



Tibor Nemeth

ACTIVITIES OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC IN THE FIELD OF SPATIAL PLANNING

Since June 1st 2003, after delegation of powers from the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic provides fulfilment of conceptual, legislative and other tasks as central authority in the area of planning and building regulations.

Section of Planning and Building Regulations provides action and tasks of state administration according to the act No. 50/1976 coll. on town planning and building regulations (the Building Act) in the wording of later regulations. It participates on organizing of human activities in the land according to the principles of sustainable development. By planning it creates conditions to provide permanent balance of all natural, civilizational and cultural values in the land. In conceptual and planning materials (of its own and of the other resorts) it coordinates and fulfils cross-cutting tasks related to the harmonization of space projection of social-economic activities with protection and creation of environment, protection of nature, natural resources and cultural heritage, support of balanced residential development, including countryside development, creation of conditions for equal living conditions to provide functional complexity of regional units and land revitalization. It defines general technical requirements for construction and for buildings used by handicapped persons with the limited ability to walk and to orientate. It manages and rectifies action of the State Building Inspection.

In cooperation with the Slovak Chamber of Architects and the Slovak Chamber of Civil Engineers it defines content of professional examination and detailed definition of professional practice and it proposes members of examinational committee according to the act No. 138/1992 coll. on authorized architects and authorized civil engineers in the wording of later regulations. It methodically rectifies activity of state administration authorities and planning authorities of municipalities, self-governing regions and regional building offices in the field of planning and building regulations. It provides harmonization of legal regulations and procedures of the Slovak Republic with the regulations and procedures of the European Union; it also provides activities related to international activities in the area of its power in relation to the European Union and the other international governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). It proposes legal and economic tools, suggestions for the projects that also professionally supervised. Except for that it gives comments and standpoints to the materials for the Slovak Government and its advisory bodies, it gives assessments to the minister and it realizes approved resolutions. It prepares materials for creating main, legislative, financial and the other plans of the Ministry in the area of planning and building regulations. It provides, within its power, keeping the sustainable development principles and criteria, evaluation of sustainable development indicators and development of legal and economical tools and informatics.

Division of planning fulfils conceptual, legislative and other tasks of the state by creating conditions for sustainable development in the area of town & country planning and urbanism. It performs and manages planning activities according to the Building Act and regulations issued for its execution. It provides professional-methodical activity, unified procedure and interpretation in implementation of legal regulations. Within its power it rectifies regional building office, municipalities and self-governing regions, it cooperates with the other central state administration authorities. It provides professional competence for procurement of planning documentation and non-statutory planning materials by municipalities, self-governing regions and regional building offices. It methodically rectifies planning authorities in planning activities and solving pragmatic problems. In conceptual and planning materials (of its own or of the other resorts) it coordinates and fulfils cross-cutting tasks related to the harmonization of space projection of social-economic activities with protection and creation of environment, protection of nature, natural resources and cultural heritage, support of balanced residential development, including countryside development, by creating conditions for equal living conditions to provide functional complexity of regional units and land revitalization. It fulfils tasks of international cooperation and harmonization of legal regulations and procedures of the Slovak Republic with the regulations and procedures of the European Union. Within its power it gives opinion and standpoints to the materials for the Slovak Government and its advisory bodies, it gives assessments and realizes approved resolutions. It transfers and applies relevant documents of the European Union, European Commission, UN and OECD. It also ensures keeping up with sustainable development principles and criteria, evaluation of sustainable development indicators and development of legal and economic tools and informatics (it operates and makes access to the Informational System on Spatial Planning).

According to the Slovak Government resolution No. 371 of May 14th 2003 with effect since January 1st 2004 a new specialized authority of local state administration at regional level - regional building office - has been created, which performs state administration in the field of planning, building regulations and housing. This office is budgetary organization connected to budget of the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic.



Regional Building Office reviews the plan specification for local plan and zone plan, it gives assessment within discussion about local plan draft and zone plan draft. It gives assessment within discussion about local plan and zone plan before approval. It reviews local plan before approval and zone plan before approval. It solves contradictions within discussion about planning documentation. It is methodical authority for municipal activities in the field of planning and it participates at creating conception drafts in planning. It procures and discusses non-statutory planning materials and it participates at performance of informational activities for informational system on spatial planning.

Division of planning, as mentioned before, fulfils the tasks of central planning authority according to the act No. 575/2001 on organization of governmental activities and organization of state administration authorities in the wording of later regulations. It provides conceptual, legislative, methodical works and it participates on international and bilateral cooperation. Creation and proposal of article wording of the new act on spatial / town & country planning is its most important present legislative task.

Strategy of Slovakia territorial development is (according to §7 article 4 of the Building Act) the area-technical material for the whole area of the Slovak Republic, which also includes surveys, analyses and evaluations for the processing conception draft of Slovakia territorial development (KURS). Within this non-statutory planning material, the Division of planning performs running spying and evaluation of stage and changes of conditions in the territory at the base of monitoring of conceptual intentions invocation development according to the KURS 2001.

Division of planning provides (according to §2a of the Building Act and according to the decree No. 436/2000 coll. in the wording of later regulations) verifying of professional competence for non-statutory planning materials and planning documentation procurement process by municipalities and self-governing regions. It means to provide professional preparation of applicants by commissioned organizations (UNIKA Bratislava, UVS Bratislava), execution of the examination itself, issuing certificates of professional competence and keeping the register of professionally competent persons.

In the area of international cooperation it provides partnership and represents the Slovak Republic in the Committee of Senior Officers CEMAT (European Commission - European Conference of Ministers responsible for town & country / space planning), which implements decisions of the Conference of Ministers. Documents approved by CEMAT conference are e.g.: European Charter of Town and Country Planning (1983) and Control Principles of Sustainable Spatial Development of European Continent (approved by conference in 2000).

It participates in the preparation of the project Sustainable Spatial Development of Teas River Basin at the base of approved Agreement / Initiative about Sustainable

Spatial Development of Teas River Basin Region, approved at the conference in Juliana in September 2003.

It provides activities within the Committee for Human Settlements EEC UN that focuses on settlements and habitation development. With the aim to support research in urbanism and town & country planning the Slovak Republic has given a proposal for organization of another conference of the Committee in 2006. Committee for Human Settlements EHK OSN has accepted an offer of the Slovak Republic to host 10th Conference about Urban and Regional Research in 2006. Division of planning has prepared a proposal for organization of the 10th conference of the Committee for Human Settlements EHK OSN, timetable of the conference preparations, creation of the conditions for presentation of research results in the area of urbanism and land development and financial covering of the conference and of the Slovak Republic participation.

It provides chairmanship of the Working group for planning of Working community ARGE DONAULÄNDER, within which it prepares proposal for the project application "Proposal for Network of Developing Regional Centres in the Danube Space" (German abbreviation "Donauhansa - Netz"), influenced by methodical of the project "Conception of Cooperation of Regions, Towns and Ports in the Danube Space" and actualisation of comparative study of regional development planning systems in the Danube countries.

In the area of bilateral cooperation the Division of planning develops cross-border cooperation with the Republic of Hungary within the Working group for planning and regional development of the mixed Slovak-Hungarian Commission for issues of nature and environment protection. Work group realizes cooperation in the field of these focal expert groups: for planning, for regional development, for information about land, for building regulations and for dictionaries. As the harmonization of planning processes between both partner countries is the main sense of its activity, existing activities and initiations of expert groups have led to elaboration of different projects, e.g. "Project of Land and Regional Development of Slovak-Hungarian Cross-boarder Area", "Urban Study Novohrad-Salgótarján", "Slovak-Hungarian Handbook of Planning Terminology - Glossarium" and at the present it is beginning of works on "Urban Study National Park Aggtelek and Area of Slovensky kras".

Within Slovak-Polish intergovernmental commission for cross-border cooperation the Slovak-Polish Working group for planning and construction has been created. The elaboration of the "Study of Land Development in the Slovak Republic and the Polish Republic", "Project of Cross-border Area Land Development of the Slovak Republic and the Polish Republic" and finished "Synthesis" are the most important of its exiting activities. The "Concept of Transport Service in Cross-border Area of the Slovak Republic and the Polish Republic" is in the phase of preparation.

In April 2002 the Agreement between Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic and Ministry for



Regional Development of the Czech Republic about cooperation in the area of planning and building regulations was signed. Within this cooperation a Common commission was created. Last year the Slovak side begun works on the common project "Project of Cross-border Area Development in the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic". Cooperation on experience exchange by elaboration of the new act about space / town and country planning is also important.

Within cooperation with Ukraine a common Slovak-Ukraine Commission for the area of development was created in 2002. At the present there are different common projects and tasks at the phase of elaboration, e.g. "Project of Cross-boarder Area Development in the Slovak Republic and Ukraine - 2nd stage, "Conception of Protection and Land-use of Carpathians Territory in the Slovak-Polish-Ukraine Cross-boarder Area with Aim to Inscribe it into the World Heritage List of UNESCO" and "Slovak-English-Russian-Ukraine planning terminology dictionary".

Between governments of the Slovak Republic and Austria an "Agreement about Cooperation in the Area of Space Planning and Regional Policy" was signed in 1994. Division of planning actively cooperated on the project JORDES+ - common strategy of regional development of Vienna-Bratislava-Győr regions. Project should help Bratislava and Trnava self-governing regions and Bratislava municipality to prepare and to realize projects of public benefit in different areas of cooperation. Topics of the project are: localization policy, economic development, transport system, education / science / research, residential structure, nature and environment, tourism and cultural heritage.

Division of planning also participates at realization of informational activities for Informational System on Spatial Planning and on integration to CITE project.

The project of Informational System on Spatial Planning (ISUP) is based on the Act No. 50/1976 on town planning and building regulations (Building Act) in the wording of later regulations and on the other generally compulsory law regulations in which (according to §130) the Ministry is a provider of ISUP, which contents planning documentation, non-statutory planning materials and the other materials. The base of the project was long-lasting task of SAZP. SAZP was processor of the "Overview of Planning Documentation Stage" within which the complex database of information about planning documentation of municipalities was processed, with land covering for the whole Slovakia and in time horizon of entries since 1976 until 2000. At present its test-version is already in operation on SAZP server, accessible by URL address www.sazp.sk/UPD and by address of the Ministry of Construction and Regional Development of the Slovak Republic www.build.gov.sk.

Methodics for proceeding of planning authorities within tally of planning documentation and non-statutory planning materials was an independent output of the ISUP project. It contents detailed proceeding of the planning

authorities by tally of planning documentation and fulfilling informational database of the ISUP as well as detailed instructions for filling different items on registration card (RL) of planning documentation.

Informational and knowledge network of European space CITE which is on the Internet base, should inform about topics in the branches of regional development, town and country planning, housing and construction. Separately built and mutually connected Internet home sites will provide up/dated information in national languages as well as in English and French. At the moment this project associates France, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia. Due to the financial and technical requirements, the division of planning proposes to observe system development, to prepare professional background, financial covering and consecutively accession of the Slovak Republic to the Informational and knowledge network of European space CITE in the next year, and meanwhile only formal accession to project CITE as an observer without any financial participation.

Within research development in urbanism and town & country planning Division of planning participates on research and development studies. There are the following in the preparation:

- Study of Territorial, Economic and Social Conditions for Creating of Cooperative Polycentric Settlement Focuses with the Aim to Create More Balanced Residential Structure and Sustainable Development of Slovakia" - The aim is to strengthen planning and realization of rational development of settlements and creation of residential structures rivalries in the system of settlements in Europe and assignment of further possible drift of research in the area of territorial development in the thematic field of development of polycentric settlements in Slovakia.
- Optimisation of Relations between Planning and Regional Development with the Aim to Achieve Synergic Results of Territorial Development" - The aim is spatial articulation of regional policy tools in relation to the tools of planning with achieving the synergic results of territorial development and proposal of tool and planning activity coordination with tools and activities of regional planning.
- Study of Task of Institutions Cooperating within Supply Management of Territorial Development with the Aim to Create Educational Program Focused on Dialogue between Different Institutions in Experience and Knowledge Exchange" - the aim is to create educational program focused on dialogue between different institutions in the area of territorial development in experience and knowledge exchange and to support balanced development of network between institutions in the field of territorial development in relation to educational programs.