The preparation of such a perspective and action plan was requested by the CBSS in 2005. It focuses on issues which require coordinated efforts on the transnational level, such as urban networking and cooperation across state boundaries, improvements of internal and external accessibility and as well as the development of maritime spatial planning. The evidence behind those themes was gained through a number of targeted analyses. With regard to urban networking, the analyses revealed for instance that the cooperation of BSR metropolises needs to be enhanced in order to meet the challenges of global competition. At the same time, the development of metropolises must be better combined with rural areas in their vicinity. This calls for new approaches to urban-rural partnerships, otherwise, economic and demographic trends will lead to growing socio-economic disparities between metropolitan and rural areas.

With regard to external and internal accessibility, overcoming the fragmentation into national systems as well as a better combination of transnational and regional networks is still on the agenda. Beside some bottlenecks, missing links to neighbouring areas especially in the east and in the south need to be closed. The VASAB action plan suggests a number of concrete related actions. Other actions are dedicated to energy supply and using the BSR biomass potential to promote renewable energies. Moreover, actions are developed to improve the broadband supply especially for rural areas. The Long Term Perspective also calls for a better consideration of regional development requirements in transport planning beside the direct transport

demands. At the same time, spatial planning is requested to better highlight and quantify possible effects of transport-related regional development efforts.

One of the main challenges for the BSR countries is the preservation and improvement of the environmental status of the Baltic Sea. Beside the high water pollution, use conflicts regarding sea space between the fields of transport, fishery, tourism, building industry, wind parks, flora and fauna etc. especially challenge spatial planning. Maritime spatial planning is still under construction and not yet in place in some BSR countries. The ambition, however, is to achieve a common understanding and similar approaches and to develop the Baltic Sea Region into a best-practice region in that respect.

Beside the issues to be solved, the document also highlights which kinds of potentials can be better used and connected, e.g. the excellent potential for knowledge society in the Baltic Sea Region in terms of expenditure and personnel in research and development, education systems, the excellent infrastructure in many cities and regions. Especially the potentials of Northwest Russia need to be better integrated into the BSR. At the same time, the development experience from Northwest Russia can be better used for the whole Russian Federation. In that context, a number of concrete proposals was developed within the framework of the project East-West Window as part of preparing the VASAB Long Term Perspective. All development efforts also should include to diminish striking territorial disparities within the next years such as the overall east-west divide but also North-South and urban-rural disparities. The current economic crisis has interrupted the catching-up process of the eastern countries. However, the rapid growth of the Baltic states, Belarus and Russia over the past years has led to optimism that the gap might slowly be closed within the next decades.

With the EU strategy, VASAB Long-Term Perspective, HELCOM Action Plan and other strategic initiatives in fields like transport and innovation there seem to be excellent preconditions to foster a more coordinated development of the Baltic Sea Region within the years to come.

The Northern Dimension policy addresses specific regional development challenges of Northern Europe, such as harsh climatic conditions, long distances, wide disparities in standards of living. The Northern Dimension policy involves all countries of the European Union around the Baltic Sea, but also Russia, Norway and Iceland.



The map symbolises tasks of maritime spatial planning to reduce use conflicts regarding sea space. For more information on this and other political and evidence documents of the Long Term Perspective see: www.vasab.org.

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Biomass in future landscapes

Biomass is one of the most important alternative energy sources in the power, heat and fuel production in the national and international context. This is mainly due to both various German and international legislations and funding policies and to the dwindling of fossil fuels. Biomass from crop residues, logging remains and energy crops of the agricultural and forestry sector as well as from solid, liquid and gaseous waste can be used for energy production.

With its integrated energy and climate programme aiming to reduce the CO₂ emissions significantly the German Federal Government also intends to increase the share of renewable energy sources, i.a. the share of biomass, in the energy, heat and fuel production distinctly. The EU's decisions on the political directions are thus being implemented via a national set of measures in order to gradually reach the climate protection objectives by 2020.

About 70 % of the renewable energy resources are already provided in Germany based on biomass. In the context of the nationally and worldwide increasing market demand for biomass, above all in the sector of energy crops, designated land, e.g. agricultural and silvicultural areas, degraded but also nature protection areas, is increasingly being changed for these purposes. In Germany for example, the area of arable land for renewable resources has multiplied in the last ten years and accounts for already 17% of the total area of arable land. This often includes a distinct loss of semi-natural areas as well as impacts on the natural scenery. In developing countries and emerging markets the consequences are much more serious as, in the context of the worldwide demand, semi-natural

ecosystems, such as tropical rain forests, are increasingly being transformed into arable land.

The challenges in strengthening biomass as an important renewable energy, and the related growing, direct and indirect spatial and land use conflicts, which are, however, regionally very different, and the impacts on ecosystem and natural scenery, on food safety and economic development made up the focus of the international conference "Biomass in Future Landscapes – Sustainable Use of Biomass and Spatial Development" on 31 March and 1 April 2009 in Berlin. More than 400 participants from the scientific, political and practical sector at home and abroad discussed the regional ecological, social and economic impacts of the expansion of biomass production, the requirements for a sustainable energy use and related instruments for spatial planners. It was the first large conference organised by the Deutsches Biomasse Forschungszentrum (German Biomass Research Centre) Leipzig, in cooperation with the Leibniz Zentrum für Agrarlandschaftsforschung (Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape and Land Use Research). It forms part of an ongoing research project in which these institutes together with other partners analyse the regional and international biomass potentials available at present and in the future. They also investigate the spatial consequences of the expansion of the biomass production on a regional level in Germany as well as the needs and options of spatial planning to influence it. The project and the conference are subsidised by the German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs and attended by the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development within the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning.

In view of the thematic and spatial complexity of the theme spectrum, the participants awaited an ambitious conference programme with numerous high-ranking international and national speakers. The conference was opened by Wolfgang Tiefensee, the German Federal Minister of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs. Against the background of the worldwide population increase, the increasing need for food and the growing

For further information on the conference and the lectures please see the related homepage www.biomass-in-future-landscapes.de.

For more information on the research project (only in German) please see www.bbsr.bund.de
>> Fachthemen >>
Fachpolitiken >>
EnergieUmwelt >>
RegenerativeEnergie



internationalisation of the biomass markets, the political, socio-economic and technological framework conditions as well as their impacts on the worldwide food safety, on ecosystem and climate protection were afterwards highlighted. The growing demand for biofuels, advances the deforestation and conversion of semi-natural ecosystems for the cultivation of oil palms, soya or sugarcane in developing countries and emerging markets strongly dependent on exports. Private investments and new agricultural technologies launched are other essential drivers forwarding the industrialisation of agriculture on a large territory in these countries. Especially ecological impacts and changed natural sceneries, which are a consequence of the agricultural intensification caused by an increased biomass cultivation, also appear in Germany and Europe. Changes in land use, an increased water consumption and the use of agrochemicals forward the destruction of important natural habitats and the loss of biological diversity and increase the development of unattractive agricultural monocultures. Nevertheless, supporting the bioenergy sector in these regions also helps to create new jobs and to strengthen the economic power.

Especially the agreement upon international sustainability standards for the production and use of bioenergy was highlighted as a conducive and necessary solution strategy. These standards tie in with national and international approaches for action and initial legal acts such as the EU's sustainability criteria. In view of the regionally very diverse impacts, the partly very different notion of sustainability among the representatives of industrial countries, developing countries and emerging markets became apparent though. For the latter, biomass has in the meantime become an important economic basis for exports and own requirements. According to them, launching or tightening of sustainability standards for biomass cultivation was important and necessary but should not exclusively be provided based on the view of prosperous industrial countries. A further need for research and international coordination is required in this respect.

In this context, the so-called principle of "gute fachliche Praxis" (good agricultural practice) effective in Germany and the EU's cross-compliance regulations for

the agricultural sector, according to which ecological standards have to be met, were analysed. Especially in good agricultural practice, the regulations are still considered to be indefinite and should be complemented by e.g. climate protection criteria in order to produce sustainable biomass products.

Other concrete proposals for a sustainable land use for biomass in Europe pointed to the re-use of old industrial brownfield sites, e.g. for plant construction. Furthermore, large former lignite mining areas might be suited as short rotation plantations for agroforestry systems like e.g. alley cropping, the rotational planting of energy crops and other groves. They are flexible, integrated instruments for biomass cultivation and landscape architecture and help to increase the biodiversity of the locations.

In the context of the spatial, ecological and socio-economic impacts of the growing demand for bioenergy, spatial and landscape planning instruments in Germany and Europe were attached an important but restricted role in influencing such changes. Priority and exclusion areas enable to control and set priorities, although in an abstract context. There is often a lack of detailed spatial data on the affected regions. Nevertheless, data collection and a permanent monitoring e.g. by means of GIS-based instruments are important preconditions for well-founded decisions for politicians and planners to control land use.

Strategies to promote energy efficiency and to support renewable energies, i.a. biomass, are important cornerstones of a sustainable and successful climate protection policy. However, the conference also showed that biomass as an energy resource can only contribute efficiently to reducing CO₂ emissions and combatting poverty worldwide by meeting internationally agreed and regionally oriented sustainability standards. In the context of the worldwide population growth, the production of food and feeding stuff based on a sustainable use of agricultural areas has to be prioritised before growing renewable resources for material and energy purposes.

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Supraregional partnership in large cross-border regions

For further information, please see BBSR Homepage (only in German):

www.bbsr.bund.de >> MORO >> Forschungsfelder >> Forschungsprogramme >> Überregionale Partnerschaften in grenzüberschreitenden Verflechtungsräumen

The first concept ("Growth and Innovation") of the new concepts for spatial development in Germany (cf. Research News No 2/December 2008, p. 15) stresses the role of urban-rural partnerships and promotes the cooperation of urban and rural, central and peripheral as well as economically strong and weak regions. An ongoing demonstration project (cf. Research News No 2/December 2008, p. 5) tries to implement this idea in seven model regions in Germany. Six of them are metropolitan regions. However, the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs (BMVBS) and the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) realized that urban-rural partnerships could also be an important topic in regions along and beyond national borders.

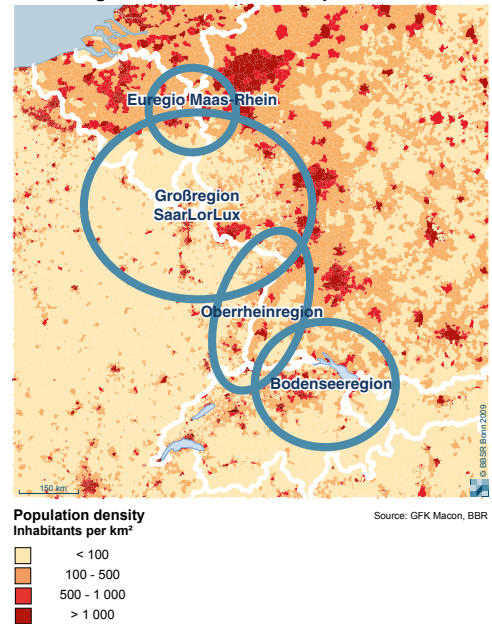
Thus, they agreed to create a specific demonstration project for large cross-border regions. The four model regions – REGIO Aachen (the German part of Euregio Maas-Rhein), Saarland (the German part of SaarLorLux), Regionalverband Mittlerer Oberrhein, Regionalverband Südlicher Oberrhein, Regionalverband Hochrhein-Bodensee (all three parts of Oberrheinregion) and Regionalverband Bodensee-Oberschwaben (the German part of Bodenseeregion) – became partner regions in autumn 2008 and were funded and scientifically supported by the Federal Government. The central questions of this demonstration project are the following:

- What are the specifications of large cross-border regions?
- How are they perceived, which stereotypes do exist and how do they interact?
- What are the main characteristics of large-scale cross-border governance structures?
- Which role do these large cross-border regions play within the European metropolitan regions?

To answer these questions, five fields of action have been defined, i.e.

- strengthening the self concepts of large cross-border regions to gain a higher internal and external perception in Germany and Europe
- promoting the specific social, cultural, economic and ecological potentials of large cross-border regions to achieve a higher competitiveness and to give

Model regions "cross-border cooperation"



recommendations for spatial policy in Germany and Europe

- developing an adequate large-scale cross-border cooperation and governance structures to foster the coherence of large cross-border regions
- establishing a network and a special interest group being also open for other large cross-border regions, e.g. along the eastern border of Germany, to institutionalise the partnership
- bringing the, by definition, peripheral regions with their problems and potentials more into the focus of Europe

Two workshops in December 2008 and April 2009 have shown that, despite a long tradition of cross-border cooperation in Germany, there is still a need to work on this topic. In this respect, a major point of discussion was the creation of a data base with comparable statistical information on both sides of the border.

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Renewable energies – urban potentials

“Future cities must be compact and climate-friendly” State Secretary Dr. Engelbert Lütke-Daldrup said during the official kick-off meeting of the ExWoSt study “Using urban open areas for renewable energies“. One and a half year later, the findings of the study were presented to the public. The main result is that cities or municipalities can reach a remarkable degree of energy autarky.

Thus, municipalities should recognize aspects of energy demand and supply as a substantial part of urban development which should be integrated into the planning process. In doing so rather than focusing on single buildings or spaces one should think in a wider dimension, i.e. in the dimension of urban areas or the whole city. In the past, investigations and evaluations concerning renewable energies had been selective, either focusing on one option of energy production or one building or area. The study takes different urban areas or the whole municipality as well as different options of renewable energy production into account. For future planning and development a comprehensive approach is crucial.

Within the study, a tool to evaluate potentials for the production of renewable energies, qualified for being used in urban areas, was developed. It includes complex requirements for different options of renewable energies as well as for different types of urban areas. The methodology developed aims at reducing working time and efforts for data collection while ensuring a sufficient calculation of the achievable heat and power. The standardisation of different types of spaces, urban areas and options of renewable energy production forms a substantial part of the methodology:

- Appraisal of “open” urban spaces which could be used including roof, façade, traffic, green, agricultural, garden and water areas as well as brownfields, infrastructure areas or undergrounds
- Definition of 14 types of urban areas regarding building structure, density, stock of open spaces and system of outer and inner development of building sites
- Evaluation of the individual options of renewable energy production – photovoltaic solar water heating, wind,



ground source heat, ambient heat and biomass. Parameters are prime costs, surface efficiency, adjustability, environmental friendliness, low exposedness towards vandalism, urban compatibility and acceptance, monument protection, temporary use, easy dismantling, regulatory approval

Furthermore, it was assumed that the three steps proposed by the DENA (German Energy Agency) for buildings had been realised:

- reduction of energy consumption through non-investment measures
- refurbishment and insulation
- modern building services

and that the supply with heat takes priority over power.

Based on the methodology, the long-term demand for heat and power by households as well as by the trade, commerce and service sector was estimated. Exemplary calculations for seven scenarios were carried through for the municipality of Sondershausen (a shrinking municipality), the city of Gelsenkirchen (a shrinking city), Leipzig (a stable city) and Stuttgart (a booming city).

Despite the differences between the model cities, e.g. regarding demography, it is possible to estimate the long-term energy demand of cities and it has become obvious that all of them can reach a remarkable degree of energy autarky.

For more information please see: www.bbsr.bund.de >> BBSR >> Forschungsprogramme >> Experimenteller Wohnungs- und Städtebau >> Studien >> Nutzung städtischer Freiflächen für erneuerbare Energien (German language)

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Shaping river landscapes – flood protection, low water prevention



Rivers are mostly perceived as lifelines for man and nature, as transport routes for inland water transport and water tourism or as an origin of danger caused by flood events. But at the same time they provide a basis of identity to regional cultural landscapes. In the last few years, these aspects have increasingly been seen in an overall context. River landscapes are thus understood and developed as action and project areas (e.g. networks of cultural landscapes, horticultural shows, regional parks) in the context of an integrated regional and structural development.

For more information please see: www.bbsr.bund.de >> BBSR >> Forschungsprogramme >> MORO >> Studien >> Wechselbeziehungen zwischen vorbeugendem Hochwasserschutz und regionaler Kulturlandschaftsgestaltung in Flusslandschaften(German language)

Important incentives to integrate the two perceptions “river” and “cultural landscape” come from the “Concepts and Strategies for Spatial Development in Germany”. According to Concept 3 “Conservation of resources; shaping of cultural landscapes”, river landscapes are described as areas in which the innovative idea of a development-oriented shaping of cultural landscapes is supposed to become effective together with preventive flood protection approaches.

Nevertheless, the topics “cultural landscape” and “river” are too rarely referred to each other in the research and praxis sector. The research project “FlussKult” concentrated on systematically analysing the institutional connection of objectives of shaping cultural landscapes with the objectives of preventive flood protection. In doing so, the impacts of climate change and the new field of action “low water prevention” were incorporated.

Model projects combining the adjustment of flood and low water events with processes of shaping regional cultural landscapes were empirically analysed. The related four model regions were the following:

- The Emscher region with its parallelism between regional management approaches and the restructuring of the river landscape in terms of water

management and the integrated development of a cultural landscape within a densely populated agglomeration,

- the Frankonian Lake District as an example for a project evolution away from pure water management planning towards an integrated regional development approach,
- the “Regionale 2010” in the Cologne/Bonn city region, an integrative and communicative approach to develop the related river landscape and to combine funding programmes as well as
- the rural Havel region as an arena of various projects, for which – like for the 2015 regional Federal horticultural exhibition – a concept is still being developed.

Based on institutional analyses and practical experiences, recommendations have been formulated to spatial planners, water managers and stakeholders in the field of shaping regional river landscapes. The expert workshop “River landscapes – flood protection, low water prevention and shaping of regional cultural landscapes”, which took place on 26 February 2008 in Berlin, formed therefore an important component. Experts invited discussed the research results critically and constructively. The workshop agenda furthermore included the future orientation and organisation of model projects of the Federal Government to develop river landscapes in terms of a “next practice”.

The ideas for future model projects proposed by the participants referred to the following topics:

- combining funding programmes and approaches managed by different ministries or portfolios to steer the exemplary shaping of river landscapes;
- using regional planning potentials to initiate integrated development approaches in terms of shaping cultural landscapes, preventive flood protection and low water prevention;
- shaping river landscapes as centres of adaptation to the climate change;
- developing strategies of awareness raising and communication of river landscapes.

The results will be published in the journals “Werkstatt: Praxis” and “MORO-Informationen”.

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Projects in the Federal ESF programme BIWAQ started – kick-off conference on 16 March 2009 in Berlin

In 2009, a series of projects are going to start as part of the Federal European Social Fund (ESF) programme “Social City – Education, Economy and Employment in the Neighbourhood” (BIWAQ). The programme links labour market measures with the social area-oriented approach of the Social City urban development programme (in short: Social City). It builds on knowledge gathered through the ESF special programme “Local Employment, Education and Participation”, which the Federal Ministries of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs (BMVBS) and of Labour and Social Affairs implemented in 2007/2008.

The kick-off conference on 16 March 2009 in the Erich-Klausener-Saal of the BMVBS brought together over 300 interested parties including practitioners, politicians and scientists receiving an opportunity to share their experiences. Over half of the attendees were or are involved in local projects linked to the two labour market partner programmes of Social City. As a result, discussions on concrete aspects of implementing local projects played a key role in the proceedings.

The presentations and discussions highlighted the fact that, in addition to opening up new individual perspectives for project participants, linking labour market projects with integrated development concepts, local networks and urban development investments create new opportunities for the neighbourhood as a whole. Long-term benefits for the neighbourhoods include to strengthen local networks, to upgrade residential areas and to improve the neighbourhood image and the residents’ identification with their neighbourhood.

The congress principally focused on the open programme approach, which allows projects to be individually tailored to meet the individual needs of the Social City programme areas and their residents. As the evaluation results of the ESF special programme presented at the congress showed, this is an important prerequisite for ensuring the sustainable success of the projects.

The congress included audience discussions with projects in Berlin,

Halle and Düren/Eschweiler, which convincingly demonstrated how specific project approaches can be developed for individual target groups such as pupils, young unemployed people and adults with migration backgrounds. In each case, networks with local stakeholders, e.g. cooperations with neighbourhood managements, businesses or social institutions, play a major role in developing and implementing the project. However, participants also noted that they had experienced obstacles in this field. It became clear that there is no panacea for dealing with cooperation problems, but that it is vital to address the interests of the other party and to use structured communication processes.

While most presentations and audience discussions focused on strategies aimed at achieving the labour market integration of different target groups, one presentation specifically addressed the challenges involved in strengthening the local economy. It discussed the intercommunal BIWAQ project MIQUA, which aims to establish a neighbourhood-orientated microfinance structure and to harness it for interested programme areas.

Overall, the conference demonstrated that support from the ESF can help to more effectively implement one of the Social City’s main aims: urban development investments come along with improving future perspectives for individuals in deprived neighbourhoods.



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Europe's regions and their dependency on the automobile industry

The automotive industry in Europe is one of the most important sectors of the manufacturing industry and employs 6% of the EU 27 working population. Europe is also a highly competitive market and has around 250 production sites of all the major multinational producers. The slump in the sales figures – only for 2009 in total the companies expect a sales decline of almost 20% – has led to under-utilised capacities of production sites. Some regions show a distinct dependency of the labour market on the automotive industry. This is the case particularly in Braunschweig, the region hosting the headquarters of the largest European manufacturer, Volkswagen, in which up to 5 employees per 100 inhabitants make their living in this sector. It is followed by the Stuttgart region (Daimler) with almost 4% and by the regions of Lower Bavaria (BMW), West Sweden (Volvo, Saab), Saarland (Ford), Bremen (Daimler) and Franche-Comté (PSA Peugeot Citroen) shortly behind. The expansion of production facilities to the new EU member states has resulted in a very

high dependence on the automobile, which applies to Central Bohemia with 3.3 persons employed in the automotive sector per 100 inhabitants, where the headquarters of VW's Skoda is located, as well as to the Bratislava region in Slovakia, where Audi's production and development centres operate.

With a few exceptions, the production of models of the upper and luxury class with a high degree of the technical and organizational know-how required is still situated in the major automotive production regions in Western Europe. Taking recent developments in France and Germany into account, additionally accompanied by state programmes, expected restructuring and location decisions will affect these regions in particular at least in the medium term. The (mass) production of cheaper and lower mid-size cars takes place at sites in Central and Eastern Europe, in East Germany as well as in Italy and Spain, which currently are the regions with a more stable situation in the automobile production.

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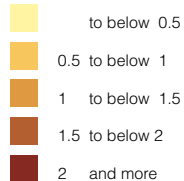
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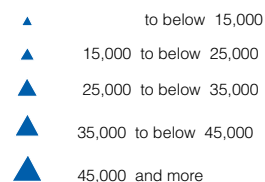
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Production of passenger cars by price segments

Person employed in the
automobile industry
per 100 inhabitants in 2006

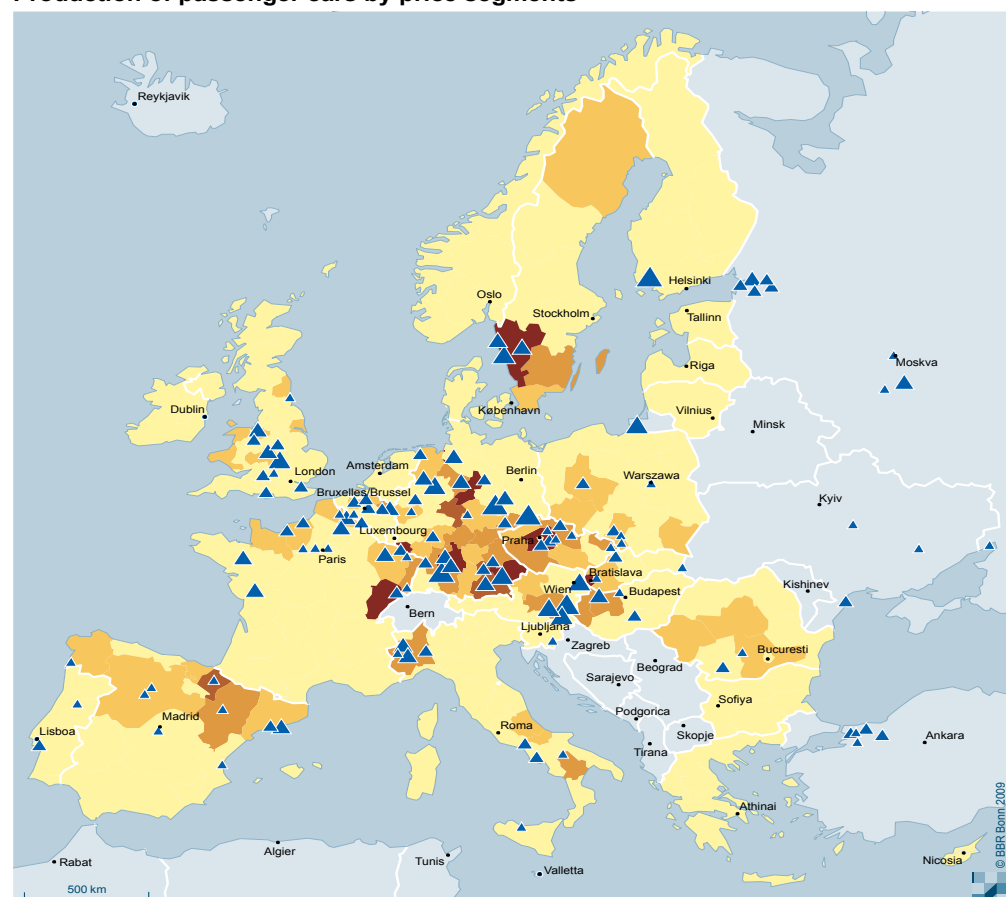


Manufacturing sites of
passenger cars by price
categories in euro¹



¹ list price of a model including VAT
produced at the related site according to
the basic configuration in Germany
(prices as per January 2009)

Source: Spatial Monitoring System
Europe Administrative boundaries:
GFK MACON, NUTS 2 regions
Origin of data: Eurostat REGIO,
national statistical offices, European
Automobile Manufacturer's
Association (ACEA), Kraftfahrt-
Bundesamt, Manufacturer Details



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

“Informationen zur Raumentwicklung” (Information on Spatial Development) is an established specialist journal on spatial planning and policy. It is published in theme issues that comment on current and medium-term tasks in the fields of spatial planning, urban development, housing and building. It constitutes a central forum of discussion at the interface between science and practice in Germany. A short retrospective is supposed to present the latest issues.

Past of the Future

“Informationen zur Raumentwicklung” looks back: What has moved spatial and urban research and planning in the last decades? What did the “actors” in the 1970s and the following years think about their present situation and the future – the own occupational future, the future of their special discipline or generally the future of space and society and their respective development? Which of their thoughts, plans and concrete actions of that time are lasting from today’s perspective, which ones were overtaken by the past or luckily do no longer have any effect? What can (nevertheless) be learnt from the past and what is also suitable for the future? And what would have to be taken into account for the future today? To answer these questions more than 70 leading scientists and planners – partly also from abroad – strike a colourful balance with multiple voices and direct their view often also to the present and its (possible/desirable) future.

This was the last issue initiated and attended by Wendelin Strubelt as Vice-President of the BBR and co-editor of the journal. It also was the last issue before the establishment of the BBSR, which is supposed to provide the former scientific departments of the BBR with an own profile. In the future, this journal will be associated with the BBSR.

Multi-local housing

To be at different places in the world “at home” is part of the daily, voluntary or inevitable routine of more and more people. Remember weekend commuters, the manager as a global player or permanent campers. Multi-local housing has not yet

been much investigated and has so far hardly reached the minds of spatial and urban planners. The situation is changing, not least as current forms of multi-local housing enable to draw conclusions from the social change and thus from new patterns of the development of social spaces. An international and interdisciplinary conference in autumn 2007 in Chemnitz gave an opportunity to exchange first interesting research results. This IzR issue takes up these results, presents various examples of multilocal housing and daily routines and makes first attempts to systemise the research approaches in terms of geography and planning.

National Urban Development Policy

Attention is paid to our cities not least since the National Urban Development Policy of the German Government has been launched. With its next IzR issue the BBSR tries to give an overview of the situation in German cities and the state of numerous funding programmes, which refer to the development of cities with different thematic focuses. The issue aims at identifying the potentials of cities but also special challenges faced by them in the context of the demographic change, the climate change, globalisation and the long-term immigration trend. These analyses are based on own activities of the BBSR in this field, especially on the spatial and urban monitoring system of the BBSR and the attendance of Federal research and funding programmes in the field of urban development.



The latest IzR issues deal with the following topics:

Issue 11/12.2008 Die Vergangenheit der Zukunft (Past of the Future)

Issue 1/2.2009 Multilokales Wohnen (Multi-local housing)

Issue 3/4.2009 Nationale Stadtentwicklungspolitik (National Urban Development Policy)

The journal is available in German language with English abstracts. Some issues contain articles in English language, which - as well as the abstracts - are available as free downloads (www.bbsr.bund.de >> publications >> 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.

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New domain: www.bbsr.bund.de

With the restructuring of the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning, an own domain was assigned to the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR). Research results on spatial and urban development, on the housing and real estate market as well as on building will be provided at www.bbsr.bund.de. New articles on the English homepage can be found at "News" or will be presented by a quarterly newsletter. You can subscribe to this newsletter at www.bbsr.bund.de/News.

The English homepage of the Federal Institute was continuously expanded in the last years.

Meanwhile all projects funded by departmental research programmes of the German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs (BMVBS), which are monitored by the BBSR, have been published in English. In the category "Research Programmes" results of projects funded by the following programmes will be presented:

- General Departmental Research
- Experimental Housing and Urban Development (ExWoSt)
- Demonstration Projects of Spatial Planning (MORO)
- Project Planning "Development of Eastern Germany"

- Future Building European programmes
- European Spatial Planning Observation Network (ESPON)
- INTERREG

The BBSR is not only involved in implementing and scientifically accompanying departmental research programmes. It also supports a variety of initiatives/branch offices of the BMVBS with its know-how. The category "Initiatives" presents the following BMVBS initiatives in which the BBSR is involved and for which it can provide information in English:

- National Urban Development Policy
- Socially Integrative City
- Architecture und Building Culture Initiative
- Initiative for cost-effective and quality-conscious building
- EUKN – European Urban Knowledge Network

Further internet platforms on "Urban Development Grants" and "Interreg" are currently being developed - with an English version as well. They will go online in summer 2009. Apart from English-speaking publications, the category "Publications" also provides English abstracts on German publications.

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