



RESEARCH NEWS

Editorial

The course for the future European spatial development policy is currently reset. In the course of the Lisbon Treaty ratified at the end of 2009, the European Commission received a competence for territorial cohesion – which it has to share with the member states. The way in which the Commission should realise this competence is currently under discussion and cooperation among the member states in the field of spatial development policy as well has set new priorities. During the Hungarian EU Council Presidency in the first half of 2011, for example, the Territorial Agenda of the EU (TAEU), which the EU member states adopted in 2007, is to be reviewed. Already now, a working group has been established updating the evidence-based background document of the Agenda “Territorial State and Perspectives (TSP)”. On this basis, the Territorial Agenda is to be verified and a revised and updated version is to be produced, if necessary.

One of the most important sources for empirical information on European spatial development and policy is provided by the ESPON programme (European Spatial Planning Observation Network). The BBSR is actively involved in ESPON through own studies and as a National Contact Point. In the following, we will report about a BBSR study in which the results of the ESPON programme will be analysed from a German point of view. Another article in the Research News issue on hand will deal with the TAEU: a BBSR research project, which has been running for two years, deals with the question in how far transnational projects (INTERREG B) contribute to implementing the Territorial Agenda of the EU. The focus will be on various topics. While last year the project concentrated on the benefits of transnational cooperation to achieve an innovation-oriented business development on the local and regional

level, this year’s focus is on demonstrating with the help of good exemplary projects how cities and regions might profit from transnational cooperation when developing strategies to tackle the climate change and to use renewable energy sources.

“Adaptation to climate change” and “energy” are not only top topics within transnational cooperation but also count among the BBSR’s key activities. The BBSR has recently launched a series of research and demonstration projects on these topics, which we covered in the last Research News issue. In the issue on hand, we will inform about the results of a European comparative study on the adaptation to climate change, for which the BBSR concluded a subcontract, and will present own empirical results on renewable energy sources in Germany.

The issue will also deal with metropolitan areas in Europe. An internal working group within the BBSR has attended to the issue how to identify and characterise European metropolitan areas based on analyses and has developed a new innovative strategy for this. Compared to earlier studies, we do not start out from the idea of a selection of (large) cities to be investigated in terms of their metropolitan features. We start out from a site-related survey of various metropolitan functions and identify spatial concentrations of these functions in Europe, based on which we will define metropolitan areas in a purely analytical way.

Further articles will, as usual, inform about current new releases of the BBSR.

Happy reading!
The editors

Content

Editorial

Metropolitan regions in Europe – a new research approach of the BBSR

Innovation-oriented business development and regional development

Germany in Europe. Abstract of ESPON 2006 results now available

National adaptation strategies of European countries to climate change from the perspective of spatial planning/development

Spatial impacts of fulfilling energy and climate protection objectives

Quality of location and living conditions in Germany and Europe

Journal “Information zur Raumentwicklung (IzR)” – new issues

Has Europe reached the trough of the depression?

Metropolitan regions in Europe – a new research approach of the BBSR

Metropolitan regions are characterised by a strong concentration of functions which they own in societal and economic networks on the supraregional, European and global level. Describing these metropolitan functions and analysing their spatial distribution has for a long time been an element of spatial research in Germany and Europe and thus also in the BBSR and its precursor institutes. The BBSR is now submitting the results of a study referring to the whole European territory. According to a new, theoretically substantiated concept, the spatial distribution of metropolitan functions in Europe will be measured according to comparable criteria and coherent metropolitan areas will be delimited and classified. The related data are exclusively based on non-official statistics; they were originally collected from the Internet or based on own calculations.

A new empirical study with a new approach

For about twenty years, there has been a number of interwoven political and scientific, national and European discourses on metropolitan regions in

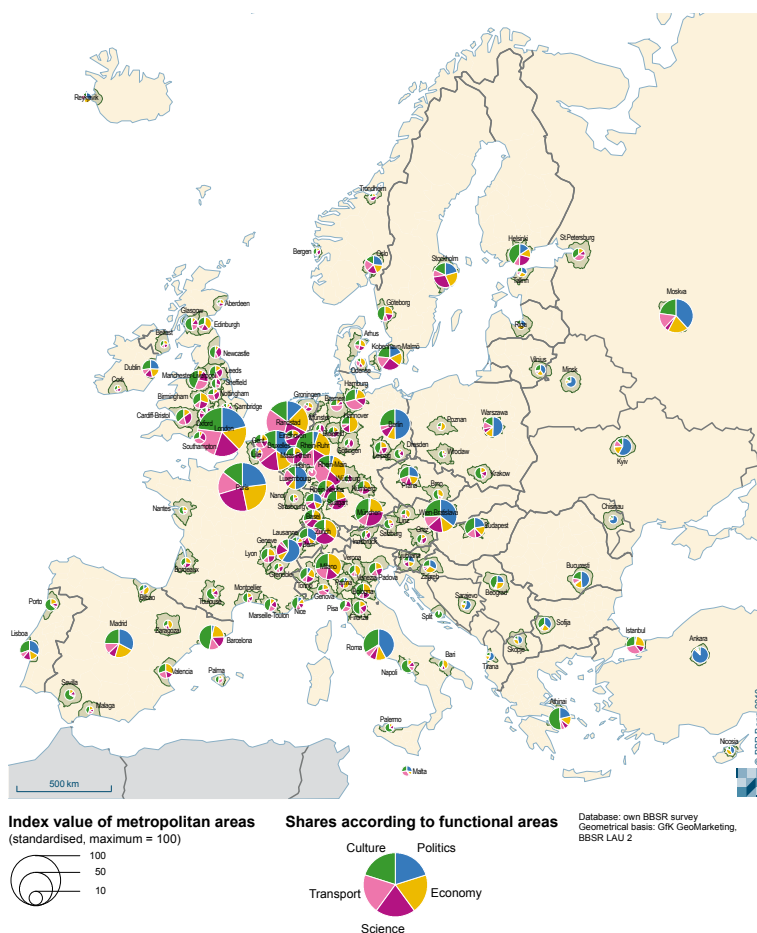
Germany and Europe. As a result, metropolitan regions have established as an important strategical element both of European and global competitiveness and of the spatial balance between differently structured areas. They were considered in the current political documents of the Territorial Agenda of the European Union (2007) and the Concepts and Strategies for Spatial Development in Germany (2006). Research on metropolises and metropolitan regions as well has a long tradition in Europe and Germany. The BBSR and its precursor institutes as well as the European research network ESPON, founded in 2002, for example supported related political-strategical national and EU documents with scientific analyses on the urban system. Regional approaches are very rare and insufficiently substantiated in terms of methods. Methodical limits are also reached in terms of data and measurement concepts for metropolitan functions comparable across Europe. This is where the new study presented by the BBSR starts:

- The taxonomy of metropolitan functions is restructured based on theoretical concepts.
- An own database comparable across Europe with 38 indicators is build up.
- The whole European continent is covered by depicting locations based on exact local coordinates (municipalities) and without being limited by preselecting cities and regions.
- A new standard method of regionalisation to define comparable metropolitan areas in Europe is developed and based on this metropolitan areas in Europe are compared and classified according to the significance and variety of their functions.

The methodical approach...

Based on the concept of the functional differentiation of social systems and on the findings of regional-economic theories, five areas of metropolitan functions were defined:

- “politics” with international relations of national governments and supranational organisations,
- “economy” with global production, trade and financial relations,
- “science” with globally significant universities, research networks and innovations,
- “transport” with its role in the worldwide networking of persons, goods and information and



- “culture” with arts and sports events being of worldwide importance.

...and some central results

The 38 indicators recorded from all five functional areas can be found in 8,480 locations (local authorities) on the overall European territory observed. This means that 7% of the potential locations show metropolitan functions. In the aggregate index, however, the majority of these locations reveals low values. The 184 most important locations for example cover 63 % of all metropolitan functions. Only 67 locations cover all five functional areas compared with 6,700 locations which only occupy metropolitan functions within one functional area.

Metropolitan functions intensively concentrate on Central Europe. The “Pentagon” formed by London, Hamburg, Munich, Milan and Paris covers around 50 % of all locations with metropolitan functions which also hold nearly 50 % of all metropolitan functions. Outside the Pentagon, the density of locations with metropolitan functions is much lower. In most small and medium-sized Eastern European countries the majority of metropolitan functions concentrates on capital cities. They often occupy more than two-thirds of the metropolitan functions of their relevant country.

From locations towards areas

The 184 most important metropolises are the basis for analytically defining metropolitan areas with the BBSR Accessibility Model. To define them, a car travel-time isochrone of 60 minutes was drawn around the cores of these important locations. Cores situated close to each other were merged into a polycentral territorial unit so that the number of metropolitan areas to be defined was reduced from 184 to 125. The method produced metropolitan areas of about the same size which, in terms of surface area, were then comparable.

These 125 metropolitan areas were analytically defined according to standard criteria and should not be mixed up with metropolitan regions in Germany or other European countries, which, in the political context, have emerged and are understood as cooperation areas.

125 European metropolitan regions with 350 million inhabitants...

350 million inhabitants live and work in the 125 metropolitan areas, which is about 50 % of the population of the pan-European

area investigated. The average number of inhabitants in all 125 metropolitan areas is about 2.8 million while the numbers of inhabitants in each metropolitan area are very different. With approx. 15 million inhabitants each, London and Moscow have the largest population followed by Rhine-Ruhr with more than 13 millions and Istanbul and Paris with approx. 12 million inhabitants each. Reykjavik and Trondheim with only 230,000 inhabitants are the smallest metropolitan areas.

The average population density of the metropolitan areas is 350 inhabitants per km² although there are strong differences: With more than 4,900 inhabitants per km², Istanbul by far has the highest population density. Reykjavik with approx. 64 inhabitants per km² has the lowest density and is even below 150 inhabitants per km², the upper limit defined by the OECD for rural areas.

...bear 65 % of the economic performance

The economic potential of the whole European area investigated is also concentrated in the 125 metropolitan areas. Based on the sum of the absolute gross domestic product (GDP) in 2005, these areas with around 8,500 billion euros hold approx. 65 % of the GDP of the investigated area. The economically most important metropolitan areas are London (609 billion euros), Paris (500 billion euros), Rhine-Ruhr (369 billion euros), Randstad (317 billion euros) and Milan (265 billion euros). These five areas together represent 25 % of the GDP of all 125 metropolitan areas. Compared to this, especially Eastern European metropolitan areas or areas with a small population just reach a fraction in absolute figures.

The results: an agreeable basis for evidence to European policies?

The analytical results and the new small-scale database on metropolitan functions in Europe can be used as a fundament to update the concepts for spatial development in the field of the German and European spatial development policy. In the context of the new discussion on the European metropolitan system and a possible policy for metropolitan regions, an agreeable basis for evidence including a standard set of indicators comparable across Europe and a comparable spatial reference basis have so far not existed. With this new study, the BBSR would like to offer a contribution to this European debate.

The German-speaking summary “Metropolräume in Europa” (BBSR-Berichte KOMPAKT 4/2010) can be ordered free of charge from Marisa.Trimborn@bbr.bund.de

Further information:
www.bbsr.bund.de >>
 Veröffentlichungen >>
 Berichte KOMPAKT >>
 Metropolräume in Europa

An English-speaking summary is in preparation.

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The German-speaking guideline can be ordered free of charge from the BBSR, Beatrix Thul, beatrix.thul@bbr.bund.de, keyword: "Innovationsorientierte Wirtschaftsförderung".

Innovation-oriented business development and regional development

INTERREG IVB motivates municipalities and regions to do transnational cooperation

Many municipalities and regions have already put innovation-oriented business development on their agenda. For example, they support the networking of the business and the scientific sector, get involved in establishing technology parks and business incubators or promote the application of innovative technologies. Since 2007, the INTERREG IVB programme by a separate funding priority "Innovation" provides better opportunities to promote such approaches in transnational projects as well.

Such opportunities were analysed in more detail and assessed by "Deutsches Institut für Urbanistik (Difu)" in the context of a BBSR study "Beitrag transnationaler Projekte zur Umsetzung der Territorialen Agenda der EU" (Contribution of transnational projects towards implementing the Territorial Agenda of the EU). The results were presented in Berlin in mid-December 2009 during the conference "Innovationsorientierte Wirtschaftsförderung und Regionalentwicklung – Wie Kommunen und Regionen INTERREG IVB nutzen können" (Innovation-oriented business development and regional development – how municipalities and regions may benefit from INTERREG IVB). More than 130 participants found out about chances and achievements of the programme, exchanged experiences about project ideas and ongoing projects and received many useful tips in terms of submitting applications. The presence of the national contact points of the five cooperation areas with German participation was deemed especially positive. During counselling interviews, they gave useful tips concerning their related INTERREG cooperation areas.

The large number of topics related to the promotion of innovation in the context of transnational cooperation was presented in various lectures by way of project examples dealing for example with networking food industry clusters in the Baltic Sea Region, supporting innovation activities of SME by means of a network of technology parks and business incubators or improving conditions of innovation in rural areas by new broadband infrastructures.

With regard to completed and ongoing projects, various fields of action of innovation-oriented business development could be highlighted according to which INTERREG projects have a share in the following areas:

- enhancing the framework for innovation processes;
- improving economic cooperation especially in terms of developing clusters and networks,
- improving access to scientific findings and technical innovation,
- promoting small and medium-sized enterprises,
- creating and advancing education and training offers,
- research and development and
- creating and advancing financial instruments.

The presentation of the projects also showed that the "specific niche" of the promotion of innovation in the framework of INTERREG focuses on integrated spatial development.

The results of the conference were summarised in a newly published, practice-oriented guideline (in German) concerning innovation-oriented business development. The brochure informs about selected INTERREG projects which have so far been drawn up in the fields of innovation and spatial development. It demonstrates in how far stakeholders and target groups involved may benefit from these activities. It also provides tips and advice to all those who plan own projects in the field of the promotion of innovation within INTERREG B.

This year, attention will be paid to projects focusing on "climate change". Similar as in the case of the "innovation" topic, the contribution of transnational projects towards implementing the Territorial Agenda of the EU is to be investigated.

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Germany in Europe Abstract of ESPON 2006 results now available

In terms of capacity, connectivity and speed, transport and communication infrastructures are important location factors and support the competitiveness of a region to a great extent. Investments in transport infrastructures lead to changed location qualities and in doing so might cause changes within spatial development patterns. Germany is among those areas with the highest potential of accessibility in Europe, which especially applies to the region along the River Rhine and the Ruhr area. But there are also large regional disparities regarding the potential of accessibility e.g. in some eastern German regions (see map).

These and other results have been worked out by a team of German ESPON experts in the context of the project "Germany in Europe. Assessment of the ESPON results of 2006 from a German point of view". The European Spatial Planning Observation Network (ESPON) was created in 2002 and serves to observe European spatial development and the related policy in a politically oriented way. By 2006, more than 25,000 report pages of 34 executed projects had been produced. The assessments covered the whole European territory.

The project's goal was therefore to analyse existing ESPON results and to process them for German scientific, political and administrative stakeholders.

The analysis was not only executed in the field of transport and communication infrastructures but also in further five areas with a close reference both to the German spatial planning concepts and to the priorities of the Territorial Agenda of the European Union (TAEU):

- urban system and polycentrality,
- semiurban and rural areas,
- environmental and risk management,
- demography,
- competitiveness and innovation,

Furthermore, an additional and future-oriented assessment based on the ESPON scenarios was carried out, which highlights possible perspectives and trends for Germany and its regions.

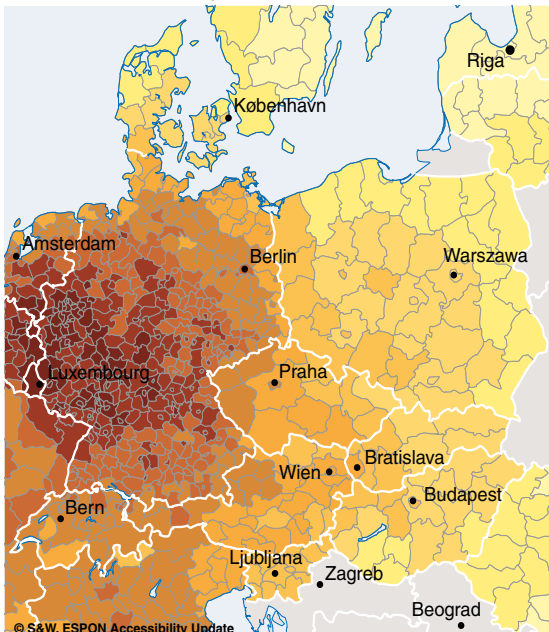
The results of the comprehensive report can now be found in a 20-page abstract (in English and German).

Free of charge available from: beatrix.thul@bbr.bund.de, keyword: Germany in Europe – Abstract Please indicate the language required.

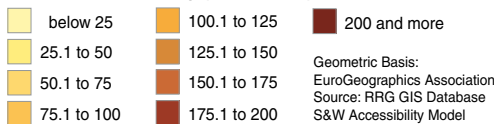
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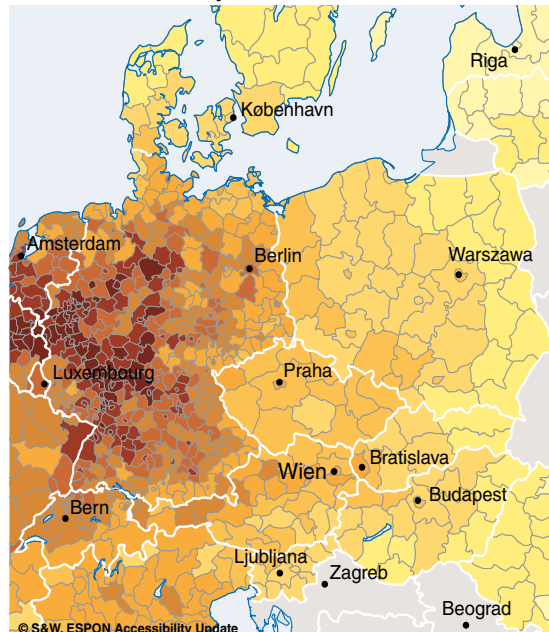
Potential accessibility 2006: Road



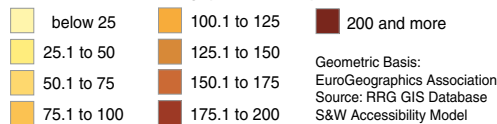
Potential accessibility (EU27 = 100)



Potential accessibility 2006: Rail



Potential accessibility (EU27 = 100)



National adaptation strategies of European countries to climate change from the perspective of spatial planning/development

Study background

The role of spatial planning and spatial development for adaptation to climate change is currently a subject matter of various studies and demonstration projects from the European and the national to the regional and finally also the local level. Although it has already been found out that spatial planning plays a rather important role in adapting to climate change, there is still a certain openness concerning the selection, advancement and development of appropriate spatial planning and development instruments to adapt to climate change. A look beyond national borders might provide suggestions for the action plan on the German Adaptation Strategy, but also especially for the ongoing demonstration projects on adaptation to climate change funded under the German research programmes "Demonstration Projects of Spatial Planning" and "Experimental Housing and Urban Development". The BBSR therefore commissioned a comparative study (contractor: plan + risk consult, Dortmund) which aimed at providing an overview and a systematic classification of various national approaches to develop strategies on climate change from the perspective of spatial planning and development.

The issue of the spatial dimension of adaptation to climate change is also broached on the European level in the Territorial Agenda of the EU (TAEU), which says in Priority 5: "(23) Joint transregional and integrated approaches and strategies should be further developed in order to face natural hazards, reduce and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change. Further work is required to develop and intensify territorial cohesion policy, particularly with respect to the consequences of territorially differentiated adaptation strategies." Under the Portuguese Council Presidency, a working programme to implement the Territorial Agenda has been adopted. One of the related TAEU working groups deals with the consequences of climate change and possible preventive adaptation strategies in the European, national and regional context and is led by Germany. For this working group it is of special interest to assess existing national adaptation strategies in terms of the importance of spatial planning and to keep an eye on the degree to which the adaptation to climate change is already reflected in each national planning practice.

Research conception

The study dealt with contents and state of development and implementation of national adaptation strategies in the EU member states, which were analysed based on existing studies and own country studies.

The two main research hypotheses of the study were as follows:

- The climate impacts in Europe have very different regional impacts. This should also have an impact on the focuses mentioned of national adaptation strategies and the scopes of action of planning.
- Differences in the political-administrative system as well play an important role as the formal and physical features of spatial planning have a considerable impact on strategies and measures to adapt to climate change, on the one hand, and especially on their establishment in relevant institutions, on the other hand.

First of all, already existing comparative analyses of adaptation strategies were assessed with a view to the role of spatial planning and development.

Then, nine country studies, executed by national experts, were selected in such a way as to ensure that, apart from all parts of Europe, the various regional climate effects as well as the diversity of planning systems are covered by appropriate case studies. This was to largely take the research hypotheses into account. The countries of Germany, Finland, France, Greece, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Hungary and the United Kingdom were investigated. The country studies were then analysed in form of a cross-sectional analysis from the point of view of spatial planning/development.

Finally, recommendations how to implement the Territorial Agenda and the demonstration projects "Spatial development strategies to adapt to climate change" and "Urban strategies to adapt to climate change" were developed.

The research results will be published as an online publication ("BBSR-Online-Publikation") in the Internet: www.bbsr.bund.de >> Veröffentlichungen >> BBSR-Online-Publikation

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Spatial impacts of fulfilling energy and climate protection objectives

The Integrated Energy and Climate Programme (IEKP), the Federal Government's national contribution towards achieving the EU's climate protection targets, schedules to increase the share of renewable energy sources in the gross electricity consumption to at least 30% by 2020. In 2008, this share was 15.1% according to the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety.

Regional energy data are very significant for spatial analyses and recommendations for action provided in the context of policy advice. The BBSR's geographical energy database is an important fundament for investigating some regions' degree of achievement of the IEKP goals. The liberalisation of the German electricity market in 1998 considerably complicated the acquisition of regionally differentiated energy data. A new data source for the electricity generation from renewable energy resources is provided by Section 52 of the Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG). According to the Act, grid system operators and utility companies are obliged to publish all the details concerning EEG-funded plants being part of their net-works.

The highest installed capacity of all energy sources is presently to be found in the field of wind power. Regions with a high installed wind power capacity are those with the highest installed total capacity. Due to the natural landscape conditions and social and political acceptance, the distribution of wind energy capacity reveals a clear north-south divide. The major part of hydropower capacity is for topographic reasons installed along the rivers Isar, Inn, Main, Danube, Rhine and Mosel. Biomass plants are primarily installed in rural areas, especially in regions where factory farming and the cultivation of renewable resources on large areas are practised. Due to its dispersed distribution, photovoltaics are totally different from other renewable energy sources and its special spatial patterns.

Germany is able to achieve the renewable energy targets demanded by the EU and the IEKP although there is further need to increase the share of renewable energy sources only to meet the targets set by 2020. This need will cause further rivalry of areas used for nature conservation, tourism and cultural landscape purposes. Other issues relevant for spatial planning arise in terms of electricity supply and storage. Electricity generation (increasingly

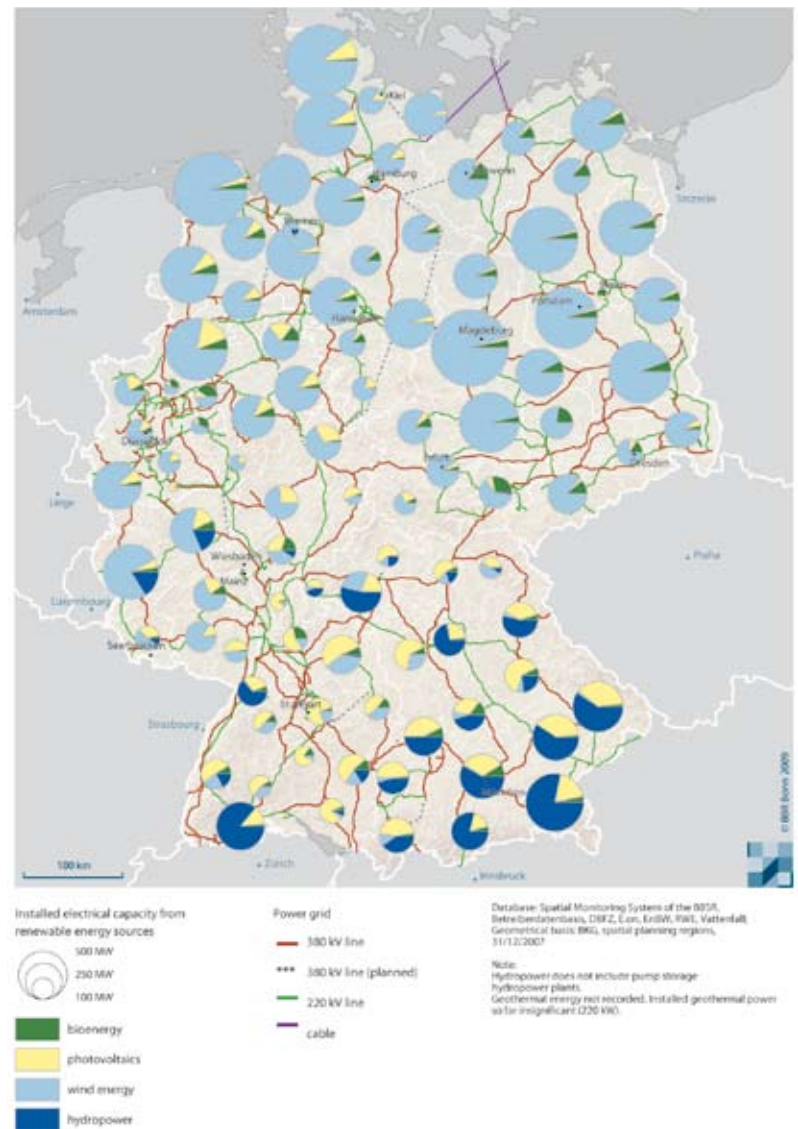
from renewable energy sources in the north, see map) and electricity demand (highest in the south due to settlement and economic reasons) become increasingly dispersed in geo-graphical terms.

In order to meet the energy targets, it is necessary that all regions face up to an open-minded analysis in order to use existing potentials sustainably and efficiently for the purpose of a resource-conserving spatial development. In order to realise such an analysis, local and regional energy concepts, which might i.a. provide a basis for the national action plans on renewable energy sources demanded by the EU, have to be further established.

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Importance of renewable energy sources on the level of spatial planning regions



Quality of location and living conditions in Germany and Europe

The CD-ROM "INKAR 2009" can be ordered at the price of 45.00 euros plus forwarding costs from Selbstverlag des BBSR, Postfach 200150, 53156 Bonn. selbstverlag@bbr.bund.de, or from booktrade (ISBN 978-3-87994-931-1).



The BBSR's interactive applications can be found at www.raumbeobachtung.de > Interaktive Anwendungen (in German)



How do regional living conditions in Germany differ? Which county has the lowest unemployment rate? Where are the highest household incomes? Which regions have the lowest birth rates?

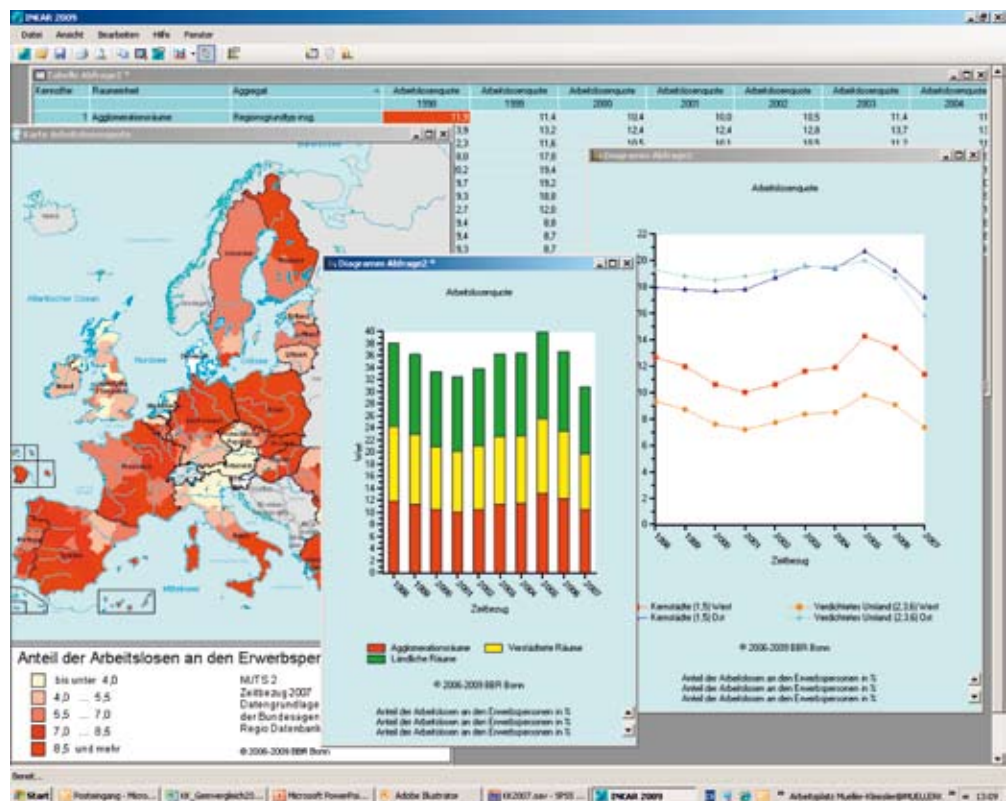
The Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) within the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) provides comprehensive information (in German) including maps, charts and tables on the regional living conditions in Germany and Europe, presented on the current CD-ROM "INKAR 2009" and the website www.raumbeobachtung.de.

By this service, the BBSR offers a reliable source of search to media, businesses, scientists, local, county and regional governments as well as associations. Companies may amongst others use the information for regional market analyses. The CD-ROM is an important didactic instrument for geographical and civics lessons. With its manifold regional data on key social fields such as labour, economy, finances, population and education, it enables both comprehensive regional comparisons and specific analyses of the locational and living

conditions of towns and cities, counties and regions. The CD-ROM is annually published and includes more than 450 indicators. They are based on official statistical data of the Federal Government, the federal states as well as research institutions and associations.

INKAR 2009 proves to be a modern working instrument and provides flexible access to various regional statistical information. The user-friendly assistant concept offers numerous options to analyse regional living conditions based on space- and time-related comparisons.

In a few steps, all indicators may be represented as thematic map e.g. concerning the share of university graduates within a county, the average amount of old-age pensions or pupil forecasts. The comfortable visualisation of indicators provides a quick overview of the degree of regional differences. The indicator values are also displayed in a table. It can be used for detailed analyses such as county and regional rankings. Indicators can also be illustrated as bar, line or circle charts. Maps, charts and tables can be printed or issued in all established formats.

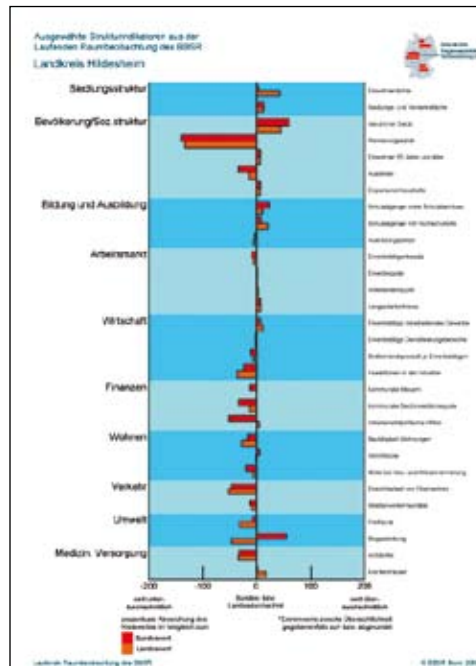


The portal www.raumbeobachtung.de offers additional possibilities for access to the BBSR's spatial information system and to a variety of additional information on spatial and urban development in Germany and Europe.

They include details on spatial references and typologies, the formation of indicators and visualisation methods and techniques.

The portal's main elements are interactive applications providing comprehensible and quickly accessible information to policy-makers, journalists, teachers, planners and interested citizens.

An **interactive map module** assists to produce thematic maps with all the local authorities, counties and regional policy regions in Germany. 100 indicators concerning socio-economic key topics such as labour market, economy and finances, education and training, construction and housing as well as environment and transport can be mapped. The module furthermore includes maps of spatial units and typologies used for spatial monitoring. Cities, motorways, railways, international airports, watercourses and central places can also be added as additional information levels.



Interactive regional profiles will help users to compile indicators for any county (or city not belonging to a county). A chart illustrates in how far the values for up to 30 indicators – e.g. tax incomes per inhabitant, share of university graduates or migration balance – deviate from the related federal or federal state average. Users can either choose a standard selection of indicators proposed by the BBSR or make an individual selection in order to produce a regional profile. The indicator values are also output in a table which also includes the calculation and data bases for the indicators.

With the interactive **Gender Index** application, differences in the regional living conditions of women and men in Germany can be analysed and graphically displayed by means of selected indicators.

All mappable layers have been implemented in compliance with the political requirements on providing spatial information (GDI-DE, INSPIRE). Thus, beyond the interactive applications of www.raumbeobachtung.de, they can also be integrated via standard interfaces (OGC WMS) into individual applications and spatial data infrastructures.



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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.

The latest IzR issues deal with the following topics:

Issue 10/11.2009
Kartographische Visualisierung in der Raumplanung
(Cartographic visualisation in spatial planning)

Issue 12.2009
Steigende Verkehrskosten – bezahlbare Mobilität
(Increasing transport costs – affordable mobility)

Issue 1.2010
Neue Zugänge zum Flächenrecycling
(New approaches to brownfield recycling)

Issue 2/3.2010 Bildung, Arbeit und Sozialraumorientierung
(Education, work and social space-oriented policy)

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 section 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.

Cartographic visualisation in spatial planning

Making facts, trends and relations visible, this is what thematic maps stand for. In the field of spatial planning and research as well, such maps are almost mass-produced. Thanks to relevant software, the production of a large part of them is automated and can be easily realised by nearly everyone. It seems as if it hardly requires any cartographic skills. The fact that skills concerning the descriptive and adequate visualisation of spatiotemporal information are a precondition for good maps, however, is to be highlighted by this IzR issue. By various examples it deals with basic questions as well as with modern methods of cartographic visualisation. The main issue is in how far different methods may deliver insight to spatial planners and in how far they provide planning-related information to decision-makers or citizens.

Increasing transport costs – affordable mobility

The times of sufficient crude oil are over and thus the times of cheap fuel as well. Road traffic is nevertheless increasing and our daily and non-daily distances are getting longer. This issue shows the limits of this mobility spiral. It especially identifies social and spatial (disparity) consequences of the car mobility, which inevitably becomes more expensive, and arrives at the conclusion that, in post-fossil times, mobility urgently requires to turn back to post-fossil patterns of living, transport and settlement.

New approaches to brownfield recycling

Areas and buildings, which have not been used (and maintained) over a long time, are not unusual anymore in German cities. In times of a “renaissance of the city”, there is evidence that such areas should be reactivated for living, working and shopping purposes or as public and recreational spaces in cities while land consumption in the urban periphery would be restricted at the same time. Such a reactivation of areas, however, does not happen automatically and neither of the milestone projects carried out on former brownfields all over the country can change this. This means that new ways of systematically recycling areas must be found while reducing existing barriers. This issue deals with such new approaches and with stakeholders and instruments involved in this process. It demonstrates by way of international examples in how far brownfield recycling is also relevant for urban development in other countries.

Education, work and social space-oriented policy

The city – a forum of education for all children and young people? Socially disadvantaged children, young people and adults have to be effectively supported in terms of education and training and on the labour market. However, these people often live within a social environment which is also precarious: They increasingly concentrate in disadvantaged neighbourhoods which provide little background for conventional offers of support. Therefore, integrated social space-oriented approaches of support are increasingly pursued in these areas, in the context of which the “affected persons” are picked up in their social environment, guided and integrated into a stimulating local network while their neighbourhoods are (to be) at the same time strengthened from inside. The issue on hand highlights such programmes and strategies by concrete examples and in theory while concentrating on the “Social City – Education, Economy and Employment in the Local Neighbourhood (BIWAQ)” programme.

Has Europe reached the trough of the depression?

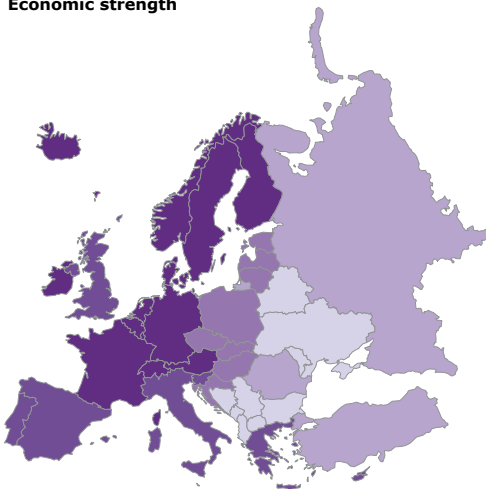
In spring 2010, the degree of the economic depression was revealed based on the initial definitive national accounts for 2009.

To say it straight forward: As measured by the gross domestic product (GDP) at current prices in euro in 2009, only 5 of altogether 46 European countries recorded an economic

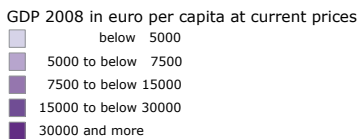
growth compared with the previous year. In the EU, this were Poland and Malta with a GDP increasing by around 5 % and 0.3 % respectively.

The remaining European countries showed more or less strong decreases of the economic performance. In the EU, the decreases ranged

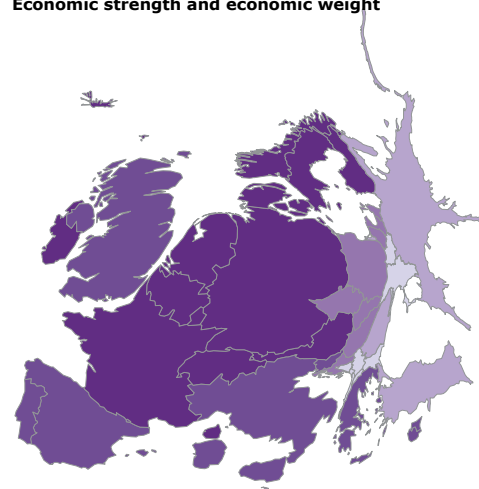
Economic strength



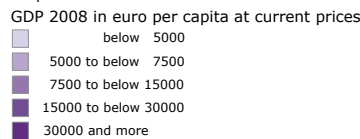
The sizes of the countries are proportional to the area.



Economic strength and economic weight



The sizes of the countries are proportional to the economic output in euro.



Economic growth 2003 - 2008



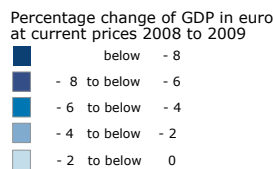
The sizes of the countries show the proportion of the overall European economic growth in euro



Economic shrinkage 2008 - 2009



The sizes of the countries show the proportion of the overall European economic decline in euro - only declining economies are represented



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from 0.1 % in Italy to nearly 18 % in Latvia. The strongest decrease of the economic production can be observed in Russia and the Ukraine. Measured in euro, the GDP at current prices in these countries dropped by around 22 % and 31 % respectively, the also strong euro in both cases leading to a much stronger decrease compared with Germany. In Germany, the economic performance declined by 4.9 %.

The maps demonstrate the economic situation and development until the depression and in the period before and after the depression. The "Economic strength" figure shows the economic performance of the GDP in euro per inhabitant by way of a classical map. The economic weight, being considered in the form of a cartogram in which the countries are depicted in proportion to their economic strength, reveals the dominant position of Western Europe.

The trend of the GDP from 2003 to 2008 shows the catching-up process of Eastern Europe, which in retrospect has not proved to be entirely sustainable. The "Economic growth 2003–2008" cartogram reveals that the Eastern European countries are not only characterised

by a percentaged growth. The sizes of the countries represented in proportion to their share in the absolute pan-European growth as well underline this catching-up process.

Easy come, easy go during the economic depression: This is how the percentaged decline is represented in the "Economic shrinkage 2008–2009" cartogram. Decreases of the economic performance have the highest percentages in Eastern Europe. Ireland and Norway as well have decreases by 7 % and 10 % respectively. It has to be mentioned that the decline in Ireland, but also in the United Kingdom and in Iceland had already started a year before and that it was much stronger than in the period observed. The cartogram, in which the country sizes are depicted based on their share in the pan-European decline, however, demonstrates the quite considerable share of the Western European countries in the total volume of the decline, only those countries with a declining economic development being depicted.

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