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Network of Spatial Research and Planning
in Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe

THE ROLE OF PUBLIC SECTOR IN LOCAL ECONOMIC AND TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT IN CENTRAL, EASTERN AND SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

PROGRAM AND BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Network conference of Spa-ce.net
Sofia (Bulgaria), September 13–15, 2017

The Role of Public Sector in Local Economic and Territorial
Development in Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe
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ISBN (XXXXXXXXXXXXX)

spa-ce.net

**Network of Spatial Research and Planning
in Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe**

Spa-ce.net is a common-interest network of Central, Eastern and South Eastern European institutes and organizations active in the field of spatial research and planning. The network serves to share common visions, and to develop trust and an interest in cooperation, as well as to motivate and mobilize major actors, and to encourage research. It also provides a forum for a meeting of minds and an exchange of information, experience and research results. The network is always open to new members. The mission is to support sustainable development on the European continent by providing spatial research results to scientists, policy-makers and the interested public. It can contribute significantly to improving the quality of life, to enhance the protection and management of Europe's cultural and natural heritage, and to creating new jobs and spurring economic growth.

Network Conference 2017 is focusing on the local economic development, and its impact on spatial development thus addressing the traditional and smart approaches, mechanisms, tools and planning instruments for territorial development and management.

The main objectives of the conference are: to foster the academic debate on impacts of public policy and market economic development on local and regional development and planning in Central and Eastern Europe; to Identify similarities and differences between the drivers of local economies and their spatial development patterns; to share case studies about leadership and participation in territorial economic development under different planning cultures and responsibility patterns, and to explore possibilities for seizing opportunities by utilizing Global and Macro-regional strategic policy Directives.

The conference is co-organized by the Urban Planning Department at the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy (Sofia), Spectra Centre of Excellence at the Slovak University of Technology (Bratislava), Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (IOER, Dresden).

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Welcome

Dear participants,

.....

Spa-ce.net Network Conference 2017 is focusing on the local economic development, and its impact on spatial development thus addressing the traditional and smart approaches, mechanisms, tools and planning instruments for territorial development and management. The Conference addressees are researches, academics, professionals, administrators, policy and decision-makers. The preliminary conference program includes official opening with invited key-note speakers, one round table and one thematic panel discussion.

The annual Spa-ce.net conference aims to discuss the following key issues:

a). Decentralization, self-governing territorial units as the drivers of local economies, e.g.,

- ✓ Actors, networks and cooperation - involvement, inclusion, empowerment, representation, networks in the development of local economies; community-led local development
- ✓ Functional and administrative regions framing economic (development) processes – commuting, mobility, services
- ✓ Local and regional cooperation towards higher competitiveness.

b). Leadership and participation in territorial economic development: the role of public authorities under different planning cultures and responsibility patterns, e.g.,

- ✓ Leadership and its impact in Central European Planning Culture
- ✓ Public interest, political power and democracy – spatial planning implications; public participation in spatial planning and governance in relation to economic development.
- ✓ Expert capacity for territorial management and economic development; public-private partnerships

c). Public interest and economic development in planning: impacts on local and regional development, e.g.,

- ✓ Cross-sectorial measures in support of urban resilience and climate change adaptation as public interests and the factors of local economic development.

- ✓ Regional identity as driving force for the utilisation of territorial capital; heritage as a resource for local economic development – instruments for preservation, socialization and promotion of heritage.
- ✓ The role of EU funds in the context of scarce municipal resources: impact, absorption, synergies, effectiveness and efficiency of resource use; the Impact of large infrastructure projects on spatial and local economic development; planning instruments applied at local level for attracting FDI and enhancement of local businesses, competing land-use patterns.

19 presentations from nine countries. The speakers are coming from Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Serbia, Slovakia and The Netherlands.

The conference will add value to the series of events organized in occasion of the UACEG 75th anniversary and the forthcoming Bulgarian EU presidency.

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Program Overview

| Time | Wednesday, 13 th September | Thursday, 14 th September | Friday, 15 th September | Saturday, 16 th September |
|-------|--|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| 8.30 | | Arrival at Conference Venue | Arrival at Conference Venue | Arrival at Meeting Point |
| 9.00 | | Presentations | Presentations | Field Trip to Plovdiv |
| 9.30 | | | | |
| 10.00 | | Coffee Break | Coffee Break | |
| 10.30 | | | | |
| 11.00 | | Presentations | Presentations | |
| 11.30 | | | | |
| 12.00 | | Lunch Break | Concluding Remarks | |
| 12.30 | | | | |
| 13.00 | | Bus Trip around Sofia | Lunch Break | |
| 13.30 | | | | |
| 14.00 | | Arrival at Conference Venue | Opening of the Conference | |
| 14.30 | | Keynote Speeches | | |
| 15.00 | Round Table Session | Presentations | | |
| 15.30 | | | | |
| 16.00 | | | | |
| 16.30 | Coffee Break | Coffee Break | | |
| 17.00 | | | | |
| 17.30 | Thematic Panel | Coffee Break | | |
| 18.00 | | | | |
| 18.30 | City Walk | Dinner | | |
| 19.00 | | | | |
| 19.30 | Welcome Dinner | Dinner | | |
| 20.00 | | | | |

Detailed Programme

14.00 Arrival at Conference Venue

14.30 Opening of the Conference

Assoc. Prof. Milena Tasheva-Petrova

Department of Urban Planning, Faculty of Architecture at the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy (Bulgaria)

Prof. Maroš Finka

Slovak University of Technology, Institute of Management, Department of Spatial Planning (Slovakia)

Prof. Bernhard Müller

Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (Germany)

15.00 Keynote 1: Bulgarian Planning System in the Changing Environment

Prof. Vesselina Troeva

National Centre for Regional Development (Bulgaria)

15.30 Keynote 2: Urban governance and spatial planning in the New Urban Agenda

Prof. Bernhard Müller

Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (Germany)

Dr. Paulina Schiappacasse

Chair of Spatial Development at Technische Universität Dresden)

16.00 Keynote 3: Changing role of public sector in spatial development strategies / Problems and challenges for local and regional development in Central and Eastern European Countries after 2020

Prof. Maroš Finka, Milan Husar, Vladimír Ondrejčka

Slovak University of Technology, Institute of Management, Department of Spatial Planning (Slovakia)

16.30 Coffee break

17.00 **Round Table Session - Regional Development and Planning**

Invited Speakers

Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Milena Tasheva-Petrova

19.00 **City walk**

20.00 **Welcome Dinner at Restaurant “At the Eagles”, 18th floor of the Ministry of Transport, 11 Dyakon Ygnatiy str.**

8.30 **Arrival at Conference Venue**

**Decentralisation, self-governing territorial units
as drivers of local economies**

Moderation: ???

9.00 ***Locally-driven developments – A new era of local
empowerment?***

Dr. Christian Walloth

Walloth Urban Advisors SPRL (Belgium)

09.30 ***Bulgarian villages of tomorrow. Planning with local
communities***

MSc Vesselia Manolova, Assoc. Prof . Elena Dimitrova,
Dr. Irina Mutafchiiska

Urban Planning Department, Faculty of Architecture, University of
Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy (Bulgaria)

10.00 ***Vestec: How to plan development of a small
municipality at the edge of Prague in the context of
complex regional and metropolitan issues***

Ph.D. Pavel Holubec

Foglar Architects (Czech Republic) and Walloth Urban Advisors SPRL
(Belgium)

10.30 **Coffee break**

11.00 ***Leadership in the current contexts of Central
European Planning Culture***

Prof. Maros Finka / Assoc. Prof. Matej Jasso

Slovak University of Technology, Institute of Management,
Department of Spatial Planning (Slovakia)

11.30 ***Local Impact Assessment – Smart Local Governance***

Aleš Rod, Radek Soběhart, Prof. Jiřina Jílková,

12.00 **Lunch**

13.30 **Bus trip around Sofia**

Leadership and participation in territorial economic development: the role of public authorities under different planning cultures and responsibility patterns

Moderation: Assoc. Prof. Elena Dimitrova

15.30 ***The effects of built-up industrial and commercial area on business tax revenues: Implication for the federal state of Bavaria***

(title) Sebastian Langer

Technische Universität Dresden (Germany) and Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (Germany)

16.00 ***Urban planning and public interest in Serbian towns today***

Prof. Dejan Filipovic, Assoc. Prof. Velimir Seceroc
University of Belgrade, Faculty of Geography (Serbia)

16.30 ***Social innovation and sustainable tourism destination management***

(title) Aida Ciro, **(title)** Merita Toska, **(title)** Peter Nientied
Co-PLAN (Albania)

17.00 ***From model for community development to standards for the governance of the urban environment***

Dr. Angel Burov, Dr. Irina Mutafchiiska, MSc. Vassil Madjirski
Association of Bulgarian Urban and Regional Planners (Bulgaria)

17.30 **Coffee break**

18.00 ***Thematic panel: Spatial planning contributions to the energy transformation process in CEE***, organized in

–
19.30 the framework of Horizon 2020 project "Energy CHOices supporting the Energy union and the Set-plan - ECHOES"

Participants (participants from the Spa-ce.net network to be invited – 5-7 persons as well as local participants)

Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Elena Dimitrova

20.00 **Dinner at Restaurant “Skara bar 3”**

Address: Sofia, 47A Tsarigradsko shose blvd. (entrance from Nikolay Rakitin Str.)

Friday, 15th September

8.30 **Arrival at Conference Venue**

Public interest and economic development in planning: impacts on local and regional development - I

Moderation: ???

9.00 ***Utilising endogenous potentials via local/regional policy-led development initiatives in post-industrial regions of Central Europe***

Dr. Peter Wirth

Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development
(Germany)

9.30 ***Fostering development via 'Industrial culture'? Networking and development initiatives in (post-) industrial regions of Central Europe***

(title) Jörn Harfst, (title) Danko Simic, Dr. Wolfgang
Fischer

University Graz, Department of Geography and Regional Science
(Austria)

10.00 ***Energy-sensitive urban planning as tool in the process to sustainable development***

Assoc. Prof. Elena Dimitrova, Assoc. Prof. Milena
Tasheva-Petrova, Dr. Angel Burov, Dr. Irina Mutafchiiska
Urban Planning Department, Faculty of Architecture, University of
Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy (Bulgaria)

10.30 **Coffee break**

Public interest and economic development in planning: impacts on local and regional

development - II

Moderation: ???

11.00 ***EU funds in the context of inter-regional and intra-regional differences in Bulgaria***

PhD candidate Nikolaiy Enchev, Assoc. Prof. Milena Tasheva-Petrova

Department of Urban Planning, Faculty of Architecture at the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy (Bulgaria)

11.30 ***Urban transformation between cultural heritage preservation and local economic development – The public sector between the fronts?***

Prof. Robert Knippschild

Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (Germany)

12.00 ***In search of identity – New symbolism in central squares of Balkan capitals***

(title) Peter Nientied, (title) Aliaj Besnik

Polis University & I.H.S.Erasmus University Rotterdam (Albania and The Netherlands)

12.30 ***Preventive approaches to air quality management in the planning of Bulgarian post-industrial cities***

MSc Kaloyan Boyanov

Department of Urban Planning, Faculty of Architecture at the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy (Bulgaria)

13.00 **Concluding Remarks and Perspectives**

13.15 **Lunch**

How to reach the venue

Map

text.

From the airport

From the Central railway and the Central Bus station

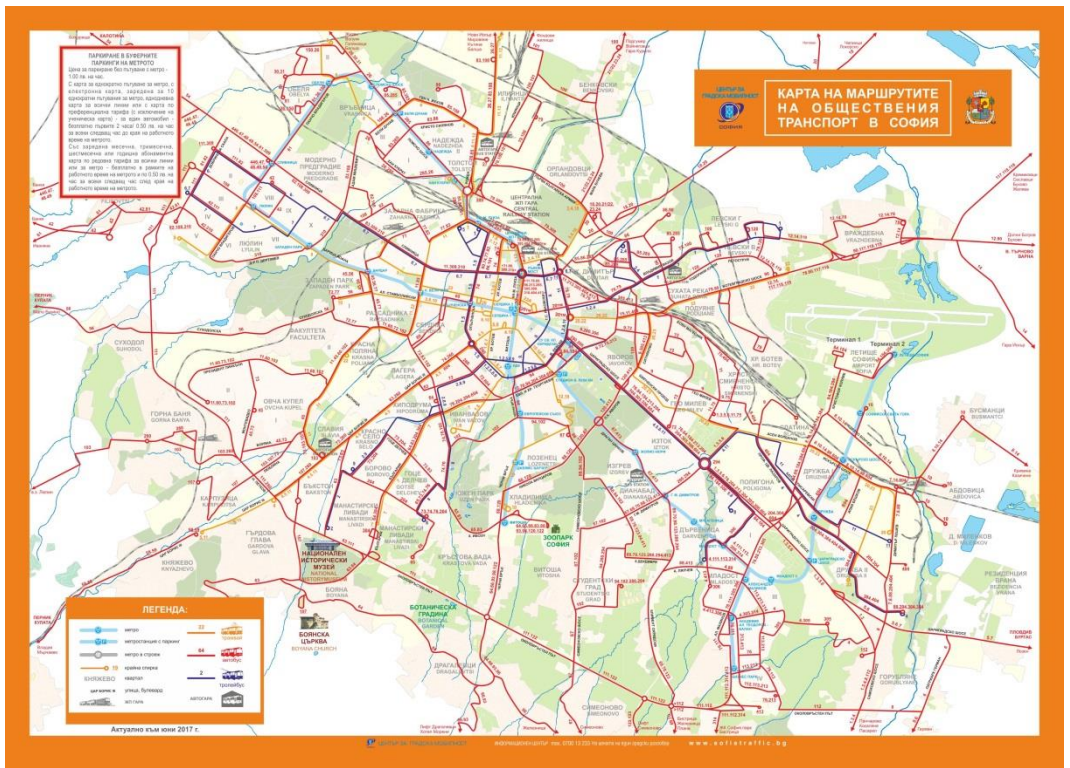
By car

How to reach the conference venue

UACEG layout, room location.

Public transportation map

text
prices of tickets and
peculiarities



https://www.sofiatraffic.bg/media/uploads/A3iuni_21.06.2017.jpg

Registration, buildings, and floor plans for the venue

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Walking tour

Map, route

Bus trip around Sofia

Map
route.

How to reach the conference's dinner restaurants

One map with the restaurants

Other useful information

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

Keynote 1 – Bulgarian Planning System in the Changing Environment

Prof. Vesselina Troeva

National Centre for Regional Development (Bulgaria)

Keynote 2 – ???

Prof. Bernhard Müller

Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (Germany)

Keynote 3 – Changing role of public sector in spatial development strategies / Problems and challenges for local and regional development in Central and Eastern European Countries after 2020

Prof. Maroš Finka, Milan Husar, Vladimir Ondrejicka

Slovak University of Technology, Institute of Management, Department of Spatial Planning (Slovakia)

Round Table Session

Regional Development and Planning

The round table aim.....

is to introduce the local context to the participants.

Key Questions to the participants :

A)

B)

C)

Invited participants from Bulgarian Institutions:

(title) Irina Zaharieva,

Director General at Directorate General for the Strategic Planning of Regional Development and Administrative Territorial Organisation, Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works

(title) Representative (Panov),

National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria

Arch. Georgette Rafailova,

SOFPROECT OGP (Municipal Company for Spatial planning of Sofia)

(title) Asya Dobodjalieva,

Association of Bulgarian Ecologists/ Habitat Bulgaria

(Title) Assoc. Prof. Alexader Tzvetkov,

Regiostat/UACEG.

Decentralisation, self-governing territorial units as drivers of local economies

Moderation: ???

Locally-driven developments – A new era of local empowerment?

Dr. Christian Walloth, christian.walloth@walloth.com
Walloth Urban Advisors SPRL (Belgium)

Lately, some Central-Eastern-European villages joint together with the ambition to form a new municipality that would be able to develop a large-scale recreational area. This area should offer attractions for year-round and multi-generational use, e.g., ski infrastructure and an aquapark, a sanatorium and a disco-club.

Said project is truly bottom-up driven. It reflects and realizes the potentials and ambitions of individual places at the lowest subsidiarity level. (Such developments involve, of course, higher levels of public administration, e.g., for infrastructure to be developed. The (supra-)national level may enact its roles in terms of framing laws, regulations, and funds.)

The possibility of subsidiary units to drive such developments is a consequence of decentralization and regionalization – a process ongoing in many former communist countries, which is generously supported by Western development agencies, such as USAid. Such developments may yield a new variety of urban and regional developments – next to some touristic developments potentially also some startup, business, and industrial developments, some redevelopments of historic heritage, and possibly the realization of previously unknown forms of urban living.

What is to be considered in this phase of post-communist decentralization? Shall we seek to encourage (and, as practitioners, to support with advice) the variety of developments, or shall we seek to equalize these developments? Do we appreciate a new wave of local initiatives – cities as their own startups – or do concerns prevail?

Bulgarian villages of tomorrow. Planning with local communities

MSc Vesselia Manolova,
Assoc. Prof . Elena Dimitrova, eldim2002@gmail.com
Dr. Irina Mutafchiiska, irina.mutafchiiska@gmail.com
Urban Planning Department, Faculty of Architecture, University of
Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy (Bulgaria)

The paper builds upon the findings of a MSc in Urbanism diploma work (defended in June 2017) and discusses the present day of Bulgarian villages and their current economic, sociocultural and spatial peculiarities resulting from a long historic process. Based on literature review and analyses of statistical and spatial data, the study outlines the main periods in the development of Bulgarian villages and estimates their present day development capacity as complex socio-ecological entities. The role of spatial planning in providing for the system resilience and the factors enabling the participation of local communities in the planning and management processes are discussed. A conceptual model of adaptive planning is presented and the results from testing it in a particular municipality in Bulgaria (Parvomay municipality) and a settlement there (Iskra village) are commented. The authors claim that considerable development potential still exists in Bulgarian villages and provide argumentation in support of needed urgent changes in the active national planning system in Bulgaria so that it becomes more dialogical at the local level. Building a sense of community ownership over developed local spatial plans is envisaged as a way for enabling local communities to effectively contribute to long-term sustainable use of resources and to system resilience. Basis selection criteria for effective indicator sets are recommended.

Key words: villages, socio-ecological systems, resilience, spatial planning, Bulgaria

Vestec: How to plan development of a small municipality at the edge of Prague in the context of complex regional and metropolitan issues

Ph.D. Pavel Holubec, pavel.holubec@walloth.com

Foglar Architects (Czech Republic) and Walloth Urban Advisors SPRL (Belgium)

Vestec is a municipality of 2.500 inhabitants bordering Prague in the south. It has grown significantly over the last two decades and developed as a node connecting Prague and the southern part of its suburban ring-road.

These dynamics require a municipality like Vestec to balance a multitude of interests in their urban planning, e.g., ongoing suburban residential developments, economic growth, traffic flows, environmental impacts, recreational functions, as well as questions of identity in order to remain attractive. These interests are reflected in the recently-developed new urban plan of the municipality (Foglar Architects, 2014) – also thanks to a strategic development study that was carried out prior to the urban planning.

This strategic development study was conceived using in-depth studies of the wider region and methods like on-site explorations, meetings with representatives of the municipality, and abduction of a strategic vision. With these methods, a deep understanding of the complex urban and regional systems was aimed at. As one result, the study yielded some development opportunities that had locally emerged over the past years.

This type of deep understanding can be extended based on the theoretical foundations of complex and emergent systems (Walloth 2016) and the derived toolbox. I will exemplify how this toolbox allows, in cases like Vestec, to thoroughly understand upcoming development opportunities, frame-setting rules and possibilities of (even a small) municipality to trigger (far-reaching) change.

Literature:

Foglar Architects (2014-09): Územní plán Vestce u Prahy [translation: Urban plan of Vestec by Prague]

Walloth(2016): Emergent Nested Systems, Springer.

Holubec (2013): Proces modernity a jeho artikulace v prostorové struktuře území [dissertation thesis; translation of its title: The Process of Modernity and its Articulation in Spatial Structure of Territory], ČVUT v Praze

Keywords: Roles of small municipalities; suburban developments; balancing of interests; master planning; complex urban systems; local self-governments in formerly centrally-planned countries

Leadership in the current contexts of Central European Planning Culture

Prof. Maros Finka

Assoc. Prof. Matej Jasso

Slovak University of Technology, Institute of Management, Department of Spatial Planning (Slovakia)

Aleš Rod
Radek Soběhart
Jiřina Jílková,

J. E. Purkyne University in Usti nad Labem (UJEP) (Czech Republic)

Local Impact Assessment (LIA) presents an unique, modern regulatory instrument based on the impact analysis of certain regulatory activities at the local level, which increases the efficiency of decision-making processes in local government institutions as well as during the implementation of regulatory actions. Although Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) takes its place during the legislative process at the level of central government, local authorities must deal with actual impacts of the regulation on various economic agents and their re-actions. These impacts may have fiscal, economic, demographic or other nature. LIA represents an element of decentralized decision-making in public administration, as it focuses on the evaluation of social benefits and costs (externalities) of specific activity in a particular locality (catchment area). The concept of LIA, inspired by the Australian experience with different regional specifics, can be modified and thus can serve as a stimulating inspiration for the Czech public administration. The concept of LIA has been pilot-checked during a cooperation of UJEP with the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic – the common project deals with gambling regulation, i.e. the regulation cumulating many issues associated with decision-making by local authorities (corruption, non-transparency, information asymmetry, ignoring or underestimating of social costs). The research has proved that LIA is an efficient tool for good governance and support of decision-making processes.

Keywords: Local Impact Assessment; Smart governance; Local governance; Regulatory Impact Assessment; Regulation; Public service

Leadership and participation in territorial economic development: the role of public authorities under different planning cultures and responsibility patterns

Moderation: Assoc. Prof. Elena Dimitrova

The effects of built-up industrial and commercial area on business tax revenues: Implication for the federal state of Bavaria

Sebastian Langer, s.langer@ioer.de

Artem Korzhenevych, a.korzhenevych@ioer.de

Technische Universität Dresden (Germany) and Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (Germany)

Urban sprawl is an issue in many, primarily big cities and urbanized areas. It stands for the spatial expansion of urban regions. Most municipalities in Germany, urban and rural, are very active in land sealing and development which contributes to urban sprawl. An important cause is the competition among municipalities for tax revenues. The local authorities in Germany are responsible for the development of land and have special incentives to convert more land in order to increase local taxes.

As far as we are aware there are no empirical studies on the effect of land usage on future tax revenues of municipalities. We estimate the effect of land take of built-up industrial and commercial (BIC) area on the business tax revenues in cross sectional IV estimations. We build on data of 2054 municipalities in Bavaria of the years 2009 until 2013 and find a significant and positive effects in the range of 10-13 million euro per sqkm for the business tax revenues. Additionally, we estimate this effect by considering the heterogeneous conditions of municipalities and include interaction terms with regard to population density. This enables us to draw conclusions regarding the 30 hectares limit and a tradable planning permits (TPP) scheme discussed in the literature. Furthermore, we relate our estimated results to the costs for first-time land development and execute several robustness checks. As results indicate additional profits from land take can be attractive for municipalities, conditional on the development contracts of municipalities with investors.

Keywords: local government revenues, local taxation, land usage

Urban planning and public interest in Serbian towns today

Prof. Dejan Filipovic, defanf@eunet.rs

Assoc. Prof. Velimir Secerov, app2000@eunet.rs; secerov@gef.bg.ac.rs

University of Belgrade, Faculty of Geography (Serbia)

With the starting thesis that spatial and urban planning is the regulator and protector of the public interest, whereas the plan is an inviolable (general) legal act, the authors of this paper discuss whether this premise is still valid in the planning practice and how the public space, public interest and ownership are addressed in Serbia today. The public interest is sometimes barely discernible. The transition of understanding its definition and its essence is always midway between the acknowledgment of public ownership and public purpose. Over a long period of time (1945-1990-2006), there was no public ownership of land in Serbian cities/towns (only the use of land), until 1990, when the system changed (although formally not until 2006 with the change of the Constitution) and this category became part of the urban space again, which made the planning process more complex.

The public has gained an important role in the planning process (public access and pre-access) concurrently opening a “conflict” between the public and private ownership, between the common and individual, and recently between the quasi-public and public. An intense process of the city urban and spatial planning during the period 2000-2010, has slowed down nowadays. After the adoption of the Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia in 2010, as well as of a series of regional and local spatial plans and several dozens of general urban plans, one planning cycle ended. An expected launch of a new one has not occurred so far. Instead, the plans (particularly in urban areas) are being slightly amended, frequently due to a new construction or (more frequently) due to defining new projects which were not included in the valid planning documents. The new practice has demonstrated a tendency to present the planning solutions subject to a particular interest as the public or as a partnership between a town and an investor. Laws and by-laws have been adopted that contextualize and legitimize such a situation. The authors have, therefore, tried to answer the following questions... Could the private (investors’) interest have formal and legal priority over the public interest? What consequences could the space and future settlement

development bear? What is the role of strategic planning in the situation when the plans are marginalized, not applied or not developed? The outlined examples point to the current problems clearly and the authors' intent is to highlight them so as they would be taken into consideration or reassessed.

Social innovation and sustainable tourism destination management

(title) Aida Ciro, aida_ciro@co-plan.org

(title) Merita Toska,

(title) Peter Nientied,

Co-PLAN (Albania)

How can Balkan countries develop sustainable tourism in somewhat backward territories, in a context with central governments aiming at larger scale internationally orientated sun-sea-sand tourism options, and with weak local governments?

This presentation is a case study about social innovation for sustainable tourism in a small town in Albania, namely Gramsh, to contribute to the promotion of social cohesion on a territorial basis and supporting balanced regional development.

Implemented in 2016-2017, the intervention focused on social interaction and integration among citizens and their representatives, on domestic and regional demand for ecotourism, natural tourism, agro-tourism, and adventurous tourism within the rural setting. The project implemented entailed consultation, design, research social interaction and tourism attraction with a Nature Feast as first attraction. This was quite successful.

The results show two important things: - first that it is possible to organize sustainable tourism through a grassroots approach, respecting people and planet and ensuring profit. It is now considered to prototype this experiment in Gramsh. Second, although early to say, the impact of the activities have been favorable (after the Nature Feast) in generating domestic tourism. As a reflection on literature, this case study provides much needed empirical indications on doing sustainable tourism. In the context of the at times over-optimistic of quite cynical literature on sustainable tourism, such empirical results should be a welcome contribution.

Reference:

Nientied, P., E. Porfido & A. Ciro (2016) Sustainable tourism development in the South Western Balkan in times of liquid modernity. Paper presented at International workshop Enhancing sustainable tourism in Adriatic-Ionian region. Macerata, 15-16 September. (forthcoming in Proceedings of the workshop)

From model for community development to standards for the governance of the urban environment

Dr. Angel Burov, Angel.burov@bgplanning.org

Dr. Irina Mutafchiiska,

MSc. Vassil Madjirski

Association of Bulgarian Urban and Regional Planners (Bulgaria)

The fast growth, the long political-economic transition and the scarce budget and funding for Sofia's urban environment along with the uneven development landscape has led to great contrasts in the city. Many neighbourhoods exist in a self-reliance state for decades while other areas experience consecutive transformations rarely leading to better quality of the public space. A couple of two projects led by the Association of Bulgarian Urban and Regional Planners and funded by a municipal Programme Evropa demonstrate the need for a more thorough approach in monitoring and evaluation of the urban environment. Its state in correlation with social-economic and spatial metrics provide ground for improvement of the urban strategic planning and design agenda and the decision making process. That is considered to be crucial for the balance between large public and private investments and small scale improvements. Both projects are part of the efforts to establish urban culture both deep grass-roots and canopy farsighted around the tree of problems and solutions.

Thematic panel

Spatial planning contributions to the energy transformation process in CEE,

Moderator: Assoc. Prof. Elena Dimitrova

The Thematic Panel is intended to present the concept and current findings of ongoing ECHOES research project funded within the HORIZON 2020 Program and implemented by 14 partner institutions from Norway, Austria, Spain, Finland, Turkey, Italy, Germany and Bulgaria. Echoes project aims to identify the factors driving individual and collective choices and energy related behavior, to estimate the magnitude of factors potential impact and to derive policy-ready recommendations for policy makers to exploit the new knowledge for the advancement of the Energy Union and the SETPlan. In the centre of the research activities are the technological topics of: (a) smart energy technology; (b) electric mobility; and (c) buildings.

The Thematic Panel will contribute to outlining the capacity of the national spatial planning systems in Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe to respond to the general tendencies and the peculiarities of the energy transition process in the region. The discussion will address three groups of issues in the ongoing energy transformation: participants' motivations and experience; institutional achievements and estimated barriers; and recommendations on needed research and policy tools development in the field.

Thematic panel

Participants (participants from the Spa-ce.net network to be invited – 5-7 persons as well as local participants)

Invited local participants:

Tsveta Nanyova,

Executive Director, Bulgarian Austrian Consulting Company, JSC

Eneffect

Beata Tzoneva,

SOFPROECT OGP (Municipal Company for Spatial planning of Sofia)

Yani Valkanov,

Manager at URBITAT Ltd.

Dobromir Konstantinov,

Zelenika Foundation

Shishkov,

Sofena

Elitza Panayotova,

Sofia Green

**Public interest and economic development in
planning: impacts on local and regional
development**

Moderation: ???

Utilising endogenous potentials via local/regional policy-led development initiatives in post-industrial regions of Central Europe

Dr. Peter Wirth, p.wirth@ioer.de

Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (Germany)

The European Union's Territorial Agenda, acting as a blue-print for spatial development in the EU, underlines the aim for a "poly-centric and balanced territorial development of the European Union". Nevertheless, continuous research shows that while metropolitan regions grow significantly, other, more peripheral regions are lagging behind in their development.

This paper will highlight the situation in some of these regions showing limited growth patterns by focussing on some non-metropolitan, (post-) industrial regions in Central Europe, often outside the main academic focus. The analysis will deal with the use of endogenous development potentials by the local and regional policy level, which is an aspect also highlighted by the EU's Territorial Agenda.

The cases presented in this paper will highlight the current challenges of such regions, give examples for the identification and utilisation of endogenous potentials, as well as discuss some lessons learned from this locally-led development approach, first for the regions in focus and second for the European structure policy in general. As a result the authors will argue that a sole focus on un-locking such endogenous potentials might indeed generate certain benefits for such regions, but is not enough to create substantial growth or jobs effects on the other hand.

***Fostering development via 'Industrial culture'?
Networking and development initiatives in (post-)
industrial regions of Central Europe***

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Against a new round of socio-economic change and a renewed interest of 'industrial production' (i.e. 'Industry4.0', 'Knowledge Economy', 'EU's re-industrialisation policy'), many small and medium-sized industrial towns in Central Europe are facing renewed challenges in their economic development.

Traditional industrial regions outside agglomerations seem to be ill-equipped to use these trends compared to larger cities. Nevertheless, such places possess also important traditions and skills in regard to industrial production, which could serve as a stepping stone to a sustainable development path.

This paper will discuss one of the specific endogenous potentials, namely the particular 'Industrial Culture' of place, which is often deeply rooted in the identity and traditions of such regions. The authors will discuss along some examples the potential of Industrial Culture to mobilise new potentials in (old) industrialised regions, tackling place-bound problems or needs of the municipalities or sectors – thereby focussing directly on (perceived) needs of regional development in the regions. While aims and outcomes of the activities discussed in this article are rather long-term and thus difficult to assess, these approaches allow regions to tap in already existing resources by addressing important part of the history and presence of (old) industrial places. Thereby it reaches a higher level of acceptance among regional stakeholders and forming a cross-sectoral network of actors, thereby creating an interesting platform for regional dialogue and action.

Keywords:

Industrial Culture, Regional Development, Regional Networks, Identity, Small- and Medium-Sized Towns

Energy-sensitive urban planning as tool in the process to sustainable development

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The potential of spatial planning for addressing sustainability issues in a holistic manner have been acknowledged by numerous policy documents at the global level. Energy transition is increasingly acknowledged as a key topic of both policy and research in the EU context of the global process towards sustainable development (SD). Yet, issues of operationalization, evaluation instruments and related monitoring procedures are in both fields considered challenges still to meet. By linking diverse sociocultural contexts and setting a particular focus on the local governance level, the paper discusses current results of ongoing ECHOES project (HORIZON 2020), namely: (1) the literature review on energy planning and management, and (2) the discussions undertaken within two preliminary focus groups in Bulgaria.

The authors then relate them to the findings of an ongoing university research project in Sofia, aimed at developing a framework for evaluation of the relevance and effectiveness of strategic planning documents applied at the local/ municipal level in Bulgaria to SD requirements. Conclusions are drawn about identified missing links between energy-related environmental, social and economic aspects of SD in the sets of implemented indicators in the evaluation of spatial plans and recommendations are made for more explicitly integrating energy efficiency considerations into the spatial planning process while respecting the peculiarities of the sociotechnical and sociocultural context. The development of interdisciplinary approaches is claimed to be of major importance in the process.

Keywords: energy transition, spatial planning, indicators, Interdisciplinarity, ECHOES, Bulgaria.

EU funds in the context of inter-regional and intra-regional differences in Bulgaria

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Urban transformation between cultural heritage preservation and local economic development – The public sector between the fronts?

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In Central and Eastern Europe many cities beyond the booming metropolis are facing stagnation or decline of population and economic development. At the same time many of these places are characterized by rich cultural heritage which - in times of digitalization and congested metropolis - can be an asset to regain competitiveness. However, the existing building stock does often not meet the needs of housing or retail. Coordination between the public and the private sector as well as within the public sector is needed to solve the conflict between cultural heritage preservation and local economic development...

In search of identity – New symbolism in central squares of Balkan capitals

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Post socialist states have been confronted with questions about their national identity. National identities as historical constructions that are constantly being reconstituted according to a presentist agenda, i.e. viewing the past with a somewhat limited to present-day attitudes and beliefs. The beliefs and attitudes after 1991 were clearly 'away from socialism', but the 'towards what' was not very clear. Identities are given shape in places, including landscapes, monuments, and sites where commemorations are performed. Capitals' main urban square are important places for giving shape to national identities. Capitals are essential symbols of national iconographies and their most important square are symbolic spaces. They are places where commemorations are performed – be it remembrance of an historical event or the reception of a sport team winning a special medal. They are focal point for political demonstrations, and also place to meet. This article will report on a current study of the development of three central squares of three Balkan countries' capitals: Skopje (FYR of Macedonia), Tirana (Albania) and Prishtina (Kosovo). The squares are spaces which high symbolic values, have been subject to various interventions and have drawn much attention from rulers and the people and visitors. The squares are studied along a framework discussed by Diener and Hagen (2013), who identify three themes around which the intersection of identity, nationalism, and post-socialist urbanism has tended to crystallize and become manifest in urban places: - selective remembrance and active forgetting; - ambiguous spaces and banal practices globalized identities; and, - globalized identities and cultural hybridities.

Preventive approaches to air quality management in the planning of Bulgarian post-industrial cities

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The paper presents a study focused on the pollution of the urban environment in the post-industrial cities of Bulgaria, its sources and spatial location as well as its effects on human health. Based on the fast changing ratio between industry and services in the regional economy in favour of the service sector, the city of Burgas was chosen for a developing a case study on pollution in the post-industrial cities in the country. Within the complex layout of city pollution the author has classified urban pollution types and has evaluated different measures for reducing it, with regard to cost, side effects and overall benefits to inhabitants' health. The discussed measures address different intervention fields and their results vary in terms of reduced pollutants, investment size and implementation complexity. After comparing possible scenarios for reducing city pollution in Burgas with fixed investment size, conclusions are drawn about the effectiveness of applying preventive interdisciplinary approaches to urban quality management. Monitoring and evaluation procedures and instruments to be implemented during the planning and management process are recommended.

City walk, September 14th

Sofia as the governmental, financial and cultural centre of Bulgaria, is located on the intersection of three main transport corridors. Though there is historical evidence that the city dates back to 29 BC and some recent excavations prove the existence of a settlement dating from the bronze, iron and Hellenic ages, it is only in the last 100-140 years that the contemporary city has been developed. Except the geopolitical location, other factors and entities that make Sofia unique in SE Europe are: the altitude (550 m.), the peculiar mountain frame, the main city open public spaces providing beautiful landscape views, the proliferation of mineral water springs, the diverse cultural layers, the preserved cultural identity in an environment of rapid globalization, and the religious and ethnic tolerance.

Sofia is the economic heart of Bulgaria and home to most major Bulgarian and international companies operating in the country. Sofia experienced rapid economic growth up until 2008 During the EU pre-accession years (up until 2007), and a successive downturn after the EU accession and the Global Economic crises around 2009. From 2007 to 2011, the city attracted a cumulative total of \$11.6 billion in foreign direct investment. In January 2015 Sofia received the highest rank amongst cities in Southeast Europe and 30th out of 300 global cities) in terms of combined growth in employment and real gross domestic product (GDP) per capita in 2013–2014. Increasingly, Sofia has been recognized as an outsourcing destination for multinational companies and in 2015 Forbes listed Sofia as one of the top 10 places in the world to launch a start-up business, whereas the Globalization and World Cities Research Institute ranked Sofia as Beta- world city in 2015.

The city walk will focus on the development of public space network within the city centre and the preservation and revalorization of cultural heritage in relation to economic growth, infrastructure development and the forthcoming Bulgarian presidency of the EU from January to June 2018.

Field trip to Plovdiv, September 16th

With more than 8 000 years of history, Plovdiv is the second largest city in Bulgaria with traditions in cultural heritage management. There are many remains from antiquity of the medieval walls and towers; Ottoman baths and mosques; a well-preserved old quarter from the National Revival period with beautiful houses, churches and narrow paved streets. There are numerous museums, art galleries and cultural institutions. Nowadays Plovdiv hosts various cultural events, exhibitions and commercial fairs. After Plovdiv was elected as European Capital of Culture in 2019, an ambitious cultural program has started its realisation.

Organized one-day field trip will allow closer study of the preparation process of Plovdiv for hosting the 2019 European Capital of Culture initiative. During the trip meetings will be organized with representatives of various institutions that play an important part in this process. Thanks to a diverse group of speakers and the experience on site, the participants will have the opportunity to confront their own theoretical knowledge with the practicalities of regional and local development led by cultural heritage management, event management and city marketing. The study trip will offer opportunity for seeing key areas within the city as the historic preservation site the Old Town of Plovdiv known with its Bulgarian Renaissance architectural style and the renovated in 2014 and further developed as a creative industries quarter Kapana („The Trap“). The trip itself will be an occasion to perceive and analyse the changing character of the Bulgarian landscapes and countryside..

Meetings with local experts:

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Spa-ce.net Conference 2017 in Sofia

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