

feedback. URC's work concluded with the development of a community master plan incorporating these amendments, and linked to a Community Implementation Strategy which had been worked up with the Chase Action Group.

Finally, what were the successes and failures of the consultation process overall? Discussions with community workers and with TANC officers now involved in its implementation have revealed both good and bad points.

The good news centres around the fact that the process did generate a scheme which achieved a high level of satisfaction across a wide community spectrum, is proving a catalyst for a real process of change on the ground, and did this for a total expenditure of £5000. However, the implementation process is proving more difficult than it needed to be, mostly because there was relatively little dialogue with "official" stakeholders, who feel no real sense of "ownership" of the scheme. This lack of dialogue also contributed to being rather cavalier about a number of technical constraints on implementation which, though not impossible to overcome, should have been better integrated into the approach at an earlier stage.

Perhaps the most significant lesson to be drawn is that, in the UK at least, the mutual suspicion between official bodies and professional on the one hand, and community groups on the other, has still to be overcome at a level far deeper than more concerns about *techniques* for community involvement. The current situation is often, in our experience, that consultation work has to be partisan in favour of community groups, to get their effective commitment. This has to be brought out into the open at the start of any consultation process, and its implications discussed with all parties; so that the final course of action, if it alienates anyone, at least does not do this by accident.

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South Moravia-Lower Austria: A Regional Plan Going Beyond Frontiers

Introduction

We still think of Southern Moravia and Weinviertel, Northern Austria, as being a region of plenty. However in the past decades a lot of its wealth has been used up and only a little put back in. The region which used to be one of the richest in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, as well as in the pre 2. world war Czechoslovak Republic, has become marginal. The Moravian border area near Austria is in a deplorable state. There is a shortage of safe drinking water, the air is considerably polluted in some places, small towns, historical sights and villages are dilapidated.

Owing to the iron curtain and communist regime, demographic degradation occurred on both sides of the border. Young and educated people were leaving this area where they could see no prospects. Yet it is a region where people of different nationalities were used to working together, a region with an interesting and fertile landscape and rich natural resources.

The fall of the iron curtain has opened a new chapter in European history. New economic, cultural and political opportunities and prospects have appeared especially in border regions. It is possible to take up again what was once historically held in common. New life has been brought to the recently dead strip of land between the Czech Republic and Austria and, thanks to the new political conditions, the region is once again located in the centre of Central Europe. However, many negative aspects which started in the past are continuing and, in some areas, have even become more significant. This is true for example of the environment and of the changes in the socio-demographic character of the population. Other negative aspects have appeared only recently and are becoming a danger – e.g. high unemployment. On the Austrian side of the border distrust of foreigners is growing amongst certain social groups mainly because of their concern about employment opportunities. Production is being transferred from there to locations with cheaper labour, that is to former socialist countries. The population of the area, as well as leaders in local and national government, are confronted with facts they have no experience of – new opportunities and new dangers are appearing.

This is why a regional plan going beyond national frontiers including both the Czech Republic and Austria has been worked out. It is expected to help deal with major problems concerning the region's development. Its objective is to support permanently sustainable development of the region and prevent uncontrollable growth which might bring more problems than benefits. As the project involves a border area in which different laws, decrees and procedures are applicable, great demands are made on co-ordination and cooperation.¹

2. Methodological approach applied to work on the regional plan

The benefits of this research task can be seen in the scientific, educational and political areas. Academically it means the development of new, up-to-date methods of spatial and regional planning and their unification with the methods used in Austria, Germany and the rest of Europe. Active participation by students in research and planning work on the project is an educational innovation. They deal with real tasks jointly with their foreign partners for the benefit of specific communities in the given area. The politically positive aspect is in dealing with problems in the border region common to both nations, the development of effective methods of joint work and a sense of understanding for the needs of the other side. The project is based on the new concept of borders, which is the essential basis for acceptance into the European Community. Additionally, a whole series of regional activities and projects have appeared such as the planning of national parks and nature reserves, regional water-management systems, the restructuring of agriculture, regional democratic problems, the improvement of the ecological situation, the development of infrastructure, the construction of new border crossing etc. These intentions require mutual agreement and co-ordination.

Teams of experts at three technical universities are dealing with various problem areas in the e region. The structure of settlement and social, socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the population are among the most important. Plans for the development (sometimes also for the suppression) of industrial and agricultural production and forestry are being drawn up.

Problems concerning the protection of soil (wind and water erosion), water management (shortage of water and its bad quality – very few sewage treatment plants) and the protection and regeneration of the environment are interconnected. Experts on road construction are dealing with the region's links to the motorway, road and rail networks taking into account the ecological effects and expected increase in tourism.

Spatial plans in the South Moravian and Austrian border region have been drawn up at several levels. Most important is to record the relevant links in the region and draw up land-use planning documents. A document for land-use planning have been drawn up for a strip more than 20 kilometers wide area stretching from Slavonice to Bøeclav and to the new Slovak border, (Bøeclav and Znojmo regions). On the Austrian side the corresponding stretch of land includes both Weinviertel and Waldviertel, (the political regions of Mistelbach, Hollabrunn and Horn). For planning purposes the scale of 1 : 200 000 has been used. Sub-regional plans are being drawn up for areas with special characteristics or for locations where there are conflicting interests.

These are, for example, the Lednice-Valtice area, nature reserves such as Podyjí or Jeví'ovka and areas surrounding big towns such as Znojmo, Bøeclav and Lednice. Plans for smaller areas include villages and their associated land located in the immediate vicinity of the border. The plans are drawn up with an accuracy corresponding to the scale of 1 : 50 000. Local plans are guidelines and detailed land-use plans for individual, mostly neglected villages and their associated land. These are mostly related to the "Village Renewal", a project in which the institute for rural architecture headed by Prof. Miroslav Martinek is significantly involved.

On the basis of a detailed analysis of the existing situation and development tendencies in the region, a new concept for controllable development has been drawn up. It is specifically designed for the region of South Moravia – Lower Austria. It has not been imposed from above, but nevertheless it has to follow certain instructions and should meet certain tasks. The region is more intensively involved in the establishment of goals for, and the creation of, regional policy measures.

The objective of the planning is the creation of a new concept of regional development. It is not a single regional plan that is being drawn up but a whole series of possible alternatives. It presupposes the drawing up of alternatives and options including possible experimental and simulation events, the methods of choice and periodic monitoring and evaluation.

They should enable the local authorities to establish and control their own paths of development. In workshops in Jaroslavice, Retz and Brno, working groups with regional planners from different states presented the main ideas for optimal regional development to the leaders of local and national government and interest groups and their feasibility was tested before being included in the regional development programmes.

3. Settlement in the broader region, the demographic structure and the structure of settlement

An analysis of settlement, demographic and socio-economic structure was carried out in all towns and villages in the Mistelbach, Hollabrun, Horn, Bøeclav and Znojmo regions as well as in the surroundings areas which have close links with these regions.

The region was settled as early as the Stone Age and numerous archaeological finds testify to the existence of man in this area since the earliest times. Favourable natural and climatic conditions as well as economic relations created favourable conditions for settlement. Permanent settlement however appeared only with settlement by the first farmers. During the Slavonic period this area was a part of the Great Moravian Empire. The development of the settlements in the Middle Ages, influenced by feudal land-ownership, has a deep impression influencing the structure of settlement up to this day. The feudal structure of settlement was maintained for many centuries and its remnants – especially evenly distributed settlement – are apparent even today. A significant demographic and ethnic change took place during the Thirty Years' War when German farmers were often called by their lords to replace the impoverished Czech population. Industrial development in the 19th century affected the structure and intensity of settlement in the region relatively little.

Significant changes in the demographic and ethnic structure occurred at the time of the Second World War. After the Munich dictate the Czech population was forced out of the border areas and the co-existence of two national communities was destroyed during the war. Jewish communities in villages in the border region were exterminated. They left deserted Jewish cemeteries with none to look after them, and in Mikulov, once the 17th – 18th century seat of the provincial rabbi, a derelict Renaissance synagogue and a castle. The subsequent deportation of the German population as a result of the Potsdam agreements made by the victorious powers had a marked impression on the region. As a result of these events the region remained very thinly populated. The population was reduced by half. As part of post-war resettlement of the border areas and state management citizens of the then Czechoslovak Republic, especially from the areas of Horácko, Vala'sko, Moravian Slovakia and Slovakia, as well as from abroad – Volhynia in the Soviet Union, Rumania and Yugoslavia settled in this region. Though there has been gradual resettlement the population in the post-war period it has never reached the pre-war figure. Those who resettled the area did not develop strong ties with their new home and the lack of ties shows even now in the second and third generations. Among other things it shows in their attitude towards the environment...

When the region was divided by the iron curtain it had negative consequences on both sides of the border even though there were different economic and social systems. Economic stagnation and the decline of companies led to large-scale migration. Enforced collectivisation in Czechoslovakia in the 1950's destroyed the traditional model of family farming. Farmsteads ceased to exist. The intensification of agricultural production, that is the use of heavy machinery, fertilizers etc. reduced the size of manpower needed. As a result of the reduction of employment opportunities in industry in the border region, the size of the working population was reduced due to

migration to distant industrial centres. The departure of more educated young people affected the natural demographic structure. The population was ageing and this had an influence on services and maintenance, as well as on the subsequent development of communities. The percentage of the population of retirement age in peripheral villages is unusually high, somewhere between 25 % and 30 %. This affects both the construction and the maintenance of villages.

The negative results of high outmigration between 1961 and 1970 and unfavourable demographic development influenced the decrease of the population in the area. The period 1971 – 1980 saw positive development and the population grew. This change occurred as a result of natural population growth. As a result of the population wave of young women entering a period of high fertility and due to measures encouraging population growth, the number of births increased considerably. The birthrate was highest in 1974. Since then the number of newborn babies constantly has fallen even though in the subsequent years a growth in population was achieved.

In 1981 – 1991 this trend was reversed and the decline in population of the region resumed. People moved out because of housing problems and for financial reasons because the border region was an area with low average wages. It follows that those who decided to move were, above all, young people with small children which made the demographic situation in this peripheral locality even worse. Additionally, after the disintegration of large-scale socialist agricultural production, the problem of where to employ a large part of the local population appeared. These people are hard-working but often do not have the qualifications now in demand. Their health has suffered as a result of hard work under unfavourable conditions. Surveys show that a tendency towards migration is strongest in villages with high employment in the agricultural sector and an elderly population.

Another type of migration existed within regional boundaries. In the border region the system of settlement with local centres administrated from above had negative effects. Though there was a rational element in it – the concentration of funds for economic, social, construction, and cultural development in centres with good prospects, its mechanical and very often subjective application doomed many villages and small towns to stagnation or even to abandonment. The system took away the prospects of employment and education, as well as housing and new construction. The population in the countryside fell with the exception of most local centres. People moved to the local centres in which the development of housing and public buildings for services, distribution, culture and education such as Mistelbach, Retz, Laa an der Thaya and Poysdorf. Another stream of migrants headed for the cities. According to the statistics the number of those who move out decreases and the number of those who move in increases with the increase in size of a population centre. As a result of this trend some villages aged so much that now there is a lack of people of working age who can ensure the proper functioning of the community and services and the renewal of a good-quality environment.

In the area there is still a relatively high percentage of commuters as a result of the socialist policy of full employment and low fares on public transport. It is still much than in the neighbouring parts of Austria where it reaches 25-30 %. In Seefeld-Kadolz 60 % of the working population work outside their home village. In the border region there are more commuters in vil-

lages where the population is employed in the primary sector. Increased fares will escalate this problem as well.

Even on the Austrian side of the border many young people cannot see any prospect for the future and move out. The northern part of Weinviertel has the highest unemployment of between 4 % – 8 % of all working population. Grossharras has 8.2 % unemployment. This probably causes the biggest negative migration in Austria, the average is -5 %, some villages such as, for example, Pernegg have -15.8 % unemployment. The villages of Drosendorf-Zissersdorf, Japons and Falkenstein showed a total reduction of the population of over 20 %. People working on farms (Retz less than 22 %, 17 communities with more than 60 %) are elderly. Many companies do not have young people to replace them and are threatened with closure. The secondary school in Retz specializing in viticulture has been closed down. Pessimists see a Weinviertel without vineyards.

4. Age structure of the population

Age structure is one of the most important qualities of every population as it strongly influences the reproduction of the population and determines its working potential. Since 1980 the number and percentage of children in the population has fallen in the border region, on the other hand the number and percentage of people of working age has increased. The number of people of retirement age has been reduced but in percentage terms in the overall structure it has remained almost the same. Age structure has developed differently in individual villages. Small villages continue to age as a result of the abnormal demographic structure and the older average age of their populations. The situation will have to be dealt with by, for example, programmes for young families, the subsidizing of plots for the construction of houses etc.

5. Cultural and historical treasures of the region

The Southern Moravia – Lower Austria border region is a valuable area known for both its natural resources and its cultural treasures. There have been important archaeological finds showing the development of settlements since the earliest times in what is now the Czech Republic. Recent archaeological research has brought new and unexpected finds (Hluboké Mařůvky, Pálava).

There are valuable urban complexes – the urban conservation areas of Mikulov and Valtice, as well as unique natural features which require conservation and special treatment – the Lednice – Valtice area, the Podyjí national park and the Pálava conservation area.

There are a number of cultural treasures, chateaus, castles (now often in ruins), religious and secular buildings which are very important.

6. Current problems in this area

An analysis of the existing environmental conditions and an analysis of the existing infrastructure was carried out mostly at the scale of 1 : 200 000 by the teams of the universities in Vienna and Brno. It is possible to say that the main problems

of the South Moravian border region are the quality of water, both the drinking and surface water, environmentally sound sources of energy, the reallocation of reduced job opportunities in agriculture, limited financial resources of private owners, unsettled property relations, unprofessional renovation, low-quality and unsuitable building materials, and insufficient reconstruction of the road network.

The area in the region is strongly agricultural. The percentage of the population employed in agriculture varies between 20 % and 60 %. Only in the regional centres of Laa an der Thaya, Retz, Znojmo and Bøeclav is there a high percentage workers in industry, trades, and services. The remaining population lives from agricultural production which was once a great source of wealth (as numerous buildings in the region show). Today both the farmers in Lower Austria and the agricultural workers in Southern Moravia have considerable problems with agricultural production. Agricultural land has been expanded for decades and the landscape altered in order to increase agricultural production. The negative consequences of these alternations are now obvious. Local farm production cannot compete with the subsidized prices of other European agricultural products. Other alternatives must be sought.

Water which was always abundant in this region is now lacking. The border region of Lower Austria and Southern Moravia is a typical example of landscape changes caused by people. It is possible to discover out from old local maps how large the proportions of surface water, flooded areas, and meadows were. Regular floods were typical for the area. The structural changes in agriculture and the management of the local river Pulkava changed the situation completely. The river disappeared and the wetlands were drained. The amalgamation of small plots into big fields which has taken place in the past decades on both sides of the border under different social circumstances created a deforested landscape which promotes erosion, especially in winter seasons. The supply of underground water is decreasing. On the Austrian side of the border this problem is even more serious. The Pulkava valley is one of the driest areas in Austria. There are projects for bringing water to the region (e.g. from the river Dyje on the Moravian side of the border) or for decreasing of its use by reducing irrigation, setting up retention tanks, and so on.

7. An analysis of prospects and opportunities

The region has many opportunities for the development of tourism but its beneficial location in regard to the development of culture, commerce, services and industry should also be born in mind. The solution to the problems concerning the quality of drinking water, sewage treatment and sufficient supplies of natural gas and electric energy (obtained from solar systems, wind-power plants, biogas, and woodwaste) will create the infrastructure for further development of the region.

8. Proposed changes

Further development of the border region of Southern Moravia and Lower Austria will depend on the size and quality of the working population. Influx and outflow will be influenced by a whole series of conditions. Among the most important will be opportunities for finding and keeping employment, opportunities for improved living standard and the availability of housing,

living conditions, and for young people, opportunities for obtaining higher education. The maintenance of employment in the border region (that currently has the highest unemployment rate in the Czech Republic) is a critical issue and the ways it is necessary to look for opportunities to strengthen and stimulate economic activity in the region. For this reasons it is necessary to analyze the opportunities for the development of industry in the region and, on the basis of these analyses, create for business opportunities. The regional plan presupposes the maintenance or even increase in production for companies which:

- make good-quality products at reasonable market prices
- operate with regard to the environment and population of the region
- process local raw materials
- are beneficial for the region (maintenance of historical monuments, culture, information etc.)

The state should support the development of these regions with respect to their infrastructure. It could encourage the development of these areas which have considerable development potential by creating free trade zones, tax-free zones or tax banks, so that the region can compete effectively with better equipped and more developed regions. Additional opportunities are in the strengthening of production investment and the adaptation of the production and processing facilities to new products, and the improvement of the infrastructure, which can further contribute to economic development. All this will have to be carried out over an extended period.

9. Changes in agriculture

Since the region is strongly agricultural, the importance of agriculture will also need to be preserved in the future. Before the Second World War there were a number of food processing firms in the region which specialized in processing local agricultural products and exporting them not only to nearby Austria but also to, for example, the United States. Today their revival is prevented by the industrial processing plants built in big centres - Brno, Modøice, and by the food industry built up in the post-war period in Poland and Hungary, as well as the overproduction of agricultural products in the European Community countries.

Further deepening of the economic crisis in agriculture would increase the outflow of people from the region. The further disintegration of numerous areas of daily life and additional employment opportunities would be an inevitable consequence of this. No substantial initiatives for the rapid increase in the incomes of local agricultural workers can be expected from the current price policy. Any increase must be based on an active policy of measures to stimulate independent agricultural production. The agricultural firms with alternative business activities and additional earnings deserve special attention as they will keep more people in the region. It is possible to develop strategies to ensure additional employment opportunities in the region:

- measures supporting the existence of less-profitable agricultural firms and other subsidies
- expanding social services for the benefit of less-profitable firms
- the development of new types of profitable subsidiary agricultural firms
- the research and testing of biological raw materials for industrial processing from other agricultural production
- privatisation of state services for the benefit of agricultural firms

- increasing the share of agriculture in market revenues through direct sale of products and more convenient forms of selling
- compensation for the limitation of production in nature reserves

10. Modification of the education system

One of the opportunities for economic improvement is re-education of the labour market. The human potential in the region is varied. Some areas show an increase in business activities, others an increase in economic difficulties and a fall in production. A large majority of the population in the peripheral areas of the South Moravian border region is ill prepared for retraining. Incoming migrants who have worked on co-operative farms and state farms were not encouraged to increase their qualifications. Today, in the period of transition to a market economy, they are the least mobile population group. They are among the first to lose employment and, if they do not do relatively poorly paid and illegal work in neighbouring Austria, they remain among the long-term unemployed. There is also high unemployment among young people in the agricultural area.

This is why special regional programmes should be launched. For example making it easier for young people to get into gainful employment, fighting against long-term unemployment in people who have been unemployed for more than a year, supporting the areas of craft production, services, handicraft etc. The local education system in the South Moravian border region should take into account the region's special features. It should focus on training in areas which have good prospects in this region. The education system should also facilitate easy employment in Austria. The educational process in the border areas should therefore be extended to cover specific features of production in Austria, including different technologies, legal and social system etc. The removal of the language barrier is another important task. The development of the border region will not be possible without knowledge of the language spoken in the neighbouring country. For this purpose it is necessary to organize basic and specialized language courses focusing on the border region, e.g. terms drawn from tourism, social and workplace situations, the Austrian legal system, the environment etc. The setting up of a network of libraries with German and Czech literature is another potential basis for the successful economic and cultural development of the region. These libraries could distribute information and educational videos, organize exhibitions emphasizing local issues (local folklore, cultural life and the arts in the area, beautiful locations etc.). Furthermore, they can help to ensure exchange of economic information, stimulate cultural life and ensure links between the two cultures through the exchange and exhibitions of, for example, works of fine arts. Eventually these libraries could take on the role of regional cultural centres and ensure long-term continuous cultural links. Regional radio and television broadcasting in both languages could play a similar role.

11. Regional tourism

A certain number of employment opportunities could be created by exploiting the local potential for tourism. The attractive landscape around the Podyji nature reserve, historic towns such as Mikulov and the unique landscape created by the Lichtenstein family with the well-known castles of Lednice and Valtice are extremely attractive. The combination of beautiful lo-

cations, leisure activities, and natural products processed locally could be commercially successful. A certain investment in the area will be necessary. This presupposes the recovery of the landscape – especially restoring water courses the extent that they allow swimming and water sports, the development of biocorridors, preventing water and wind erosion, aesthetically completing the landscape and providing a natural habitat for the local flora and fauna. It will also be necessary to take care of historic green areas, that is parks and gardens within castle grounds, churches and village greens. Compared to Austria, the need can be seen to add to green areas, both those situated within population centres and those outside. The demands of tourism make it necessary to establish the infrastructure which is now lacking. In particular, there is a lack of modern companies offering services connected with sophisticated, rapid-response telecommunications equipment. The creation of nature reserves and conservation areas crisscrossed by a network of educational trails allowing visitors to get to know sites of historical and cultural interest is also desirable.

It is necessary to give the Moravian-Austrian border region its own image as well as organizing publicity and information programs, both in the Czech Republic and abroad. The landscape provides ideal conditions for family holidays and youth activities and events. The new approach taken to organizing tourism allows what is known as "sanft tourism", that is tourism that does no ecological harm to the region. This means not building tourist facilities, such as gigantic hotels, big motels or leisure centres for large groups of people, in this landscape. This will entail using the natural and cultural potential of the region and developing and bringing out its special character. For a successful tourist industry to be established it is vital that the communities in the region regain their original distinctness and unique atmosphere. It should be possible to renew old traditions and customs, festivals and entertainments together with a revival of traditional handicrafts. It would be beneficial to convert buildings and features of historical or architectural significance (small chateaus, fortifications, farmhouses, lanes lined with wine cellars and working buildings such as mills, granaries etc.). "Biovillages" and family farms able to combine agricultural and handicraft production with the provision of accommodation and food are an ideal example of this. It will be necessary to support agrotourism, sports suitable for the region (golf, riding, cycling, water sports etc.). Approximately 400 kilometres of cycle paths crisscrossing the border and thematically conceived, are in the planning stage of preparation. These will then allow individual cyclists to choose their own routes. Due to a favourable geographic position sports enthusiasts will be able to pass through four different regions in the course of a single day: Waldviertel and Weinviertel and parts of Bohemia and Moravia.

In commercial terms, it will be necessary to give a new image to local agricultural products (cucumbers, asparagus, peppers, vines) and traditional Moravian cuisine, as well as to handicrafts and products made from local materials; to stimulate the development and renewal of locally manufactured products typical to the area and made from natural local raw materials and using manufacturing techniques specific to the region (wine, fish, works of art, consumer goods etc.). There is a certain opportunity here for conference-related tourism connected with the construction of an agricultural technology park on the border in the Seefeld-Kadolz area (on the Austrian side) and in Jaroslavice on the Moravian side. Small towns formerly divided by the border, such as Laa an der Thaya and Hevlín, will have similar opportunities.

The situation in this region is such that cultural pluralism, experiments, and innovation must be supported. The multifaceted culture in this area can be a significant source of economic benefit. Cultural tourism could become a growing and economically significant part of the tourist industry as a whole. However, it requires careful guidance through the joint efforts of all those participating, in order that the possible negative effects of the development of this kind of tourism can be avoided. It will be possible to organize summer schools in chateaus in South Moravia, for the study of, for example, painting and drawing in Lednice, music in Valtice, drama in Jaroslavice and so on. Other localities offer opportunities for arts and craft courses, folk song and folk dancing courses and possibly other activities. For Austrian tourists there are a number of monuments in the area which have until this time been neglected, such as the birthplace in Dolni Dunajovice of the social democratic theorist and founder of the Austrian Republic Karl Renner – who was, amongst other things, a specialist in international law. Lednice and Valtice castles, which attract 300,000 Czech tourists annually, are as yet unknown in Austria.

12. Conclusion

The regional development plans and the recommendations based upon them are, to be published and passed on to communities in the region. At the same time, a traveling exhibition is to be organized for communities both on the Austrian and Moravian sides of the border so that the entire population will become aware of the regional plan.

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Izdajatelj / Publisher:

Urbanistični inštitut Republike Slovenije

Jamova 18, 1111 Ljubljana, Slovenija

zanj odgovorna direktorica / *Director:* Dr. Kaliopa Dimitrovska Andrews

Glavni in odgovorni urednik / *Chief editor:* Ivan Stanič.

Člani mednarodnega uredniškega odbora / *International editorial board:*

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Knjižnične informacije / Librarial information:

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Lektor / *Lector (Slovenian):* Miha Hvastija

Prevodi v slovenščino / *Slovenian translations:*

Alvina Žuraj, Metka Vrečar

Oblikovanje / *Design:* Ivan Stanič

Prelom in računalniško oblikovanje / *Layout:* Vilma Zupan

Tisk / *Printer:* Martin Artelj

Naklada / *Circulation:* 500 izvodov / *copies.*

Notes

¹ The plan has been conceived as a research project at the Technical University in Brno. Three universities have been working on a research project called "A Regional Plan Going Beyond Borders for Southern Moravia and Lower Austria" Vysoké učení technické (Technical University) in Brno is the initiator of the project and has obtained a grant. A whole series of institutes at the Faculties of Architecture and Civil Engineering are taking part in the project. The team at the Faculty of Architecture is being led by senior lecturer Mojmir Kyselka and the team at the Faculty of Civil Engineering by professor Jiří Kratochvíl. Special consulting is being provided by the institute for information, science and research at the Faculty of Architecture of the Technical University. The Brno branch of the Research Institute for the Development of Regions and Cities is also working on it led by Dr. Iva Gavlasová. On the Austrian side, the Technical University in Vienna, especially the regional planning institute led by Professor Dr. Gerhard Schimak, is taking part actively. Ass. Professor Dr. Klaus Semröth, the Austrian town-planner and Dipl.-Ing. Johannes Schaffer and Dipl.-Ing. Ingrid Konrad from the Institute for Landscaping and Landscape Gardening are also taking part. The project is being observed by the Lower-Austrian regional government and has the support of towns and villages in the border region. The project is also supported by the Austrian Institute for Central and Eastern Europe based at Masaryk University in Brno and led by Dr. Jana Starek. Methodological assistance for the whole project is being provided by Kaiserslautern University which has a great deal of experience in regional planning in border areas. The PAMINA project which ensured the optimal development of the area around the French-German border (once destroyed by war and marked by many years of hospitality between the two nations), serve as a model. The German land-use planners and students are being led by Prof. Hans Kistenmacher and Dr. Hans-Jürgen Domhart.

Rokopise, časopise v zameno in knjige v oceno pošljajte na uredništvo. Prispevkov ne honoriramo. Za vsebino prispevkov so odgovorno avtorji. Publikacija šteje med proizvode informativnega značaja iz 13. točke tarifne številke 3, za katere se plačuje davek od prometa proizvodov po stopnji 5 % (mnenje Ministrstva za informiranje št. 23/41-92. Glasilo Urbani izziv je vpisano v evidenco javnih glasil, ki jo vodi Ministrstvo za kulturo RS, pod zaporedno številko 825.

Povzetki člankov na osnovno temo bodo objavljeni v reviji GeoAbstracts (Elsevier science publishers Ltd. Norwich, Anglija) in vključeni v podatkovni bazi ICONDA in COBISS.

Izid številke je sofinanciralo Ministrstvo za znanost in tehnologijo RS.

Send manuscripts, magazines and books for exchange to the editor. Articles are not sponsored. Authors are solely responsible for the contents of their articles.

Abstracts of articles on the main topic will be published in the magazine GeoAbstracts (Elsevier science publishers Ltd., Norwich, England) and included in the ICONDA and COBISS databases.

Publishing of this magazine was sponsored by the Ministry for Science and Technology of the Republic of Slovenia.