

URBANISMUS A ÚZEMNÍ ROZVOJ (URBAN PLANNING AND SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT)

5/98

ENGLISH ABSTRACTS OF KEY ARTICLES

Hana Veselá, Essentials of the Regional Policy of the Czech Government

The regional policy is understood as a systematic job of the state and its regional and local authorities. Its aim is to contribute to a well-balanced development of regions throughout the Czech Republic, to diminish the differences among the regions, and to improve the regional economic structures. However, the struggle toward a well-balanced development does not mean that there must be the very same development in each region, this being after all hardly possible within the frame of market economy. The essential points for the development of a region, just like for the whole country, is to be proportionate and crisisless, to give equal opportunities everywhere, and to use fully the demographic, natural, economic, and other capacities.

Milada Kadlecová & Michal Hadlač, The Monitoring System of Physical Planning Documentation and Physical Planning Source Materials in the Czech Republic

The article presents the "Nation-wide monitoring system of physical planning documentation (PPD) and physical planning source materials (PPSM) of municipalities and Higher Administration Units", elaborated by the Brno Institute for Spatial Development.

Information on the existence of approved Master Plans or urban studies under elaboration is now available on Internet, www.uur.cz.

According to the Building Act Amendment, in vigour from 1 July 1998, it is obligatory for any PPD/PPSM provider to fill in and send Registration cards of approved physical planning documentation and urban studies to the central physical planning body. Another obligation for the providers is to keep records of their physical planning tasks. Thus it is inevitable to maintain good cooperation between providers and the District Offices using a simple software to record the PPD/PPSM elaboration process. Then, on request, the central physical planning body will get the automated output of this information. The Institute for Spatial Development is now testing a map server to provide a cartogram on the situation of physical planning documentation in any district of the Czech Republic. The cartograms will be generally available when problems of the copyright and of the usage of digital maps are resolved.

It is supposed that the evolution of the system will bring a data base of available municipality development areas.

ENTRY OF NEW LARGE INVESTMENTS INTO AN AREA, AND THE RELATION TO URBAN PLANNING, TRANSPORTATION, SOCIETY, AND OTHER CONTEXTS THEREOF

This topic was the subject of a congress of the Association for Urban Planning, held in Pardubice on 24 April 1998.

In this country, the renewed importance of plot proprietorship and the vital participation of private capital in new investments may be considered as two very basic changes of our times. These facts and the new experience in economics, logistics, marketing, environmentalism, and other fields have had a substantial impact on the developers' and other parties' behaviour in the area. The building activities of the last 7 years show, of course, both positive and negative manifestations. The sense of our job is to make preconditions for the optimum usage of space. However, it is the definition of the word optimum what makes discrepancies in the field of spatial development.

The following block of articles, i. e. papers adapted for the needs of this magazine, is a digest of the seminar. To be brief, here are the contributors and the titles:

Tomáš Drtina, The development of the shopping network in Czechia; From lack to surplus?

Jiří Zběžek, Shopping zones as part of city centres

Tatána Štědrá, Large investments in the new Prague Master Plan draft

Milan Körner, The development of commercial activities in Prague's suburban territories; The D1 motorway corridor

Michal Hexner & Tomáš Havrda, The Letňany-Západ area, Prague, and its relation to the problems of large shopping centres

Vlasta Poláčková, Rudná; Business activities 1998

Milan Košar, Problems of the construction of shopping facilities in Pardubice

Emil Chochole, The City industrial park of Plzeň-Borská pole three years after

Irena Králová, Shopping zones of Plzeň; Some remarks and experience in view of spatial planning

Jaroslav Straka, Studies and analyses on the evolution of the shopping network of Plzeň

Pavel Koubek, Mladá Boleslav and the supermarkets; Without them you cannot live, with them you may get in peril!

Helena Lenda, Citizen Participation in Physical Planning in the Czech Republic

This paper discusses the current state of citizen participation in physical planning in the Czech Republic from the points of view of professionals involved in such planning. The information presented here was gathered from interviews conducted in spring 1998 with Czech planners/architects, sociologists and mayors, and focuses on the following aspects of citizen participation in physical planning: the percent of citizens that participate; the social structure of participants; decision-making power among citizens; reasons why and ways in which citizens participate; problems with current practice; and suggestions for improving participation. The results of the interviews show that although less than 5% of citizens typically participate in physical planning, with involvement largely restricted to formal channels in the middle or end of the process, there are a number of opportunities for improving the situation by introducing less formal, dialogue-based participation methods.