



RESEARCH NEWS

Editorial

Twenty years ago, the division responsible for European spatial development was set up in the Federal Research Institute for Regional Geography and Regional Planning (BfLR), the predecessor institute of the BBSR. This gives rise to think back over what happened in the last two decades and what is the current state of affairs.

The birth of the “European spatial development division” in the former BfLR – and at the same time in the former Federal Ministry for Regional Planning, Building and Urban Development – was due to the fact that, in the context of the progressive European integration process (Single European Market, Treaty on European Union), spatial development required a European perspective. The report “Europe 2000: outlook for the development of the Community’s territory” submitted by the EC Commission in 1991, provided ideas taken up by the EU member states. To create the bases for cooperation between the member states in the field of spatial development in Europe has therefore been a central task of the European spatial development division from the beginning. This meant to analyse the most important spatial development trends in Europe based on data and maps, to develop concepts and to exchange with partner institutions in neighbouring countries.

A first important milestone was the Informal Council of Spatial Planning Ministers in Leipzig in the context of the German EU Council Presidency in 1994. In Leipzig, the ministers did not only discuss the political principles of a European spatial development policy but also underlined the necessity of a network of national spatial research institutions bringing together existing national and regional

institutions providing political advice. This was the basis for the later European Spatial Planning Observation Network ESPON. Further important milestones were the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) adopted in Potsdam in 1999, the Territorial Agenda of the EU (TAEU) adopted in 2007 and the Territorial Agenda 2020 adopted in 2011.

As a consequence of the intensifying cooperation in the field of spatial development policy, important tasks have emerged over the years, which are still today carried out in the European spatial development division: the role of the ESPON National Contact Point and monitoring transnational cooperation activities in the context of INTERREG B.

Cross-border cooperation with neighbouring countries as well has always been one of the main tasks of the division. While before 1989, priority was given to cooperation with the western neighbouring countries, the activities now increasingly concentrate on the eastern neighbouring countries.

Following the adoption of the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities in 2007, priority is also given to European urban development issues – apart from spatial development topics.

The division’s perspective is not anymore limited just to European affairs. Especially the international exchange with spatial and urban development institutions in Asia has been extended in the last few years.

The issue on hand will inform you about some of the activities mentioned above.

The editors

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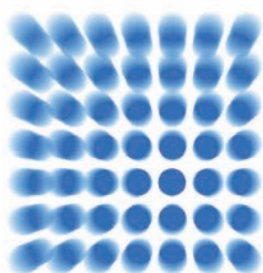
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STÄDTISCHE ENERGIEN
URBAN ENERGIES

11.–12. Oktober 2012
BERLIN

Urban Energies – The international Berlin conference held mid-October 2012

Over 1300 experts and policy-makers joined us at Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin to discuss urban energies – a topic which obviously met significant interest. Hosted by the German Federal Minister of Transport, Building and Urban Development, Dr. Peter Ramsauer, it became clear that primarily cities will be the places where the Energiewende (energy transition) takes shape. Cities will have to turn from energy consumers to energy producers. And they will thus become energetic catalysts of key social, economic, ecological, technological and cultural innovations.

In becoming innovative, cities need substantial support – not only in financial terms, but first and foremost with regard to specific formats of communication that they may use to streamline their integrated urban development. Harald Herrmann, Director and Professor of the BBSR, underlined this prerequisite while addressing the audience and offering the Institute's assistance. The cooperation project *koopstadt* (jointly carried out by the cities of Bremen, Leipzig and Nuremberg), the case of the French city of Lyon and its cooperation with Toshiba on smart grids as well as a peer-to-peer network between German and American cities served him as examples of urban development in practice.

The more global picture was drawn by two eminent speakers – Professor Jørgen Randers and Professor Saskia Sassen. Randers, author of the Club of Rome report "2052 – A Global Forecast for the Next Forty Years" and Professor at the Norwegian Business School in Oslo, broke global sustainability challenges down to the local level. He emphasized a slowly decreasing population and economic wealth, thus the need to develop societal well-being in a world without growth as well as to design a climate-friendly energy system in economically poorer parts of the world.

Sassen, Robert S. Lynd Professor of Sociology at Columbia University New York, underlined the must to listen to the city as well as its conditions and "speech". She is convinced that the city tells us what works in terms of urban development. The city might also turn into a "hacker" of urban technologies altering their original design and adjusting them to the urban user's needs.

As preparatory side events to the conference, the BBSR in cooperation with the German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development (BMVBS) staged a series of scoping workshops as starting points for new partnerships in applied research and policy advice, which were successfully established:

One project is a cooperation with the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), its Centre for Analysis and Social Exclusion as well as its Suntory and Toyota International Centres for Economics and Related Disciplines. The project, which is run together with the Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development (ILS) and the Leibniz Institute for Regional Geography (IfL), focuses on phoenix cities and their success stories in facing the challenges of economic transition. Here, the City Reformers Group, a format which originally had been invented by the Brookings Institution and further developed by LSE, serves the purpose of stimulating urban transition processes.

The other project aims at establishing and subsequently enlarging a peer-to-peer network between German and American cities which shall support cities and their administrative staff as well as political leaders in finding peers for their work routine. This project is carried out together with the German Marshall Fund of the United States, the Hauser Center at Harvard University, Georgetown University as well as the cities of Austin/Texas, Flint/Michigan and Memphis/Tennessee on the one side of the ocean and Bottrop, Leipzig and Ludwigsburg on the other.

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) had also been invited to stage a workshop and expert meeting in Berlin with a focus on greening the urban economy – an issue which had perfectly matched the programme setting. The clear workshop message: Urban energies, sustainability and economic development are not a contradictory, yet a field with lots of synergetic potentials.

A study trip following the conference focused on a peer-to-peer exchange on best practices in the field of integrated urban development and brought together senior experts and policy-makers from Brazil, China, South Africa and the USA.

Additional information:

The BMVBS published a conference documentary (in German) on the following website: www.bmvbs.de > Presse > Pressemitteilungen > Internationale Konferenz Städtische Energien in Berlin

The preliminary proceedings of the conference are available on the National Urban Development Policy website: www.nationale-stadtentwicklungspolitik.de > Internationale Konferenz „Städtische Energien / Urban Energies“ des Bundesministeriums für Verkehr, Bau und Stadtentwicklung

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The brochure can be obtained free of charge from:
referat-i1@bbr.bund.de,
reference:
Urban-Rural Partnerships

New brochure on urban-rural partnerships

With their project on supraregional partnerships, conducted under the “Demonstration Projects on Spatial Planning (MORO)” research programme, the German Federal Ministry on Transport, Building and Urban Development and the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development in the last few years searched for ways to strengthen the relationships between various urban and rural areas and to build up urban-rural partnerships. A brochure in German and English language, created together with the German consulting agency “Institut Raum und Energie”, now presents the results.

Seven model regions worked on a total of more than forty subprojects. In planning the Demonstration Project, the initiators had a supraregional background in mind as cooperation should go beyond cities and their surrounding areas and beyond urban networks. Not only central and peripheral but also economically strong and weak regions should cooperate with each other. The Demonstration Project was based on the “Concepts and Strategies for Spatial Development in Germany” of 2006. Their aim was to put the idea of supraregional communities of shared responsibilities to practice in the regions and to put them on an empirical basis by way of a Demonstration Project. The Territorial Agenda, published a few time later, also demanded stronger cooperation between cities and rural areas so that the Demonstration Project on supraregional partnerships had an important stake in the European spatial planning debate.

The Demonstration Project was a complete success. It did not only attract attention in the model regions, but also German- and Europe-wide because it contributed to economic, social and territorial cohesion.

At the beginning, the Demonstration Project dealt with typical questions, e.g for adequate fields of research, stakeholders to be involved and appropriate cooperation models. The results differ depending to the region, a concept cannot be easily transferred from one region to another. Nevertheless, there are common factors which may help to realise urban-rural partnerships successfully.

The important role of local stakeholders

The brochure among other things presents seven model regions with central projects. Especially work within the projects was important because stakeholders from various regions and different professional backgrounds – political, administrative, scientific sectors – and from the civil society came together in this way and jointly put their ideas to practice. The role of local stakeholders matters. In the brochure, they get a chance in many interviews to explain the role of the Demonstration Project and to judge its impacts on the regional development.

The brochure was published at the right time. Discussions about the new Structural Funding period and implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy are well underway. Urban-rural partnerships may help to achieve the objectives of the strategy - as they activate and concentrate potentials in the various regions thus promoting economic development and improving the quality of life.

The role for European spatial development policy

The brochure was for the first time presented during the international conference “Urban. Rural. Europe. Strengthening partnerships” with Federal Minister Dr Peter Ramsauer on 19 June 2012. Delegates from the European Parliament, the European Commission and the OECD also took active parts in the conference, which underlines again the importance of urban-rural partnerships for the European spatial development policy.

Apart from the Project brochure, an online publication “Partnership for sustainable rural-urban development: existing evidences”, worked out by the BBSR and the German Association for Housing, Urban and Spatial Development on behalf of the Directorate General for Regional Policy of the European Commission, was recently published. It is a report dealing with urban-rural partnerships and presenting possibilities for them to be funded by Structural Funding programmes. It can be downloaded from the following website: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/what/cohesion/urban_rural/index_en.cfm.

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Territorial cooperation in Europe – how is it going on?

Special conferences on state and perspectives of the INTERREG B and ESPON programmes

The preparatory works for the EU Structural Funding period 2014-2020 have already begun. European Parliament, European Commission, the German Federal Government and the federal states have agreed to continue the "European territorial cooperation (ETC)". The proposals for the Structural Funds regulations submitted in October 2011 – for the first time, a separate draft regulation for the ETC has been submitted – are currently being discussed by the European Council and the European Parliament. The final regulations are expected at the beginning of 2013. Following the adoption of the regulations, the member states have nine months to submit the future transnational cooperation programmes. Concrete work on the new transnational programmes (mostly called INTERREG B) have already started though. In all five transnational cooperation areas with German participation, kick-off meetings of the newly established programming committees have taken place.

Against this background, the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development (BMVBS), which is responsible for transnational cooperation in Germany, invited to the conference „Territoriale Zusammenarbeit in Europa – wie geht es weiter?“ (Territorial cooperation in Europe – how is it going on?) on 25 September 2012 at Allianz Forum in Berlin. More than 160 stakeholders from federal state and local governments, associations, companies and research institutions accepted the invitation to discuss about achievements and future transnational cooperation.

The objective of the BMVBS was first of all to inform about the state of discussions at EU level. Another objective was to learn about the expectations and requirements of German stakeholders after 2013 so that they can be integrated in the new programmes.

Stakeholder dialogue concerning the future INTERREG B programmes

The conference thus marked the beginning of a stakeholder dialogue among various German institutions concerning the future programmes. Other important elements of this process are the following:

- The BMVBS and the BBSR plan to contact relevant Federal Government institutions as well as associations, working groups.

- Concentrating the initiatives of the German federal states is necessary as they play an important role in terms of stakeholder participation in their relevant regions.
- Regular and latest information is important. The BBSR has established a new section on transnational cooperation from 2014 on its website www.interreg.de in order to back the programming process. There you will find the latest details about the state of discussion on the programmes in the cooperation areas with German participation.

ESPON serving transnational cooperation

This was the heading under which the BBSR in its role as the German Contact Point (ECP) of the European Spatial Planning Observation Network ESPON organised a seminar on 30 October 2012 in Berlin. Experts from ministries and administrations as well as interested persons from institutions, universities and research facilities, that deal with ESPON and/or INTERREG, attended the seminar.

The aim of the seminar was to discuss how transnational cooperation might benefit from the knowledge about territorial development gained in the context of the ESPON activities. In other words, an exchange of ideas during the seminar was intended to find out how both programmes might even more benefit from each other in the future programming period.

The seminar started with presentations from different ESPON projects that deal with the topics transport, innovation and climate, which are of special interest for INTERREG B. After this, introductory presentations gave insight into several ESPON projects that were started on the initiative of INTERREG cooperation areas and that are linked to German cooperation areas in terms of contents or territory. On this basis, several ESPON and INTERREG actors discussed ideas with the audience how to use ESPON results for shaping the INTERREG B programmes. During the last seminar session, a group of different ESPON actors reflected on conclusions to be drawn from the transnational experience for the ESPON 2020 programme.

The seminar was organised in the framework of the project „SCALES - Breakdown and capitalisation of ESPON results on different scales“.



For further information on the transnational cooperation activities from 2014, please see www.interreg.de > "INTERREG ab 2014" (in German).

More information about the SCALES project can be found at www.bbsr.bund.de > English > Research Programmes > ESPON

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Construction boom in Germany in times of crisis

Bursting property bubbles in various countries have had considerable contractive effects on the macroeconomic output. As a consequence of the economic and financial crisis in Europe, the European construction industry also to undergo a number of adjustment processes. In the context of its monitoring activities, the BBSR has analysed related development trends of the European construction industry.

The construction volume in Europe has significantly decreased since 2007. Real construction investments currently have the same level as in 2000. About half of this decline can be attributed to Spain. Similar slumps can be found in Ireland, Greece and, to some degree, also in Portugal. The development of the construction industry in Germany is to some extent extraordinary in Europe. Between 2000 and 2007, the average annual growth rates in France, Spain, Great Britain and Ireland were generally positive while negative rates could be found in Germany and Portugal. Between 2007 and 2011, the situation changed: Only Germany had a positive growth rate. In Greece and Spain, the construction investments have nearly halved since 2007. The most significant slump can be found in Ireland with a decline by 64 %.

Especially the housing sector provoked the decline of the European construction activities. While in 2007, about 700 billion euros were invested in the whole EU, investments in 2011 (566 billion euros) are still below the level of 2000. Slumps in the housing sector were primarily caused by the consequences of the Spanish property bubble. In Spain, investments in 2011 had increased by 48 billion euros compared to 2007. A surplus of dwellings, high indebtedness of private households, builders and construction firms as well as complicated financing conditions were the reasons for the sudden decline in the private housing sector. In 2012, the construction of dwellings decreased by around 600,000 compared to the peak year.

Due to the construction crisis, all countries with formerly high growth rates in the housing sector now show significant slumps, Germany being a positive exception. Investments in the housing sector in 2007 declined by around 23 billion euros compared to 2000 as new construction activities severely decreased. Despite the general European trend, an increase be observed. While all other relevant European housing markets significantly declined, only Germany was able to record slight growths.

In the non-housing sector as well, Germany plays a special role. Only here, investments in commercial and public construction could be increased since the beginning of the crisis – while nearly all other European countries have suffered declines in the non-housing sector since 2007 due to the crisis.

In spite of the construction boom, which meanwhile happened in a number of member states, the share of the whole European building sector in the gross value added of the EU 27 has not increased since 2000. Since 2008, the rate has even been slightly declining. These declines can be observed for nearly all of the investigated countries in this article. Germany though, where the construction sector significantly expanded in the last few years, again forms an exception although the share of the German construction sector in the national gross value added with less than 4 % is very low. As the German economy is export-oriented and current account surpluses are high, compared to other countries, the majority of the value added is kept in the German economy. Large parts of the national gross value added are produced by the manufacturing sector, the automotive industry and mechanical engineering sectors having a high export quota. The value added in the manufacturing sector is more than twice as high as in France, Italy or the United Kingdom.

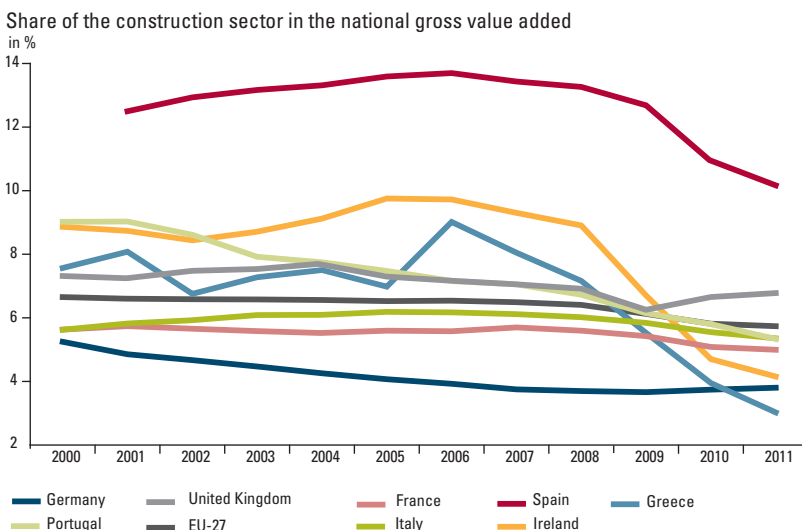
The construction sector in peripheral EU countries, which is expected to decline initially, is said to increase from 2014 at the earliest. Dynamic new construction activities lead to further growth in Germany.



For further details please see issue No 11/2012 of the BBSR-Analysen KOMPAKT publication series (in German).

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Source: Eurostat, own illustration



Housing and Property Markets in Germany 2011 at a Glance Analysen KOMPAKT 02/2012

With the report “Wohnungs- und Immobilienmärkte in Deutschland 2011”, the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) has for the third time published a comprehensive overview of current trends and trends to be expected on housing and property markets. The English summary – Housing and Property Markets in Germany 2011 at a Glance – was published in the context of the Analysen KOMPAKT series of the BBSR. In the following, some of the results will be presented:

many places. Property prices have especially increased in prosperous large cities.

Uncertainty factors such as the worldwide economic development or the stability of some EU member states and of the euro unsettle property markets – especially the commercial property sector. Nevertheless, especially residential properties as alternative forms of investment to other investment products are used.

Download BBSR-Analysen KOMPAKT No 2/2012
www.bbsr.bund.de
Publications > BBSR-Analysen KOMPAKT

Housing and property markets getting more heterogeneous

Housing and property markets in Germany are becoming more and more heterogeneous. Economically powerful regions with migration gains and supply bottlenecks face economically underdeveloped, shrinking areas with housing vacancy problems. In the last few years, the disparities between “expensive” regions and regions “at reasonable prices” have increased. This is revealed by the property prices and rents. The demographic change has changed the structures of households. New lifestyles and flexibility in terms of jobs have changed people’s demands as well. Aspects such as situation, design and quality of dwellings – especially with regard to energy efficiency and age of owners – gain in importance.

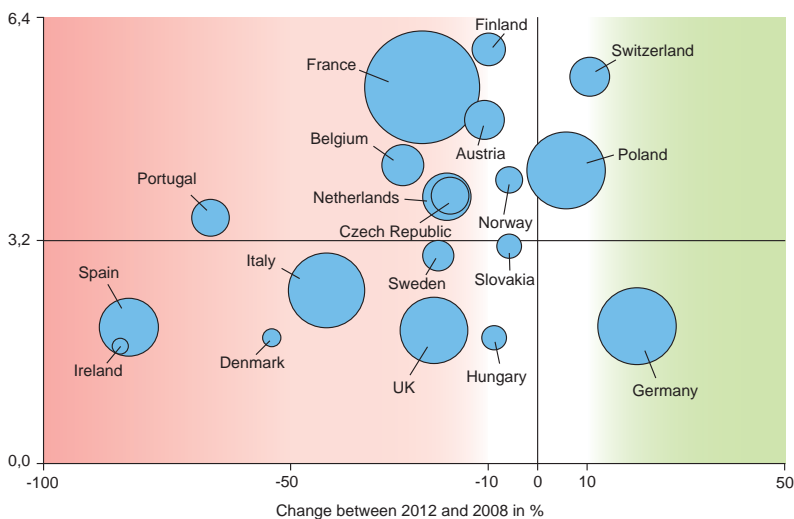
German housing and property markets resisted the financial and economic crisis

The German housing and property markets well managed the financial and economic crisis in 2008/2009 compared to other countries. A lack of property price bubbles, various housing and property supply structures and a sound, safety-oriented financial system have for many years ensured stable property prices. Currently, due to constant demand, rents are growing in

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Multiple constellations for completed housing construction in Europe – Level 2011 and dynamics 2008 to 2012

Completed residential units per 1,000 inhabitants



Level
Completed residential units 2011 in 1,000s

Dynamics

- Red square: Dramatic decline
- Pink square: Substantial decline
- White square: Slight decline and/or slight recovery
- Green square: Moderate increase

Legend for Level: Three concentric blue circles representing 100, 50, and 25 units.

Data source: Euroconstruct 2011 © BBSR Bonn 2011

Following fifteen years of decline, housing construction activities are increasing again

The housing supply must be adapted to a changed demand, which is done by refurbishing and modernising housing stocks or by building new dwellings. Completions of buildings – whether private residential buildings or multiple dwellings – clearly declined between the mid-90s and 2009. Since 2010, this trend has changed. The number of building permissions for and completions of new dwellings has clearly increased.

By 2025, the BBSR Housing Market Forecast 2025 expects the demand for living space to rise by around 6 %. The demand for new dwellings will especially concentrate on “growth islands”, i.e. on large parts in West Germany as well as in the cities of Berlin, Potsdam and their closer surrounding region in Eastern Germany. Single and two-family houses cover two-thirds of the forecasted demand for new dwellings.

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.

European transport corridors and regional development

By 2030, the EU plans to realise a trans-European transport network and, by 2050, to expand the intermodal – road, railway and water – core network. In this way, Europe shall grow further together, be linked to destinations beyond its borders and European spatial development in general shall be promoted. European, national and regional interests mesh and ideally support each other. The issue on hand deals with this variety. The trans-European transport network policy is described, the role of transport in transnational spatial development projects is analysed and important regional initiatives and projects along existing and/or European transport axes to be expanded are presented.

Civic investments in the energy turn

Expanding the use of renewable energies only can turn the energy supply in Germany to the direction decided upon. Inevitably, energy production and new energy infrastructures will increasingly take place in the regions. How can acceptance by the local population be reached? The regional organisation of energy production, general and economic participation of citizens and regional added value may answer this question and have already been successfully practised – as shown in this issue.

The journal is available in German language with English abstracts. Some issues contain articles in English language. The abstracts are available as free downloads (www.bbsr.bund.de >> English >> publications >> Informationen zur Raumentwicklung).

The IzR can be obtained from the Franz Steiner Verlag (service@steiner-verlag.de) and from bookshops. It can be ordered as single issue or by yearly subscription. The price for a subscription is 72 euros, a single issue costs 19 euros. All prices plus postage and packing.



The latest IzR issues:

Issue 7/8 2012

Europäische Verkehrskorridore und Raumentwicklung (European transport corridors and regional development)

Issue 9/10.2012

Bürgerinvestitionen in die Energiewende (Civic investments in the energy turn)

Recent analyses of the European spatial structures and development now online in English

The BBSR runs a spatial information system which provides the basis for analysing the spatial development in Germany and in Europe. The so-called “Spatial Monitoring System” and its components have been laid down in the Federal Spatial Planning Act as part of the information system of the Federal Republic of Germany.

This source of information and its great variety offer territorial knowledge of all kind in different forms from printed products to information available online. Most recent analyses on territorial structures and developments in the form of maps and graphs but also basic information on regional settings,

typologies and related background information for Germany and Europe are available in German at www.raumbeobachtung.de.

Just recently, information and results of analyses concerning European regions have been published in English at the English web page of the BBSR. You will for example find regional information on wind and photovoltaic energy production. The offer will be regularly extended. For further details, please have a look at the following website:

www.bbsr.bund.de > Spatial development > Spatial development in Europe > European spatial and urban monitoring (method/concept)

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special (English)

stadt:pilot special**Renewable energies, energy efficiency and climate protection in the city of tomorrow**

In just a short period of time, energy and climate protection have become central issues of integrated urban development and for sure of urban planning, too. Much is new. Solutions have to be tested and skills must be developed in countless locations. This makes it all the more important to discuss new approaches with the responsible actors on a broad basis.

The publication “stadt:pilot special” presents the results of the discussions held during a transfer workshop entitled “Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency in the City of Tomorrow” on 21 June 2011 at the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development. More than sixty stakeholders from the fields of municipal policies, administrations and urban planning being in charge of model projects in the context of the National Urban Development Policy initiative and model projects in the field of research on “energy-efficient urban renewal”, funded under the Experimental Housing and Urban Development (ExWoSt) programme, participated in the workshop.

Three aspects were relevant for urban development from the point of view of the participants of the workshop: cooperation, integrated approaches and the neighbourhood level as a field of action. These factors represent a “thread” existent in different articles of this issue. The central principle of energy and climate protection in urban development needs to be much more detached from a sectoral, technical viewpoint and instead be incorporated in an integrated, comprehensive spatial strategy. This automatically results in new constellations of actors and calls for a cooperative approach. Alongside the evaluation of technical feasibility, communication and participation need to be promoted as central tasks more than ever before.

In this special edition of the “stadt:pilot” magazine, nine main results are developed under the heading “energy topic” and are completed with comments, interviews, portraits and reports. The special edition, which, in German, was published in October 2011, is intended to support municipalities in realising energy-efficient urban development.

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