



RESEARCH NEWS

No 1 / June 2017

Dear Readers,

60 years ago, the Treaties of Rome laid the foundations of the economic and political integration of Europe and today's European Union. The path of the European integration is characterised by many – large and small – milestones. Our work at the BBSR in the fields of spatial development, urban development, housing and building is definitely affected. This year, some of these milestones celebrate their anniversary. In 2017, for example, we can look back to 20 years of transnational cooperation (Interreg B) – a good reason to discuss the achievements and perspectives of transnational cooperation in Europe. The Interreg conference in May 2017 in Berlin (see p. 4) gave a good opportunity. Ten years ago, the Territorial Agenda of the EU and the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities were adopted in Leipzig in the context of the German EU Council Presidency. The Territorial Agenda is said to be an important guideline towards an integrated spatial development policy in the European Union. The Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities, is still the central document on integrated urban development in Europe and thus provides the basis for the National Urban Development Policy in Germany. In this context again, stock is taken and perspectives are discussed (see p. 6).

And finally, an internal anniversary will be celebrated. In 2017 we can look back to the 25th anniversary of our European Spatial and Urban Development Division (see p. 11). Europe is and remains topical. In the future as well, we will do our best to inform you about Europe-related activities in the BBSR.

We wish you a happy reading.

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A spatial monitoring system for Germany and neighbouring regions

The Demonstration Project of Spatial Planning "A spatial monitoring system for Germany and neighbouring regions" - metaphorically speaking – now enters the finishing straight. By the end of this year, recommendations of action will be formulated how a permanent spatial monitoring system for German and neighbouring regions could be implemented. In addition, a report is going to inform about the structures and trends of German regions and their neighbours.

The Demonstration Project involves seven model regions, which were selected in 2015 and 2016 following a public tender:

- Schleswig-Holstein/Syddanmark/Sjælland
- Euroregion Pro Europa Viadrina (Pro Europa Viadrina euroregion)
- Internationale Bodenseeregion (International Lake Constance Region)
- Trinationale Metropolregion Oberrhein (trinational Upper Rhine metropolitan region)
- Großregion (grand region)
- Charlemagne Grenzregion (Charlemagne border region)
- Deutsch-Niederländische Euregios (German-Dutch euregios)

For mutual benefit, the project combines the knowledge and experience gained in the context of cross-border spatial monitoring activities of the regions, the federal states and the BBSR as the Federal Government's representative as well as of Spiekermann & Wegener Urban and Regional Research (S&W), which carries out the project.

Between November 2016 and January 2017, several workshops were implemented in the seven model regions. During those workshops, cross-border processes as well as possibilities, demands and needs for information on a cross-border information system were discussed with regional representatives, especially from the neighbouring regions abroad involved. The workshops also offered the opportunity to set up or intensify cooperations in this field.

On 9 and 10 February 2017, the conference "Germany and neighbouring regions – paths towards a spatial monitoring system", held at Ernst-Reuter-Haus in Berlin, offered the opportunity for national and international participants to discuss status quo, recommendations and future options of cross-border spatial monitoring in Germany and its adjacent regions.

The various contributions and discussions made clear that cross-border spatial monitoring activities have to integrate multiple spatial perspectives and have to include both, the demands of the Federal Government and the federal states, to gain evidence on the interactions and the interrelationships and their importance for the overall territory, and the needs of the regions to obtain specific information that might be considered e.g. in cross-border planning frameworks.

The results and the final report of the project will be presented during the final congress on 9 and 10 November 2017 in Berlin. An abstract of the report will be published in all languages of the German neighbouring countries.

Further information (in German):
www.bbsr.bund.de > Programme
> MORO > Studien > Raumbewachung Deutschland und angrenzende Regionen

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Conference "Germany and neighbouring regions – paths towards a spatial monitoring system" in February 2017



Source: S&W

Joint future concept for the German-Polish Interaction Area

Together into the future! This is the slogan for a joint concept for Polish and German regions on both sides of the rivers Oder and Neisse. The Committee on Spatial Development, co-chaired by the German Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure and the Polish Ministry of Economic Development, introduced a vision on how the interaction area might look like in the year 2030.

Vision

In 2030 the Polish-German Interaction Area has become a common growth area in the heart of Europe. The region is a driver for development and an example for social, economic and environmental progress.

Central issues of the Joint Future Concept are:

- Use the potentials of the polycentric settlement structure;
- Improve the transport links;
- Invest in people;
- Promote sustainable growth;
- Secure the basis for a high quality of life.

The concept identifies potentials and formulates development opportunities. It offers mutually coordinated, regional planning guidance for authorities, institutions and decision-makers. It also aims to make the area more visible on a European level. The concept is based on the respective national guidelines for spatial development in Poland and Germany. It is not a formal planning document and as such not legally binding.

The Joint Future Concept sets up clear and concise courses of action and defines the work of the committee on spatial development for the next couple of years. For the nearer future, the committee will intensify the exchange with actors of cross-border cooperation funds (Interreg A) and will seek to stronger involve local players and actors. A joint best practices competition will be launched in autumn 2017 by both ministries.

The German-Polish Government Commission for Regional and Cross-border Cooperation in 2014 requested its spatial development committee to develop the joint concept. Work started in December 2014. The Federal

Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development, together with the Institute for Territorial Development in Wrocław and the Joint Spatial Planning Department of Berlin and Brandenburg coordinated the process. Drafts were consulted twice online and at a research symposium, organised by the University of Applied Science Neubrandenburg and the University of Szczecin, with a total of 90 contributions and 460 proposals for amendments.

The Polish-German Interaction Area has a population of 20.8 million inhabitants and covers an area of 160,000 square kilometres. Four Polish voivodships and four German federal states constitute the area (Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Brandenburg, Berlin and Saxony as well as the voivodships of Lower Silesia, Lubusz, West Pomerania and Greater Poland). The regions involved generate a GDP of 430 billion €.

Further information (in German):

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Cartographic image of the German-Polish Interaction Area



Source: Spatial Planning Committee of the German-Polish Governmental Commission for Regional and Cross-Border Cooperation

European cooperation strengthening cities and regions!

Interreg B half-time conference on 16 May 2017 in Berlin

“Territory matters!” This unique selling point of transnational cooperation was discussed at the Interreg half-time conference „Europäische Zusammenarbeit stärkt Städte und Regionen!“ (European cooperation strengthening cities and regions!) on 16 May 2017 in Berlin. Dorothee Bär, parliamentary state secretary at the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI), thus presented a guideline for future transnational cooperation. From the perspective of European spatial development policy, territorial approaches are required to solve current challenges and this point is addressed by transnational cooperation.

At the middle of the official programming period (2014 – 2020), the BMVI as the responsible ministry in Germany and around 170 stakeholders from federal states, municipalities, associations, enterprises and research institutions took stock of the activities so far, discussed impacts and value added of Interreg B and presented perspectives for the time beyond 2020.

20 years of Interreg B – the achievements

Since 1997, Interreg B has established as a recognised funding instrument, which became more than clear during the discussion “20 years of Interreg B – what are the achievements?” and during various project presentations.

In the current programming period, more than 170 projects i.a. in fields like innovation support, energy and climate change, mobility, environmental issues and resource efficiency are run with German partners. Besides solutions for these challenges, the project partners also produce cross-thematic results which often find less attention than the specialised results – without good reason as explained by Sina Redlich, BBSR, in her lecture. A current study proves that impacts go beyond the project duration and direct partners. They enable key stakeholders, activate decision-makers and help knowledge and competences to be applied. However, such impacts can be proven in different ways than those of pure investment programmes, whose success can be articulated in kilometres of built roads.

Transnational cooperation beyond 2020 – what are the perspectives?

The discussion about the future of EU funding has already begun. By the end of 2017, the new multiannual financial framework is planned to be submitted. Due to the planned exit of the United Kingdom from the EU, it faces large challenges influencing the discussions about the future of the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF). According to the present plans, the EU Commission is going to present the proposals for the new ESIF regulations in the second half of 2018, which will also lay the foundations for Interreg B beyond 2020.

What are the perspectives for Interreg B beyond 2020? This question was treated during the second discussion with representatives from Federal Government and states, from Luxembourg and the European Commission. It became clear that the territorial integration objectives in the context of the transnational programmes have to be backed again. In doing so, synergies with other instruments, e.g. macroregional strategies, have to be considered. Other key topics of transnational cooperation, that were intensively discussed, were measurability, thematic orientation and simplification. As time was almost too short, lively discussions were continued at the informal get together. What a successful kick-off of the discussions about the future!

For more information on transnational cooperation, please visit www.interreg.de.

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Photo: Dirk Michael Deckbar

2016 urban development report: a good way of living together in the neighbourhood

The German Federal Government is asked to report on the urban development in Germany every four years. This is why, in 2016 as well, it submitted an urban development report. The report deals with the current situation of German cities and municipalities and presents the challenges, which cities and the urban development policy have to tackle. It also describes the Federal Government's urban development policy activities of the last four years and outlines options how a future policy promoting municipalities might look like.

Simultaneity of growth and shrinking continues

More and more people move into cities, which has been proved by the population growth since 2005 in two thirds of all large cities and around a quarter of the small and medium-sized towns. Especially large cities regained attractiveness in the last ten years. Not large cities alone benefit from this development but metropolitan region as a whole. However, strongly growing cities have a lack of housing. Especially in inner cities, the prices of housing are increasing. Affordable housing is scarce. The lack of areas for housing presents some municipalities with more challenges. It is necessary to tap inner-city potentials but also to take the limits of using existing space into account in order to preserve open and green spaces in inner cities.

When discussing growth and tight housing markets, it cannot be ignored that the majority of the German municipalities has had to cope with a loss of inhabitants for more than a decade or rather shows stable figures, which rather applies to small and medium-sized towns than large cities. The more the population decreases, the more the share of the elderly increases, which is a consequence of age-selective migrations. From small and medium-sized towns, especially those aged 18 to 30 years, among them many young women in particular, go away. Following the population decrease and ageing, small and medium-sized towns outside metropolitan regions face the challenge of ensuring, qualitatively expanding and establishing their locations as "anchor points" of spatial development. In doing so, their goal must be to strengthen their major

centres as places of supply, education, living and working. Ensuring the local and regional services of general interest must be as important as identifying and tapping regional development potentials.

Although the various developments are only roughly outlined, it becomes clear that cities with their different sizes and functions as well as regional contexts have to be considered in a very differentiated way. Developments like the globalising economy and globalising markets, digitalization, international migration and climate change concern all German cities. But they confront them with problems which may differ depending on the starting point.

This is why in the urban development report the current urban development trends and motors are analysed in a differentiated way considering the various cities and types of territories. What does the steady in-migration of people from different regions mean for cities and their societies? Which impacts and requirements do climate change and adaption to climate change imply for cities and regions? Which chances and dangers does the digitalization bear? The challenges are numerous and the interactions as well as the cause and effect chains are not easy to be defined.

Sustainable development as a benchmark for governance

The cities and municipalities in Germany face complex social, demographic, economic and ecological challenges. In order to cope with them, the Federal Government, the federal states, the municipalities and the EU have a large legal and funding-based set of instruments at their disposal. The Federal Government has for a long time been pursuing the goal of a sustainable and integrated urban development. The 2013's coalition agreement of the parliamentary groups supports this goal by mentioning the support of a sustainable development as a benchmark for governance. International agreements have further confirmed these goals: By the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the 2015 Paris Climate Conference (COP21)

Urban Development

and the New Urban Agenda, which had been adopted by the world community during the Habitat III Conference in October 2016 in Quito, the basic foundations for a sustainable urban development were formulated.

Together with the national strategy for sustainable development, a clear urban development framework has been created: intergenerational equity, quality of life and a livable environment, social cohesion and international responsibility as guidelines of the national strategy for sustainable development serve as goals of the urban development activities of the Federal Government. The urban development policy is considered as an important interdisciplinary task combining and coordinating the various local goals and sectoral policies and interests. Many urban development-related challenges are connected. They have to be solved based on integrated approaches and by various sectoral

policies and a combination of their instruments. The National Urban Development Policy as a joint initiative of the Federal Government, the federal states and the municipalities creates a platform for joint action.

Since more than 45 years, urban development support has been an important part of the Federal Government's urban development policy. In 2014, the national funds were considerably increased at the beginning of the new legislative period. The urban development support programmes promote cities and municipalities decisively in adapting themselves to the social, economic, demographic and climate change.

For the German national urban development report, please have a look at the the German Federal Environment Ministry website <http://www.bmub.bund.de/> (Themen/Stadt Wohnen/Stadtentwicklung) (in German).

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10 years of Leipzig Charter – towards a sustainable European city 11th Federal Congress on National Urban Development Policy

In 2017, the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities celebrates its tenth anniversary. It still represents the central document on integrated urban development in Europe. The National Urban Development Policy as a joint initiative of the Federal Government, the federal states and the municipalities is based on the Leipzig Charter and in 2017 also celebrates its tenth anniversary. This is why, at the 11th Federal Congress on 12-14 June 2017 in Hamburg, stock will be taken with renowned experts and representatives from the fields of politics, planning, economy and civil society. At the same time, the idea of a European city shall be advanced, new approaches and strategies be discussed in order to jointly promote a sustainable and integrated urban development on the national and European level.

Smart Cities, a future-oriented topic carried out in the context of a research cluster, gives reason to discuss how digitalization can be used to realise a sustainable urban development. In the context of a winter school with students from 12 universities organised by the BBSR, a neo-European city was outlined, which will be

presented through an installation during the Congress. Representatives of the Maltese EU Council Presidency, mayors from Italy, Austria and Sweden and the Danish urban planner, Jan Gehl, will present challenges and solutions for European cities through lectures and in the context of discussions.

As a financial instrument which is put on a conceptional and planning basis, the urban development support by the Federal Government and the federal states represents the most effective implementation instrument of the National Urban Development Policy and is exemplary in Europe. Results and achievements of various urban development programmes will therefore be presented at the Congress and illustrated with practical examples.

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Photo: Mirko Plengemeyer

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Housing deficits causing considerable rent and price increases in many German cities and regions

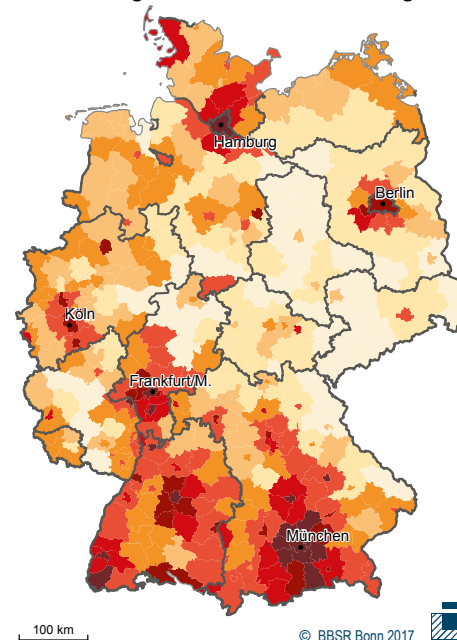
Since 2009/2010, many cities and regions in Germany have been characterised by a growing lack of housing. The housing demand strongly concentrates on booming cities and, as an evasive reaction, increasingly on their surrounding areas. The reason are internal migration gains from other German regions but also a considerably increased number of immigrations especially from other European countries. The consequence are regional housing deficits implying strongly increasing rents and real estate prices.

Very high rental levels and increases can be found in some core cities of the European metropolitan regions in Germany. With an average net asking rent of more than 10 euros/m² exclusive of additional costs in 2016, Munich, Frankfurt am Main, Stuttgart, Hamburg, and Mainz stand out against other cities. The rents increased by more than 5% each compared to the year before. The asking rents of other economically strong cities have also considerably gone up. Even smaller towns with important universities like Trier, Würzburg, Heidelberg or Freiburg have become more expensive since 2010. The reason is that several effects converged. After the compulsory military service had been stopped and the German high schooldays had been shortened (leading to double Abitur years), the number of students considerably rose. The number of international students also went up. All these trends led to strong increases in the housing demand.

In Germany too few dwellings had been built over years. Since 2010, the building permissions have been strongly increasing – in 2016 the construction of about 375,000 dwellings was permitted. The completion of permitted constructions, however, increasingly lags behind despite the rising number of permissions in the last few years. In 2015, just under 248,000 dwellings were realised, which is not enough to meet the expected annual need for 350,000 to 400,000 new dwellings by 2020. It is therefore important to reduce barriers in realising new construction projects and to create the dwellings according to the demand.

German as well as international investors show great interest in new construction projects. But the project development is

2016's asking rents in the field of housing



Rental prices for first-time and re-letting (net asking rents exclusive of additional costs) in € per m² in 2016

up to below 5.00	7.00 to below 8.00
5.00 to below 5.50	8.00 to below 9.00
5.50 to below 6.00	9.00 to below 10.00
6.00 to below 7.00	10.00 and more

Database: BBSR housing market monitoring system, IDN ImmoDaten GmbH
Geometric basis: WIM counties based on municipalities (generalised), as of 31/12/2015, © GeoBasis-DE/BKG
Authors: N. Brack, A. Schürt

Comments:

In Brandenburg the counties were differentiated according to immediate catchment area and outer development area. Hanover Region and the Aachen district were differentiated according to city and former surrounding county.

WIM = housing and property market monitoring

often impeded by missing and too expensive plots of land, a lack of staff in administrations and construction firms, long planning and permission procedures and, especially in the case of inner-city development measures, by neighbourhood objections and use conflicts.

In view of the difficult market conditions, it is necessary to build more dwellings. It is nevertheless important to take the medium- and long-term demand into account in order not to "overshoot the mark" and to create future surpluses as they were caused by population losses and unmarketable properties in numerous shrinking regions in Germany.

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Sustainable Building by the Federal Government

Sustainability is aimed at ensuring a long-term and future-oriented development of society, economy, and environment. In addition to generational equality, quality of life, and social cohesion, this also includes the conservation of natural resources and habitats, climate protection, air quality, health, and biodiversity.

As a contractor, the German Federal Government bears great responsibility, both for its own buildings and as a standard for other public and private building owners. As the buildings realised today will decisively shape our physical environment for decades to come, this is all the more important.

The brochure “Sustainable Building by the Federal Government” provides an overview of the Federal Government’s sustainability activities and the practical instruments and tools developed so far, which are mandatory for federal buildings but are also suitable for other public clients or for the private sector.

As essential instruments, the Guideline for Sustainable Building and the Assessment System for Sustainable Building (BNB) were developed for the implementation of the national strategy on sustainability in the field of building design and construction. While the Guideline for Sustainable Building is the explanatory framework document in terms of the implementation and operationalisation of sustainable planning, construction, use, and operation, the BNB Assessment System defines the methodology for verification to be applied according to transparent rules and objective methods and enables to measure and to illustrate the fulfilment of the Guidelines’ requirements.

The Sustainable Building Information Portal, the central platform for the Federal Government’s information on sustainable building, provides guidelines, tools, extensive data sources and all criteria profiles of the BNB for download free of charge.

Publications



The publications can be found in German and English at www.bbr.bund.de (Programme > Allg. Ressortforschung > Bereich Raumordnung).

The impacts of transnational cooperation in Interreg B

Based on an analysis of a range of Interreg B projects covering several fields such as innovation, transport and environment, this recently published study deals with those impacts that go beyond sectoral impacts (such as increasing the competitiveness of SMEs or decreasing CO2 emissions). The publication focuses on the additional cross-sectoral impacts that are specific to Interreg B and cover among others process, organizational and cooperation impacts.

In the study, these impacts are identified and systemized in order to improve comprehension and raise awareness on the added value of those impacts that are specific to Interreg B. The authors developed recommendations directed at projects, programme responsables

as well as the European Commission on how to take these particular impacts into account with regard to the current and next programming period.

In addition to the main publication, two target group-specific papers were published. The “Good Practice Guidelines for an Effective Implementation of Interreg B Projects” is meant for project developers and project supporters and elaborates on the success factors of an effective project implementation. The paper titled “Measuring Interreg B Specific Impacts” is targeted at programme authorities and responsables and suggests a 4-step concept that includes the measuring of cross-sectoral impacts in addition to sectoral ones.

Grün in der Stadt Greenery in the city

Informationen zur Raumentwicklung (IzR),
Issue 6.2016, Ed.: BBSR, Bonn 2016

"We need green cities? Nonsense", Dankwart Guratzsch wrote provocatively in a supra-regional daily newspaper in March 2015. The city had to remain a city according to the architectural critic. Meanwhile, the development of the population alone takes care of that: Between 2005 and 2014, the population of in 49 of the 77 large cities in Germany increased by around 1.1 million persons. The results are increasing settlement densities, an increased pressure on the use of urban spaces and hence also new conflicts. Simultaneously, more and more urban residents increasingly express the wish to live and work in an attractive green environment. Parks and promenades are popular places to be in cities, urban gardening is becoming ever more popular and attractive green spaces turn into an important factor in the locational decisions of enterprises.

But how can green spaces in the city contribute to the adaptation to climate change? Which role do places in the city play in which nature is left to itself? Who profits from the increase in land values through green spaces? And how can urban greenery be used to make cities more just with regard to environmental resources?

The theme issue "Greenery in the city" considers these and numerous other questions of current interest. It describes the challenges and fields of conflict, presents approaches that are oriented towards the future and approaches the theme "urban greenery" from different perspectives. Some articles discuss social and health aspects of urban greenery, others focus on the aspects of a new design, valuation and care. They analyse the strategy of dual inner-city development or devote themselves to new garden cities, unplanned spaces and the multiple functions of urban greenery.

Smarter cities – better life?

Informationen zur Raumentwicklung (IzR),
Issue 1.2017, Ed.: BBSR, Bonn 2017

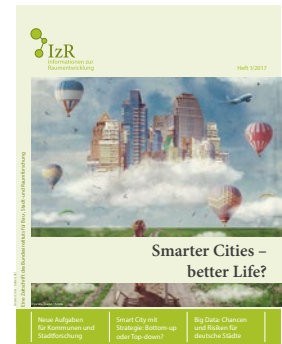
After a comprehensive relaunch of the specialist journal "Informationen zur Raumentwicklung" (IzR), the first new issue is devoted to the theme "smart cities".

In order to become "smart" – i.e. intelligent –, many cities are upgrading their technical and digital infrastructure. There is no lack of challenges that they intend to tackle in this way: climate change, transportation, supply and disposal, housing and social integration are only some catchwords. Large German cities such as Munich, Hamburg, Cologne or Berlin position themselves as smart cities as well.

However, not only digitalisation, new technologies and data are important. In order to solve complex problems in cities, varied knowledge and experience are necessary, occasionally also emotion and especially exchange and networking. This is why many European smart city approaches attach value to exchange and participation – occasionally also beyond departmental boundaries.

Even in smart cities people and not technology should be in the foreground. In the end, every city will only be as intelligent as its citizens and its policy-makers.

So how does a city become a smart city that really improves the life of its citizens? Which role do social participation and cooperation play? What about data protection? And which chances, risks and tasks do German cities have that intend to become smarter? In the IzR issue "Smarter cities – better life?" scientists, practitioners and planners consider these and many other questions.



www.bbsr.bund.de >
publications

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.

News

Understanding and shaping Europe – 25 years of European Spatial and Urban Development Division in the BBSR

Twenty years ago, in 1992, a “Spatial Planning in Europe” Division was founded in, the predecessor institute of the BBSR. With the Treaty of Maastricht (1992) the European Union (EU) had received more competences in various spatially relevant policies (Trans-European Networks, environmental protection, regional and structural policy). This raised the question how the spatially relevant policies of the European Union and their member states might be better coordinated. Since 1992 the BBSR contributed significantly to the development of EU spatial policies, spatial monitoring and the implementation of policies.

Policies: ESDP, Territorial Agenda, Leipzig Charter, New Urban Agenda

The BBSR’s European Spatial and Urban Development Division had an intensive scientific stake in formulating evidence-based political documents. The Principles for a European Spatial Development Policy which were adopted during the Informal Council of Spatial Planning Ministers in 1994 in Leipzig was a first milestone towards a European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP). After the Trend Scenarios in 1995, a “first official draft of the ESDP” in 1997 and a large participatory process, the ESDP was finally adopted in May 1999 in Potsdam, also under German EU Council Presidency. With the ESDP the (at that time still 15) EU member states for the first time had agreed upon guiding principles and perspectives of development of their joint territory. The Territorial Agenda of the EU (TAEU) and the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities in 2007 in Leipzig were then a necessary reaction to the EU enlargement rounds in 2004 and 2007 and to the Treaty of Lisbon, based on which the territorial cohesion had been laid down as a new EU objective. Recently, in 2016, the BBSR was very active and deeply involved in drafting the UN New Urban Agenda and dealing with sustainable urban development in an international and global perspective.

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Spatial monitoring: networks, study programmes, ESPON

Sound spatial monitoring is the basis for evidence-based political advice. Already in 1994 in Leipzig, the necessity of a network of spatial-scientific research institutions was discussed. In this context a first informal network of policy-oriented research institutes emerged in which the BBSR was significantly involved. With the Study Programme on European Spatial Planning (SPESP) drawn up in 1998, this network was for the first time institutionalised by establishing national focal points and integrating national experts in the European network. ESPON, the European Spatial Planning Observatory Network, emerged from the Study Programme in 2002 and has since played an important role in the European research scenery providing important basic information on the spatial development in Europe. The BBSR is the national ESPON Contact Point for Germany and intensively participates in projects such as the ESPON Atlas.

Implementation: Interreg and macroregional strategies

Already in 1997, a framework for project- and theme-related joint application initiatives for the ESDP had been created with the Interreg transnational cooperation programmes. Together with the macroregional strategies in the Baltic Sea Region, the Danube Region and the Alpine Space, transnational cooperation is presently being incorporated in a wider political framework. The BBSR represents the German Federal Government in the steering committees of the six programme areas with German participation and organises the national exchange and transfer of results.

It goes on!

Even more thrilling than a look back is a look into the future. In the course of the already started discussion about the future of the European structural policy beyond 2020 and thus transnational cooperation in Europe and the upcoming German EU Council Presidency in 2020, important tasks become already now apparent.

Symposium "25 years European Spatial and Urban Development Division in the BBSR"

We will celebrate this anniversary during a symposium on 19 September 2017 in Bonn, where we look back and into the future.

Land consumption for settlement purposes in Europe

The current data on land use changes of the CORINE Land Cover (CLC) for 2012 show that changed uses of settlement areas cause the highest land consumption. All in all in the European Union (EU 28), around 520,000 ha have been built up between 2006 and 2012 which corresponds to 1.2 millions football pitches. This is just under 87,000 ha per year in this period.

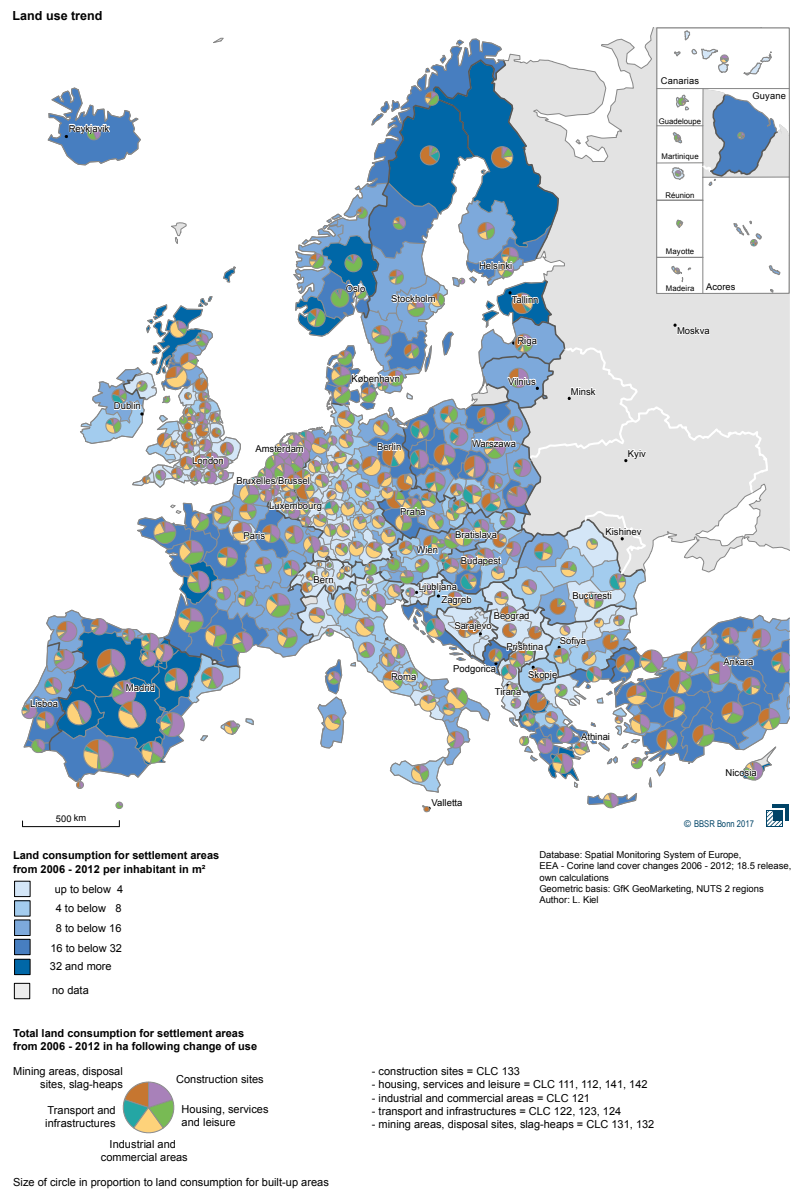
With around 18,800 ha per year, Spain is the country with the highest land consumption followed by France with 14,900 ha, Poland with 8,600 ha, Germany with 7,700 ha and Italy with 5,900 ha.

Referring to the number of inhabitants, around 11 ha have been used as settlement areas in the EU 28 between 2006 and 2012. In Germany, it were about 5 ha, in France and Spain it were 14 ha and 24 ha per inhabitant.

A comparison with the BBSR analysis on land development of 2012, executed for the period 2000 to 2006 based on the CLC data, reveals several interesting trends that can be attributed to countries joining the EU and related economic developments and to the economic and financial crisis and its consequences.

The land use in the EU as a whole is much lower, in the previous period it was still around 105,000 ha. Strong differences can be found in Poland where the land use between 2006 and 2012 was three times as high as in the period 2000 to 2006. In Ireland, the trend is different. Land consumption fell to nearly a sixth of the value of the previous period. In Spain, land consumption was reduced by a quarter, in Germany by a third.

24 % of the changed land uses in the EU28 referred to industrial and commercial areas, 19% to residential, service and leisure areas and 7 % to transport areas. In Germany, the land use by industrial and commercial areas made up nearly half of the land use changes.



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News**BBSR Director Harald Herrmann officially retired**

“Housing markets in the Rhineland under pressure of growth” – this was the motto of the 5th Deichmanns Aue Talk in Bonn to which the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) invited on 10 May 2017. The event took place on the occasion of the retirement of BBSR Director Harald Herrmann.

Mr Herrmann headed the BBSR for six years. Before the jurist had led the Central Department Z of the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning. Mr Herrmann had started his career at the Federal Ministry of Defence and continued it at the Federal

Building Ministry, where he i.a. worked as the private secretary of the then Federal Building Minister Klaus Töpfer and as head of division “Construction Industry”.

“When in 2011 I started at the BBSR, my intention was to show that the BBSR benefits the Federal Building Ministry but also other ministries which we also advised”, he said. “For me it was not only important to serve the scientific community but to make practice-oriented research in our cities and municipalities.”

In her speech, Federal Minister Dr. Barbara Hendricks acknowledged the BBSR Director's performance: “You actively supported us across the whole legislative period with your analyses. You achieved a lot. Thank you very much for your great commitment.”

In the following discussion it became clear that, in growing cities, it remains a challenge to mobilise land for housing, on the one hand, and to increase the supply of housing at a good price. However, the number of building permits, which recently had considerably increased, raises hopes that the lack of housing in growing cities can be managed.



Photo: Christian Schlag