

# URBANISMUS A ÚZEMNÍ ROZVOJ (URBAN PLANNING AND SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT)

4/99

## ENGLISH ABSTRACTS OF KEY ARTICLES

### **HABITAT**

The articles by **Miriám Přinosilová** and **Jaroslav Kohout** present some basic information on Habitat, the UN centre for settlements, and the Habitat Agenda, summing up the goals, essentials, and duties of the institution. Miriám Přinosilová's article describes the system of settlement development centres on both world-wide and local levels and gives a summary of their activities. Jaroslav Kohout's contribution deals clearly with what the UN has been doing in housing in the last twenty years. Attached to the article is the Czech translation of the Istanbul Declaration, signed at the world congress in 1996. In 1998, the Institute for Spatial Development became the national Habitat centre for the Czech Republic. The national centre's activities will be regularly presented to our readership.

### **Karel Schmeidler, Sustainable Development and the City**

Starting from the end of the 50's, we have been witnessing discussions of increasing intensity about the sustainability of economic growth models based on boosted consumption of energy and raw materials and, therefore, connected with mounting volumes of waste. The OECD Charter was published in 1960, urging the representatives of the most industrialised countries to support sustainable development. Ten years later, the OECD's Environment Committee said sustainable economic development cannot be reached without preserving the background of natural resources and keeping to stable economic results.

### **Marie Rozhonová, Cableways in Beskydy – Economic Growth versus Environmental Protection**

The Beskydy Mountains is one of the most important tourist destinations of Czech Republic. However, it is also a region of high unemployment rate, caused by the industry recession in the Ostrava agglomeration. Thus the regional plan of Beskydy, currently under preparation, must not forget about viewpoints of economic development. Among other factors, the economic growth of the region can be supported by evolving the infrastructure of tourism. For instance, the draft of the Beskydy regional plan contains a plan to construct several cableways. Nevertheless, the intention is opposed by various groups of environmentalists.

### **Erich Vrtiš, Regions of Czech Republic; System and Responsibilities in the Framework of Traffic and Transportation**

The Czech Republic may soon become member of the EU, so the consequences thereof must already be taken into consideration. One of the aspects of the membership is the co-ordination in delimiting comparable territorial units. That is why the constitutional process of creating administration units is gradually going on. The efforts, often of contradictory or populist nature, finally led to formulating a structure of 14 Regions. (The methods and solutions to the question of territorial structure as outlined by the author, see issue 2 of Urban Planning and Spatial Development, have for various reasons not been applied.)