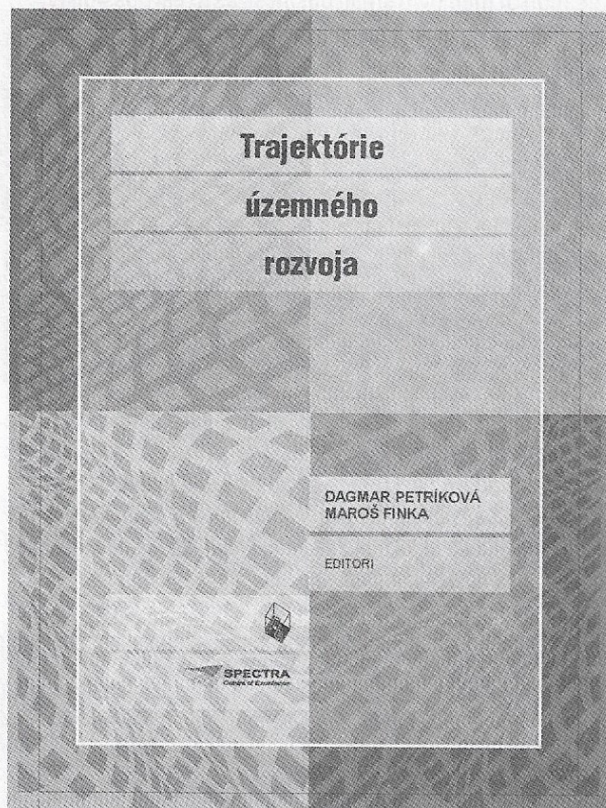


TRAJECTORIES OF TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT



Trajectories of Territorial Development
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The publication "Trajectories of Territorial Development" edited by the SPECTRA Centre of Excellence of the FA SUT Bratislava (published by ROAD in Bratislava, 2006) with the financial support of the Agency for Support of Research and Development (APVV –20 – 025705) contains 467 pages. The objective of this publication are the results of research work at the Institute of Spatial Planning and Urban Design of the Faculty of Architecture, Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava and the SPECTRA Centre of Excellence (Central European Research and Training Centre in Spatial Planning). The goal is to contribute to broadening the knowledge on the trajectories of territorial development, to comprehension of synergy of spatial quality of the systems of settlements in order to achieve the higher synergic quality of human environment in our settlements.

Current processes of territorial development and development of the system of settlements open a number of issues not only for the practice of territorial development but also for urbanism as scientific discipline. The interest of society on transformations in urban and rural environment related to transformation processes from industrial to post- industrial and knowledge – based society is natural, since the systems of settlements create spatial frame for the processes of setting, like the processes of production, services, communication, housing and others. These are all dynamic processes and create the base for internalisation of natural environment by man. Territorial development in its trajectories takes into consideration the issues of fulfilling the main task: optimization of spatial and territorial organisation of the environment related to economic, social and environmental objectives of sustainable development under the dynamic processes in urban and rural development.

In general this publication describes territorial development theory and practice. The approach has been developed from international experience and focuses on the Slovak experience after the change of political system, policy and marketing or local and regional economy with respect to overall strategy.

The book has been devoted to the memory of the late Prof Ing. arch. R. Šteisa, DrSc. who dedicated his life-time effort to the development of urban planning in the theory and practise of urbanism.

The publication "Trajectories of Territorial Planning" is logically structured into three large parts (each contains several studies written by different authors):

- **Part one:** Strategies in Territorial Development.
- **Part two:** Dynamics of Urbanity.
- **Part three:** Landscape and Urbanisation.

In the **first part**, there are the dominant trends of territorial development and spatial concentration. The concept of polycentric and harmonic development ("The Concept Polycentricity in Current Theory and Policy of Spatial Development") gives answer to ever more pressing need to solve differences in competitiveness between the central parts of Europe and its peripheral parts and its all on the base one of the major projects of ESPON (European Spatial Planning Observation Network). The role, specific situation and potentials of urban areas as nodes in a polycentric development, by Nordregio which was focused on the issue of polycentrism at the national, regional and European level.

Two authors are writing about the large urban distressed areas in the parts „Revitalisation of brownfields as part of the strategy of territorial development“ and „Processes and methods of assessment the regeneration of large distressed areas“. Both studies are of theoretical character. In the part "Problems and Potentials following from the Process of Implementation of Strategic Planning in the Slovak Municipalities", the approach to strategic planning has been experienced. Out of seven theoretically focused papers in the first part just one "Management of Regional Identity and its Reflection in Strategic Planning" has demonstrated the case study from a small village Malinec which shows that there are still many challenges to be faced in the future years in regional development. The regional identity (important part of strategic planning) is very low and for the development of Malinec and other Slovak villages the regional identity must speed up in growing. The part "Methodology of Impact Assessment of Sustainable Development Processes of Settlement Systems" deals with the sustainability concept as a reaction to the knowledge and the part "Hypothetical Scenarios of Sustainable Development in Design" just constituted it on the field of design, with psychological and sociological points of view.

In the **second part**, there are six studies. They are focused on the formation of urban structure and functional changes of the city. The urban environment has been experienced from the point of view of its forming in the paper "Formation of Urban Environment from the point of view of Its Significance, Quality and Complexity" and from the point of view of its functional changes in the paper "Functional Changes of the City – Opportunities and Limits" and in the part "Quality of Inner City Structures". The part "Centre versus Periphery" brings a complex analysis of current status of urban structure on historical base in several selected cities in Slovakia and presents natural conditions on water elements (Grenoble, Stockholm, Geneve) and their utilization in urban composition. The topic of leisure time activities in a city are in the focus of the paper "Leisure Time and Sport Activities in Urban Structure". The latest trends and impacts of new shopping centres on the urban structure in Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, bring interesting points of view in the paper "Commercial Investment and Urban Structure" with

the opportunities for international comparison and with the aim to present current activities in this field. They present a specific problem – the evolution of the retail market in Slovakia started three years later than in the surrounding post-socialist countries. But the pressing challenge for our municipal management is to create an efficient urban retail strategy which is beneficial for all affected subjects.

In the **third part** the dominant topic is the landscape. This part contains ten papers. The contemporary state of the art and the perspectives are the frames for study "Landscape Architecture – State of Art and Prospects of Development", which is a leader of this part. The authors of this part are theoretical and practical experts for problems of settlements in landscape or greenery in environment or interaction of man and nature as it is shown in their papers, based on the landscape-ecological point of view. There are the following papers included: "Interaction of Man, Architecture and Nature", "Linkage of Urban Structure to Landscape", "Towards the Problems of Using the Methods of Specific Landscape Assessment", "Contact Points of Settlement and Landscape", "The Role of Greenery in the Concept of Sustainable City", "Questions of Environmentally Acceptable Utilization of the Landscape of the Morava River Alluvium". The value of water in settlements is analysed in the studies "Revitalization of Waterway in a Settlement" or "Water in Landscape and Town Planning" and "Technical Works in the Landscape. Visual Impacts of Flood Defence Features in Landscape".

This publication describes theory and practice of territorial development. The approach has been developed from international practice and focuses on the Slovak experience after the change of political system, policy and marketing. The publication in general presents current development in the field of planning after the split of former Czechoslovakia from all those many published attempts is it possible to abstract attributes frequented most often. It is prevention, balance, respect to the needs of following generations, complexity, complementarity, globalism, diversity, efficiency, subsidiarity, solidarity, exploitation of resources, justice by their distribution, esteem to life and others.

The book is assigned to all experts having interest to take part in solving the problems that arise in the above mentioned process of changes in the practice or develop further the theoretical knowledge in this field.

The book "Trajectories of Territorial Development" is very timely. It presents the issues of present territorial and spatial development and draws attention also to methodological difficulties and process-oriented research. As to its formal side there is an appropriate structure of the book, the studies written by erudite authors, an English summary and the book has been reviewed by two recognised experts (Prof. Ing. arch. Bohumil Kováč, PhD. and Assoc. Prof. Ing. arch. Václav Kohl Mayer, PhD.).

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