

## ENGLISH ABSTRACTS OF KEY ARTICLES

**Purposes and Objectives of the Regional Development Policy, by Jarmila Baláková**

The support to regional development in Europe and the Czech Republic is generally considered as a discipline which lessens the differences among the socio-economic levels of regions and makes the development synergetic and well balanced. The regional development policy thus has its fostering, balancing, and stabilizing functions. The legislative framework of the regional policy in Czechia is anchored in the 248/2000 Regional Development Support Act, stating the contents and the institutional conditions of the support to regional development. This article outlines the current state of such legislation and lists all the announced programmes.

**The Function and the Purport of the Cohesive Fund for Municipalities, by Radka Bučilová**

An important tool for the Czech Republic as a new EU country is the Cohesive Fund. Making approximately one third of the total financial aid from the European Union, the Cohesive Fund offers finance for large investment projects in environmental care and transportation (Trans-European transportation network) in member countries where the GNP is below 90 % of the EU average (current Czech per capita GNP being at of some 61 %). The Fund is not specifically aimed at regional policies but is complementary to the support from structural funds.

**OPINIONS & DISCUSSIONS****Nový Lískovec Today and Tomorrow: an interview with Mrs Jana Drápalová, Mayor of one of Brno's districts**

The Mayor of Nový Lískovec, a district of the city of Brno, is a renowned activist of the Greens. Her district, comprising two neighbourhoods of late 20th century prefab apartment buildings, has been successfully involved in the national Programme of Housing Estates Refurbishment. What we also endeavoured to learn is how the environmentalist education and conviction may help carry out the tough job of a Mayor.

**Scenarios for the Assessment of the Pseudo-Sustainable Development of Regions, by Josef Říha**

This contribution is a continuation of the author's article published in 1/2000 UPSD where the concept of sustainable development was questioned in regard to strategic assessments of regional development plans. The ongoing dynamic development of environmental care reveals some inevitable facts: On one hand, the working tools of sustainable development, mainly the indicators, are being enhanced, the legislative standards and the corresponding methodologies are developed, and national strategic development concepts are emerging. On the other hand, the theoretic concept of sustainable development in its international framework has collapsed fatally. As a compensation for the failure of a scientific concept, political and normative measures are required. For the socio-economic and spatial development, the principle of anticipatory prudence is currently insisted upon. The phenomenon of increasing risks makes it necessary to add another mainstay to the three existing buttresses of sustainable development (environmental, economic, social), namely that of security.

**Sustainable Refurbishment of Prefab Estates, by Karel Maier**

The demographic development of the Czech prefab housing neighbourhoods in the 1990s was corresponding to, and sometimes even highlighting, the overall trends in cities and in the Czech population in general. Almost every pre-1990s housing estate witnessed a decrease in population. Most dramatic was the change in the age structure of inhabitants, people in newer estates „growing old“ much faster than those living in neighbourhoods built in the 1950s and 1960s. People of high income and the majority of social elites were leaving the estates in the nineties but the fear of downfall into ghettos has not come up to expectations, which is partly due to the unavailability of alternative housing for a large part of the middle class. The privatization of apartments, as still going on, caused an utterly unique mixture of ownerships, unknown elsewhere in Europe: identical buildings in the same prefab estate host apartment owners, co-op owners, renters under controlled or uncontrolled rent, and "subtenants" who pay untaxed money to their "landlords". Also, the article presents some of the outcome of the SUREURO project aimed at the quest for methods and procedures of sustainable refurbishment of collective housing.