



RESEARCH NEWS

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

within the
Federal Office for Building
and Regional Planning

The BBSR under new leadership

On 2 June 2009, I took over the leadership of the BBSR and this is my first issue of the Research News after I assumed the office as leader of the BBSR.

Since the scientific departments of the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) have been merged on 1 January 2009 into the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) within the BBR, the goal has been to advance this famous departmental research institution of the German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Housing into a competent and internationally accepted scientific institution representing the German departmental research.

Developing an own empirical system based on scientific criteria and its interpretation provide the basis for good professional advice and definition of research projects. Transparency and relevance of the assessment criteria applied are standard in the BBSR and the data and information gained provide an essential source material for the whole scientific as well as application-oriented area of spatial and urban development. Within this field of quantitative and qualitative analysis, the BBSR will also deliver substantiated scientific contributions against the background of changing challenges and the related change of issues for the research and practical sector.

The integration of the Institute for Rehabilitation and Modernization of Buildings, Reg. Assoc. (IEMB) will strengthen the interface position between building-related research and urban development or urban and regional development respectively.

The concept of modern departmental research, as submitted by the German Federal Government in 2007, defines this form of research as research and development activities of the Federation serving to prepare, support and implement political decisions and being intrinsically tied to the assumption of public tasks. Normally, it is therefore problem- and practice-oriented and, due to problem orientation, of interdisciplinary character. By involving users in research processes and results, it generates transfer knowledge and communicates knowledge from the scientific to the practice-oriented sector.

This understanding of departmental research largely applies to research on building, urban and spatial development as it covers a large part of the development of methods in the field of practice-oriented application. Cities and regions are therefore often considered to be "laboratories" in which experimental approaches are tested. These laboratories can only function if the constellation of stakeholders is harmonious, if federal state and local governments, political and private stakeholders participate and their participation is analysed simultaneously. Cooperation, dialogue and discourse therefore form indispensable elements of modern departmental research in the field of urban and spatial development. In this context, the BBSR has a good tradition dating from its parent institution and it will know how to use it intensively for its further development.

I am glad being able to support this process as leader of the BBSR – have a good time in reading this journal!

Elke Pahl-Weber, Bonn/Berlin, November 2009

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Spatial development strategies on climate change

Adaptive action in the field of urban and spatial development

Germany as well cannot escape the climate change. Already now and in the future, central infrastructures and uses are and will be at risk due to extreme weathers. This has been proved by increasing floods and heat waves since 1995 and through scenarios forecasted. Mountainous regions, coastal zones, the Rhine Rift Valley and the north-east will be especially affected by climate changes in the long term.

Due to the persistency of the built infrastructure alone, rapid action has to be taken by now in order to reduce the inevitable consequences of climate change. Risk prevention is also needed in times of depression as measures to protect the climate and to adapt the urban and spatial development to climate change prevent bad investments and guarantee jobs and infrastructure.

Mix of strategies required

The climate policy is based on two pillars: on climate protection avoiding emissions and on adaptation. A specific regional mix of strategies is needed which pursues prevention and adaptation strategies, wisely combines them and is closely linked to related sectoral policies. Urban and spatial development may play a coordinating role here. Vulnerabilities have to be identified across sectors, concrete adaptation strategies to be developed based on intersectoral dialogue and resilient spatial structures, which have been adjusted to climate change, have to be fostered.

The central role of spatial planning within the DAS

In December 2008, a German adaptation strategy ("Deutsche Anpassungsstrategie DAS") to climate change, jointly agreed upon by the federal government departments and the federal states, was published. In the document, a medium-term process is initiated within which the need for action for 14 sectors is described, goals for adaptation are defined, adaptation measures and their implementation are outlined.

As there is no specific sectoral planning for climate change, the interdisciplinary topic "spatial, regional and urban land-use planning" is accorded a coordinating role

in protecting, ensuring and sustainably developing the settlement, transport and open space structure as well as natural resources. A central role is attached to spatial development in terms of concrete measures to achieve resilient spatial structures, being adapted to climate change, in regions and cities.

The BBSR supports such measures through government department-related research activities, demonstration projects, workshops and conferences.

Pilot study: effects and governance analysis

In the context of a pilot study on demonstration projects conducted by the TU Dortmund University on behalf of the BBSR¹, types of climate change regions and their effects from the point of view of spatial development were defined along with a comprehensive analysis of governance and instruments to describe regional climate changes in Germany. For that purpose, the changes of climate parameters relevant for spatial planning were identified for regional planning units based on a climate model, summed up in factors and mapped as types of regions.

The *governance analysis* shows that the concrete implementation of the adaptation to climate change is still imminent in most regions. Within the pilot study, key strategies for a regional, ideal type of framework for adaptation to climate change were developed.

The overall results of the pilot studies will be published in December 2009.

Demonstration Projects of Spatial Planning

In June 2009, Demonstration Projects of Spatial Planning (MORO)² were started. Their aim is to formulate regional climate change strategies based on the spatial planning instruments of eight model regions and to realise first steps of implementation, e.g. advancement of spatial planning instruments, agreements on objectives, updating of regional plans, climate-proofing. This is to gear plans and programmes to the requirements of climate change in the most neutral way and within the effective bounds of verification.

(1) www.bbsr.bund.de/BBSR/DE/FP/MORO/Studien/Raumentwicklung/Klimawandel/01_Start.htm

(2) www.bbsr.bund.de/BBSR/DE/FP/MORO/Forschungsfelder/2009/RaumKlima/01_Start.html

The eight model regions (figure) are to formulate regional climate change strategies by spring 2011 and to implement first steps. The climate protection priorities concentrate on an integrated energy-saving development of settlement and transport areas, on making spatial provisions for energy supply with a low environmental impact and on climate-oriented land use.

The adaptation strategies to climate change focus on flood prevention, urban climate protection/bioclimate areas, coastal protection, protection of mountainous regions, provision for regional water shortages, adapted tourism and the change of biocenoses.

Demonstration project “Urban concepts for climate change”

From December 2009 to spring 2012, “Urban concepts for climate change” will also be tested in the fields of urban development and housing in the context of demonstration projects funded under the German Experimental Housing and Urban Development (ExWoSt) programme. Within the main research field 1 “Local climate change strategies and potentials”, focusing on the modification of existing buildings, “Local action plans for the adaptation to climate change” will i.a. be developed. Demonstration projects within main research field 2 “Real estate and housing industry-related strategies” are going to start in spring 2010.

A second pilot study³ served to develop a Decision Support System (DSS) for integrated urban strategic concepts to protect the climate and to adapt to changes. It was tested in three cities through experimental games. The DSS will be gradually advanced, which was prepared by 5 surveys highlighting the achievement potential and the range of responsibilities in the field of urban development.⁴

Climate adaptation as a discursive process

Both demonstration projects in the field of spatial and urban development will be accompanied by thematic workshops, interdisciplinary workshops and conferences. At the second MORO conference “Spatial development strategies on climate change” on 2–3 July 2009 for example more than 220 scientific and planning experts discussed about requirements to spatial planning and sectoral policies caused by the consequences of climate change.

Besides workshops the eight model regions presented themselves by means of an interactive “gallery walk”, during which conference participants and representatives of model regions discussed intensively.

The lively discussion during the conference underlined the importance of spatial planning/development in terms of planning provision, the concrete implementation of research results on the consequences of climate change and the advancement of climate protection and adaptation measures.

Results used for the adaptation action plan

In general, the demonstration projects in the fields of urban and spatial development are to make first contributions to the adaptation action plan of the German adaptation strategy (DAS) through transferable projects, methods, procedures or concepts. This will, where possible, include a close professional-conceptual exchange with various spatially and climate change-relevant projects and programmes for adaptation is a common learning process of good governance.

The fact that adaptation to the inevitable consequences of climate change becomes more and more important, is finally also proved by the agenda of the COP 15 UN Climate Change Conference on 7–18 December 2009 in Copenhagen.

(3)
www.bbsr.bund.de/BBSR/DE/FP/ExWoSt/Studien/2009/KlimaStadtentwicklung/01_Start.html

(4)
www.bbsr.bund.de/BBSR/DE/Veroeffentlichungen/BBSR_Online/BBSR-Online_node.htm

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Regional Energy Concepts - strategic regional planning focusing on the development of renewable energies

Further information:

www.bbsr.bund.de >>
English >> Research
Programmes >>
Demonstration Projects
of Spatial Planning
(MORO) >> Studies >>
Regional Energy
Concepts

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Introduction

The consistent use of renewable energies is an important element of climate protection as well as a sustainable energy supply. In the Integrated Energy and Climate Programme of December 2007 the Federal Government stated the goal to significantly increase the use of renewable energy sources by 2020 and is in general pursuing the goal of decentralising the provision of energy in order to reduce the dependency on imports.

In Regional Energy Concepts (REC) guiding principles can be determined and agreed upon to reduce energy consumption and to use local sources for energy generation. In a number of German regions planning institutions have already drafted Regional Energy Concepts towards a strategic energy portfolio and energy management. At regional level effective strategies are lacking to expand the implementation of goals set in the energy policy.

Subjects and objectives of research

The subjects of the research study "Regional Energy Concepts", REC, and their contribution to the development of renewable energies focusing particularly on strategic regional planning. The potential of REC to influence stakeholders in the energy sector will be considered. These include consumers, investors and operators of energy conversion facilities and power grids. The research focuses on the coordination of spatial planning and energy concepts. This becomes increasingly important because the production of energy from renewable sources impacts land use patterns and affects the

regional economy. However, spatial planning itself has no responsibility for energy policy

Objectives of the project are firstly to develop a "best-practice standard" for REC to contribute to the public debate. Secondly, it should contribute to the further development of statutory and non-statutory regional planning instruments, not only to regulate but also to implement regional strategies to maximise the use of renewable energies.

Research concept

In contrast to spatial planning, the energy policy is determined by the Federal Government. At regional level, no institutions, statutory instruments or responsibilities exist for energy policy. Federal instruments and measures of energy policy such as the "Renewable Energy Sources Act" (EEG) have a substantial influence on the energy sector. Most interventions directly target stakeholders such as consumers and energy producers without input from regional or local intermediaries. Therefore, REC rely on the Federal policy framework and on voluntary cooperation of regional policy-makers.

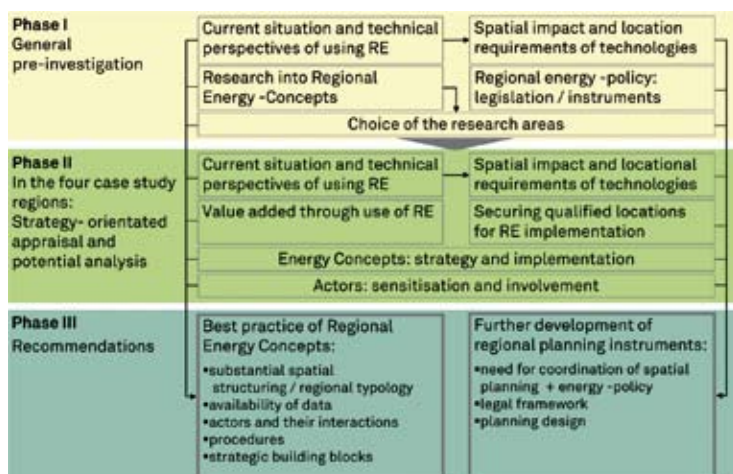
The target groups of strategies to integrate renewable energies in REC are regional planning bodies in collaboration with municipalities, the private business sector and the civil society.

The research will cover the following aspects:

- the region's role in the governance system for energy policy,
- the region's potential and constraints for the expansion of the renewable energy supply,
- spatial impacts,
- impacts on the regional economy,
- the strategic importance of regional planning and its statutory and non-statutory instruments.

Main research method is the evaluation of existing REC, strategies and scenarios developed at Federal Government and state level and of four case study regions. The research project is separated into three phases which are shown below.

(RE = renewable energy)



Accompanying measures of energetic urban renewal

Project background and content

In urban development many processes meet one another which are closely connected with the supply and use of energy and with the rise of CO₂. This offers huge potential for achieving the goals of the German Integrated Energy and Climate Programme (IKEP) as well as the climate target "Reduction of CO₂ emissions by 50 % by 2050". The research field "Pilot projects for energetic urban redevelopment" funded under the Experimental Housing and Urban Development (ExWoSt) programme of the German Federal Government aims at the urban contribution to climate protection to identify and provide recommendations for an integrated implementation of measures of energetic urban renewal. From December 2007 to February 2011, exemplary ways for an energetic reorientation of urban development will be pursued in 15 so-called "model cities" of the federal states of Brandenburg and Saxony-Anhalt. The implementation is monitored and analysed by a team of scientists.

The energetic urban redevelopment covers arrangements for

- the reduction of the energy demand, in particular for buildings and traffic,
- the increase of the efficiency of central and if necessary decentralized heating and power supply systems,
- the utilization of renewable energy sources.

The methodical focus of the pilot project is on the combination of action with related current urban developments, particularly with the urban restructuring programme for Eastern Germany.

The emphasis of research is on the connection between power consumption and urban development processes, the basic conditions for the implementation of arrangements of energetic urban redevelopment and the effects on environment, economy and society.

In addition to the observation of these topics, accompanying research has the following tasks:

- to offer technical advice to the project partners during the preparation and implementation of the pilot project,
- to moderate the exchange of experiences between the model cities and



- to ensure knowledge transfer during and after the conclusion of the research project.

The experiences of the model cities are accessible via an internet platform or by events.

From previous work and a survey conducted in spring 2009 in the model cities, some initial experience and results have been derived. It is becoming apparent that dealing with the historical building stock in particular will be one of the greatest challenges for the energetic urban renewal. At present, the model cities take two different directions. Some cities try to gain experience while implementing specific pilot projects to pass on and to generate further projects. Other cities rely on a very broad conceptual groundwork providing the basis for individual projects. Common to both ways is that these culminate in a citywide strategy, an energy concept which is part of the integrated urban development concept.

Important impulses for the progress of the model project are expected by the information exchange among the 15 model cities involved. Workshops for the exchange of experiences have been made during the implementation of the individual projects. part of the 15 model cities, a very active association called "Goslar with Power" has committed itself to the energetic renewal of existing buildings oriented to the protection historic monuments within the city and addresses this topic with competence. The association is supported by the newly founded Energy Research Center of Lower Saxony (efzn).

In spring 2010, the intermediate results of the research field "Pilot projects for energetic urban redevelopment" will be presented during a public conference in Berlin. We would be pleased to welcome you there.

Further information
(only in German):
www.energetische-stadterneuerung.de

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Energetic biomass on recycling areas



Short rotation plantation on former urban redevelopment site in Halle/Saale

Source: DBFZ

Motive and objective

Already before urban restructuring in Eastern Germany, urban recycling areas have become a challenge to urban development. Brownfields, which could not be marketed in the long term, have also confronted former coal-mining and steel areas in the Ruhr and Saar areas with challenges. The objectives of raising the share of renewable energies and of diversification and increased decentralisation laid down in the Integrated Energy and Climate Programme might provide opportunities for making these unused areas available for growing biomass.

The study "Potentials and options for action to use biomass on recycling areas", which started at the beginning of 2009 and will be complete at the end of the year, deals with the question in how far recycling areas can be used for the cultivation of energetic biomass via e.g. short rotation. The study also serves to estimate whether and to what extent biomass production on recycling areas is sustainable and might be performed.

The cultivation of energy crops on alternative areas of nature conservation and agricultural areas offers advantages as rival land-use types are contained and as it may contribute to providing base-loadable heat and energy. Providing biomass on these urban restructuring or recycling areas here does not only contribute to protecting the climate and to upgrading areas in terms of urban planning, it also helps to reduce the management costs for these areas and to make related biomass sources directly available to users.

Methodology and first results

In order to classify the options for action helping to identify the existing potential and the quality of the available areas for biomass production, areas available within an urban context – that one of the city of Chemnitz – will be analysed. The efficiency of model areas will e.g. be assessed. In Chemnitz, large institutional freeholders are of large importance. The study is supplemented by an interview on quantitative and qualitative aspects among other freeholders and 108 Saxonian local authorities, too.

Legal, cultivation technique-related (soil quality, infrastructure) and organisational (admission by freeholders, acceptance) barriers are furthermore identified. Finally, recommendations for action for the national and the federal state level as well as for the implementing level will be derived which will enable to use recycling areas for growing biomass temporarily and to reach a successful land recycling economy in general.

The study is based on cultivation concepts which enable to meet particular requirements:

- perennial energy crops (short-rotation plantations, Miscanthus)
- annual energy crops (corn, cereals, lupine)
- lop/material from landscape conservation
- cultivation systems (intercropping, double-cropping system)

Biomass production on these areas can only be sustainable if it is possible to establish a closed chain of actors from the stage of cultivation up to that one of biomass utilisation. Especially in the urban context, it has to take urban development aspects apart from cultivation concepts into account.

Workshop

On 3 September 2009, a workshop concerning the study was held in the German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs in Berlin. It arrived at the conclusion that in the context of the development of local and regional energy and climate concepts there will be a good chance to establish biomass cultivation with the aim to utilise it for energetic purposes and to raise the share of green areas in local authorities thus enhancing the urban quality. The use of material from landscape conservation, raising awareness among actors/public relations work, the reorganisation of chains of actors and the secondary aesthetic benefit of biomass compared to photovoltaics should be taken into consideration.

It is certain that energy cropping in cities and municipalities represents a "new option" to use brownfields at least temporarily and to avoid their degradation.

Further information
(German only):

www.bbsr.bund.de >>
Fachthemen >> Fach-
politiken >> Energie/
Umwelt >> Regenerative
Energie >> Fachbeiträge
→ Potenzialanalyse

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Regional price index of the BBSR

Looking over the globe, information about the regional cost of living is scarce. Not many countries or provinces provide data on this topic, exceptions, to name a few, are e.g. Japan, the United States for a number of towns or some Canadian and Australian regions. For Germany as well, this information has not been available since 1942. Only fragmented data – e.g. for selected towns and regions or specific topics – have been published during the last decades. But also during the last decades, this deficit has become more and more obvious. The nominal income, i.e. without the influence of the regional price level, is only an inadequate indicator for regional material well-being. Furthermore, the question arose, whether the monthly 351 euros for permanently unemployed persons have a higher real counter value in the Bavarian city of Munich or the East German rural county of Uecker-Randow.

The BBSR responded to this information deficit. The Federal Institute collected more than 7 millions single data to calculate a regional price index covering all counties and independent towns of Germany.

The main results were the following: Southern Germany – as a rule – has higher prices than the other parts of the country. Generally, towns or cities are more expensive than suburban regions and both of them have higher prices than rural areas. Peripheral places – including those in the inner periphery – show the lowest price levels. These results could be expected to some extent because in other countries as well population density, population growth, income and the touristic attractiveness are factors influencing the regional price level. One finding of the study is at first glance surprising: East Germany is not much cheaper than West Germany. The reason is that the new “Laender” have an advantage in the price of services, but these items only have a comparatively small percentage in the basket of commodities, i.e. the collection of goods with their specific shares of expenditures by a representative consumer. Many other goods, e.g. stamps, telephone calls, new and used cars, or the motor vehicle tax have the same price all over the country. This leads to the effect that low prices for some goods are compensated.

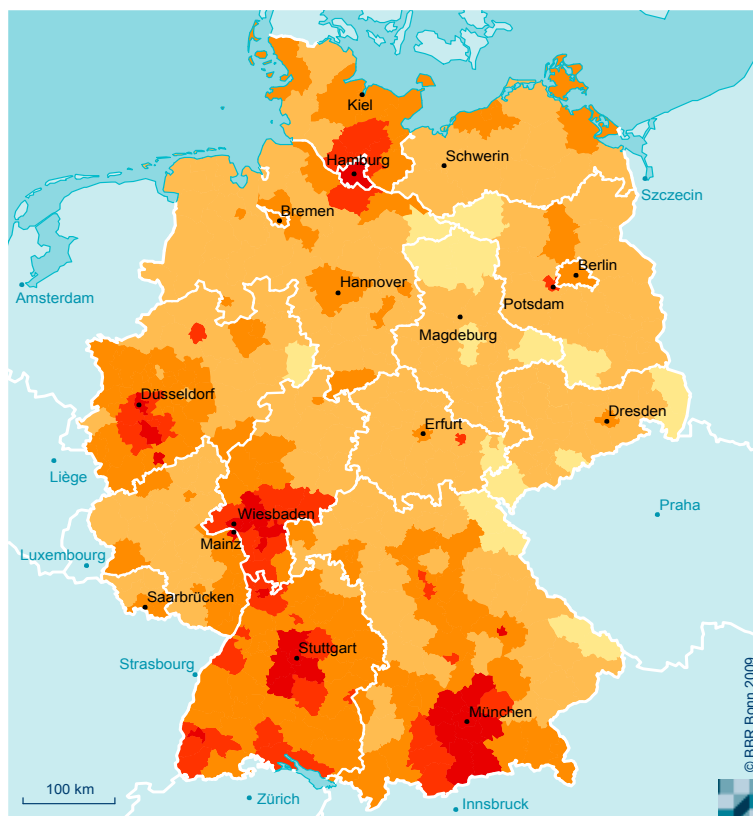
Basis for the calculation was the city of Bonn with the value of 100. The city of Munich is the most expensive place in Germany having an index figure of 114.4. The Bavarian county of Tirschenreuth is the cheapest one with a value of 83.4. The different prices in the German regions have the effect that some very high nominal income regions – like Munich or Stuttgart – have only average real incomes. Nevertheless, a few regions with below-average nominal incomes, being located in East Germany, have so low prices that their real incomes are on an average German level. All in all, two thirds of the German regions have real incomes of around the German statistical average. Thus, it can be stated that equivalent living conditions in the material sense are achieved in these places.

Regionaler Preisindex, Berichte Issue 30

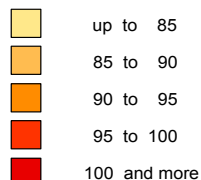
The study, written in German, can be ordered at selbstverlag@bbr.bund.de. An English short version of the study containing the main results is available free of charge, too. It can be also downloaded from the BBSR-homepage.

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Regional price index (Bonn=100)



Database: own calculation of the BBSR with data from 2005 to 2009
Geodatabase: BKG, BBSR, Kreisregionen, 31 December 2006

“Region schafft Zukunft” (Region creates Future) – national demography congress



For further information on the model project, please see:
www.region-schafft-zukunft.de
 (in German only).

www.bbsr.bund.de >>
 English >> Subjects >>
 Spatial Planning >>
 Spatial Development in
 Germany >>
 Demographic Change
 (in English)

www.bmvbs.de >>
 English >> Federal
 Government
 Commissioner for the
 New Federal States >>
 Demographic change
 (in English)



The national congress „Demografischer Wandel – Region schafft Zukunft, Strategien für den ländlichen Raum“ (Demographic change – regions create future, strategies for rural areas) on 30 June 2009 in Berlin has taken stock following two years of activities in model regions and has presented perspectives for further activities.

In the two eastern German model regions “Stettiner Haff” and “Südharz-Kyffhäuser”, measures to promote the economic development as well as innovative and sustainable services of general interest were tested. More than 400 congress participants had the chance to inform about the various approaches and results in tackling the demographic change and to talk with stakeholders from the model regions about concrete measures.

The about 40 projects cover the following six fields of action:

- regional labour market and training initiatives,
- regional economy,
- transport infrastructure and mobility,
- social services of general interest and family-friendly policies,
- new forms of housing and living together,
- cultural and regional identities.

The Federal Minister of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs, Wolfgang Tiefensee, Federal Government Commissioner for the New Federal States, underlined the principle of equivalent living conditions in German regions. According to him, the “confident state” supported people, who actively participated in structurally weak rural areas, in tackling the consequences of the demographic change. The state was the only one to ensure public services of general interest in shrinking regions. This implied a special responsibility.

In her keynote, Dr. Mahovsky stressed the key position of European regions in tackling demographic change, climate change and globalisation from the point of view of the Regional Policy General Directorate of the EU Commission. In the EU, the total employment would decrease inspite of the growing employment rates, she said.

Primary tasks would therefore include to improve the framework conditions for families, to increase incentives for a longer working life while increasing productivity and efficiency at the same time, to admit and integrate migrants and to provide sustainable public finances. According to her, not only rural areas had to cooperate with cities but all levels vertically in order to be able to use the potentials of European regions. The European structural/regional policy also was a policy of the “confident” state.

From the professional point of view, Dr. Hans-Peter Gatzweiler, Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development within the BBR, considered expectations on the implementation of positive examples but also on their sustainable effects beyond the project duration as well as incentives for a changed regional policy to be fulfilled. In order to meet with the demographic change, complex and integrated approaches for adjustment and counteraction were needed, he said. Only a few projects, executed in a few fields of action, could not help to realise a strategical regional development for shrinking regions.

According to Dr. Gatzweiler, new funding resources were not required but it was necessary to advance existing ones and above all to combine them more appropriately on the level of the Federation and the federal states.

In his concluding summary on the demography congress, Ulrich Kasparick, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs, proposed to combine funding programmes of the Federation and the federal states as a consequence of the experiences of the model project. The goal should be to provide regional budgets to operate a specific regional policy for shrinking, structurally weak rural areas.

In the meantime, two model projects have also started in western Germany, in the counties of Werra-Meißner and Nordfriesland. They are to benefit from the findings in the eastern German regions.

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European „macroregions“ as political and research issue

The last issue of the Research News informed on the development of cooperation in the Baltic Sea Region with a focus on the recent EU Strategy and on the “VASAB Long-Term Perspective for the Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region”. The following text provides a broader view of the historical roots and of cooperation along the River Danube.

The preparation of an EU strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the upcoming strategy for the Danube region have placed new emphasis on the development of areas, which cover several adjacent countries below the European level. Terms such as transnational areas or European macroregions are commonly used. Macroregions are not precisely delimited and heterogeneous in terms of size, spatial characteristics, region-building features, political structures and country composition. Some of them share a certain regional identity like the Alpine Space, the Baltic Sea or the North Sea region. Others like the INTERREG cooperation areas North-West Europe or Atlantic Area are delimited as part of a political consensus. What about the history, current situation and perspectives of such macroregional cooperation?

Towards the Danube Strategy

In June 2009, following the example of the Baltic Sea Strategy, the EU heads of state decided to prepare a similar strategy for the Danube region. The Council asked the European Commission to present the Strategy by the end of 2010. It is hoped that this timeline will allow for an approval during the Hungarian Presidency in the first half of 2011.

Cooperation along the Danube does not start from scratch. There is already some history of cooperation, for instance in the context of the Working Community of the Danube Regions, the Danube Commission on transport issues and the political dimension of the Danube Cooperation Process.

The Danube region is different in many ways from the Baltic Sea Region. Geographically, it extends along a river. Politically, it has more non-member states and a history of recent conflicts. Institutionally, it has a much thinner organisational network.

Although the discussion is still in an early phase, three themes seem to be crucial in this region, apart from “softer” topics such as tourism and cultural exchange:

- **Transport:** the Danube River is part of Priority Project 18 “Waterway axis Rhine/Meuse-Main-Danube” of the Trans-European Transport Network. Priority Project 17 “Railway axis Paris-Strasbourg-Stuttgart-Wien-Bratislava” is another important backbone for the region. Apart from connections along the River, those crossing it might be even more important.
- **Environment:** many of the Danube countries face regular major flooding, which are outside their control as the causes and solutions are to be found further upstream. Similarly, there is still too much pollution being pumped into the Danube, which then drifts downstream and into the Black Sea.
- **Economic development:** regions and cities have been particularly active in building partnerships, some of them funded by the INTERREG IIB CADSES Programme.

More recent historical roots of macroregional cooperation

Following first activities of cross-border cooperation in Western Europe in the 1950s, macroregional cooperation started in the 1970s related to the sustainable use of common landscapes or sea basins (ARGE ALP, conventions on the Baltic and the North Sea). Cooperation in the fields of spatial planning and development and the preparation of spatial visions were initiated by the Benelux countries in 1986. In 1994, a spatial vision for an even larger territory of 11 countries was worked out in the Baltic Sea Region (VASAB 2010). Spatial Planning cooperation took also place in the Alpine Space and in the North Sea Region at that time.

Those macroregional activities were accompanied, reflected and pushed forward on European level in the 1990s (European Spatial Development Perspective – ESDP, Commission report “Europe 2000+”, “Guiding principles” of the Council of Europe).

Macroregional cooperation supported by transnational cooperation programmes

As a conclusion on that development, a Community Initiative concerning transnational cooperation on spatial planning (INTERREG IIC) was established in 1996 as part of the EU structural policy. The delimitation of cooperation areas to some extent followed existing cooperation structures (Alpine Space, Baltic and North Sea Region) but also included some political compromise (e.g. merging of the Central European, Adriatic, Danubian, South-Eastern European Space). Spatial visions and action programmes on those areas were worked out in transnational cooperation projects.

Macroregional cooperation does, of course, not necessarily need European funding. Such programmes, however, can give impetus to cooperation and help to better coordinate and focus activities. The existence of “supranational” and thematic macroregional cooperation structures can facilitate the implementation of transnational programmes.

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Perspectives of macroregional cooperation

In both cases of EU strategy development, the European Commission was tasked with the preparation of the strategy due to its “neutrality” and management capabilities. The fact that “Europe as a whole” takes note of macroregional cooperation is obviously a positive element. It allows for benchmarking, making use of successful approaches. Another aspect was the possible influence on financing programmes and institutions, although no specific funding is earmarked for implementing strategies. Questions might occur on whether strategies should be broad or rather focused on specific key needs. Another issue is the participation of countries. Neither in the Baltic Sea Region nor in the Danube area all countries are members of the EU. Should it be an EU strategy for those areas or a common strategy prepared by all countries? Macroregional cooperation does not depend on the existence of strategies. Strategies, however, can contribute to foster and focus macroregional development. Strong macroregions might even promote European integration as they can exercise cooperation on a more concrete level and provide examples to other areas.

Urban development funds in Europe – some ideas to implement the JESSICA initiative



For the programming period 2007-2013, the European Union has provided for Structural Funds grants in the context of urban development funding to be transformed into loans, guarantees, Mezzanine capital etc. The purpose is to create additional tools supporting long-term and sustainable investments in urban development (JESSICA initiative: Joint European Support of Sustainable Investments in City Areas).

Even after about two years of developing steps for implementing “real life JESSICA instruments” there still remain many open questions and problems that have to be solved by the European Commission as well as by the member states. Germany as most of the other member states only has little experiences with creating and using funds in the urban development sector.

During their informal ministerial meeting on 24 and 25 May 2007 in Leipzig, the ministers responsible for urban and territorial development decided to establish a working group involving interested member states, the Commission and the European Investment Bank (EIB) aiming to advance the initiative “Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas – JESSICA”.

Under German leadership and by involving the BBSR, a report was compiled which for the first time highlights urban planning and financial aspects of urban development projects, whose orientation comes close to the JESSICA philosophy, in more detail.

The working group’s report was submitted and adopted during the informal meeting of ministers for urban development on

24 to 26 November 2008 in Marseille. The member states have followed the report and consider the JESSICA instruments to be an additional option to support investments into sustainable urban development in a better way than before.

Five case studies showing the practicability of JESSICA instruments

In the context of the study, urban development projects in selected member states were documented and analysed in more detail regarding their financial structure. The projects consider several elements recommended within the JESSICA initiative and giving important advice how to implement JESSICA in the member states.

“Evolution“ Newcastle-under-Lyme

The project “Evolution” is an element within the development of a commercial area on a former derelict mining area. On a building area of approx. 1.5 hectares, 17 commercial units for small and medium-sized enterprises were realised which are to be let or sold to companies. The offer is to support especially small and medium-sized enterprises and thus the economic development of the city, which is in a state of structural change.

The project was realised by the company “Priority Sites Ltd”, which bought the areas from the regional government, realised the buildings and is now marketing them. Priority Sites Ltd. is a joint venture of the English urban regeneration agency “English Partnerships” and of the Royal Bank of Scotland.

The example demonstrates the possibilities to use public-private development companies. Within the project, space was provided to support the economic development, which, according to the parties involved, could not be provided by stakeholders in this field.

„Foncière Camus“, Sarcelles

Within the “Foncière Camus” project, a vacant residential home within a large housing estate in the surroundings of Paris was demolished and replaced by an office building with approx. 5,900 m² of floor area for offices, retail trade and catering purposes. The new office building supported the establishment of enterprises in the so far monostructural urban district

and promoted urban regeneration within the large housing estate.

The project was realised by a project company involving local private investors in the urban district and the state bank Caisse des Dépôts. It was furthermore financed with subsidies and urban regeneration loans at a reduced price.

Within the project, several elements of the JESSICA initiative were applied at the same time, which is why especially the combination of subsidies and different revolving financial instruments could be analysed.

„Westhafen“, Frankfurt

In the “Westhafen” (western port) of Frankfurt, a former urban port area with an area of approx. 17 hectares in the inner city was converted. Office and residential buildings as well as various infrastructural facilities were built on the area.

The urban development project was carried out within a complex contractual framework simulating a joint development company. The sale of areas to a private syndicate was combined with contractual agreements ensuring the participation of the city in the project development. It simultaneously had a share in the return of the site development activities.

The example demonstrated the possibilities of contractual cooperation between public and private stakeholders.

„Parque das Nações“, Lissabon

In the context of the World Fair 1998, a former industrial area of approx. 430 hectares was converted. After the World Fair had been performed, various buildings were used for other purposes. The remaining areas were developed into a new urban district and the properties were sold to private investors.

The state-run company ParqueExpo '98 SA was in charge of preparing and implementing the World Fair and transforming the related sites into an urban district subsequently. It was financed with subsidies and loans at a reduced price.

This solely publicly financed example demonstrates the possibilities of using revolving financial instruments when creating a new urban district.



The whole study including conclusions and recommendations as well as recent legal decisions on matters of implementation of JESSICA have been published in “BBSR-Online-Publikation No. 03/2009 Urban Development Funds in Europe. Ideas for implementing the JESSICA Initiative”.

www.bbsr.bund.de >>
English >> Publications
>> BBSR Online-Publikation

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URBACT – European exchange of experiences between cities

In launching the URBACT Programme at the beginning of 2003, the European Commission aimed at supporting the exchange of knowledge and experiences between cities, especially the exchange on integrated urban development. The first phase of the URBACT I Programme (2003–2006) was established in the context of the Community Initiative URBAN II and was to point at successful procedures and to advance them. The participation in URBACT I was limited to cities which were supported under the URBAN I and II Programmes and urban pilot projects. Additionally, cities with at least 20,000 inhabitants from the new EU member states were entitled to participate. Following the successful development of URBACT I, the European Commission decided to continue this Programme within the new programming period 2007 to 2013.

In retrospect, URBACT I has highlighted the importance and benefits of the exchange of good practices, exemplary projects and successful practices for cities all over Europe:

- The exchange on topics of special interest, central problems and challenges as well as the joint search for solutions might give new impetus, lead to innovations and advance the future urban development.
- Cooperation with other cities may help to discover so far unused development potentials and chances and to develop strategies to mobilise them for the future urban and neighbourhood development.
- The insight gained from networking can be used to verify and adapt existing or planned projects and single operations.
- The case studies and examples from partner cities may initiate discussions and provide impetus and ideas.
- The networks can be used as a platform to test and discuss innovative approaches to urban renewal and to regenerate disadvantaged urban districts.
- The exchange of experiences, the discussion of selected topics and the discussion of joint challenges contributes to broadening the mind of local, regional and national stakeholders.

The main objective of the second programming period (2007–2013) is to improve the effectiveness of sustainable

integrated urban development policies in Europe with a view to implementing the Lisbon-Gothenburg Strategy. This main objective is broken down into three specific objectives:

1. to facilitate the exchange of experience and learning among city policy-makers and practitioners in the field of sustainable urban development among local and regional authorities;
2. to disseminate widely the experiences and examples of good practice and the lessons drawn from these projects and policies and to ensure the transfer of experiences and know-how in the area of sustainable urban development;
3. to assist policy-makers and practitioners in defining action plans on sustainable development of urban areas thus strengthening the relations to the mainstream programmes.

The key instruments of URBACT II form the tools for exchange and learning from each other:

- **Thematic networks:** thematic networks form the core of the Programme. The local authorities closely cooperate in the thematic networks and are to develop policy recommendations and action plans in addition to generally accepted insights.
- **Working groups:** compared with the networks, the URBACT II working groups focus less on exchange than rather on generating high-quality output. The working groups are to bring together various stakeholders from different areas for working on a specific topic.
- **Fast-Track Networks:** selected thematic networks are a specific instrument of the Regions for Economic Change initiative. The Fast-Track Network is targeted at the direct transfer of good practice to one or more cities which are wishing to improve in that specific field. The EU Commission is closely involved in these Fast-Track Networks.

Almost half – 13 – of the 28 currently approved thematic networks and working groups involve German cities/institutions. Seven networks and working groups are under German lead partnership. Two of the networks with German lead partners were selected as so-called Fast-Track Networks.

Further information:
www.bbsr.bund.de
 >> Fachthemen >>
 Stadtentwicklung in
 Europa >> Netzwerke >>
 URBACT

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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 by 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.

Innovation promotion and European spatial development

Innovations are increasingly targeted by regional funding programmes, whether on the level of the federal states, of the Federation or the EU. Whether product or process innovations, they are to advance regions (and cities) all over Europe, to strengthen their economic basis sustainably – and generally to support territorial cohesion in Europe. Such funding programmes and projects will be presented in the issue 5.2009 of the Information on Spatial Development. However, it also poses principal and critical questions e.g. concerning the impact and success mechanisms of innovations and their transferability, e.g. in the context of transnational cooperation. Last but not least, it deals with the question whether regions are an appropriate level of action for the promotion of innovation.

Social cohesion in European cities

Social cohesion in cities seems to be endangered Europe-wide – especially “poor” and “prosperous” regions seem to diverge in social and spatial terms. The main reason are currently economic trends. But the social change as well implying individualisation and extremely high mobility, the demographic change as well as increased international migrations change the foundations for social life in cities and confront the urban policy with new challenges.

A polarisation or residualisation of social areas within cities is counteracted by the European Union and its member states but also by the federal states and cities with funding programmes, integrated

development concepts and an increased exchange of information and experiences. Both these facts and the concrete social trends in cities will be treated in this issue.

Urban restructuring – going on

Urban restructuring means more than only the demolition of unused or unoccupied settlement parts. It arranges for a sustainable urban development and the rapid change of economic, demographic and social structures and will remain an important element of urban development for a long time, if not permanently. This is what the Federal Building Code as well as urban development support programmes such as “Urban restructuring in Eastern Germany” and “Urban restructuring in Western Germany” provide for. “Restructuring” does not only open new urban housing and living qualities to the many shrinking cities and municipalities in eastern and increasingly also in western Germany but often a new land use and planning culture as well. The fact that these opportunities are manifold – and still meet with obstacles – is shown by this IzR issue with many informative articles and examples.

Spatial planning and development in the Baltic Sea Region

The current issue of “Informationen zur Raumentwicklung” deals with spatial planning and development in the Baltic Sea Region. Its articles, which are mostly in English, highlight the historical, political, economic and environmental dimension of spatial development and planning in this macroregion. In doing so, it focuses on current knowledge society, transport accessibility and maritime policy issues (cf. related article on page 14 in the same issue).



The latest IzR issues deal with the following topics:

Issue 5.2009
Innovationsförderung und europäische Raumentwicklung (Innovation promotion and European spatial development)

Issue 6.2009
Soziale Kohäsion in Städten Europas (Social cohesion in European cities)

Issue 7.2009
Stadtumbau – die Fortsetzung (Urban restructuring – going on)

Issue 8/9.2009
Raumplanung und -entwicklung in der Ostseeregion (Spatial planning and development in the Baltic Sea Region)

The journal is available in German language with English abstracts. Some issues contain articles in English language, which – similar 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@bbsr.bund.de) and from bookshops. The issues cost 6 (single issue) or 12 euros (double issue). All prices plus postage and packing.



The edition can be ordered by using a form at www.bbr.bund.de >> Veröffentlichungen >> IzR, by writing an e-mail to selbstverlag@bbr.bund.de or it can be obtained through the bookselling trade in using the ISBN number.

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New publication on the Baltic Sea Region

The double volume 8/9.2009 of „Informationen zur Raumentwicklung (IzR)“ is dedicated to spatial planning and development in the Baltic Sea Region. Authors of 11 countries around the Baltic Sea present their views on spatial development of that European macroregion. The articles cover issues like the development of the economy and of the knowledge society, the environmental situation of the Baltic Sea, population and settlement development, accessibility, the situation of land-based and maritime spatial planning, the development of selected transnational areas (islands, Barents region, eastern Baltic Sea Region) as well as cooperation initiatives in the area.

The Baltic Sea Region is one of the most dynamic regions of Europe. It represents structures which aim at better combining economic development with social progress and preservation of the environment. The main attribute is the Baltic Sea itself as the most important common resource in the centre of the Region. Other characteristics are networks of locations of the knowledge society, a multimodal transport system with high shares of sea and air transport, a cultural landscape with large forests and lake districts, cities with a rich tradition such as the Hanseatic heritage, networks of metropolitan regions but also large less densely populated areas (see map).

The most challenging issues comprise the development of the knowledge society, making use of excellent preconditions

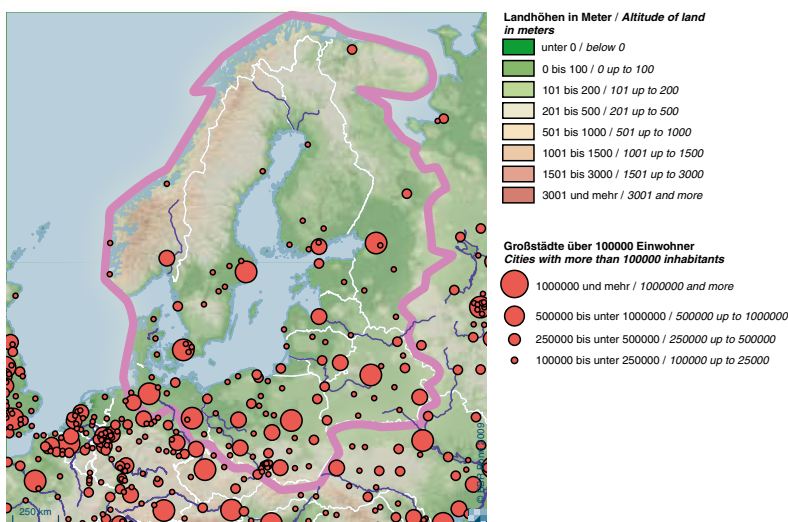
while at the same time improving the environmental situation of the Baltic Sea itself. Beside that, a more efficient development of the existing multimodal transport system and its targeted upgrading is necessary. Moreover, the attractiveness and networking of cities and regions needs to be promoted.

The Baltic Sea Region is stronger than all other large transnational areas in Europe shaped by supranational structures. Political cooperation takes place under the roof of the “Council of Baltic Sea States”, a body of the foreign ministers. In that framework and beyond, a multifaceted pattern of governmental, non-governmental, multi- and bilateral, small and large-scale cooperation exists in the Baltic Sea Region. The region also stands for cooperation between countries with different socio-economic development, between countries of the European Union and their neighbouring countries, among them a well-targeted cooperation with Russia.

Stakeholders of the Baltic Sea Region launched a number of exemplary initiatives. It was thus the first large transnational area to create a vision for regional development (VASAB 2010) and an Agenda 21 for sustainable development (Baltic 21). The region also was and is an objective of political initiatives of the European Union and their neighbouring countries. Since the middle of the 1990s, the Baltic Sea Region has been a programme area for cooperation projects where actors of different sectors and levels commonly generate and implement transnational projects.

Against this background, the edition 8/9.2009 of Informationen zur Raumentwicklung was prepared. The contributions are mostly written in English. Abstracts are available in English and German. Accompanying information (basic overviews, typologies or classifications, maps, statistics or other factual information) will be provided at www.bbr.bund.de and at the Nordregio homepage www.nordregio.se. The issue is published in a period when the EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region and the VASAB Long-Term Perspective for Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region are about to be adopted and will thus provide related information.

Baltic Sea Region



Transnational cooperation in Europe – the German INTERREG B experience (TransCoop 2009)

Berichte, Issue 32, Ed.: BBSR, Bonn 2009

How can transnational cooperation contribute to the territorial cohesion of Europe? What were the experiences of Germany with cross-national cooperation in the Alpine Space, in the Central, Adriatic, Danubian and South-Eastern European Space (CADSES), in the North Sea Region and in the Baltic Sea Region as well as in North-West Europe in the past programming period 2000–2006? Which new requirements have to be taken into account during the current programming period, which lasts until 2013, and how has the implementation process of the current programmes started running? Which conclusions for the future cooperation can be drawn from that?

Against the background of the discussions on the future European cohesion policy from 2014, which have already started, these questions are exigent and gave reason to the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) to draw up the report “Transnational cooperation in Europe – the German INTERREG B experience (TransCoop 2009)”.

The bilingual report (German and English) studies these questions by tracing the development of “territorial cohesion” as a new paradigm of European spatial and urban development policies and outlining the EU funding programmes on territorial cohesion. An analysis of the programming period 2000–2006 reveals that transnational cooperation, due to its large-scale and integrated approach and its transnational structures, may make an important contribution to promoting territorial cohesion. INTERREG B has a hand in meeting and tackling cross-national challenges. Beyond concrete results and impacts on specific project-related and thematic issues, transnational cooperation has long-term cross-cutting impacts, such as improved regional control competencies of local authorities (Regional Governance), a regional quality management and European benchmarking or the mobilisation or steering of investments.

The programmes within the programming period 2007–2013 have been advanced and realigned in the context of the current requirements. One of the most important changes was the much more strategic approach: projects have to find answers from within a spatial context to the requirements of the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs and the Gothenburg Strategy for Sustainable Development. The Territorial Agenda of the EU (TAEU), which shows how spatial and urban development may contribute to implementing these Strategies, provides an important framework for orientation. The assessment of the first calls for project applications in the five INTERREG IVB programmes with German participation shows on the basis of selected current thematic priorities how the programmes and projects tie in with the current spatial challenges and the priorities for spatial development measures proposed in the TAEU. Thus, the current Structural Funding period – apart from increasing the capacity for innovation – attaches particular importance for instance to climate protection and tackling climate change. This topic is presently being treated in just under one quarter of projects (totalling 120) approved by May 2009 in the five programmes with German participation. They concentrate on water management and flood prevention or river basin management issues. Energy efficiency and using renewable energies are furthermore addressed (see figure).

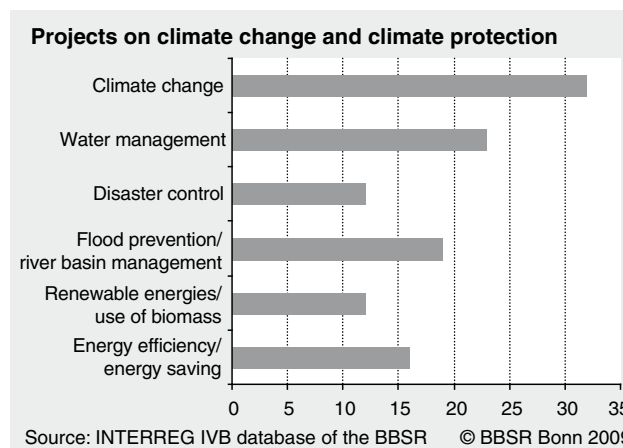


The publication can be obtained from the publishing department of the BBR (selbstverlag@bbr.bund.de) and from bookshops.

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Climate change and energy-efficient building are topics also taken up by the German Federal funding programme “Transnational Cooperation”. Support for transnational projects through national authorities might help to better consider national policies and to increase the implementation of project results. Funding measures of selected European countries are outlined against this background and the thematic priorities of the projects funded under the Federal funding programme “Transnational Cooperation” are presented by means of examples.

The analyses of the report only represent a “snap-shot” which will change in the course of the programmes. However, for the discussion on the future orientation of transnational cooperation, the report with its analyses and conclusions provides important background information. This discussion on the one hand refers to the second half of the current programming period, i.e. the thematic orientation of the programmes, and a possible merging and focusing of the remaining funds are currently being intensively discussed in all cooperation areas. On the other hand, the course is already being set for the cohesion policy from 2014.

The current publication takes up the TransCoop 2005 published in 2005 as well as the report “Bringing Europe together. Transnational cooperation of cities and regions”, which was produced by the BBR as a contribution of the German EU Presidency on the occasion of the Informal Ministerial Meeting on Urban Development and Territorial Cohesion in May 2007 in Leipzig. It thus forms an integral part of the regular reporting activities of the BBSR in terms of implementing cooperation in the five transnational cooperation areas with German participation. The reports serve to inform the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs (BMVBS) and the stakeholders in the German federal states, which are responsible for the transnational cooperation programmes. In addition to stakeholders already active in projects, they are also to address cities and regions in Germany and abroad as potential partners in future transnational spatial development projects.

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