



RESEARCH NEWS

No 1 / May 2014

Dear Readers,

Everything has changed and many things have remained unaffected. With this in mind we would like to welcome you to our new Research News issue. New is that the BBSR as part of the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning has changed into the portfolio of the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (cf page 12), which will certainly imply new perspectives. For the time being, the tasks of the BBSR do not change. Urban and spatial development, housing and real estate as well as building are still the research areas in which the BBSR has its core competences. A look beyond one's own thinking to the European countries and beyond will remain an important pillar of our activities. This involves to transfer our results to our European and international partners. This is why we will, as usual, inform within this issue about new research activities and publications in our main topics:

In the field of spatial development, we will present perspectives of transnational cooperation for blue and green growth, the new project ESPON on the Road and guidelines for the establishment of an EGTC. In the field of urban development, we will inform about pilot projects dealing with public participation processes on planning activities. The BBSR expert panel on property markets provides the latest barometer of real estate market assessments in the field of housing. Sustainability is the keyword of three articles in the area of building: We will present ecological aspects of building materials and the Guideline for Sustainable Building. And last but not least, we are pleased to inform you that the BBSR assumes a significant role in the process of developing European standards for the energy efficiency of buildings.

Happy reading!
The editors

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Spatial Development

What is the contribution of transnational cooperation towards green and blue growth?

The publication will soon be available in English and German and can be ordered free of charge at beatrix.thul@bbr.bund.de, keyword: green and blue growth.

For more information on the project please see www.bbsr.bund.de > Programme > MORO > Studien (in German)

The question forms the main subject of the publication „Transnational perspectives for green and blue growth“, in which the results of a theme-related evaluation of 17 INTERREG IV B projects with German participation will be presented. Transnational cooperation is an important objective of the EU cohesion policy. It especially supports the implementation of the EU strategy „EUROPE 2020. A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth“ and the Territorial Agenda 2020. In this context, two specific growth objectives have established in the last few years: green and blue growth.

Green growth refers to economic growth with a focus on sustainable development and often on growth and innovation against the background of green technologies. It is considered to be essential for long-term sustainable development but also for strengthening the competitiveness of European companies and stakeholders within the global competition.

Blue growth refers to the exploitation of so far not (completely) used potentials of European oceans, seas and coasts for employment and growth. Blue growth thus represents the maritime dimension of the Europe 2020 strategy.

For the brochure, 17 projects had been selected representing good exemplary approaches and dealing with various topics of green and blue growth. The approaches include topics such as using seaweeds and

implementing intelligent energy networks and energy storage technologies, developing new building materials as well as sustainably organising cruise tourism and promoting aquaculture. Common ground of the projects is that they combine green and/or blue growth issues with spatial development policy issues. In this context, the concrete value added of transnational cooperation is less that comprehensive material investments are put into action – already because of the comparably low financial volume of the projects - but rather that „soft“ results are produced:

- By innovatively using resources, that are identified, developed and tested in transnational projects, new growth potentials are generated.
- By transnational projects contributing to the qualification and sensitization of a variety of stakeholders, local and regional development are stimulated.
- Building up regional and local networks promotes integrated approaches. Due to the structure of transnational projects, they are especially suited to bring the administrative, the business and the scientific sector together and to have a cross-sector effect.
- Exchanging knowledge and experiences across borders avoids to be too much restricted to one's thinking and strengthens the economies of the regions involved in transnational cooperation.
- Pilot measures may help test promising approaches, that take specific regional challenges and potentials into account, and prepare follow-up investments.

The future transnational cooperation programmes as well will be largely oriented towards the priorities of the Europe 2020 strategy. The blue and green growth topics will still be important. Depending on the spatial challenges of the relevant cooperation area, the focus will be put on either green (Alpine Space, Central Europe, North-West Europe) or blue (North Sea Region, Baltic Sea Region) growth.

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Photo: Project AlpHouse

Example AlpHouse:

The project presents possible solutions how to combine the traditional building culture and architecture of the Alpine Space with energy-efficient methods of building. In this context, related modules of qualification for local craftsmen, architects, planning offices and other SME in the building sector were developed, tested, evaluated and optimised. By communicating competences based on regional potentials, the project aimed at strengthening regional companies as the backbone of the labour market of rural areas in the Alpine Space, in using regional materials also at promoting regional economic cycles.

ESPON on the Road

The European research programme for territorial development ESPON 2013 is in its final stage now and the last projects of the current period will come to an end this year. The very last ESPON project of this period might be the most ambitious but for sure the biggest project in the history of the programme regarding the high number of partners involved. 19 partners participate in the project called “ESPON on the Road” and the BBSR acts as the Lead Partner. All partners are national ESPON Contact Points and rich in experiences in supervising and conducting ESPON tasks.

The ESPON 2013 Programme has produced a lot of results with different foci, the applied research projects, the targeted analyses, the scientific tools and the publications provide a huge pool of knowledge and evidence that can be used for decision-making. These results have reached a growing number of people at different levels through different channels. However, the capitalisation of ESPON results can and shall be further enhanced as there are groups who have not been sufficiently reached by ESPON and the results may not have been always presented in the context where stakeholders act. This is the main objective of “ESPON on the Road”. The project shall open up the “box of ESPON results” to reach greater transparency and to break down the abstract and vague messages from EU territorial development policy to make statements about Europe better comprehensible.

In order to simplify coordination and communication between the project members,

four transnational working groups were established: the West, the South, the North and the Central-Eastern group. Germany is part of the Central-Eastern group where Poland has the leadership. It ensures that there is a geographically balanced structure of activities and that in each macroregion the approach is standard, but also that content and appropriate tools are put into the thematic and geographical context of the macroregion. The project partners agreed upon arranging several capitalisation activities. First of all, information materials with short, clear messages will be developed. The materials will be translated into the national languages to enlarge the circle of interested persons. Furthermore, two kinds of events will be conducted. Up to six events in different countries will include communication with the wider public for example in the form of local meetings, stands at exhibitions or official European events such as the European Parliament elections in May. Up to 20 events will have a tailor-made discussion with policy-makers, stakeholders, the traditional and non-traditional ESPON audience. In order to increase the transnational approach of the project, one transnational workshop will take place in each working group with a focus on topics relevant and customised for the macroregion.

Through these strategies, the project shall strengthen the bridge between European ESPON knowledge and local reality and bring ESPON results closer to potential users.



Further information:

www.espon.eu > Projects > Transnational Network Activities > Evidence for decision making – ESPON on the Road

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Guidelines for the establishment of an EGTC for stakeholders of transnational and cross-border cooperation

The research project “Potential for transnational and cross-border partnerships through the use of the instrument of the EGTC (European Grouping for Territorial Cooperation)” examined possible applications and limitations of that instrument. So far, there is no EGTC based in Germany. However, stakeholders are increasingly interested.

With two different guidelines on the formation of an EGTC for transnational and cross-border cooperation, these actors should be informed on the advantages and potential disadvantages. Moreover, they should receive a neutral decision support tool. The guidelines were

discussed with practitioners and scientists and considered well-founded and very useful.

The guideline on the formation of an EGTC for cross-border cooperation especially addresses stakeholders of cross-border cooperation in the German-Polish border area. The guideline is only available in German, it is presently being translated into Polish.

The “Guideline for the establishment of an EGTC for stakeholders of transnational cooperation” primarily aimed at German stakeholders of transnational cooperation. Due to the great interest beyond Germany, it has been translated into English.

Further information

- on the project: www.bbsr.bund.de < Programme > MORO > Studien
- on the brochure: www.bbsr.bund.de > EN > Publications > Editor BMVI

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Urban Development

Evaluating pilot projects in the field of „public participation“

For further details on effective participation, please have a look at the English *stadt:pilot* special issue „Generating Effective Public Participation“: www.nationale-stadtentwicklungspolitik.de > English > Publications.

For further information on the pilot projects (in German), please see www.nationale-stadtentwicklungspolitik.de > Wettbewerbe/Aufrufe > Bürgerbeteiligung.

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What are the effects of public participation processes on formal but also informal planning activities? In how far might projects cause long-term changes of local participation cultures? These were the central questions for the 15 pilot projects, that had been selected in 2011 for exploration within the National Urban Development Policy programme. For two years, the project managers have been executing participation processes on various spatial levels (from neighbourhoods to cities and regions) with different objectives: to inform citizens, to motivate them to become committed, to involve them in decision-making processes or to entrust them with a responsibility – all this in the context of sectoral planning activities up to integrated concepts.

As different as the planning contexts, spatial levels and objectives for participation were, as diverse were the participation methods used. They range from conventional methods like a written questionnaire and thematic informative meetings in unusual places to an intensively managed and therefore functioning online platform. Experiences from the projects underline that a participation methodology, oriented towards specific target groups and relevant situations, is essential to reach citizens.

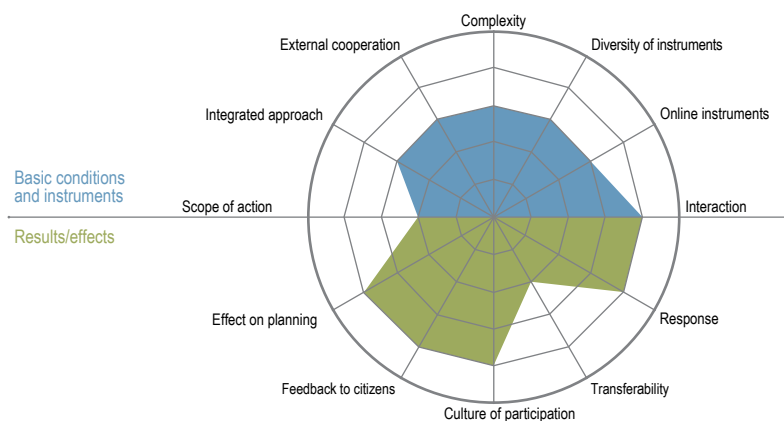
For concrete situations with conflicting use requirements, the possibility to test various solutions proved to be helpful. The citizens of Aschaffenburg for example were able to test their use ideas developed for the bank of the River Main temporarily in practice and on-site. An ideas competition as the one carried out in Leipzig may serve to interest citizens for a rather abstract topic such as transport development planning. It was important in this context to create a relationship to their everyday life. With its concept development process, during which it directly addressed multipliers from the world of migrants, the city of Ludwigsburg showed how participation might be extended from the “usual suspects” to other groups. Cooperation with new partners such as schools or adult education centres as well proved to be effective. Interactive online products – in combination with other instruments – may be effective if they are used with regard to specific target groups. They do, however, not function by themselves and require, as projects show, very intensive and continuous management.

A good response to the chance of participation offered is the first step. An essential result of participation though should be the real effect on the subject of participation. A graphic evaluation of the 15 pilot projects (exemplarily represented by the citizens advisory board for the gardening show of the federal state of Thuringia in Apolda) illustrates the various overall conditions and instruments applied as well as results and effects of the participation processes on planning activities and on the local participation culture. Even if the scope of action within a planning process is rather small, the results of a participation process may have specific effects. Important, however, are clear political and administrative rules defining scope and possibilities of influence from the beginning. It also has to be transparently described what happens with the proposals developed. Transparency is also important when it comes to showing why a participation process stagnates – for example if the basic conditions change.

The projects show that establishing effective participation processes in cities is a permanent task. It is a question of financial resources and personal competences – but especially a question of attitude and local culture.

Profile of participation process

09 Apolda „Citizens advisory board for citizen-friendly urban development towards the federal state gardening show“



Source: Urbanizers / BBSR

The BBSR expert panel on property markets – assessments by experts for the 2013 property year

The BBSR expert panel on property markets has been collected every six months since 2007. It is executed through online surveys on the property market segments housing, office, retail and logistics among approx. 500 experts and market actors. The BBSR expert panel focuses on subjective information as well as on experiences and know-how of experts in this field. It thus reflects the latest assessments of the property markets.

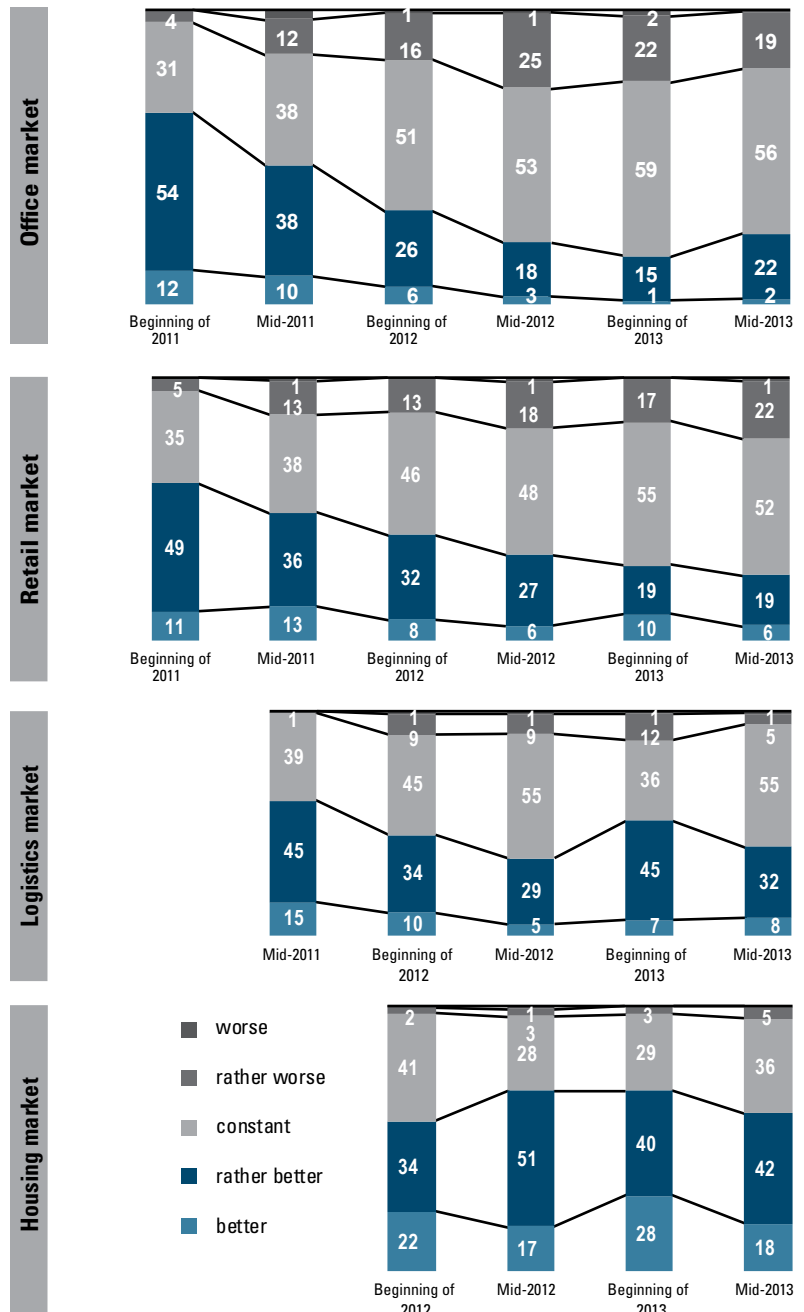
At the end of 2013, the real estate business still faces good overall conditions in many areas. The majority of experts does not see any real economic recovery for the commercial property market, but not any worsening market conditions either. The barometer for the office market even rises slightly while the retail market receives a bit more negative assessments for the second half-year of 2013. The mood on the logistics market is still very good.

Following the significantly increased values of recent surveys, the housing market economy is currently estimated on a high level more cautiously. This can, however, not be interpreted as an economic trend reversal as most indicators of market estimates confirm an economic boom of the housing market. The slight dropping of the demand for new dwellings expected for the coming half-year at best might be a first sign for saturation.

Where do experts see the biggest data gaps?

Experts primarily see a need to improve the accessibility of data on rents and property prices. In more detail, this would include more transparent data on effective rents, rents of existing rental agreements, real rents/property prices agreed in the context of new rental agreements/sales, rent tables and even a distinction according to situations and qualities as well as a more frequent publication of data during the year. The need for information would, within all property market segments, also be oriented towards submarkets outside large investment centres and locations with the highest market activities. In this context, secondary and tertiary locations and rural regions are often mentioned in connection with the desire to involve them in the market monitoring activities.

Do you consider the economy of the German office (/retail/logistics/housing) market to be on a better, constant or worse level than in the last half-year?



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Further information (in German):
www.bbsr.bund.de > Themen
 > Wohnen und Immobilien >
 Immobilienmarkt-Beobachtung

Building and Architecture

Ecological aspects of building materials within the Assessment System for Sustainable Building (BNB)

www.wecobis.de

Environmental and health-relevant aspects of building materials



Source: KIT, Oliver Kusche

There are numerous political initiatives – at global, European and national levels – that formulate political objectives in connection with sustainability, such as energy efficiency, resource efficiency and reduction of greenhouse gases. Various political programmes deal with different individual aspects of sustainability. Frequently, the topics relevant to construction are linked to requirements with respect to building materials and building products.

In applying the BNB, many of the sustainability aspects mentioned in the various political initiatives are taken into account by means of comprehensive sustainability criteria, such as the deconstruction of buildings, recyclability of building products, global environmental effects with the global warming potential at their core, environmental and health-relevant effects on soil, water and air, indoor air quality and other aspects.

The role played by building materials/products in the BNB has to be considered. Against the background of sustainable development, there are frequent calls for naming so-called ecological or sustainable building products. As the sustainability of a building under the BNB

principles is ensured by taking all sustainability criteria in relation to ecological, economic, socio-cultural, technical and process quality into account, building products are not assessed as individual products, but looked at within the context of the entire building. Building products have to meet a wide range of requirements in terms of technical aspects (e.g., stability, fire protection, durability) as well as environmental and health-relevant aspects (e.g., risks to the environment, risks to users during processing or while a building is used) and economic aspects (costs). The assessment of whether building products in a building are used in a sustainable manner, therefore, depends on the context of the building in question and, thus, on different sustainability criteria. Essentially, the properties of building products play a role in all areas of sustainability: ecological quality (life cycle analysis, environment, material), economic quality (life cycle costs), socio-cultural quality (e.g., indoor air quality), technical quality and process quality. Consequently, building materials are indirectly and proportionately assessed for the purposes of the BNB by way of different criteria profiles – generally taking the life cycle over the chosen time period of 50 years into account.

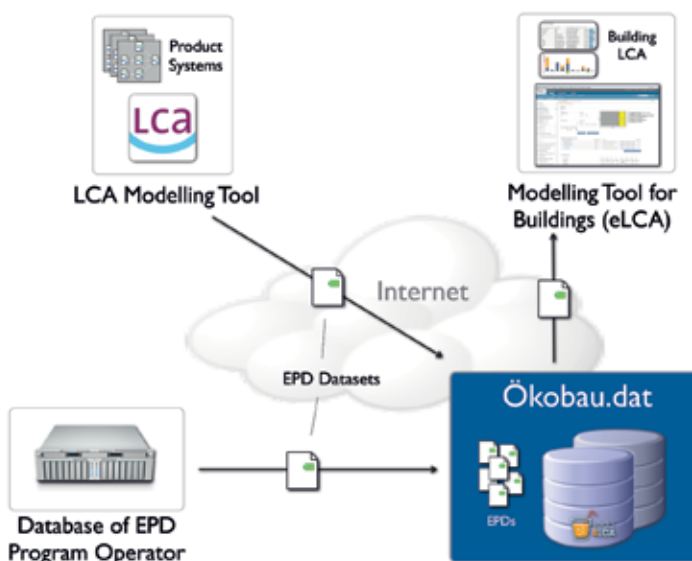
Particularly with respect to ecological quality, that is when considering the impact on the global and local environment, building materials form an essential part of the overall assessment. The effects on the global and local environment (global warming, ozone depletion, photochemical ozone creation, acidification and eutrophication potential), which are determined by a life cycle analysis, play a vital role. In addition, the risk potential for the environmental resources ground water, surface water, soil, outside air and indoor air is analysed.

As part of the Sustainable Building programme, the Federal Government provides important aids for choosing suitable building products. ÖKOBAU.DAT supplies basic data for life cycle analyses in the building context. In addition, the WECOBIS internet platform provides key information on the environmental and health-relevant aspects of building products.

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www.nachhaltigesbauen.de
ÖKOBAU.DAT



Source: KIT, Oliver Kusche

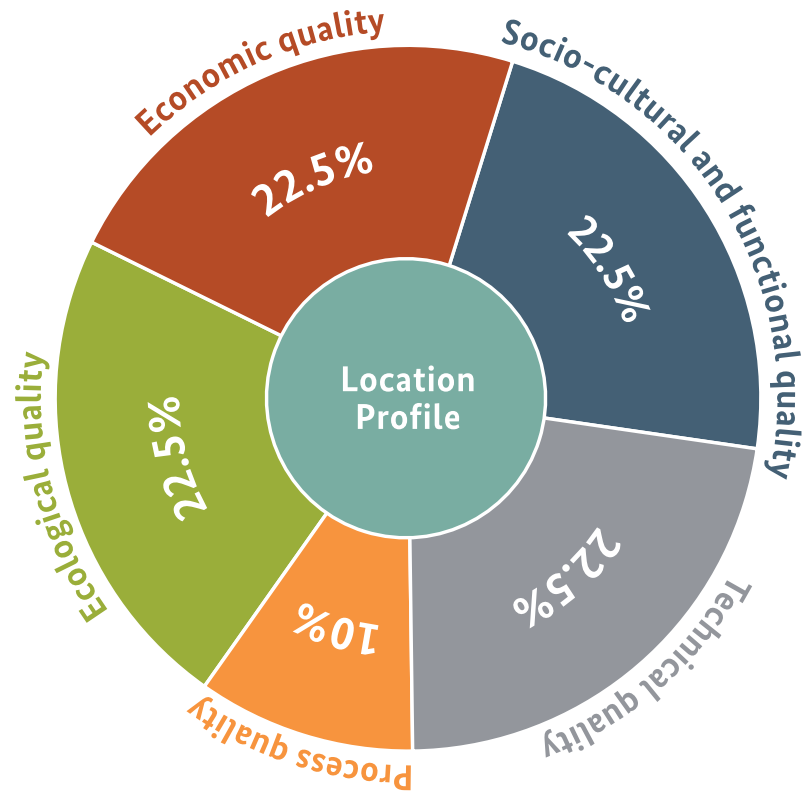
Guideline for Sustainable Building

The Guideline for Sustainable Building published by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) explains the generally valid principles and methods for sustainable planning, construction, operation and use of buildings and properties. The revision of the Guideline and its 2013 update mark the coming into effect of new rules for the application of the Assessment System for Sustainable Building (BNB) for federal buildings in Germany

Sustainable building principles

Sustainable building fundamentally is a matter of finding functionally and aesthetically good solutions that are not only ecologically compatible but also economically acceptable and at the same time include humans as users. Thus, the three classical dimensions of sustainability, ecology, economy and socio-cultural aspects, are equal and equivalent goals. In addition, the technical characteristics and procedural aspects of planning and construction are important. An essential basis of the German approach is to look over the entire life cycle of a building from planning, building and use to disposal.

The implementation of sustainability needs an integrated approach. The aim is to optimize the building during its entire life cycle in order to minimize energy and resource consumption, reduce environmental burdens and improve overall economic efficiency whilst at the same time addressing the need to improve social and cultural aspects. This is accomplished, for instance, by optimizing measures to provide health and comfort which enhance the quality of life and performance of building users. This also holds true for the process quality which significantly determines the sub-aspects of sustainability during the early planning and design phase and also ensures that the planned quality will be achieved during the execution phase.



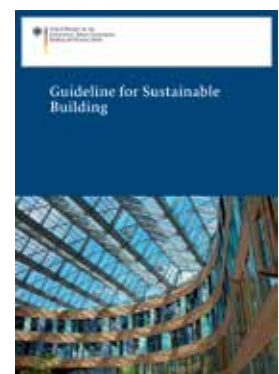
Weighting of the main criteria groups

Structure of the Guideline

The Guideline for Sustainable Building consists of four parts:

Part A "Principles of Sustainable Building" presents the general principles and methods of sustainable planning, construction, use and operation. They can be equally applied to public-sector and private construction projects. For this purpose, this document describes the principles of sustainable development as applied to the construction and real property sector, the dimensions and qualities of sustainable building, use and operation as well as the general procedures for sustainability assessments.

Part B "Sustainable Building Projects" explains task-related principles, life-cycle



Guideline for Sustainable Building (Editor: BMUB)

The English Version of the Guideline is available at the "Information Portal for Sustainable Building" (www.nachhaltigesbauen.de).

scenarios to be considered and planning principles for new construction projects and construction projects in connection with the existing building stock. They are based on the chronological order of the planning phases stipulated in the RBBau Guidelines and on the work phases stipulated in the Official Scale of Fees for Services by Architects and Engineers (HOAI).

Part C “Recommendations for the Sustainable Use and Operation of Buildings” describes methods for optimizing

use and management processes while taking criteria of the Assessment System for Sustainable Building into account. In this way, it can be ensured that the requirements for sustainable building are fulfilled throughout the entire life cycle of a construction project.

Part D “Refurbishment of Buildings” addresses specific aspects of sustainable refurbishment. This part of the Guideline completes the requirements in Parts A and B with specific aspects of building refurbishment. The refurbishment of existing buildings is separately treated for two reasons. The planning and construction processes in refurbishment projects differ in many ways from those in new construction projects and certain sustainability aspects must be looked at from a different perspective when dealing with existing buildings.

With a view to supporting the implementation and practical performance of sustainability, a systematic relationship exists between the Guideline as an explanatory framework document and the Assessment System for Sustainable Building (BNB) as the applicable verification methodology.

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European standards for the energy efficiency of buildings

and how the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development is involved in this process

The political field of „energy“ is subject to the shared responsibility of the European Union (EU) and the Member States. This is why the principle of subsidiarity applies. It means that the EU can only act, if measures taken by a Member State are insufficient or if political goals in this field can better be solved at EU level. In Directive 2010/31/EU of May 19th 2010 on the energy performance of buildings, the European Parliament and the Council state that it is necessary to reduce the discrepancy between Member States in the success to reduce the energy demand in the

building sector and that therefore decisions at European level are necessary.

Article 3 of the Directive says that the methodology of calculating the energy efficiency of buildings is a responsibility of the Member States. Nevertheless, by „Mandate 480“, the European Commission has tasked the European Standardisation Organisation CEN to develop new standards in accordance to the Directive. Even if the Directive does not require common standards, the Commission and most Member States expect such common standards in the long run.

The Commission with Mandate 480 requests the CEN...

to cooperate with a Liaison Committee consisting of Member States (members of the EDMC) for the purpose of verifying and monitoring progress with respect to the requirements set by the Member States in their national legislation; Member State will be consulted during the standardisation process when deciding on:

- a) which standards to prepare or revise, and its objectives;
- b) main principles and structure of each of the new standards;
- c) final text of the standard.

[\[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/buildings/doc/2010_mandate_480_en.pdf\]](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/efficiency/buildings/doc/2010_mandate_480_en.pdf)

Due to the contract between the CEN and its member organisations (in Germany: DIN), the national member organisations are obliged to include European standards into their national regime of standards and to withdraw contradicting national standards. But the Member States are not obliged to refer to those standards as a basis of their legislation. The Commission is aware of this. As a consequence, the Commission has laid down in „Mandate 480“ that country representatives have to be involved in the process of standardisation. This step is

supposed to ensure the usability of standards as the basis of public law.

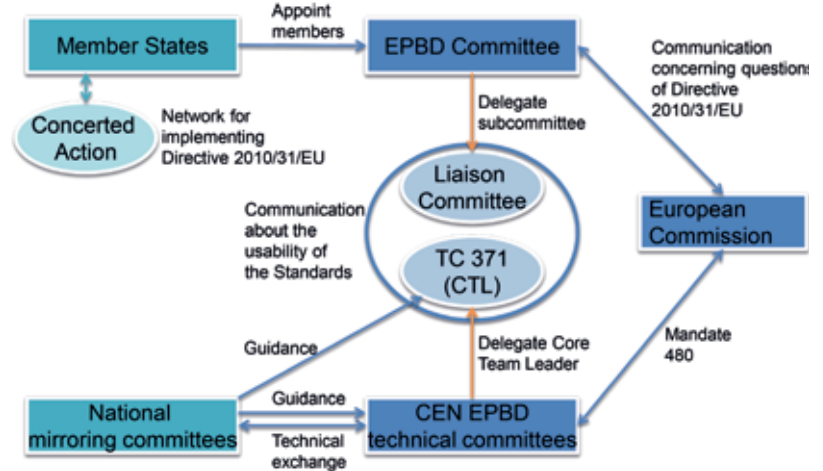
A speciality of „Mandate 480“ is that it foresees a direct inclusion of representatives of the Member States governments in the process of standardisation. The process of implementation of Directive 2010/31/EU by the Commission is being supported by the EPBD Committee (the former EDMC). The Liaison Committee is a subcommittee of the EPBD Committee. This subcommittee has to closely accompany the process of standardization in order to ensure the applicability and feasibility of the standards in the Member States. To achieve this, the Liaison Committee frequently meets with the CEN EPBD Core Team Leaders (TC 371).

As in all other projects of standardisation, it is the obligation of the national standardisation organisations to ensure the physical and technical quality of the European standards. Nevertheless, it is the task of the Liaison Committee to follow the process to ensure usability in terms of applicability in the course of legislation. Mr. Schettler-Köhler, head of BBSR Division II 2, is a German delegate to the EPBD Committee and was appointed by this committee as one of 6 members of the Liaison Committee.

The process of standardisation is organised in two stages. In the first stage, a draft of the overall calculation rules, general rules and structures for the other standards was provided by the CEN. All national standardisation organisations and the Liaison Committee had the opportunity to comment. The responsible CEN Committee (TC 371) discussed the remarks and is now obliged to provide the amended documents of step one and a further package of drafts of European standards. According to the Mandate, the whole package of standards is supposed to be available in 2015. To meet this deadline, it would be necessary to have the voting on the acceptance of the standards concerning the energy efficiency of buildings in 2014. It seems questionable if CEN will be able to meet this time frame.

At a conference in Lisbon, delegates from numerous Member States discussed their position towards the upcoming European package of standards. The Liaison Committee had invited Member States representatives of the EPBD Committee and of the “Concerted Action EPBD” network to get involved into the process. The session about „National Implementation“ was moderated by Isabel

Schemata on the interaction of participants in the process of European standardisation according to Mandate 480



CA3 Study Tour Lisbon – Consultation of the Liaison Committee with the Member States about the national implementation of European standards

Photo: Jana Bendžalova

Ahlke and Horst P. Schettler-Köhler, Division II 2, Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development. During the discussion, it became obvious that the attitude of how to cope with standards and how to integrate them in national legislations differs widely. Most Member States wish to stay with their current system of dealing with standards. Consequently, the same European standards will not be enforced with the same rigour in all countries. All attending Member States agreed upon the necessity of common European standards in future. But the process of getting there needs to be gentle and gradual. Each Member State will have to find an own way of shaping the period of transition.

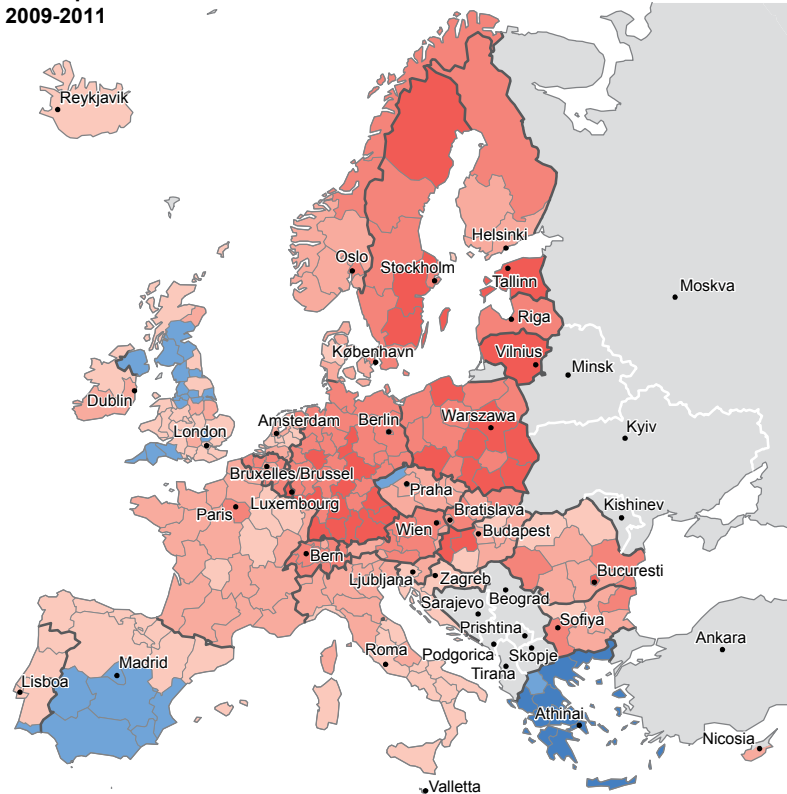
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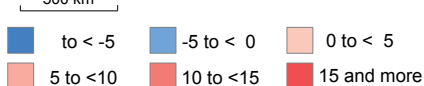
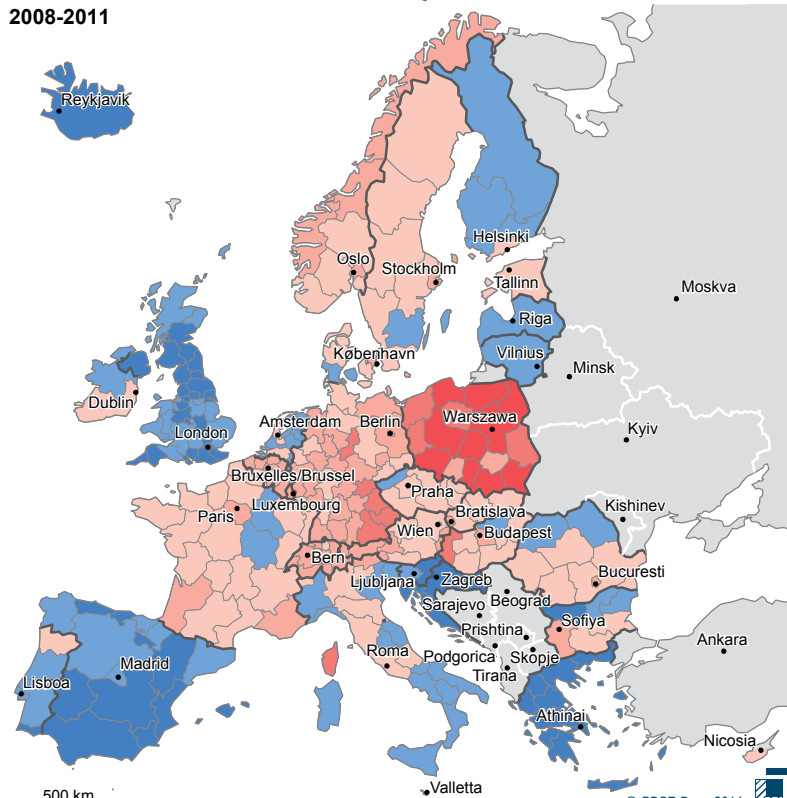
Latest Map

European regions on their way out of the crisis – but not yet out of the vale

**Development of GDP in PPS in %
2009-2011**



2008-2011



Database: European Spatial Monitoring System, Eurostat REGIO
Geometrical basis: GfK GeoMarketing
Regions: NUTS 2; Cartography: R. Binot

Recent figures on the regional gross domestic product (GDP) 2011, published by Eurostat in spring, have shown that the economies in the majority of European regions are growing again compared to the crisis year 2009.

Belgium, Poland, Germany as well as the Baltic and Scandinavian countries show the highest regional GDP growth rates measured by purchasing power standards (PPS). The growth rates are much lower in the United Kingdom, France and the Netherlands. The border of economic growth so to speak currently runs along the German-French border. In many regions of northern England, southern Spain and Greece, the economic performance is still declining though.

Comparing the economic performance with the time before the crisis shows that many regions have not yet regained the economic strength of 2008. In Greece, Spain and the United Kingdom there are not any regions which have grown in the periods compared.

The regions of Poland and south-eastern Germany have a clear tendency to grow.

The way out of the crisis seems to be difficult for many regions. The growth rates since the crisis year 2009, however, reveal that many regional economies have been recovering since the sharp fall at that time. Regions with a positive development can be found in all countries apart from Greece, and in the northern regions of Spain as well a process of recovery becomes apparent.

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Migration and the city

Informationen zur Raumentwicklung (Information on Spatial Development) (IzR), Issue 5.2013, Ed.: BBSR, Bonn 2013

Migration and the city – emphasis is mostly laid on "migration", less on "city". Migration is a classical urban topic and nevertheless is hardly seen from a spatial perspective. Discussions mainly focus on problems of sectoral integration: into the labour market, into social systems, into the education system etc. But the various forms of reshaping variety do not happen via mythical integration concepts but especially through the humdrum routine of everyday's life.

Migrants have already become stakeholders of urban development a long time ago. But we still know very little about the interactions between migration – with all its manifestations – and the city (urban development). The urban society mirrors the global society in a very confined space - but how is it mirrored by urban planning and architecture? Who brings new ideas and interests to the city beyond existing structures and how do contrasts turn into a new identity? When is migration a topic within urban development? Do planners consider themselves as players actively helping shape social existence or only as mediators and moderators of processes? The issue's goal is to make a cross-section of the city and the urban society and to consider social, spatial and architectural qualities based on an integrated approach. In this context, migration is considered in connection with the chances and opportunities opened up when looking at urban spaces. The purpose of the articles of the issue on hand is not to provide a reliable answer to many questions. They rather should be understood as critical, theoretical contributions to a discussion aiming to answer the question "How can and should the future manifold city look like?"



Turkish grocery in Dortmund

Source: Mustafa Şentürk

CityZoom – analyses of small-scale comparative urban monitoring

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In the Federal Republic of Germany, spatial data are produced, collected and compiled in databases for all administrative levels. We have been used for years to the fact that harmonised regional statistical data for the Federal Government and federal state levels exist nation- and state-wide, which is not the case for the local level. However, in order to answer various issues in the field of comparative spatial and urban monitoring, there is large interest in having social spatial data and indicators not only for the overall city level.

In this issue, reflections and analyses of urban monitoring based on small territorial units are presented on the basis of supralocal administrative data. Existing data as well as difficulties in producing and processing them and especially the chance they offer to urban monitoring activities, that do not lose their meaningfulness on the administrative borders of local authorities with large populations, are demonstrated. It is important for tracing various spatial processes because German does not only have a differentiated polycentral urban structure, the majority of the population lives in these towns and cities. According to the 2011 Census, large cities alone (cities with more than 100,000 inhabitants) give home to around 31 % of the population.

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.

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News

Editorial announcement: BBSR now under the portfolio of the Federal Ministry for the Environment and Building



Federal Minister Dr. Barbara Hendricks visiting the BBR seat in Bonn-Mehlem

Photo: Schlag, BBSR

Following the change of the German Federal Government, the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning (BBR) now belongs to the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB). With around 1,250 employees, it is the second largest federal authority within the portfolio of the BMUB after the Federal Environment Agency.

Following the parliamentary elections in September 2013 and the formation of the new Government in December 2013, the areas of responsibility of the federal ministries were partly reorganised. The responsibility for building, urban development and housing (not

spatial planning) have for example changed from the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Development (BMVBS) to the new BMUB. As a consequence, the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) as part of the BBR and federal superior authority has also changed into the portfolio of the BMUB. Spatial planning remains within the responsibility of the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI, formerly BMVBS).

For the time being, the tasks of the BBSR do not change. Its researchers support the BMUB and other ministries in the political fields of urban and spatial development, housing and real estate as well as building. Research and development as well as knowledge-based services are main tasks of the BBSR.

On the occasion of the first courtesy visit of Federal Minister Dr. Barbara Hendricks, BBSR Director Harald Herrmann presented some of the main tasks of the BBSR's two scientific departments. These tasks include analyses to develop housing and real estate markets, climate protection and energy saving issues, contributions to the Federal Government's demographic strategy and accompanying research in the field of urban development support. "Having an eye on using scientific results practically and politically is the way how we see our role as departmental research institution", Harald Herrmann said.

For latest information from the BBSR, please have a look as usual at www.bbsr.bund.de.