



RESEARCH NEWS

No 1 / July 2019

Dear Readers,

Europe has voted. The European Parliament has been set up. Once the heads of the most important EU institutions have been nominated, work can start. And there is a lot to do!

The European Union is presently in an exciting phase: It has to decide upon important foundations for regional development, e.g. the EU's Multiannual Financial Framework and the regulations on the future cohesion policy including the Interreg regulation. It will pave the way for regional policy and territorial cooperation during 2021–2027. The BBSR is intensively involved in the preparations of the Interreg programmes on transnational cooperation (see article on page 4).

Germany is going to play a very important role in the second half of 2020. It is going to take over the EU Council Presidency following a rotation system. The Council Presidency is responsible for advancing the Council's consultations about legal EU provisions and for ensuring the continuity of the EU's agenda, the proper handling of legislative processes and cooperation among the member states. The impacts of this important function as well will be felt in the BBSR. More details on page 2.

Happy reading!

The editors

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Upcoming German EU Council presidency

In less than a year, in the second half of 2020, Germany holds the presidency of the Council of the European Union. For us at the BBSR, it is the fourth time since having started our European activities in 1992 that we support the Federal ministries responsible for territorial cohesion and urban development in delivering their presidency programmes.

In 2020, the programme focuses on two major topics: first, renewing the Territorial Agenda for the European Union and agreeing on an implementation mechanism, and second, updating the Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities. Both documents are foreseen for adoption at the informal meetings of the ministers responsible for territorial cohesion and for urban development on 30th November and 1st December 2020 in Leipzig.

The Territorial Agenda of the EU (TAEU) is a political framework for spatial development in the European Union. It dates back to 2007 and was revised in 2011. Due to new trends and especially following the “Great Recession” of 2008/2009 and 2011/2013 in a significant number of EU member states and the negative impacts they had on territorial cohesion among and within EU countries, the ministers decided in 2015 to renew the TAEU. Work is currently organised along the following lines: i) working on narratives, strategic scope and political embedding, ii) working on modernising and updating the content including adding new trends and challenges and using a language more easily understood by non-experts, and iii) focusing on governance and implementation mechanisms, i.a. defining and kicking-off pilot projects for implementation.

The Leipzig Charter of 2007 laid the foundations for a common European understanding of integrated urban development and functioned as a reference framework for national urban policies. In Germany in particular, it influenced goals and tasks of urban development policies and funding programmes. The main principles of the Leipzig Charter remain the same: sustainable and integrated urban development is still a cross-sector task for governmental and non-governmental players. The framework conditions, however, have changed. The EU and its member states are confronted with new societal and economic challenges. The revised

Leipzig Charta will address these challenges and update goals and principles of integrated urban development. Besides, the Charter will focus on strengthening urban governance and empowering cities. International agreements such as the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda of the UN or the Urban Agenda of the EU will be taken into account.

The BBSR supports both revision processes by providing expert advice and data, by participating in the respective task forces and expert groups and by managing external contractors.

Apart from these more formal processes, the BBSR is actively involved in preparing a couple of other events and products allowing stakeholders to get involved in European spatial and urban cooperation. In 2018, a series of national and international events was launched to prepare the update of the revised Leipzig Charta. In mid November 2020, for instance, the ESPON community will convene for its bi-annual seminar with an expected 300 participants. The main topic is still to be defined by ESPON but it can be assumed that it will centre on the themes of the revised Territorial Agenda of the EU. From September to November 2020, Berlin’s former central airport Tempelhof will host a major exhibition showing the wide variety of urban development around the EU. The presidency programme is complemented by Europe-wide events on housing policies, the built heritage, and on small and medium-sized towns as well as an atlas on territorial cohesion in the Union.

Territorial Agenda of the EU

https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/ > Information sources > Publications > 2011

Leipzig-Charter

www.nationale-stadtentwicklungspolitik.de/NSP/EN > Service > Publications

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Photo: 1966666, Pixabay

The BBSR's "Europa Atlas" – the differences determining the variety

The various trends in urban and rural regions, in economically strong and structurally weak areas, currently raise the question about the equivalence of the living conditions in Germany again.

The analyses of this Atlas focus on the regions in Europe. Its aim is to give a feel for the regional structures and trends and resulting chances and challenges for the regions. It also shows that the national and regional structures and development trends in Europe may be different. The demographic change shows different facets in Europe. The consequences of the economic crisis did not only have a long-term effect in the southern countries but also in the United Kingdom.

This provides the background for the look at the regions. The Atlas cannot replace any comprehensive regional statistical reporting. It concentrates on selected topics which demonstrate the differences among the regions thus delivering arguments to the current discussion about the possibilities of overcoming regional disparities and of realising European cohesion. Not only significance and

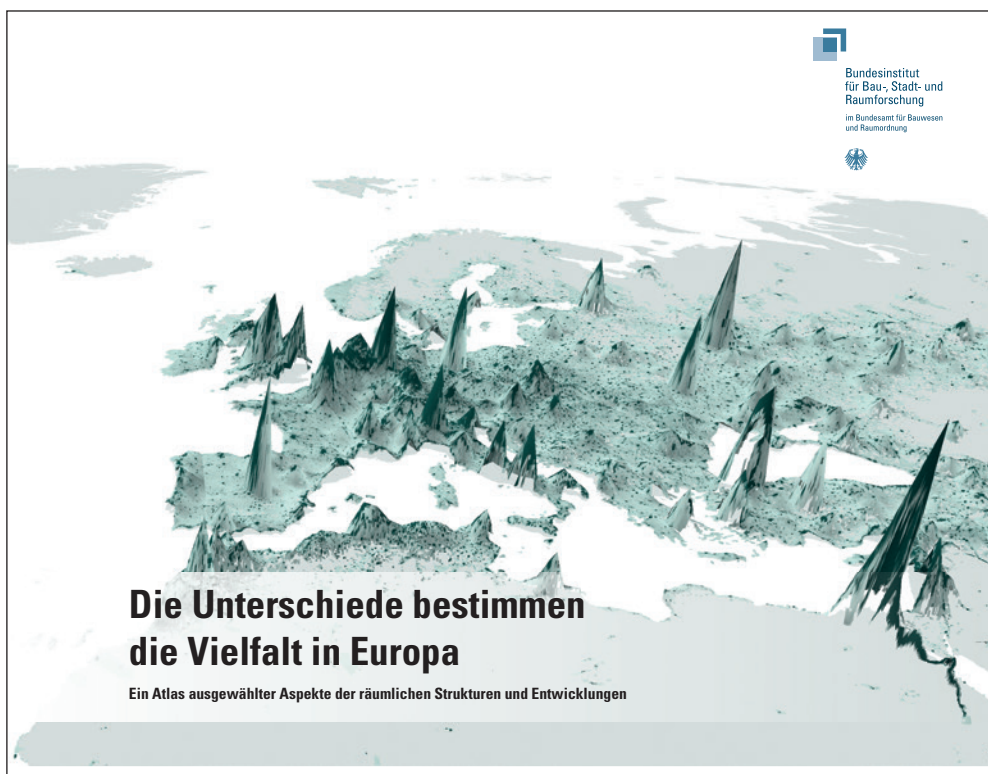
growth of cities, the parallelism of population growth and decline and the origin of the people living in Europe are important topics but also structures and trends with regard to the labour market and the economy. Moreover, regional aspects of the European research funding, of the accessibilities of certain infrastructures and of land use and wind energy are presented.

The topics considered in the regional analyses on the European area vary depending on the availability of regional statistical data. The European Union (EU) provides the basic spatial perspective for all topics presented. It is broadened by the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) member states and the EU accession candidates. Basic information about the population development or the unemployment are available for the geographic Europe and include the regions of Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova and Russia.

The atlas (in German) will soon be published as a special BBSR publication and can be ordered free of charge from beatrrix.thul@bbr.bund.de; keyword: Europa-Atlas

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Spatial Development



Interreg 2021+: programming has started

Transnational projects (Interreg B) help to tackle spatial development challenges together with European partners and to implement innovative solutions to achieve a sustainable development of cities and regions. The European institutions, the German Federal Government and the federal states have therefore spoken up early for continuing transnational cooperation. This is why the preparations for structural funding from 2021 are in full swing. The draft regulations submitted by the European Commission in May 2018 are presently being negotiated with the European Council and the European Parliament.

Even if the regulations have not yet been adopted, the preparations for formulating the transnational cooperation programmes for the programming period 2021-2027 have already started. In most transnational programme areas, transnational programming working groups were established with the goal to submit Interreg programmes to the European Commission by the end of 2020 so that, following adoption by the Commission (for which it will have a half year maximum), the programmes can be put into practice in the middle of 2021.

The work programme is complex. Based on an analysis of the programme areas and their joint challenges, the partner countries participating in a programme area have to agree upon the planned programme strategy, the funding priorities and specific objectives and upon

programme structures and procedures. In doing so, they have to involve cities and regions, economic and social partners and other stakeholders in the context of a large consultation process.

The BBSR has awarded the project “Interreg: Räumliche Effekte der transnationalen Zusammenarbeit und ihre Messbarkeit” (Interreg: spatial effects of transnational cooperation and their measurability), funded under the national Demonstration Projects of Spatial Planning programme, in order to initiate and support the discussion process about spatial challenges in Germany. The project’s aim is to identify the, from a German point of view, specific spatial challenges in the cooperation areas with German participation in order to integrate them into the transnational programming process. To this end, an input paper will be drafted for each programme area based on a literary analysis and an online survey. It will be discussed in the context of programme area-specific reflection workshops with the representatives of the German Interreg committees and experts.

More than 400 German project partners and representatives of the German programme committees participated in the BBSR’s online survey „on future topics of the transnational Interreg programmes. The survey asked for estimations on the relevance of spatial challenges in the six programme areas and on the suitability of the Commission’s thematic proposals for a smarter, a greener and low-carbon, a more connected, a more social Europe and a Europe closer to citizens for the coming programming period. Especially Policy Objective (PO) 5 “A Europe closer to citizens”, which is new and did not yet exist in the current programming period, offers the opportunity to re-orient the future Interreg B programmes and projects towards integrated and sustainable urban and regional development topics thus bringing Interreg closer to citizens. A stronger focus of the future Interreg B programmes on PO 5 also offers the chance to improve the measurability and visibility of the benefit of transnational cooperation for the territorial development.

Further information:

www.bbsr.bund.de >
Forschungsprogramme > MORO
> Studien / Interreg: Räumliche
Effekte ... (in German)

www.interreg.de

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Policy objectives (PO) and Interreg-specific objectives (ISO) 2021–2027

P01	A smarter Europe
P02	A greener, low-carbon Europe
P03	A more connected Europe
P04	A more social Europe
P05	A Europe closer to citizens
ISO I	A better cooperation governance
ISO II	A safer and more secure Europe

Source: own presentation, BBSR 2019

City and the common good. New pilot projects

In 2018, the partners of the National Urban Development Policy searched for projects that will experiment with innovative tools for a co-productive city. The project call was addressed to various actors, such as civil society stakeholders, non-profit entities, cooperatives, housing associations, welfare organizations or municipalities. Out of 100 applications four pilot projects were selected for their exciting approaches. Having started in early 2019 they will run until the end of 2021. During this time, they each will receive a funding of around 600,000 €.

The philosophy behind this is based on the experiences of multiple promising civic initiatives. They invent new and more sustainable solutions to solve their day-to-day problems. They engage in the lives of their neighborhoods and regenerate the social fabric around them. And they take part in the design and delivery of public services. In doing so, they take care of common resources and meet many of the concerns that city administrations faced so far.

To create social innovations and to facilitate collaboration on a neighborhood scale, new forms of organization and new interactions are needed. Shared visions will be developed in participatory processes. Based on this, civil society players will realize a large number of self-organized projects. In order to reconnect the administration with the city, offices take new roles, listening and behaving as facilitators.

The pilot projects in detail:

Altenburg: Stadtmenschen („townies“)

The project "Stadtmenschen" takes on the challenges of a shrinking city and makes urban society the key actor of change. For this purpose, four historically significant places in the city center are being redeveloped as spaces for debate and experimentation, where citizens are motivated to commit as a "Stadtmensch". The development of ideas is extensively supported by new formats like an open lab, a citizen academy or interventions in public space. The project is led by a network of local (social) enterprises and supported by municipal administrative bodies. Project partners come from civil society and church, youth parliament or a psychiatric clinic.

Hanover: Gesellschaft für außerordentliche Zusammenarbeit („Society For Extraordinary Collaboration“)

More than 50 civil society stakeholders and citizen-driven initiatives from three districts of Hanover have formed an association that bundles their diverse activities and thus organizes a broad civil society-oriented urban development. In the sense of a sharing economy, this collaborative platform enables the exchange of physical (tools, spaces) and human (knowledge, know-how) resources. Its goal is to initiate a self-sustaining urban development bottom-up.

Münster: Hansaforum

With the project a new type of civil-society platform will be established in the Hansa district of Münster. 200 randomly selected citizens form a new assembly whose role is to define criteria for a better future of the district. These objectives will be formulated as a neighborhood-common welfare index, a benchmark for the later realization of projects. There will be ongoing communication with public administrations to go beyond the distinction of bottom-up and top-down and construct a space where citizens are involved in the collaborative design of services.

Nuremberg: QU1

The new neighborhood "QU1" is defined by the course of underground line 1, which runs through Nuremberg from the west to the south. The concept of the project is based on the narrative of the underground as a space of coexistence and prospective collaboration. In order to draw attention to these possibilities there will be multiple experiments in participation and bottom-up projects for the rapid prototyping of ideas. Vacant underground infrastructures will be converted into public places like an office of ideas or an office for world rescue.

During the run time of the pilot projects, there will be an intensive exchange between them to promote mutual learning. Already the start-up phase revealed a distinctive trend to experiment in view of the mix of methods used. Moreover, all applicants of the project call will be invited to workshops and finally to a concluding event.



NATIONALE
STADT
ENTWICKLUNGS
POLITIK

Further information:
www.nationale-stadtentwicklungspolitik.de

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Housing

BBSR Transaction Database – slight increase of the trading volume on the market with existing housing portfolios

More information:

Continued low transaction activity on the market for rented housing portfolios.
Ed.: BBSR; BBSR-Analysen KOMPAKT 05/2019; Bonn, May 2019
free of charge available from forschung.wohnen@bbr.bund.de
reference: BBSR-Analysen KOMPAKT 05/2019 (EN)

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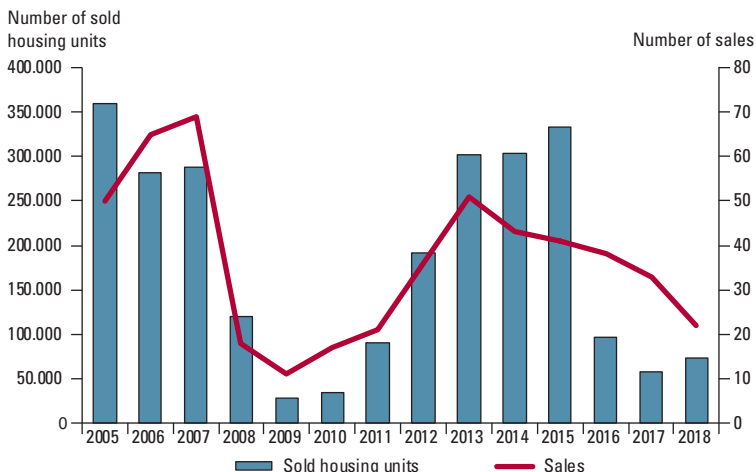
In the year 2018, a total of 22 sales transactions took place on the German market for housing portfolios. The number constitutes a decline for the fifth time in a row while at the same time the number of sold housing units has increased for the first time since 2016. The 22 sales transactions of housing portfolios with 800 units and above in 2018 comprised a total of 72,400 sold apartments, representing an increase by a quarter compared to the previous year. However, the trade volume continues to be significantly lower than during the second peak period between the years of 2012 and 2015.

The level of sales transactions was similarly low between 2008 and 2011, when market activities with major portfolios almost completely stagnated as a consequence of the global financial crisis. However, the background of these developments differs widely: at present, the supply of sales offers is limited, significantly affecting the dynamics in market activities. In the period between 2008 and 2011, the drop in transactions was a result of cautiousness on the demand side.

The number of sales transactions recorded in the BBSR Transaction Database in 2018 is dominated by smaller housing portfolios: twelve of the 22 sales consist of portfolios with 800 to 2,000 units; eight transactions took place in the next size category with portfolios ranging from 2,000 to 5,000 residential units. The takeover of BUWOG AG by Vonovia SE represents the only major transaction with more than 10,000 housing units, making it the largest transaction since 2016 and responsible for over one third of the sold units on the German transaction market in 2018.

Regarding the actors on the transaction market, little has changed over the last year compared to earlier years: private housing market investors dominate the current trade activity as the most active group of participants. Especially the group of publicly listed companies without a majority shareholder decisively influenced market dynamics during the second peak period (2012–2015) of transaction activities due to their active growth strategies. As a result, these listed companies are among the largest housing companies in Germany nowadays. Even after the reduction in trading activity over the last years, this group of players still constitutes the most significant group of buyers on the housing market. In 2018, the public listed companies without a majority shareholder achieved a trade surplus of 34,000 acquired units.

Sale transactions and sold housing units in the BBSR Housing Transaction Database, 2005–2018



Note: Sales of large housing portfolios with 800 units and above are recorded.

© BBSR 2019

Source: BBSR Housing Transaction Database

BBSR Housing Transaction Database

A detailed analysis of last year's market activities in English can be found in the "BBSR-Analysen KOMPAKT 05/2019" journal. The BBSR Transaction Database is developed through systematic research of a range of print and Internet sources to observe market activities, analyze changes in the ownership structure, and detect dynamics in the German real estate market at an early stage. The semi-annual analysis and interpretation give useful suggestions for housing policies. The Database includes large-scale portfolio deals with more than 800 housing units since 1999 and – starting in the second half of 2006 – small transactions with 100 up to 800 units.

Efficiency House Plus in refurbished buildings

In Neu-Ulm the first Efficiency House Plus projects in refurbished buildings were inaugurated in May 2016th. The model concept by the urban housing company NUWOG gave Efficiency House Plus Standard the start in the renovation of multi-storey apartment buildings. It was applied to two row houses built in 1938 in the Pfuher Street that were in need of renovation.

Originally 500 kilowatt hours per square meter and year were required to operate the premises. In 2012, the Federal Building Ministry cooperated with NUWOG due to a planning competition for universities in cooperation with consultants. The conditions were a restructuring plan for an Efficient House Plus in the refurbished building. Both winning concepts of TU Darmstadt and University Ruhr West implement the extra

energy generated by building-integrated photovoltaics, fulfilling at the same time the high standards of architecture and comfort.

The existing buildings were given new, barrier-free bathrooms and enlarged, floor to ceiling windows. Shading elements prevent the rooms from overheating during summer months. The floor plan offers spacious, use neutral rooms and therefore a long-term flexibility. The lofts, previously only used as storages were transformed into quality housing. The residents use highly efficient appliances and LED lighting.

Both objects have undergone a two- year monitoring to compare their performance to the previously calculated values and to generate outcrop for future development of existing properties.



Further information:

<https://www.bbsr.bund.de/BBSR/EN/RP/FurtherProgrammes/efficiency-house-plus/01-start.html>

or in the brochure "What makes an Efficiency House Plus? – Principles and examples of energy-generating buildings"

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Photo: Zoëy Braun



Photo: Eibe Sönnecken, Darmstadt

Pfuher Str. 4+6 Energy delivered	calculated DIN V 18599 [kWh/m ² yr]	Measured in 2016/17 [kWh/m ² yr]	Measured in 2017/18 [kWh/m ² yr]
Heating/DHW/Ventilation	21.3	18.1	21.0
Household appliances/lighting	20.0	15.5	14.7
Total	41.3	33.6	35.7
Self-generated electricity	54.8	66.6	67.0
Total balance	+13.5	+33.0	+31.3

Neu-Ulm, Pfuher Straße 4 and 6

The Stuttgart architect Werner Sobek integrated partially prefabricated wall and roof elements that surround the building. The stock roof was completely removed and replaced with the new elements. The highly insulated facade system in timber was then mounted on the existing exterior wall including the ventilation ducts.

Pfuher Str. 12+14 Energy delivered	calculated DIN V 18599 [kWh/m ² yr]	Measured in 2016/17 [kWh/m ² yr]	Measured in 2017/18 [kWh/m ² yr]
Heating/DHW/Ventilation	21.0	43.7	43.4
Household appliances/lighting	20.0	17.5	17.8
Total	41.0	61.2	61.2
Self-generated electricity	44.4	46.5	45.7
Total balance	+3.4	-14.7	-15.5

Source: Fraunhofer IBP, Stuttgart

Neu-Ulm, Pfuher Straße 12 and 14

According to the plans by o5 architects from Frankfurt, spacious maisonettes were created upstairs under the gabled roof by spatial expansion. The heat is won by central brines – water heat pumps. The water is heated by decentralised air water heat pumps.

Publications

Mobility management: approaches, actors, outlook



(original title: Mobilitätsmanagement: Ansätze, Akteure, Ausblick) Informationen zur Raumentwicklung (IzR), Issue 1/2019, ed.: Bonn 2019

In starting from human transport patterns, mobility management as a specific task goes a step further than the classical transport planning. Mobility management relies on behavioural change. The authors deal with various questions: Is a specific academic training required for activities in the field of mobility management? How can mobility actors be integrated in the planning activities? And how can the mobility transition be tackled? Further articles on the mobility management in schools and enterprises, insight into legal frameworks and guidelines as well as project examples round the IzR issue off.

Small towns: chances, dynamics, potentials



(original title: Kleinstädte – Chancen, Dynamiken, Potenziale) Informationen zur Raumentwicklung (IzR), Issue 6/2018, ed.: Bonn 2018

Small towns are receiving little attention, although more than 2100 municipalities of this type of city and municipality exist according to the delimitation of the BBSR.

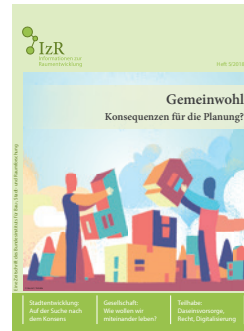
24.2 million people and hence approximately 30 percent of the German population live in small towns. Many small towns, particularly those near conurbations, have even grown in the past years.

This issue shows how small towns can remain and become liveable. The articles give an overview of the current and future situation and consider the challenges and chances. Under which conditions do small towns develop economically well? Which responsibility do local enterprises have? How does one live in small towns? And in what way can small towns be planned according to the needs?

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.

Public welfare: consequences for planning?



(original title: Gemeinwohl – Konsequenzen für die Planung?) Informationen zur Raumentwicklung (IzR), Issue 5/2018, ed.: Bonn 2018

In times of rapid change and complex relationships a commitment to public welfare is demanded. Whether the issues are services of general interest and sustainable mobility, affordable housing and social justice or economic structural change, the sustainable use of open spaces or participation in society: the orientation towards public welfare has become a guiding principle in planning and a part of many space-related promotion instruments and demonstration projects.

But what does public welfare actually mean and whose welfare is meant? Who determines this, and if "we" are well, what about "the others"? In the context of this issue we ask planners and economists, lawyers and ethicists, social scientists and geographers with their different special perspectives to consider some issues that are relevant for planning under the catchword "public welfare".

Affordable housing: strategies and challenges

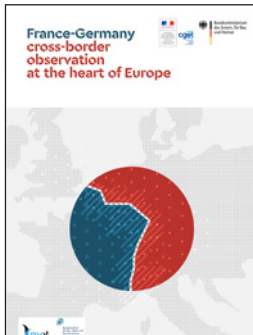
(original title: Bezahlbares Wohnen – Strategien und Herausforderungen) Informationen zur Raumentwicklung (IzR), Issue 4/2018, ed.: Bonn 2018



The situation on the housing market is one of the great issues of social policy in Germany. And this has been so for decades, if not for centuries. But what is actually affordable? And how can the Federal Government, the federal states, the municipalities and other actors create affordable housing? These are some of the central questions which our authors consider in this issue.

Practical examples, for instance from Potsdam, Münster and Wolfsburg, give insights into the local situation and work. They show how the municipalities are dealing with housing shortage, develop solutions and are able to shape the future of housing. Other articles show what Germany can learn from abroad and how the situation differs from that in other countries. Is more or less regulation necessary on the housing market? And which role does the interaction of politics, administration and the economy play?

France-Germany – cross-border observation at the heart of Europe



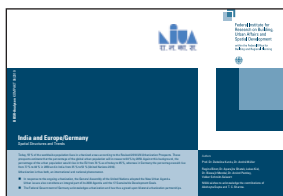
Ed.: General Commission for Territorial Equality (CGET)/ Ministry of Territorial Cohesion and Relations with Local Authorities, France; Federal Ministry for the Interior, Building and Community (BMI), Germany, January 2019

Border regions are laboratories of European integration and spatial cohesion. A nation's effective cross-border integration policy thus requires profound knowledge of a relevant area. Precise and continuous spatial monitoring activities play a decisive role when planning and implementing cross-border projects improving the daily life of inhabitants and enterprises. It serves as a basis for developing and governing border regions. Cross-border spatial monitoring activities underline the individual character of border and interaction areas with their specific requirements, potentials and chances. Spatial monitoring is supposed to enable the comparison of border regions with other types of areas thus supporting the formulation of specific national policies.

This brochure is an expression of the German-French initiative to improve cross-border monitoring. It demonstrates why cross-border statistical spatial monitoring is relevant. It provides instructions which data should and can be collected on which spatial levels. The publication finally provides a concrete action plan with three concrete actions.

no print version available; download free of charge at: www.bbsr.bund.de > English > Publications > BMI-Publications

India and Europe/Germany – spatial structures and trends



BBSR-Analysen KOMPAKT, India and Europe, ed.: BBSR, Bonn 2019

The first joint publication of the BBSR and the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA) reacts

to the worldwide urbanisation reality estimated by the UN's 2018 Revision of World Urbanization Prospects of about 68 % by 2050. On the basis of jointly harmonised and visualised data the volume draws compatible and comparable spatial pictures of India and Europe/Germany. It thus contributes to monitoring the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as the New Urban Agenda of the United Nations.

soon available free of charge from beatrix.thul@bbr.bund.de

Keyword: BBSR-Analysen KOMPAKT India and Europe

Digital Construction World



The magazine of the "Zukunft Bau" research initiative (original title: Zukunft Bauen – Digitale Bauwelt) Issue 12.2018, ed.: BBSR, Bonn 2018

The current edition of the "Future Building" magazine offers an insight into the work of the Future Building research initiative. Focusing on the various aspects of

digital planning and building current projects are presented and upcoming developments are discussed.

<https://www.forschungsinitiative.de/publikationen/> free of charge available from zb@bbr.bund.de

Keyword: Magazine Zukunft Bauen 2018, englische Version

What makes an Efficiency House Plus?



Principles and examples of energy-generating buildings (original title: Wege zum Effizienzhaus Plus – Grundlagen und Beispiele für energieerzeugende Gebäude) Issue 11.2018, ed.: BMI/BBSR, Bonn 2019

This brochure delivers some basic guidelines for designing energy-generating buildings. It provides

information about the results achieved by research and pilot projects of the Efficiency House Plus initiative since 2011.

free of charge available from publikationen@bundesregierung.de reference: BMI 18004

Latest Map

The development of the population in European cities and municipalities

A new BBSR analysis shows how the population in Europe developed between 2011 and 2017 in comparison to the development from 2001 to 2011.

A first glance, the development in some countries has considerably changed. In Germany, for example, numerous cities and municipalities, which had shrunk before, grew again. In many Eastern German regions, the population declined less between 2011 and 2017 than before. In Spain though, the population partly also strongly declined in those regions where it had grown between 2001 and 2011. Even the growth of the city regions nearly came to a standstill there.

In other European countries changes are less clearly: While the number of municipalities

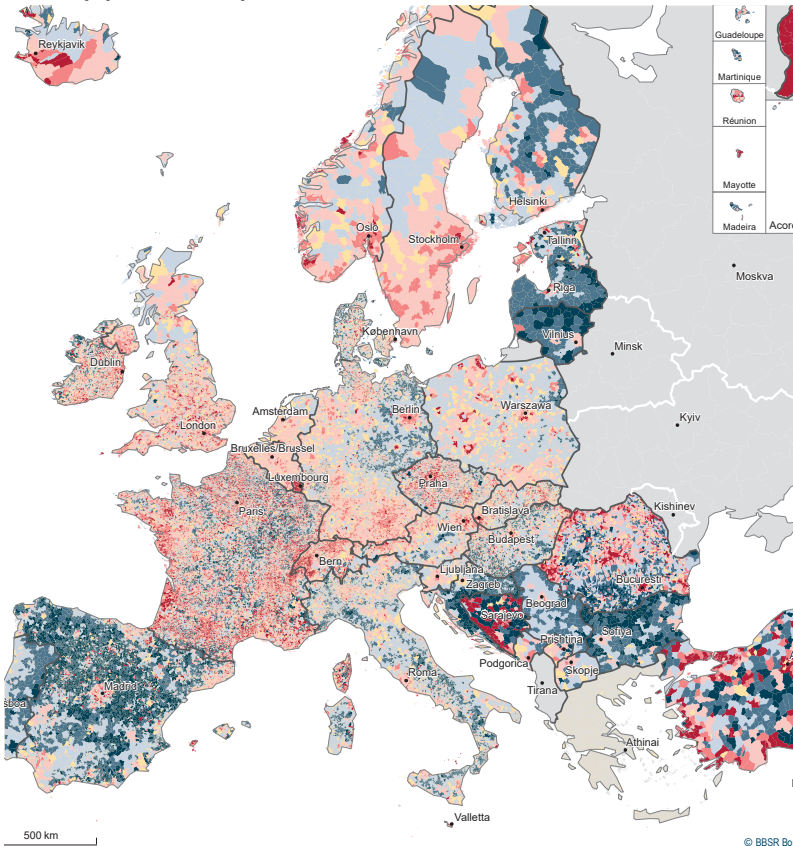
with a declining population especially increased in the rural regions of France, it decreased in Scandinavia. The suburban population growth in Poland slowed down and the number of inhabitants increased in some cities and municipalities of Romania.

In Germany, it is large cities, which grow. An altogether only slightly positive development of the large cities between 2001 and 2011 gave way to a now average annual growth of just under one per cent. With an annual growth rate of 1.2 per cent, the growth of large cities with more than 500,000 inhabitants was a bit stronger. The Eastern German large cities in this category grew considerably: With a growth rate of over two per cent, Leipzig was the most strongly growing large city between 2011 and 2017.

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Current population development in local territorial units



Age annual population development
2011–2017* in % in municipalities (LAU)**

- up to under -2.0
- 2.0 up to under -1.0
- 1.0 up to under -0.1
- 0.1 up to under 0.1
- 0.1 up to under 1.0

Source: European Spatial Monitoring System,
Data origin: national statistical offices, population updates
Geometric basis: GIK GeoMarketing, ONS Geography Data
Authors: R. Binot, V. Schmidt-Seiwert

In large cities between 100,000 and 500,000 inhabitants, the development changed its ways: Following altogether slight losses between 2001 and 2011, the number of inhabitants in this category grew by just under 0.7 per cent per year. In the United Kingdom, Austria and Switzerland, the population in large cities recently grew even stronger than in the period before. In comparison, the positive dynamics slowed down in Belgium, France and Italy. In the large cities of Spain, Portugal and Poland the development is negative, in Hungary, the slightly negative trend increased.

Medium-sized towns in Germany belong to the winners: The losses of altogether 0.2 per cent per year between 2001 and 2011 turned to a recent population growth of 0.4 per cent per year. The number of inhabitants stagnated in Spain and in Portugal, medium-sized towns lost inhabitants. The decrease of population continued in most Eastern European countries.

In rural areas, the population in cities and municipalities generally increased. In the western regions, in the eastern regions shrinking municipalities dominate. In Germany, the population development in rural municipalities remained negative, even though with a slighter decrease of 0.04 per cent per year. Between 2001 and 2011, the cities and municipalities in the rural regions of Germany still had lost 0.5 per cent annually of their inhabitants.

Competition for flagship projects in the Polish-German interaction area

The competition for flagship projects is one pillar of the project "Implementing the Common Future Vision for the German-Polish Interaction Area". A conference and local events has put the Vision into practice, too. 35 projects were submitted of which a jury chose five winners.

The jury chose "PommernArche – typically Pommern!" as a flagship project. The project supports the development of the rural area between the Darss and Gdansk.

Also located in Pomerania is the "Contact and info point for German and Polish citizens". Their offices have been supporting citizens in starting a new life and work since 2009.

The third flagship project's aim is "to revitalise the long-distance rail connection between Leipzig and Poznan" and works out a study.

The two remaining flagship projects are located near the Saxon-Lower Silesian border. "TRAILS", its aim is "to develop sustainable innovation capacity in the Saxon-Polish border area". In addition, the jury chose the "REVIVAL" project. It involves activities to revitalise historic inner cities.

The jury also awarded consolation prizes to two education projects and expressed special appreciation for two established projects from preceding competitions.



Further information:

German-Polish Spatial Planning Portal www.kooperation-ohne-grenzen.de

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Sustainable Urbanization and land-use Practices in European Regions

With the Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL) as the Lead Contractor, the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR) participates in an Applied Research project of the ESPON 2020 Programme.

The project is called "Sustainable Urbanization and land-use Practices in European Regions (SUPER)". It started in February 2019 and is going to end in August 2020.

Also involved in the project team are the Politecnico di Torino, the Austrian Institute for Spatial Planning (ÖIR), Urbanex Ltd., the Centre for European Regional and Local Studies (EUROREG) and the University of Valencia (UVEG).

The SUPER project seeks to measure and understand the drivers behind and the mechanisms of land-use changes, particularly towards urban uses, in Europe, and the extent to which these changes are affected by territorial governance and spatial planning interventions.

In short, the SUPER project strives to provide evidence and recommendations on how

sustainable land use can be promoted and how unsustainable urbanisation can be avoided, reduced and/or compensated in Europe, its cities and regions. Specifically, it seeks to gather evidence at the level of the ESPON space to allow for pan-European comparative analysis and policy recommendations and to compile information about relevant interventions in the ESPON space and their relative success.

Further information:

www.espon.eu/super

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Expansion of cities in Europe from 2004 to 2013



Editor, Producer and Publisher

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Urban Affairs and Spatial Development
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Print

Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning, Bonn

Citing:

Research News BBSR 1/2019 – July

ISSN 1437 – 5850

RESEARCH NEWS is published twice a year.

It is available in the internet at the website

of the BBSR at www.bbsr.bund.de

Print copies can be ordered free of charge.

Free to reprint. Please send a voucher copy to the editor.

News**Markus Eltges new director of the BBSR**

On 29 January 2019, State Secretary of Building Gunther Adler appointed Dr. Markus Eltges as the new director of the Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development. The economist with a PhD has many years of experience in the fields of urban planning, urban development and spatial planning. In 2012, he became the head of the “Spatial Planning and Urban Development” department, before he led the “Regional Structural Policy and Urban Development Grants” and “Regional and Urban Monitoring” divisions.

The 56-year-old is a member of various advisory councils and committees dealing with sustainable development issues of cities

and municipalities, among them the Academy for Spatial Research and Planning, and he participates in the Federal Government’s „equivalent living conditions“ commission. State Secretary Adler: “I am pleased to have won such a profound expert of the urban development scenery in Germany over. The BBSR’s departmental research is characterised by the topics affordable housing, smart cities or equivalent living conditions. With Dr. Eltges as head of the BBSR, we will be able to face the great issues of today based on experience and visionary drive.”

The President of the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning, Ms. Petra Wesseler, congratulated the new BBSR director: “I am very happy that you, Dr. Eltges, have been successful against a large circle of qualified applicants.”



BBR President Petra Wesseler (on the left) and State Secretary of Building Gunther Adler (on the right) during the appointment of Dr. Markus Eltges as the new BBSR director.

Photo: Alexander Schürt

When holding his maiden speech in front of the employees, Markus Eltges stressed: “Our analyses and forecasts serve the early warning and performance review of political measures, which I would like to extend with regard to the analysis of equivalent living conditions and use more intensively for political advice purposes. Our cities and regions are confronted with large changes, the interdisciplinary know-how is important here. I am pleased that our research activities have a broad technical basis.”