



RESEARCH NEWS

No 2 / December 2013

Dear Readers,

Whether on the European, the national, the regional or the local level: Europe-wide spatial information – ranging from data and indicators to analyses – becomes more and more important and is required by decision-makers on all territorial levels to take strategic political and entrepreneurial decisions. However, the daily routine shows how difficult it still is to provide Europe-wide spatial data, on the one hand, and to interpret them within the relevant spatial context and make them usable, on the other. The European Spatial Planning Observation Network ESPON serves to improve the knowledge and information bases of the European spatial development policy and tries to find a solution for these deficits.

In the context of the ESPON SeGI project (see article of Breuer and Milbert), for example, a “European Atlas of Services of General Interest” was produced. In creating it, it became clear that important areas still cannot be depicted owing to a lack of comparable data. The article of Kirsten Hohmann concerning the ESPON SCALES project explicitly takes up the problem of different spatial contexts. During the project, different methods for evaluating Europe-wide spatial data on a regional level were developed.

Exchange and cooperation are fundamental to create a joint understanding for spatial development processes. This is not only true for the field of spatial development but also in the contexts of urban development, as shown by André Müller in his article, and construction. The latter is underlined by the article of Andreas Rietz reporting about a number of regional conferences in the context of the upcoming World Sustainable Building Conference 2014 in Barcelona.

Happy reading!
The editors

■ Spatial Development

The ESPON SCALES project: how to better disseminate European territorial development information on different spatial scales – page 2

Services of General Interest in Europe – results of the ESPON SeGI project page 3

■ Urban Development

International cooperation in urban development – nice-to-have or must-be? page 5

■ Building and Architecture

Construction patents: Germany holds the lead in Europe– page 7

International exchange of experience at the Sustainable Building Conferences 2013 – page 8

■ Latest Map

Potential regions eligible for funding under the EU structural policy 2014–2020 – page 11

The ESPON SCALES project: how to better disseminate European territorial development information on different spatial scales

In the ESPON project “Breakdown and capitalisation of ESPON results on different scales (SCALES)”, ESPON Contact Points (ECPs) from Luxembourg, Austria, Switzerland/Liechtenstein, Hungary and Germany jointly developed strategies to facilitate the application of ESPON results on various territorial levels.

The success of disseminating ESPON results is influenced by scale-related challenges

ESPON deliveries – especially maps – show the ESPON results mainly on NUTS levels. The “Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics” (NUTS) is a three-level hierarchy subdividing European countries and is mainly used for statistical purposes and the administration of the EU Structural Funds.

The majority of ESPON maps and datasets provides information on the NUTS 2 level or the NUTS 3 level. This leads to several scale-related challenges which have to be taken into account when disseminating ESPON results:

- The size of the NUTS units is extremely different; ESPON results referring to the same NUTS category therefore cannot be easily compared.
- As statistical units, NUTS units are often not congruent with relevant administrative and/or political units, so often there is not any direct target group among which the ESPON results can be disseminated. This is especially the case for the NUTS 2 level.
- In some smaller countries, there are not any NUTS units on a subnational level, therefore no regionalised territorial information is available by ESPON.
- There are very few data available on a lower level (e.g. below NUTS 3), which hampers the dissemination among local stakeholders.
- The best dissemination scale also depends on the individual topic; the relevant scale for a specific topic is, however, strongly influenced by the constitutional and administrative settings of a country.

The Co-Zi-Co approach to deal with scales challenges

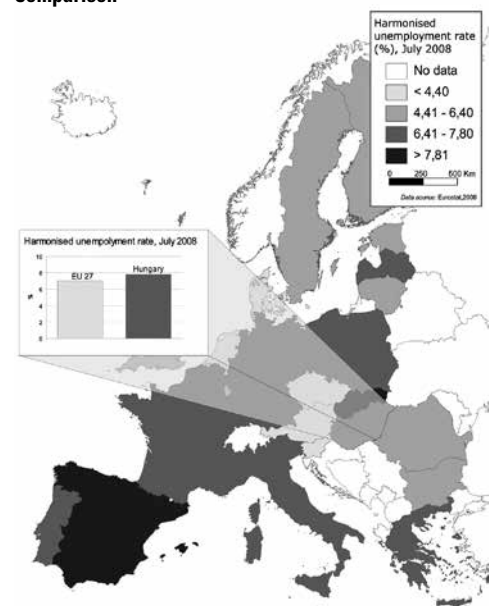
To deal with these challenges, the SCALES project partners developed a targeted dissemination strategy, the so-called Co-Zi-Co approach, which is based on the “Comparing”, “Zooming-In” and “Completion” methods.

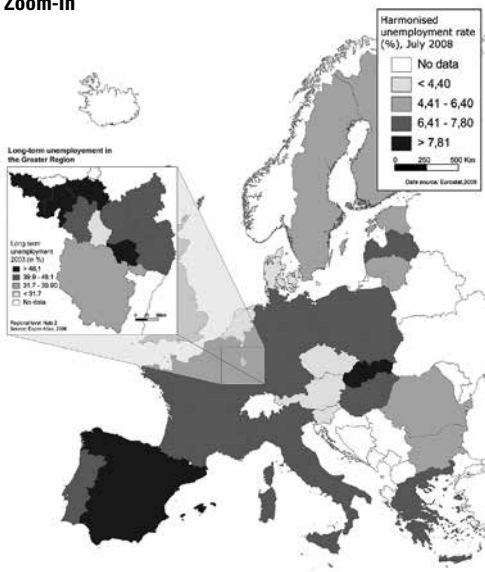
Comparing is about assessing the situation of the region back home in contrast with another region in order to illustrate parallel or diverging trends. It can also be of interest for local stakeholders to identify other EU regions that have similar patterns of development.

Zooming-In may help small states or regions with strong transregional or cross-border interdependencies to take more specific debates into account. It works by increasing the size of the map or by delivering the data on a finer scale.

Completion means either filling the gaps within ESPON deliveries with comparable national or regional information or by adding more relevant data to existing ones, e.g. data on a lower NUTS level, which is of higher political or administrative relevance.

Comparison

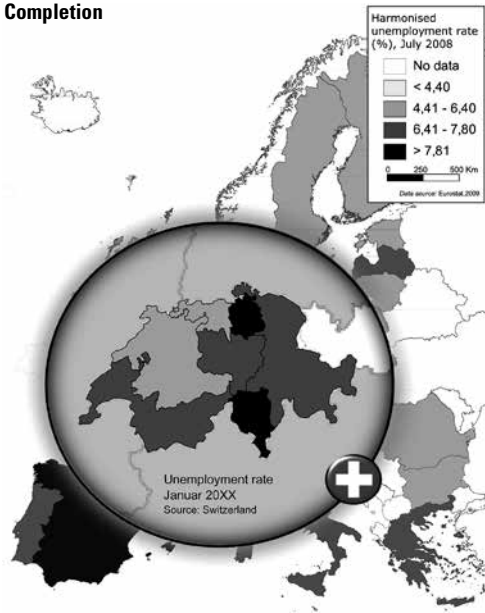


Zoom-In

The Co-Zi-Co approach was tested in five thematic seminars that took place in each of the participating countries.

The SCALES project advises all ESPON Contact Points to develop a scales-related dissemination strategy based on the needs of different target groups. ECPs should also aim at enhancing the usability of ESPON deliveries through national publications and national seminars, by translating the English material into the national language(s) and by using the Co-Zi-Co approach to enhance the ESPON deliveries.

The SCALES project also requests the ESPON Programme to take several measures to help ECPs in providing better information about European territorial developments.

Completion

More details about the SCALES analysis and the Co-Zi-Co approach can be found in the project's Final Report and in the "Guidelines for the dissemination of ESPON results in different spatial contexts", which were published to help ECPs in designing a scales-related dissemination strategy. Both documents can be found on the ESPON website (www.espon.eu) and on the project website (www.bbsr.bund.de/BBSR/EN → Programmes → ESPON → ESPON SCALES → Publications).

ESPON, the European Spatial Planning Observation Network, was founded in 2002 as a transnational cooperation network to provide information about European territorial development. The SCALES project lasted from September 2010 to April 2013. The BBSR was the Lead Partner in this project.

Contact:

Kirstin Hohmann
Division I 3
European Spatial and
Urban Development
Phone: +49 228 99401-2342
kirstin.hohmann@bbr.bund.de

Services of General Interest in Europe – results of the ESPON SeGI project

During the current economic and financial crisis it has become clear that several EU members do not have the financial resources to maintain their current levels of Services of General Interest (SGI) in general, and Social Services of General Interest (SSGI), in particular. The timely and consistent delivery of SGI is crucial for the functioning of the modern welfare state which provides implicit and explicit support to

the innovative and economically productive parts of the economy. This is one of the empirical key findings of the ESPON project "Indicators and Perspectives for Services of General Interest in Territorial Cohesion and Development (SeGI)". Furthermore, empirical evidence from the case studies clearly demonstrates the emergence of such trends in some regions of Europe.

Further information:

www.espon.eu > Projects > Applied Research > Services of General Interest - SeGI

European Atlas of Services of General Interest
 Order address:
 antonia.milbert@bbr.bund.de
 Orders are free of charge.
 www.bbsr.bund.de > English
 > Publications > Special publications

Contact:

Ina Marie Breuer
 Division I 3
 European Spatial and Urban Development
 Phone: +49 228 99401-2262
 inamarie.breuer@bbr.bund.de
 Antonia Milbert
 Division I 6
 Spatial and Urban Monitoring
 Phone: +49 228 99401-2256
 antonia.milbert@bbr.bund.de

The management and administration of SGI provision and the fulfillment of related standards in respect of this provision is clearly an issue first and foremost for providers. However, the provision of public or social services is clearly undergoing a period of radical change. Organizing SGI thus entails a division of (public) responsibility. Public, private and civic providers can all be tasked with SGI provision, either in co-operative arrangements or exclusively.

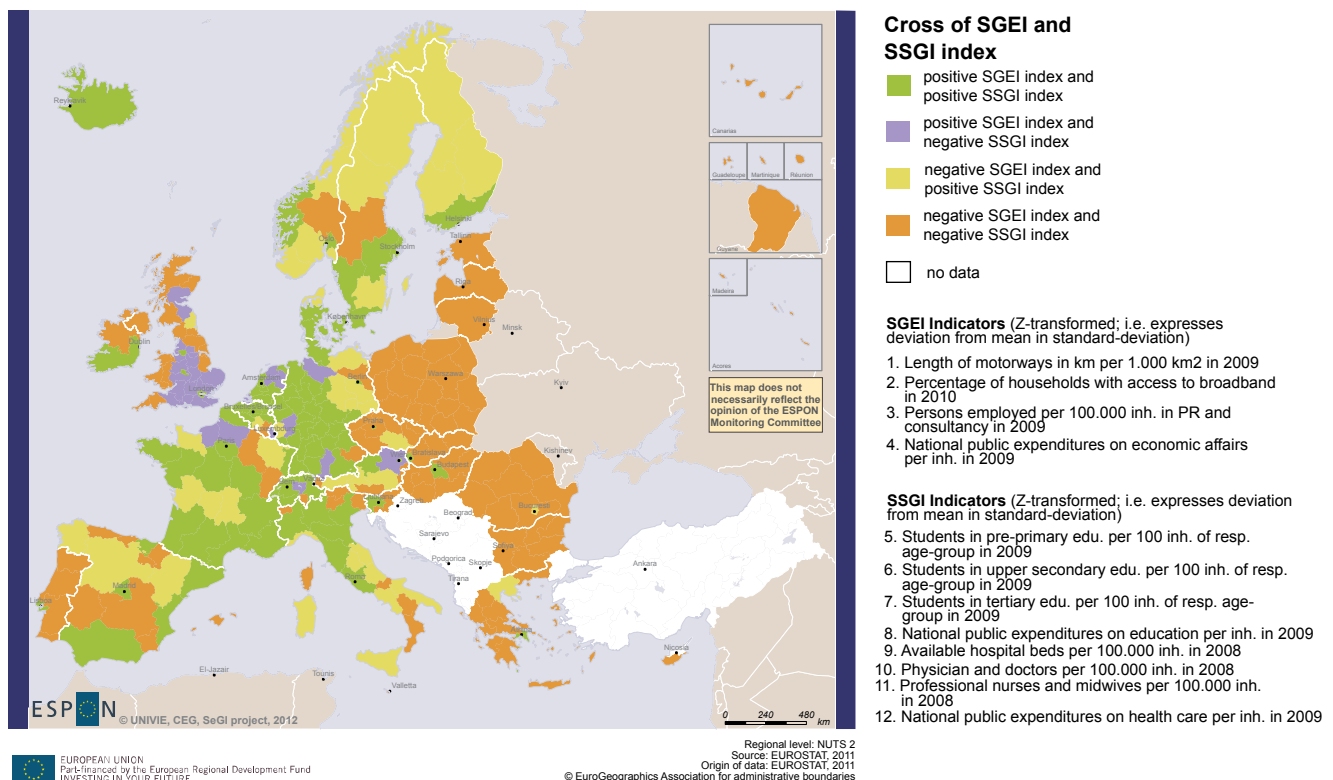
On a broad European scale, the EU 15 member states display a better level of performance in the regional typology on Services of General Economic Interest (SGEI) while in the new EU member states only capital regions are generally above the European average. On a regional level, metropolitan areas generally score higher. Most countries display a pattern where capital regions are ranked higher than other regions – most obviously in the geographical outer rim of the EU, e.g. in Finland, Sweden, Norway and the UK as well as in the Mediterranean countries like Spain, Portugal and Greece. In some cases (such as Berlin or Lisbon), however, a “gravity effect” can be seen with the lowest national performance for the neighbouring regions of the capitals being recorded. The territorial “island” type is below the European average since high connectivity infrastructures with a widely operating range, such as motorways,

are limited on these territories. This means that economically powerful regions trigger and foster the enhancement of Services of General Economic Interest.

European Atlas of Services of General Interest

For a more detailed picture on different services, the “European Atlas of Services of General Interest” summarizes all the maps of the conceptual indicator set constructed using currently available statistics. The Atlas contains well-known indicators like the length of motorways and available hospital beds as well as seldom used indicators like veterinary offices and the number of nurses and midwives. The Atlas represents a broad range of SGI and therefore provides a broad overview of the regional supply of services in the EU 27+4. Nevertheless, due to data gaps, some service sectors are still missing and thus the creation and acquisition of more and better data still remains desirable. Unsurprisingly, the maps show the existence of significant national differences in service supply. Beyond a common understanding of the essential importance of SGI for citizen welfare and for development and following twenty years of market liberalisation, national societies still basically organise SGI in different ways. The work with this Atlas was led by the BBSR as part of the working activity with indicators and maps within the SeGI project.

Regional Typology of SGI



International cooperation in urban development – nice-to-have or must-be?

Do cities need allies in urban development? Would a target-oriented and efficient exchange amongst peers on new approaches and well-functioning instruments be valuable for them? Are these cooperation activities a nice-to-have or rather a must-be?

Indeed, cities need peers and allies for whatever kind of transformation processes. Honestly, it is high-noon initiating and fostering international cooperation in urban development! Yet, it should not be l'art pour l'art for the sake of cooperation as such and for making transport and hotel companies happy in welcoming new guests. On the contrary, it has to bring those together who are responsible for urban development processes and projects in their respective local settings – independently from whether they are practitioners, academics, urbanists, the civil society or policymakers. Bringing those activists and representatives together inevitably means assisting them in their daily work routine. Unique and place-based solutions are required, though the famous wheel must not be (re)invented again and again.

Dialogues for Change

- Transforming critics into advocates.
- There are no “noes”.
- There are no failures of engagement, only opportunities to try something new.

These are the crucial messages delivered by D4C. It means Dialogues for Change and stands for a project where three German cities (Bottrop, Leipzig, Ludwigsburg) and three US cities (Austin, Flint, Memphis) have been working successfully and closely together over the past eighteen months in order to support each other in their respective work. And there is a lot to tell about what they have learned:

Project workshops as learning labs

Every project needs its space for testing and revision. This goes particularly for projects dealing with urban development in general and civic engagement in detail. Gathering in the setting of a learning lab provides cities and

local authorities with the opportunity to listen and learn – as well as to make mistakes. Trust and respect amongst lab participants thus constitute the common basis for real learning exchange.

Facilitated dialogue on equal footing amongst peers

Network partners do require equal footing and they do need professionals facilitating their joint work. Professionals take them as equals and make them familiar with well-working communication and participatory tools (keypad polling, stakeholder re-mapping, self-evaluation – just to mention a few). Criticism is certainly included in this process.

Goal orientation and self-evaluation

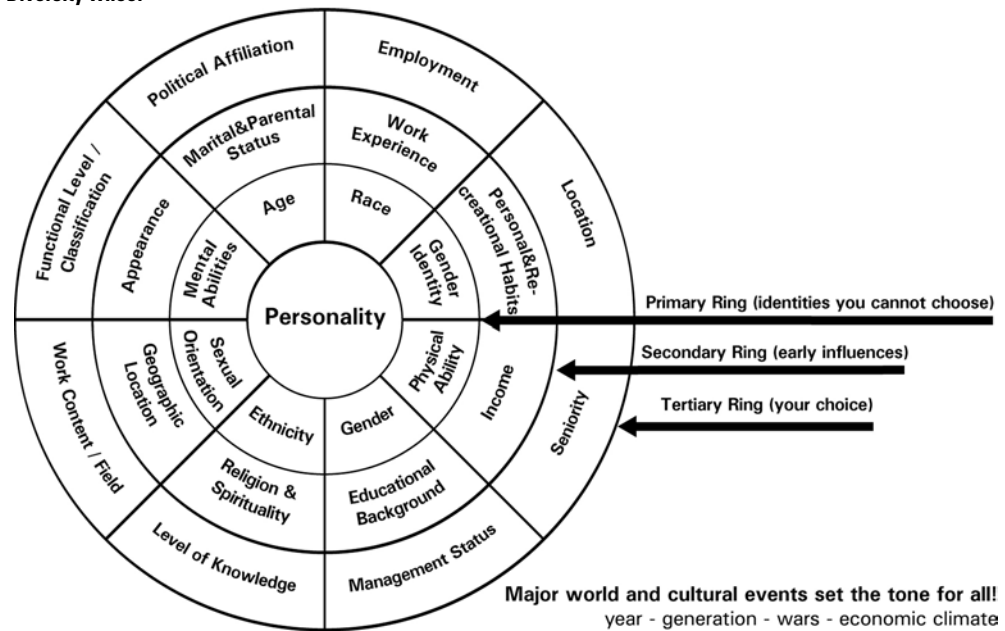
Every work needs a goal, despite try and error phases which are undoubtedly necessary in between the various working steps. These goals have to be set together to make sure that everybody involved will be following. And networking communities have to learn to carry out self-evaluation., e.g. based on a so-called “diversity wheel” (cf. graphic). Thus, the best reviewer is an essential part of the team.

D4C was initiated in early 2012 by the BBSR and the German Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development (BMVBS) in order to give evidence that the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the BMVBS and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) can be put into practice. The project was carried through by a project team consisting of the aforementioned six cities and experts from the BBSR, the BMVBS and the HUD as well as the German Marshall Fund of the United States, the Hauser Institute for Civil Society at Harvard Kennedy School and the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University.

City Reformers Group

A similar approach was made with another project launched in mid-2012 by the BBSR and the BMVBS in cooperation with the Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development ILS Dortmund and the London School of

Diversity wheel



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Economics and Social Science LSE and its Centre for Analysis and Social Exclusion CASE. Cities in primarily economic transition were partners in testing specific platforms (e.g. the City Reformers Group) of gathering all relevant stakeholders and thus stimulating urban redevelopment processes. The team members came from the cities of Dortmund and Pirmasens in Germany, Poznań and Konin in Poland, Cluj-Napoca and Bistrita in Romania as well as Liverpool and Rochdale in the United Kingdom.

This format had been invented by the Brookings Institution and put into practice by institutions like the LSE. Its success or failure depends to a great extent on the willingness and power to engage of those urban activists who take part in the grouping. A combination of both approaches (D4C Learning Lab plus City Reformers Group) would just be perfect.

Link to the Memorandum on Urban Energies

Both projects link their activities with the Memorandum on Urban Energies and Urban Challenges, that had been developed on the occasion of the International Conference on Urban Energies, held in Berlin on 11/12 October 2012, and taken home by conference participants as negotiated agreement. It is meant to raising awareness for cities and thus addressing the topic of the Energiewende (energy transition) as being crucial for the time being. Cities ought to and will play a role in this transitional phase as well as they must become an integral part of it. Using renewables

constitutes one side of the coin while turning cities into energy-producing entities the other one. It will happen only, if all urban activists and representatives involved do engage on a voluntary basis.

Cities cooperating internationally – so what?

Taking a quite critical position on city networks at an earlier stage, international cooperation in urban development had already been questioned before (cf. Research News No 1/2013). This position has certainly to be revised – due to good success of what has been achieved so far, particularly in the context of D4C. Cooperation works, provided that some basic rules and tools, as aforementioned, are observed, as well as a clear-cut focus are taken. The dialogue between cities will be deepened and will continue to grow with and for those being in charge of our daily life in our cities. Looking beyond administrative borders and learning from others is definitely a must-be!

Weblinks (in English):

www.nationale-stadtentwicklungspolitik.de
> Forschungen > Ressortforschung

www.bbsr.bund.de > Programme > ExWoSt > Forschungsfelder

www.nationale-stadtentwicklungspolitik.de
> Urban Energies

Contact:

André Müller
Division I 3
European Spatial and Urban
Development – also taking a
global perspective
Phone: +49 228 99401-2341
andre.mueller@bbr.bund.de

Construction patents: Germany holds the lead in Europe

Renewable energy and climate protection are innovation drivers

Between 2005 and 2012, Germany had 5.850 patent applications in the technological field of construction, more than in any other European country. One in five of the patents in the construction sector came from Germany. The leading position of Germany also shows itself when the amount of patent applications is compared with the total number of employees of the value chain of construction. This is confirmed by a study undertaken by the Institute for Work and Technology (IAT) in Gelsenkirchen on behalf of the BBSR.

The researchers compared patent activities in Germany with those in other European countries and in the United States and Japan. They analyzed all patent applications to the European Patent Office (EPO) in the technological field of construction between 2005 and 2012. The focus was on the whole value chain of construction that means the applications referred to materials as well as technical equipment and processes.

More than 50 percent of the patent applications originate from industrial sectors; especially metal working, mechanical engineering, glass, stone and ceramic industries and plastic and rubber production. In Germany, 6.3 percent of all applications come from the construction industry, while university and research centres have a share of 3.1 percent only. Additionally, only 10 percent of all applicants in Germany generate 57 percent of all applications in the technological field of construction. This is why the concentration of patenting activities in Germany is higher than in other countries. Nevertheless, indicators show that there is no specific specialization concerning patent activities in the construction sector. When compared with other sectors, Poland and Portugal, but also Austria, Spain, Belgium and Denmark showed a distinct specialization in the construction sector.

Need to strengthen innovation-oriented cooperations

Technologies focusing on climate change are a main innovation driver. Since the late 1990s, renewable energy and climate protection has been one of the fastest growing patent

fields. With one fifth of patent applications in the technological field of “energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction in buildings”, Germany again holds the leading position in absolute terms. Germany’s patent position is strong in the fields of thermal insulation and related fields (roofs, walls, ceilings) as well as regarding energy-efficient heating, cooling and airing. Interesting differences can be found with regard to the thematic profiles when comparing them on the global level. European patent applications are much more concentrated on energy efficiency in buildings (e.g. insulation technologies) than applications from the US and Japan, which rather focus on climate protection technologies that use electronic devices

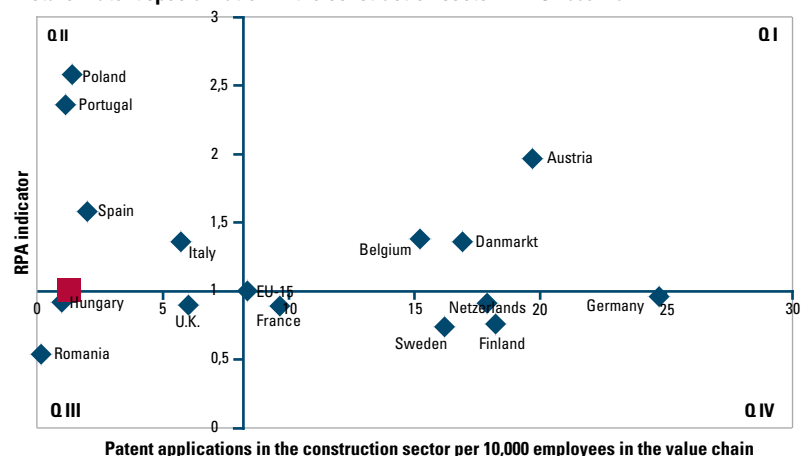
The researchers found that Germany needs to catch up in the field of innovation-oriented cooperations. Only 6.1 percent of German applications to the EPO are a result of cooperative innovation and patent activities. This share is below the European average. In Europe, cooperative patenting is highest in France (15.3 percent) and in the Netherlands (17.9 percent). Nearly one third of German co-patenting partners came from abroad, first of all from the US and the Netherlands followed by Austria and France. Vice versa, applicants from Austria, Denmark, Switzerland and Belgium worked together with cooperation partners from Germany. In sectoral terms, co-patenting often takes place between companies from different industrial sectors.

For further details, please see issue No 8/2013 of the “BMVBS-Online-Publikation” series (in German) at www.bbsr.bund.de > Veröffentlichungen > BMVBS-Online-Publikation

Contact:

Stefan Rein
Division II 4
Building, Construction
Industry, GAEB
Phone: +49 228 99401-1349
stefan.rein@bbr.bund.de

Picture: Patent specialization in the construction sector – EPO 2005–2012



Source: EPO Bulletin database. The Revealed Patent Advantage indicator (RPA) compares patents in the construction sector with the overall patent activities within a country. Values higher than 1 (= EU-15) show a certain specialization in the field of construction.

International exchange of experience at the Sustainable Building Conferences 2013

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

Information Portal Sustainable Building
www.nachhaltigesbauen.de

With regard to the upcoming World Sustainable Building Conference 2014 in Barcelona, worldwide 16 regional conferences took place in 2013 including the following three in Central Europe:

SB 13 Munich “Implementing Sustainability – Barriers and Chances”

In total, from 24-26th April, approximately 400 participants from 30 countries attended the conference in the Audi Dome under this motto. The Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development (BMVBS) supported the conference in Munich as a cooperation partner with an exhibition and a workshop entitled „Building sustainable procurement by the public sector.“ The BBSR made some presentations and attended the exhibition, which showed a holistic overview of sustainable building in the public sector and the latest results from the research initiative “Future Building”. The exhibition offered the opportunity to have interesting discussions and to make new contacts.

Researchers of the BBSR presented their results in different sessions:

- Dr.-Ing. Tanja Brockmann: “Ecological Aspects of Building Materials within BNB (Assessment System for Sustainable Construction for Federal Buildings.”

- Dr.-Ing. Carmen Schneider, Dipl.-Ing. Nicolas Kerz: “Schools Goes Green – Extension of the BNB-Certification Methodology for Educational Buildings.”
- Dipl.-Ing. Andreas Rietz: “Sustainable Laboratories – Development and Piloting a New Assessment System.”
- Dipl.-Ing. Stefan Haas: “WWW.WECOBIS:DE – Web Based Information System for Health and Environmental Aspects of Building Products”

SB 13 Prague „Sustainable Building and Refurbishment for Next Generation”

At the CESB 13 in Prague (26-28th June 2013), the BBSR made a presentation about the BNB system for the description and evaluation of sustainability during the use phase of a building, forming the theme of the conference:

- Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil Thomas Lützkendorf, Dipl.-Ing. Mathias Oliva y Hausmann, Dipl.-Ing. Andreas Rietz: “Sustainability Assessment System for Utilisation and Operation of Single Buildings.”

SB 13 Graz „Sustainable Buildings - Construction Products and Technologies”

At the conference in Graz, the BBSR led a Special Forum on “Sustainable planning competitions”. Moderated by Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil Thomas Lützkendorf (KIT), the participants discussed experiences from different countries with implementing complex requirements of sustainable building in competition proceedings. The workshop was opened by four keynotes with speakers from Germany, Austria, Switzerland and the Czech Republic. The participants called for regular integration of sustainability experts as jurors or at least as experts in the competition review. The question, how sustainability requirements can be integrated in invitations to tenders for competitions is a key element to improve the quality of buildings. In his summary, Prof. Lützkendorf notes that a holistic approach and the publication of successful examples (best practices) for competitive mechanisms are necessary in order to increase the overall acceptance of recommendations like the systematology for sustainability requirements in planning competitions (Systematik für



Business talk at the exhibition of the BMVBS

Photo: Uwe Völkner, Fotoagentur Fox

Nachhaltigkeitsanforderungen in Planungswettbewerben SNAP).

The BBSR was represented in different sessions with four presentations:

- Dipl.-Ing. Andreas Rietz: “Masterplan Sustainable Building – Research and Development in Germany.”
- Dipl.-Ing. Merten Welsch: “Assessment System for Sustainable Building (BNB) – Federal Environment Agency 2019”
- Dipl.-Ing. Merten Welsch: “Sustainability in Competitions - New German Federal System to Verify the Qualities of Sustainability in Planning Competitions (SNAP)”
- Dipl.-Ing. Andreas Rietz: “Practical Aids, Instruments and Tools of the Assessment System for Sustainable Building (BNB).”

The Federal Ministry was represented with a keynote by MR Dipl.-Ing. Hans-Dieter Hegner and a poster exhibition with further information on regulations, instruments and best practices as well as research and development in Germany.

Outlook

Under the theme “Are we moving as quickly as we should? It’s up to us!”, the next World SB14 Conference in Barcelona (28–30th October 2014) will present global social and environmental challenges which the building sector faces. Therefore, one focus of the Conference will be to assess the actual values of buildings as a proof that the planned qualities will be achieved in the real use. The BMVBS, supported by the BBSR and accompanying research projects, will take part in a related competition and present some selected buildings at the Conference. In addition to a presentation of the German strategy for sustainable building during an exhibition, another workshop will be held, this time probably on “Sustainable Use and Operation of Buildings.” New approaches for the development of the German assessment methods and future research projects will result from the international experience.



Presentation of Andreas Rietz, Aula TU Graz

Photo: Dr. Günter Löhnert, solidar



Exhibition space TU Graz

Photo: Dr. Günter Löhnert, solidar

Contact:

Dipl.-Ing. Andreas Rietz
 Division II 5
 Sustainable Building
 Phone: +49.30.18401-2750
 andreas.rietz@bbr.bund.de
 www.nachhaltigesbauen.de

Publications

Housing in Old Age

Informationen zur Raumentwicklung (IzR), Issue 2.2013, Ed.: BBSR, Bonn 2013

Germany is becoming “smaller”, older and more varied: shrinking and ageing are the central terms of the future. Living longer implies that the biographies and lifestyles of people will change. The last chapter in people’s life becomes longer and people use these additional years in various ways. “Old” is not all the same. Old age cannot be equated with infirmity or care dependency. Most people nowadays reach the old age in good health. Everyone would like to live his or her life actively and in a self-determined way, regardless of his or her biological age. The ageing society requires and at the same time offers potentials for civic engagement and mutual aid.

The variety of the topic “Housing in Old Age” is revealed in the IzR issue on hand, as it is analysed from different scientific points of view. How do senior people live, which forms of housing will gain in importance in the future, what do senior people need to live a self-determined life? Apart from construction requirements to guarantee full accessibility and age-oriented conditions especially in housing, the issue also takes a close look at how experts and citizens are sensitized. This for example includes to check the state of affairs and perspectives in the field of housing for the elderly or to look at in how far care is provided to senior people. The demand of “older” households as well as the need for providers will be presented. In addition, tasks and strategies of local governments will be analysed and local approaches be presented.



Photo: Gutjahr Innovative Bausysteme GmbH

The journal IzR 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 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.

City instead of noise

Informationen zur Raumentwicklung (IzR), Issue 3.2013, Ed.: BBSR, Bonn 2013

Especially in cities and agglomerations, noise represents a big environmental and health problem. Urban and transport planning activities must develop and implement measures to prevent and to protect against noise. In practice, however, noise reduction often has not yet become a priority in planning.

In order to reduce noise effectively, the public sector and residents have to cooperate closely and in a holistic way. Against this background, an integrated urban, transport and environmental planning must consider anti air pollution schemes, noise reduction, climate protection and, if necessary, urban renewal aspects. All in all, ambitious noise reduction concepts are urgently needed as less noise means better health protection, more quality of life, lower costs, that means numerous economic, ecological and social synergy effects.

The issue on hand presents the noise situation in Germany and describes the general legal conditions and consequences for health. It furthermore provides possible solutions and ideas for policy-makers and planners in the administrative and private sector. However, it also points out political and specific planning requirements.

Resilience

Informationen zur Raumentwicklung (IzR), Issue 4.2013, Ed.: BBSR, Bonn 2013

It's not just that already the second flood of the century within eleven years came over Germany. Crises generally seem to go up. Climatic catastrophes are rising in number worldwide. The currency and the financial sector in the entire euro area have got into difficulties, which is why the term “resilience” has gained in importance. Broadly defined, it means indestructibility, robustness, resistance but also the ability to regulate oneself.

In this issue, “resilience” shall be analysed and assessed with regard to its applicability in the fields of spatial and urban development, urban planning and urban neighbourhoods. Does the term represent a new guiding principle? Or is it just a trendy aperçu, a rhetorical empty phrase? The articles of the issue on hand do not claim to formulate a final answer. They are rather meant to be critical contributions to the existing discussion.

Potential regions eligible for funding under the EU structural policy 2014–2020

The European Union’s cohesion policy supports the objective “Investing in growth and jobs” in all NUTS 2 regions. The European Commission’s draft Structural Funding regulations distinguish between three territorial categories. The categories are determined by the ratio of their GDP, measured by purchasing power parities per capita, to the average GDP of the EU 27. The EU data refer to the period 2006 to 2008:

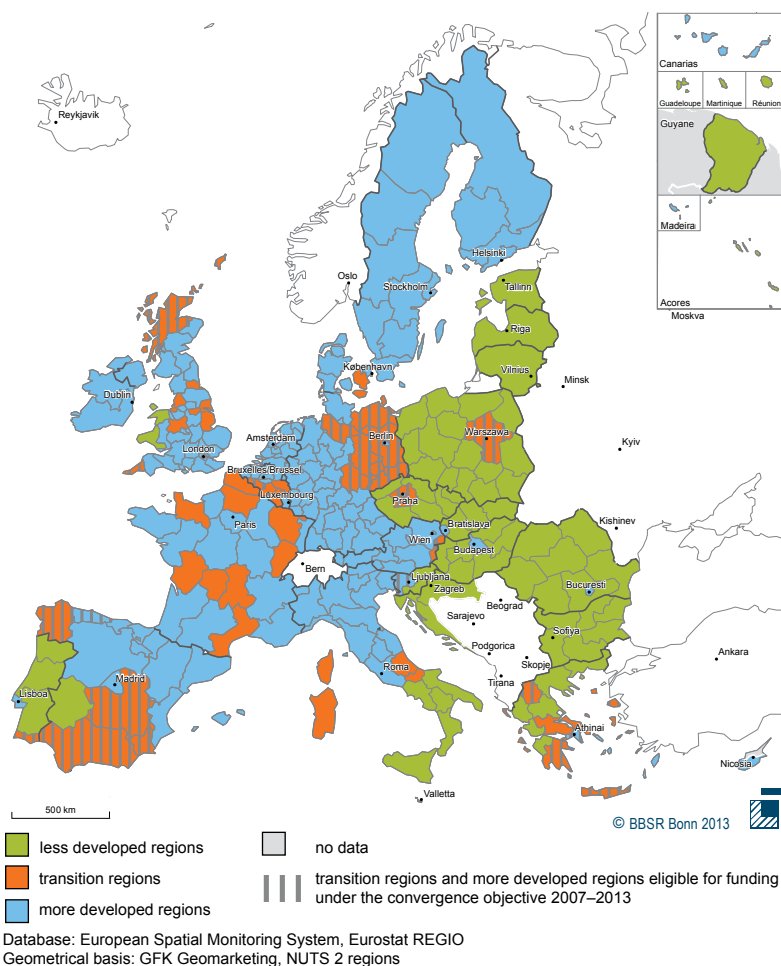
- less developed regions whose GDP per capita is under 75 %
- transition regions whose GDP per capita is between 75 % and 90 %
- more developed regions whose GDP per capita is more than 90 %

More developed regions and transition regions being eligible for funding under the convergence objective 2007–2013, are differently treated. The latter includes the former Objective 1 regions in East Germany.

The less developed regions concentrate especially in Eastern and Southern Europe. The transition regions create a new spatial picture including a number of regions in France and Northern England which might now again a special eligibility status.

The concentration of funding of the eastern regions underlines the need to improve the economic status of the least developed parts of the EU. The question, raised as a consequence of the impacts of the economic and financial crisis in many regions of Southern Europe, however, is how these regions, whose categorisation is based on economically better times, can be supported in overcoming the crisis.

Potential regions eligible for funding under the EU cohesion policy beyond 2014



Contact:

Volker Schmidt-Seiwert,
Regine Binot
Division I 3, European Spatial
and Urban Development
Phone: +49 228 99401-2246
volker.schmidt-seiwert
@bbr.bund.de

Selected indicators for potential regions eligible for funding under the EU cohesion policy beyond 2014

	Demographic development	Development of GDP in PPS**	GDP in PPS per inhabitant	Development of persons employed	Unemployment rate	Development of unemployment rate in percentage points
	2007–2012	2006–2010	2010	2007–2012	2012	2007–2012
Less developed regions	-0,8	10,3	13 760	-4,1	12,4	3,8
Transition regions	1,7	1,9	20 424	-3,4	14,2	4,4
Among them former convergence regions*	1,2	4,6	20 426	-4,8	16,4	5,3
More developed regions	2,8	2,0	29 535	-0,5	8,9	2,9
EU 28	1,7	3,4	24 285	-1,7	10,5	3,3

* eligible for funding under the convergence objective 2007–2013; ** purchasing power parities
Source: European Spatial Monitoring System of the BBSR, Eurostat Regio

Editor, Producer and Publisher

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Brigitte Ahlke, Marion Kickartz, Beatrix Thul

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News

Concerted Action “Energy Performance of Buildings” releases Country Reports 2012

A major challenge facing all EU members is to effectively and fully implement the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) with all its elements. The Concerted Action Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (CA-EPBD) is an EU member state (plus Norway) network where experts in charge of the implementation of the EPBD discuss common problems and support each other in putting the Directive into practice. The Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) within the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) is the German national coordinator and contractual partner of the CA-EPBD.

In May 2013, the report “Implementing the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive” was released by Phil Hogan, the Irish Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, on behalf of the Presidency of the EU. The book contains CA-EPBD core theme reports which are “Certification”, “Inspections”, “Training Experts”, “Energy performance requirements using the Cost-

optimal methodology”, “Towards 2020 – Nearly Zero-Energy Buildings”, “Compliance and Control” and “Effectiveness of Support Initiatives”. Country reports of all EU member states and Norway stating the status of implementation at the end of 2012 are also included. The German national report was also included. The German national report was contributed by the BBSR. All national reports follow a common structure. They include the evolution of minimum energy efficiency over time, the detailed energy performance requirements for all building categories at the end of 2012 and an overview of the next steps that have to be taken. The common bullet points followed in all country reports allow for a good comparison of different approaches towards the full implementation of all the requirements of the EPBD in all member states and Norway.

The reports can be downloaded from the website of the CA-EPBD (www.epbd-ca.eu) and from the European Commission’s BUILD UP portal (www.buildup.eu). A limited stock of the printed book is available via the respective national contractual partners; see CA-EPBD website.

Contact:

Isabel Ahlke
Division II 2
Energy Saving, Climate
Protection
Phone: +49 228 99401-2726
isabel.ahlke@bbr.bund.de