



RESEARCH NEWS

Editorial

The integrating and sustainable city is wanted more than ever. Facing climate change and the paradigm shift to renewable energy sources as well as financial markets getting out of hand, we need to take a holistic look at the places where we live. Already in 2007, the Ministers for Urban Development in the EU Member States agreed upon the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities, focusing on an integrated approach towards urban development and thus responding to current challenges that cities as well as urban regions face.

The German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development (BMVBS) and the BBSR have taken the Leipzig Charter as a reason to put an even greater focus on these topics. The "National Urban Development Policy" was initiated as a consequence and various projects and initiatives were launched, some of which will be presented in this issue:

The Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities for example – an online evaluation tool for cities – is currently being developed in

the context of a Europe-wide dialogue. The tool, which is based on the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities, offers cities the possibility to evaluate their urban development concepts or single projects on the urban neighbourhood level.

We will also report about the World Sustainable Building Conference 2011 in Helsinki and the BBSR conference "Cost-optimal ways to Nearly Zero Energy Buildings". Interdependencies between land use and climate change are the focus of the CC-LandStraD project, in which the BBSR develops land use scenarios for 2030.

Finally, we would like to draw your attention to the Urban Energies 2012 International Conference (see below) to which the BMVBS will invite within the context of the National Urban Development Policy. The Conference will offer a global platform to reflect on 5 years of Leipzig Charter as well as to discuss future strategies and actions.

Happy reading!
The editor

Pre-announcement

Urban Energies 2012 International Conference 11/12 October 2012, Berlin, "Haus der Kulturen der Welt"

The conference will offer policy-makers, experts and practitioners a global platform to reflect on 5 years of Leipzig Charter as well as to discuss future strategies and actions in the fields of spatial development, urban affairs and housing. The conference focus will be put on urban energies and related topics.

A series of pre-events ensures that all stakeholders will be integrated in preparing the conference. The BBSR serves as a "think space" to the Ministry. Those of you being interested in participating in this global mindset event, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Contact:

Division I 3 European Spatial and Urban Development

André Müller

Tel.: +49 228 99401-2341

andre.mueller@bbr.bund.de

Dr. Karl Peter Schön

Tel.: +49 228 99401-2130

peter.schoen@bbr.bund.de

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For more information please see the following websites:

www.bbsr.bund.de > English
> Spatial Development
> Spatial Development
in Germany > Research
Projects > CC-LandStraD

www.landstrad.de

CC-LandStraD subproject: settlement and land use scenarios 2030

Towards a climate-optimised settlement development in Germany

Expansions of settlements as well as the settlement structure have a considerable impact on climate change. Moreover, the related dispersion and fragmentation of settlements also has a direct impact on open areas: The landscape is fragmented, soil and vegetation, that function as carbon sinks, are destroyed and areas used for agriculture are reduced. In addition, these trends indirectly minimise options for a climate-proof land use management.

Proposals for reducing negative impacts of settlements expansion for example recommend urban restructuring activities including demolition or land recycling to develop a compact settlement structure. However, a compact settlement structure requires an expanding green and blue infrastructure to reduce the impacts of climate change such as an increasing number of days with urban heat islands or extreme weather events. Therefore, the question arises, how an optimal settlement pattern to adapt to and mitigate climate change looks like?

The CC-LandStraD project framework

Interdependencies between land use and climate change are complex and require to be analysed not only regarding settlement areas but for all land use sectors. This leads to the question how land use in Germany can contribute to mitigating climate change, which is the central topic of the interdisciplinary joint project “CC-LandStraD – interdependencies between land use and climate change – strategies for a sustainable land use management in Germany”. The project is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research within the research programme “Sustainable land management”. It is coordinated by the Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute (vTI).

In applying the scenario approach, different land use management strategies are developed. In a second step, the strategies are analysed regarding their efficiency in reaching the climate protection goals. Finally, recommendations for stakeholders are derived. Specific objectives of the project are:

- to elaborate different cross-sectoral land use scenarios (agriculture, forestry, settlement and transportation) in close dialogue with stakeholders,
- to identify and evaluate conflicts of goals

between climate-optimised land use strategies and other societal demands as well as their repercussions on global markets,

- to test the applicability of land use strategies on the basis of regional examples and to demonstrate what can be achieved through climate protection goals while considering legal framework conditions.

The Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development is involved in the joint project with the subproject “Land use scenarios 2030”. The objective of the subproject is to develop land use scenarios for the year 2030 in Germany with a special focus on the development of settlement and transport areas.

Land use scenarios for a climate-optimised development of settlement and transport areas in Germany

A scenario approach is applied to analyse the contribution of various patterns of settlements towards reducing CO₂ emissions for climate protection purposes. First of all, a baseline scenario is set up which forecasts current socioeconomic trends, considers adopted policies and a climate change scenario. Within this framework, various different strategies are developed: “Business as Usual”, “Climate Protection”, “Biomass” and “Adaptation”. Each of them applies different measures for land use management. The Business as Usual strategy does not assume any additional measures.

The Climate Protection strategy focuses all measures applied on the mitigation of climate change and thus the reduction of CO₂ emissions. With respect to settlement and transport areas, such measures could be to reduce the demand for settlement and transport areas to a minimum level for example by promoting inner-urban development by re-using brownfields, re-using vacancies or changes in the modal split.

The Biomass strategy focuses on the production of renewable energies. On the one hand, this means to reduce the demand for settlement and transport areas to preserve agricultural areas for the cultivation of biomass. On the other hand, measures could be applied that use inner-urban areas such as brownfields for the cultivation of biomass.



The Adaptation strategy focuses on the adaptation to climate change. One objective is for example to reduce the increasing negative impacts of urban heat islands. Measures that could be applied tend to reduce the settlement density by developing green urban spaces e.g. on brownfields.

As the brief description of the above-mentioned strategies shows, conflicts between the objectives can be expected for example with regard to increasing versus decreasing settlement densities. Furthermore, different land uses are expected on brownfields leading to the question whether the optimal set of measures is applied. To analyse this, a set of simulation models is applied.

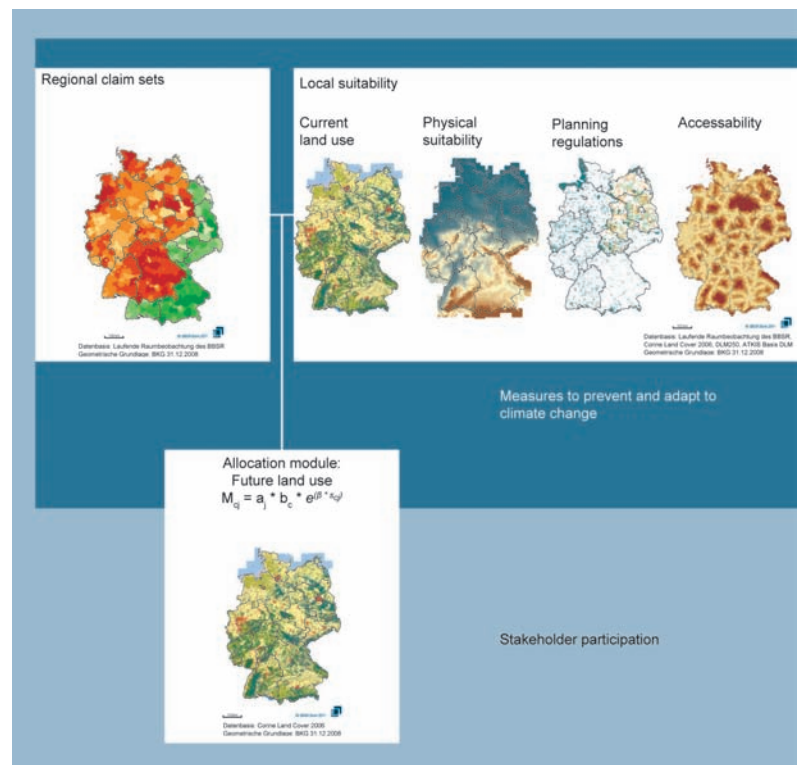
Methods

The Land Use Scanner model is applied to simulate the qualitatively formulated and quantified scenarios in a spatially explicit way. The Land Use Scanner is a GIS-based simulation model that integrates regional land use demands from external sectoral models and suitability maps.

The projection of demand for settlement and transport areas for 2030 will be provided by the sectoral Panta Rhei Regio (PRR) model which uses a set of econometric estimations based on demographic and economic development. The PRR model was developed by the Institute of Economic Structures Research (GWS mbH). First results are expected in early 2012.

Generating suitability maps is based on current land use, physical suitability, planning regulations or distance relations and indicates whether a grid cell is suitable for a certain land use or not. The appropriateness of different available land use data sets (e.g. Corine Land Cover, Urban Atlas, ATKIS, DLM-DE) for application in the land use change model is currently being analysed. Preliminary results show that all data sets are available for different time steps and different spatial and thematic resolutions. The results of the analysis with a detailed description of data sets and a spatial analysis by land use type will be published in 2012.

Both input data sets, land use demand and suitability maps are processed by the allocation module, which is based on the microeconomic theory of land rent. Thus, future land use changes are simulated and the impact of different land use strategies on the reduction of green house gas emissions and adaptation objectives is finally estimated.



Basis structure of the Land Use Scanner simulation model

Involving decision-makers

Relevant national representatives from the political and administrative sectors and a broad range of interest groups, especially from the sectors of agriculture, forestry, settlement and transport, are continuously involved throughout the project to critically check the social feasibility and applicability of the scenarios, strategies and measures developed. A first workshop was held in Berlin on 8 June 2011. Additionally, a scientific advisory board will be established to support the project.

Stakeholders are also involved in the subproject "Land use scenarios 2030". During several expert interviews, the qualitative formulation of scenarios and land use strategies to adapt to climate change was developed. Subsequently, the parameterisation of the land use change model and model results will be discussed in several workshops. This iterative procedure allows for an exchange between stakeholders and modelling results to guarantee acceptability of the proposed land use strategies.

Contact:

Dr. Jana Hoymann
 Division I 5
 Transport and Environment
 Tel.: +49 228 99401-2133
 jana.hoymann@bbr.bund.de



Participation of the BBSR in the World Sustainable Building Conference 2011 in Helsinki

In the course of the tasks of the Office for Sustainable Building, the BBSR attended the World Sustainable Building Conference SB11, which took place in Helsinki from 18th to 21st October 2011. The Conference is part of a series of sustainable building conferences, with a world conference held every three years, and brought together about 1,030 participants from over 50 countries. During more than 50 scientific sessions and 10 special forums, latest research and practical solutions related to the sustainable building topic were presented.

The Conference was organised by the Technical Research Centre of Finland (VTT) and the Finnish Association of Civil Engineers (RIL) in cooperation with the Council for Research in Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB), the International Initiative for a Sustainable Built Environment (iiSBE) and the United Nations Environmental Programme – Sustainable Buildings and Climate Initiative (UNEP-SBCI).

The German Pavilion

In connection with a research project, financed under the research initiative "Future Building" of the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development (BMVBS), the BBSR prepared an exhibition for the BMVBS about the National Sustainability Strategy, the Guideline for Sustainable Building and the Assessment System for Sustainable Building as well as about the results of the pilot phases and practical experiences in implementing the System in the framework of the Conference.

This exhibition was attended by the BBSR Unit II 5 Sustainable Building and representatives of the cooperating research team, solid*ar planungswerkstatt Berlin, during the Conference. The Conference members took the opportunity to exchange ideas about the German way to assess sustainability.

Presentation of scientific results

The researchers of the BBSR presented their results in different sessions:

- Dipl.-Ing. Andreas Rietz: "Sustainability Assessment System for Housing in Germany – Concept, Experiences, Opportunities."
- Dipl.-Ing. Claus-Hendryk Nannen: "Development of a Sustainability Assessment System for Education – Relevance, Specifications and Differences from other Building Types."
- Dipl.-Ing. Nicolas Kerz: "The State as a Model – New Instruments for Sustainable Building Seen from the Point of View of the German Federal Government"
- Dr.-Ing. Tanja Brockmann: "German and European approaches to Sustainable Construction."

Special Forum

The planning, construction and management of building and construction works plays a significant role within the context of sustainable development. Buildings account for the largest share of the total EU final energy consumption (42 %) and produce about 35 % of all greenhouse emissions. The EU construction market accounts for 10% of the GDP and 7 % of the workforce. For this reason, sustainable building has been identified as a key lead market and has been given a prominent role within the lead market initiative of the European Union. Public authorities may assume responsibility and exercise their function as role models by supporting sustainable building through, for example, appropriate forms of procurement. This is an important area because 40 % of the demand for construction works come from the public sector. As a consequence, Green Public Procurement can be seen as a very important instrument. The Federal Government in Germany supports initiatives to promote

Further information:
World Sustainable Building
Conference
SB 2011 Helsinki
www.sb11.org

www.bbsr.bund.de/
Publications
Berichte KOMPAKT 08/2011
„Sustainable Building
Strategies-Methods-
Practice“

German Pavilion

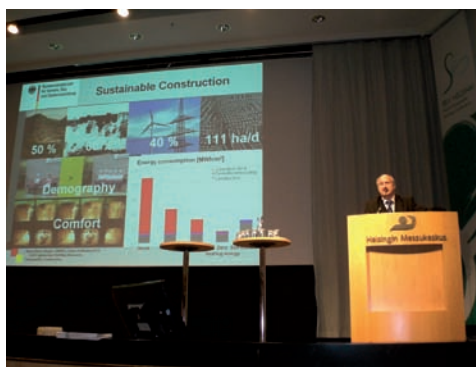
(Pictures by BBSR)



green and sustainable procurement by the public sector.

Regarding this issue, the BBSR organised a Special Forum "Sustainable public procurement – how does the public sector build." The Special Forum was moderated by Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil Thomas Lützkendorf from the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) in Germany. In one and a half hour we listened to the following lectures and had some time for an interesting discussion:

- Dr. Sven Damman, European Commission – EU-policies: "Green Public Procurement in Europe – Topics and Trends"
- MR Dipl.-Ing. Hans-Dieter Hegner, Head of Division, Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development, Germany: "National Strategy of Sustainable Development"
- Dipl.-Ing. Nicolas Kerz, head of Office for Sustainable Building within the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR): "Guideline and Assessment System for Sustainable Building as an Instrument for Sustainable Procurement in the Public Building Sector in Germany"
- Dipl.-Ing. Annette Aumann; Sustainable Building Group, Building Department, City of Zurich, Switzerland: "Sustainable Public Procurement in Switzerland".



Presentation of MR Hans-Dieter Hegner during the Special Forum

The Forum provided an overview on these developments and reported on the current stage of implementation within Europe. At the moment, Green Public Procurement is on the turn into Sustainable Public Procurement. It requires that aspects like life cycle costs, satisfaction of occupants and design and urban quality have to be considered in addition to energy efficiency and environmental friendliness.

Outlook

In the future, the focuses of Sustainable Building will be how to implement the ideas of sustainability in the public at large, how to improve social aspects of sustainability and how to reach developing countries. But in Germany as well scientific research will be necessary. Therefore, enough issues will remain for the next World Sustainable Building Conference that will take place in Barcelona in 2014.

Contact:

Dipl.-Ing. Andreas Rietz
Division II 5
Sustainable Building
Tel.: +49 30 18401-2750
andreas.rietz@bbr.bund.de
www.nachhaltigesbauen.de

New publication:

Wie bereiten sich Regionen auf den Klimawandel vor? How do regions prepare for climate change? Ed: BMVBS 2011

In October 2010, an expert meeting under the heading „How do regions prepare for climate change“ held during the EUREGIA in Leipzig provided a platform for presenting and discussing the outcome of these pilot projects.

While an exhibition of posters showed the individual pilot projects, the expert meeting served to present spatial planning approaches that will help combat climate change. The documentation now summarizes the outcome of the expert meeting. The synoptic presentation of the conference results (in German and English) takes account of the fact that issues of climate change do not stop at national borders. Thus, the information is also available to the international expert community.

Index of the brochure:

Preface

Regional climate impact – analyses and strategies in Germany and Europe

- Regional climate impact – analysis,

consequences and vulnerabilities

- Climate research for regions
- National Strategies

Adaptation strategies: Transnational, regional and urban approaches

- Transnational projects on climate adaptation – INTERREG
- Spatial development strategies and climate change – KlimaMORO
- Urban strategies regarding climate change – ExWoSt

Good examples

- Floods and droughts
- Heat and bioclimate
- Energy and climate protection
- Processes and instruments

Central questions of spatial planning

- Excerpts from the summary by Hanno Osenberg, Head of Division at the BMVBS

Documentation of the poster exhibition

The brochure is part of the public relations work of the German Federal Government; it is made available free of charge and is not intended for sale.

Orders from:
buergerinfo@bmvbs.bund.de
or
Gabriele.Bohm@bbr.bund.de
Keyword: Conference brochure
Climate Conference EUREGIA

Cost-optimal ways to Nearly Zero Energy Buildings – Report on the international BBSR workshop

In September, the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) hosted the international workshop „Cost-optimal ways to Nearly Zero Energy Buildings“ in Bonn. The workshop title is based on Articles 5 and 9 of the Energy Performance of Building Directive. Both topics are closely related to each other as the national definitions of “nearly zero energy building” must at least reach the cost-optimal level. During the workshop, the cost-optimal method was presented by the Commission. Furthermore, International experts reported about their national approaches for cost-optimal Nearly Zero Energy Buildings in 2020.

The cost-optimal level

The cost-optimal level describes the energy performance level or character of an energy efficiency-related measure (e.g. insulation thickness) with the highest net present value within 30 years of economic lifecycle. All member states calculate these costs based on models of new buildings and measures on existing buildings. Such calculations require an analysis of sensitivity considering various market rates and energy price developments. In order to meet national conditions, the calculation framework provides variable parameters for all member states.

Germany on the way towards cost-optimal Nearly Zero Energy Buildings

While developing the political strategy towards 2020, the German Federal Government will be supported by a well-respected research group of the Fraunhofer Institute for Building Physics. Openness towards technology and preserving an utmost architectural variety will be major objectives of future considerations. In order to guarantee building owners and planners reliability of planning in the medium term, the BBSR will order the formulation of a guideline next year presenting typical building elements and technical building equipment to realise the Nearly Zero Energy Building standard.

National ways of implementation in Europe

When defining the Nearly Zero Energy level, all member states require an adequate scope of energy balance taking renewable energy sources into account. The present limitation of renewable energy sources produced nearby and used by the same buildings seems to

be outdated from the point of view of some member states. In the long term, the energy balance scope is expected to be extended beyond the boundaries of buildings in Europe. When defining an appropriate indicator for Nearly Zero Energy Buildings, different European solutions become apparent:

In this year’s amended Dutch regulation, various steps towards 2020 have already been laid down. The target of buildings without a need for thermal heat in 2020 is reached in two steps: in 2015 (approx. -30 %) and 2018.

Denmark last toughed its energy efficiency requirements in 2010 and, with an intermediate step in 2015, is heading for the nearly zero energy building standard in 2020. The maximum final energy limit will then be 20 KWh/m²a for residential buildings and 25 KWh/m²a for non-residential buildings and a higher amount for energy-intensive buildings.

In Ireland, apart from the primary energy parameter, CO₂ emissions of buildings are restricted. Starting from 2013, CO₂ neutrality requirements will be launched for residential buildings.

Without being bound to Brussels, Switzerland is also striving for Nearly Zero Energy Buildings. Besides an efficient building envelope, the requirements demanded for total energy efficiency is defined based on the maximum share of non-renewable energy sources. Each building owner is thus free to take better insulation measures or to incorporate renewable energy sources. The current requirements (4.8 litre house) of 2008 are planned to be restricted in 2014 to the then applicable nearly zero energy building standard.

Apart from legal requirements, all countries include subsidies, marketing and communication activities in their national strategies for promoting nearly zero energy buildings on the market.

Summary

Openness to technologies is a major concern of all member states in calculating and defining requirements for nearly zero energy buildings. The European trend shows that the energy balance scope is, in the long term, extended beyond the boundaries of buildings to better take renewable energy sources into account.

Contact:

Sara Kunkel
Division II 2
Energy Saving and Climate
Protection
Tel.: +49 228 99401-1632
sara.kunkel@bbr.bund.de
www.bbsr.bund.de
All slides of the workshop
are available on buildup.eu.

Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities – An online evaluation tool for cities



A web-based instrument, offering cities the possibility to evaluate their urban development concepts or single projects on the urban neighbourhood level, is currently being developed in the context of a Europe-wide dialogue. The instrument – the Reference Framework for Sustainable Cities, in short RFSC – is based on 33 core indicators, which help cities to find strategic answers on a set of challenges every local authority is presently facing:

- Enhancing economic attractiveness
- Further developing the local economy and thus focusing on research and development (R&D)
- Ensuring the quality of accessibility as well as infrastructures to be used efficiently
- Supporting the sustainable production of local products and boosting the environment-friendly use of products and services
- Providing employment on site
- Developing a multi-faceted local economy
- Improving the quality of local public services and securing their accessibility
- Creating excellent education and life-long learning facilities
- Supporting a well-functioning health care system open to all citizens
- Safeguarding living quality and developing liveable urban neighbourhoods
- Supporting social integration and equal opportunities
- Cultivating culture and leisure opportunities and securing their accessibility
- Facing climate change as well as enhancing cities' adaptability
- Preserving and developing biological urban diversity
- Reducing environmental damages
- Safeguarding the quality and disposability of natural resources
- Maintaining and developing the architectural quality of a city, its public spaces and surrounding landscape
- Creating integrated sustainability strategies for cities
- Integrating deprived neighbourhoods
- Designing local administrative structures
- Safeguarding the sustainable sourcing of integrated urban development
- Observing and monitoring regularly the development progress in a city

- Cooperating with other local authorities or parts of authorities of different administrative levels
- Enhancing an active civil society
- Supporting the knowledge exchange amongst stakeholders in a city and creating networks

Mastering these challenges requires integrated approaches of urban development which may be designed and implemented by employing the RFSC. In addition, cities may find peer cities as partners of common background in applying this instrument. The RFSC is thus providing comparative grids.

The RFSC is presently being tested by 66 European test cities of different sizes as it is to become a tool suitable for work in practice. As soon as the test phase will have been closed at the end of this year, the instrument will be available online from spring 2012 on and open to everybody interested.

The tool is based on the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities, which was adopted by the EU Member States' Ministers for Urban Development under the German EU Presidency in 2007. The subsequent EU Presidencies France and Spain initiated the further development of the RFSC at Marseille in 2008 and Toledo in 2010.

Both EU Member States, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions and the European Commission have developed the RFSC by joint initiative. A committee, being composed of representatives of these partners, is monitoring the development activities. National Support Groups help facilitate networking in the respective national contexts. The alpha version of the tool was designed by the Lyon-based French institute CERTU whereas the beta version is being developed by the Dutch institute NICIS from The Hague, which accompanies the test phase. The BBSR is partner in the development phase and takes care of integrating the experiences made by cities in Germany in the process.

For the alpha version of the RFSC, please see <http://rfsc-demo.tomos.fr/>

Contact:

André Müller
Division I 3
European Spatial and
Urban Development
Tel.: +49 228 99401-2341
andre.mueller@bbr.bund.de

ESPON project “Indicators and perspectives for services of general interest in territorial cohesion and development (SeGI)”

Further information:

The inception report was finished on 14th October and is published on the ESPON homepage:

www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_AppliedResearch/SeGI.html

Draft Final Report:

18 October 2012

Final Report:

25 February 2013

Contact:

Ina Breuer
 Antonia Milbert
 Division I 6
 Spatial and Urban
 Monitoring
 Tel.: +49 228 99401-2262
 and -2256
 Ina.breuer@
 bbr.bund.de
 Antonia.milbert@bbr.bund.de
 www.bbsr.bund.de

The White Paper on services of general interest (CEC 2004) stresses their importance as a part of the values shared by all European societies forming an essential element of the European model of society. The need to ensure the provision of high-quality and affordable services of general interest to all citizens and enterprises in the European Union is clear as their role is essential for increasing the quality of life of all citizens and for overcoming social exclusion and isolation and furthermore for maintaining the competitiveness of the European economy.

The changing regulatory and technological environment as well as the growing impact of municipal policies on services of general interest has highlighted the need for proper evaluation of the performance of these services at municipal as well as at national level. The evaluation of services of general interest is a complex task. A comprehensive evaluation must be multidisciplinary and multidimensional and include political, economic, social and environmental aspects, including externalities.

The prime objective of the SeGI project is to address the identified need for supporting policy formulation to all levels of governance and with respect to all types of territories for effectively providing services of general interest throughout Europe. Further objectives of this research project are to create relevant datasets, indicators, typologies and scenarios concerning services of general interest.

The BBSR is one of eleven partners in this project; the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm is the lead partner. The BBSR is responsible for the activity “indicators and data”, which is one of the key tasks regarding the analytical approach of the project.

Defining services of general interest – specifications and first indicator proposals

The term “services of general interest” (SGI) has widely been accepted. Accordingly, an operational definition of SGI cannot be provided by EU legislation and jurisprudence. In literature and official documents the term “services” is seldom if at all contested or even discussed. The most commonly used tools for grouping services are the principles of standard classification of economic activities.

The method of defining SGI indicators is therefore strictly deductive; a starting point is the theoretical operationalisation of SGI followed by a “translation” of this operationalisation into indicators. The pragmatic operation of SGI defines 82 NACE (Nomenclature statistique des activités économiques dans la Communauté européenne) classes within 13 sections as units in which the question of “social housing” has not been covered so far and has to be specifically treated.

The indicators also have to address the various standards of SGI-quality, availability, accessibility and affordability. Main constraint regarding the development of indicators is the unsatisfying data situation.

Deepening the analytical approach by case studies

The aim is to reveal the territorial distribution and definition of SGI in certain European regions while showing the potential of and constraints on territorial development in the context of SGI within different types of territories including rural, urban, peri-urban, mountainous, islands, coastal and outermost regions (see table). Moreover, the analysis of these cases focuses on the contribution of various SGI to global competitiveness, economic development and the growth of cities, to urban agglomerations and other territories across Europe. The case studies will be performed at the national as well as at regional geographical scales.

SeGI case study selection

Country	Region	Characteristics		Welfare regime
Austria	East Austrian Periphery	Border area, mountainous, urban/rural	EU15	Corporative
Germany	Ruhrgebiet	Densely populated, post-industrial, inside Pentagon	EU15	Corporative
Hungary	Dél-Alföld	Agricultural, peripheral	NMS	Transitory
Iceland	Northeast	Island, coastal peripheral, rural	CC	Social democratic
Norway	Finnmark	Outermost, coastal	EES	Social democratic
Poland	Mazowsze	Urban/rural, metropolitan	NMS	Transitory
Romania	Northeast	Metropolitan	NMS	Transitory
Spain	Navarre	Mountainous, peripheral, rural	EU15	Family
U.K.	South Gloucestershire	Peri-urban	EU15	Liberal

Strategies to optimise transnational cooperation (INTERREG B) from 2014

European transnational cooperation has been a success. Transnational cooperation means that various stakeholders from different governments, varying from the EU to the local level, different disciplines and organisations of the member states work together. Via cross-sectoral approaches, new solutions are found on a practical basis. The ex-post evaluation of the INTERREG III programmes confirms that the intensity of cooperation achieved within the INTERREG B programmes is a particular result of transnational cooperation. INTERREG B has thus become an important instrument of European integration and an essential element of cohesion policy in the context of the EU27.

The importance of transnational cooperation is also reflected by the fact that the European Commission has for the first time submitted a draft regulation on the European Territorial Cooperation objective. The Commission presented the draft on 6 October 2011 as part of a large legislative package for the cohesion policy 2014–2020.

The proposals of the European Commission will be discussed by the European Council and the European Parliament. Negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework for the whole EU budget will continue in parallel. A final agreement on the future structure will not be expected before the end of 2012.

Draft regulation on transnational cooperation from 2014

The recommended budget for territorial cooperation amounts to 11.7 billion euros, 20.78 % (2.43 billion euros) of it being reserved for transnational cooperation. Compared to the programming period 2007–2013 (1.82 billion euros), the budget was increased by more than 25 %.

According to the proposals of the Commission, the orientation of transnational cooperation towards an integrated territorial development will be maintained in the future. A new feature is the straight orientation towards the Europe 2020 strategy with its priorities on smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. Compared to the current programming period, more investive measures might be taken. The European Territorial Cooperation regulation explicitly lays down the possibility for transnational cooperation to support the development and implementation of macroregional strategies. The draft regulation also submits proposals to simplify the programme implementation

procedures and on more harmonisation.

Positions of the INTERREG IV B Working Group

Already in the run-up to the publication of the draft regulations, the German INTERREG IV B Working Group has taken the discussion on the future cohesion policy as a reason to formulate a position paper on the future of transnational cooperation and to bring it to the European discussion process.

The Working Group is intended to support exchange between the five European transnational cooperation programmes in Germany. Its members comprise representatives of the federal government departments involved in INTERREG IV B and the chairs of the German INTERREG IV B committees, who come from federal state ministries.

The position paper concentrates joint practice-related experiences and positions of the bodies responsible for INTERREG B in Germany. One priority is to take the Territorial Agenda 2020 as an important reference basis for transnational cooperation.

Proposals to optimise the INTERREG B programmes

The position paper is completed and substantiated by the proposals of the network of German Contact Points and the BBSR how to optimise the INTERREG B programmes, which are to serve as a working and discussion basis for formulating the new programmes. The proposals range from:

- generating projects (proposals concerning application procedures and modalities or evaluation criteria)
- and implementing projects (e.g. proposals how to finance projects, concerning reporting and procedures in connection with project changes etc.)
- to managing programmes (proposals how to optimise internal programme structures).

The focus is on concrete experience-based proposals for simplification and harmonisation as well as for a better openness of and compatibility between the INTERREG B programmes. Especially Germany with its participation in five transnational programmes may significantly contribute to this point.



INTERREG_B
ZUSAMMENARBEIT. GRENZENLOS.

At www.interreg.de ("INTERREG nach 2013"), the BBSR periodically presents latest trends in advancing transnational cooperation (in German).

This is where you can find the position paper of the INTERREG IV B Working Group and soon the proposals how to optimise the INTERREG B programmes as well (also in English).

For the draft regulations, please have a look at the European Commission's Inforegio website: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/what/future/proposals_2014_2020_en.cfm#

Contact:

Brigitte Ahlke
Division I 3 European Spatial and Urban Development
Tel.: +49 228 99401-2330
brigitte.ahlke@bbr.bund.de

5th European Dialogue: Poland and Germany – already closer together than expected

The 5th European Dialogue with the EU Commission's regional representation office in Bonn took place on 6 July 2011 in Bonn.

The European Dialogues are hosted by the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) within the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) together with the EU Commission's regional representation office in Bonn. They take place one to two times per year and deal with current European topics. A thematic introduction by speakers is usually followed by a discussion with the audience and with experts. Not only experts but all citizens from the region are invited.

The start of the Polish EU Council Presidency on 1 July 2011, the 20th anniversary of the German-Polish Treaty of Good Neighbourship and Friendly Cooperation and also the opening of the North Rhine-Westphalia-Poland Year 2011/2012 by the government of North Rhine-Westphalia were the background of a Dialogue on the topic "Poland and Germany – already closer together than expected...".

During the Dialogue, important political topics, such as economy or demography, as well as Polish-German projects in the field of regional development were presented.

At the beginning of the Dialogue, a representative of the consulate general of the Republic of Poland in Cologne gave an overview of the expectations and priorities of the Polish EU Council Presidency against the background of events such as the European debt crisis, which, according to him, might only be tackled by expanding the EU and improving integration. Further topics during the Council Presidency were security issues, not only in military terms but also in terms of energy supply and food. The future cohesion policy as well as the relations to Eastern non-EU countries will also play an important role during the Council Presidency. The vice-consul also emphasised that the Polish are keen Europeans and would like to be inspiring Europeans – in the context of the EU Council Presidency and beyond.

Following that speech, the head of the BBSR explained the links between research of the BBSR and Poland, the neighbouring country. The question where Polish and Germans have moved closer together than expected and where are (still) discrepancies was then discussed based on maps on the demographic development and on the development of the employment and unemployment rates.

The director of the regional development department of the Lower Silesian Governor's Office spoke about concrete local developments by the example of Wroclaw agglomeration. A variety of transport projects was for example launched – also backed by the EU – such as the reconstruction of the main station and the modernisation of Wroclaw airport. But, in his opinion, there would still remain a need to improve the transport connections between Germany and Poland. While in 1936, a journey by train from Berlin to Wroclaw took 2h 44, it presently takes more than five hours. In the priority projects of the Trans-European Networks as well, the German Polish border area was rather "underrepresented" – according to him a gap which could hopefully be soon closed.

Finally, a representative of the BBSR presented examples of cooperation in the German-Polish border area. Following an introduction into economy, demography and tourism in the related areas – four voivodeships and four federal states with 20 million inhabitants – the BBSR's Demonstration Projects of Spatial Planning (MORO) and INTERREG projects were presented. The MORO projects focus on the improvement of transport links between Germany and Poland, a competition to strengthen the motivation of regional stakeholders and the improvement of information by a transport infrastructure map. In the context of European transnational cooperation (INTERREG B), the projects Via Regia, BaltseaPlan and INTER-Regio-Rail were presented (for more information please see www.interreg.de).

Contact:

Dr. Angelika Perner
Division I 3
European Spatial and Urban
Development
Tel.: 0228 99410-2336
angelika.perner@bbr.bund.de

Impressions of the event

Pictures: Dirk Gebhardt



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.

Conservation of historic urban sites and urban development

Many historic old towns worldwide are UNESCO World Heritage Sites and have to be maintained for the global cultural history. Within their development, these towns always have to coordinate the maintenance of unique historic things with new expectations and uses. Related problems differ according to each situation but also have many common grounds. The pressure by the real estate industry for example extremely increases in such old towns similar as the pressure caused by the rapidly growing urban and event tourism. What is increasingly important is the need to observe the overall development of cities and their surrounding landscapes when maintaining and advancing World Heritage Sites.

Biomass: perspectives of spatial development

Energy made of biomass is an essential element of sustainable energy supply concepts. Expanding bioenergy production, however, is not without controversy. Pros are a decentralised and independent energy supply with renewable energy resources reducing CO₂ emissions and last but not least the potentials for rural areas provided by the regional economy. Apart from the question “Tank or plate?”, conflicts are caused by the increasingly intensive land use connected to biomass production. The authors of this issue deal with both arguments and try to substantiate them in spatial and thematic terms. They focus on the spatially oriented management of bioenergy production and the role of spatial planning in this context.

Policy advice in spatial and urban development

To what degree are the political and scientific sides of urban and spatial development networked with each other and what does

policy advice in this field concretely mean? In order to answer these questions, political institutions as well as institutions providing policy advice on spatial planning are invited to give their opinion in this issue. The issue focuses on departmental research with its close links to political institutions, especially on policy advice provided by the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR). The many facets of its work encompassing scientific services, ad hoc reports and own preparatory research for spatial planning and urban development policy are analysed and also assessed while taking the high quality of its scientific policy advice into account.

Social coverage of housing

Adequate housing must also be available to persons and households with low incomes and is ensured by social housing supply and support programmes. All in all, more than every tenth household and even every fifth tenant household in Germany receives direct support for its housing costs. In addition, such costs are supported by (indirect) social housing funds of the German federal state governments. The issue provides information on how social housing is organised, who are the beneficiaries, the amount of funds and costs. The authors deal with problems of implementation and analyse whether related rules and regulations have to be corrected and what are the impacts of such rules on urban spaces.

Spatial aspects of the information and communication technologies

New information and communication technologies (ICT) with their applications, getting more and more sophisticated, long ago have become a part of the normal everyday and business life and have changed it. What is their effect on cities and life in cities? And how is, vice versa, the physical space including its activities present in the virtual space? Empirical findings on these questions are not yet available. Nevertheless, various use patterns of new technologies and related modified everyday practices can be better and better observed and their spatial effects be interpreted, for which the issue provides interesting articles.



The latest IzR issues deal with the following topics:

Issue 3/4.2011 Denkmalschutz und Stadtentwicklung (Conservation of historic urban sites and urban development)

Issue 5/6.2011 Biomasse: Perspektiven räumlicher Entwicklung (Biomass: perspectives of spatial development)

Issue 7/8.2011 Politikberatung in der Raum- und Stadtentwicklung (Policy advice in spatial and urban development)

Issue 9.2011 Soziale Absicherung des Wohnens (Social coverage of housing)

Issue 10/11.2011 Räumliche Aspekte der Informations- und Kommunikationstechnologien (Spatial aspects of the information and communication technologies)

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.bbr.bund.de >> publications >> IzR).

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

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Z**Editing**

Brigitte Ahlke, Marion Kickartz, Beatrix Thul

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Regional challenges in the Perspective of 2020 – Phase 2: deepening and broadening the analysis

The EU Commission has recently published the study entitled “Regional Challenges in the Perspective of 2020 – Phase 2: Deepening and Broadening the Analysis” on the basis of the previous study of the European Commission “Regions 2020” from 2008. The BBSR was one of the project partners in this study, coordinated and conducted between January 2010 and August 2011 by the Austrian Institute for Regional Studies and Spatial Planning (ÖIR) in Vienna.

The study serves as a regional political background document for the Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth of the EU Commission from March 2010.

With a methodology, that was originally developed to analyze the effects of climate change, it uses an interdisciplinary approach that analyzes the vulnerability of regions for different challenges. In detail, it examines economy and globalization, demographic change, energy, climate and social integration in their respective regional structures, their regional impact on development and potential until 2020.

The BBSR focus within the study was on aspects of demographic change and its regional impacts.

Further information

EU Commission:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information/studies/index_en.cfm#1

Austrian Institute for Regional Studies and Spatial Planning (ÖIR) (including interactive maps):

www.oir.at/node/288

Contact:

Dr. Hansjörg Bucher
Volker Schmidt-Seiwert
Division I 3
European Spatial and
Urban Development
Tel.: +49 229 99401-2246
volker.schmidt-seiwert@bbr.bund.de