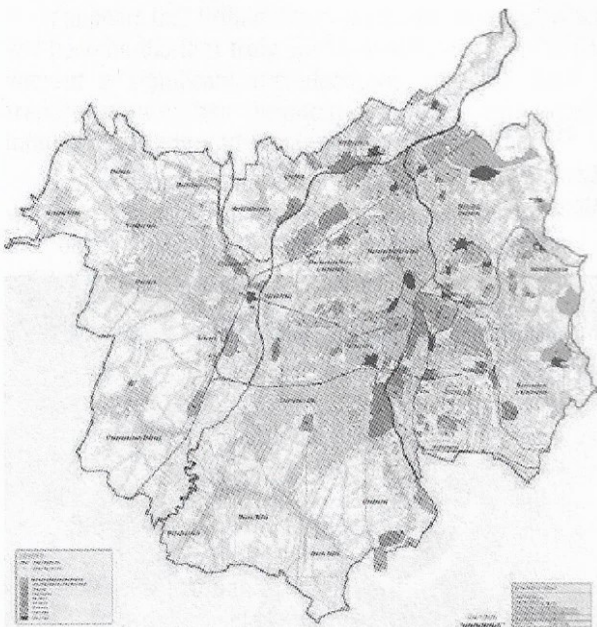




Lubomír Jamečný

OSTRAVA

The City of Ostrava is the third largest city of the Czech Republic and represents the natural industrial, administrative, economic, trade, cultural and educational center of the Moravian and Silesian Region. This region is situated in the north-eastern part of the Czech Republic and covers the area of 5.555 square kilometres, which stands for 7 % out of the whole Czech country, with 1 278 036 inhabitants. The economic and urbanistic development of Ostrava is associated with the discovery of hard coal in 1763 and afterwards with the foundation of Vítkovice Iron and Steel Works in 1828. After the World War II, the heavy industry was primarily developed in Ostrava. After 1989, faced to changes and priorities of the Czech economy, there began the process of modernization and industry restructuring and mining decline has been entirely started which was accompanied with releasing of the parts of the present production areas. As a result of historic development of Ostrava city these are the areas situated in most cases in the central parts of the city or in the areas directly connected with them and so these are the areas much attractive from the urbanistic point of view.



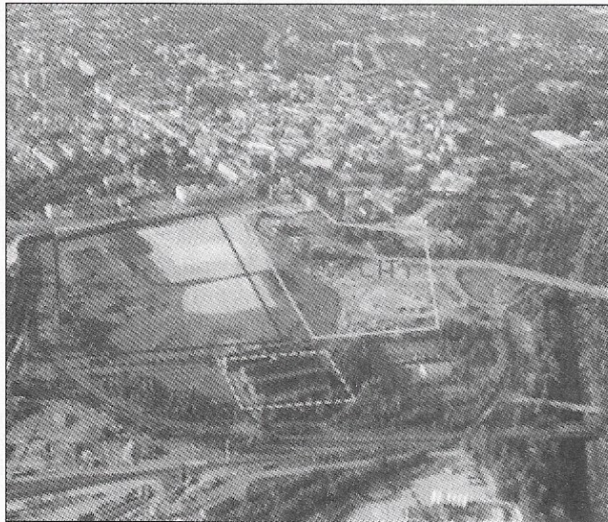
The brownfields in Ostrava are equipped almost always with extensive technical and transport infrastructure. In this connection it can be spoken about territory brownfields as about „not used potential of the territory and economic development of the city“ and that is why their new use and incorporation into the present structure of the city seems to be as one of the priorities of the city development.

In the first years it seemed that these released areas will be at the disposal relatively quickly, but soon it appeared that there is a number of problems obstructing from immediate new use. Contamination and its removal or risks mitigation of danger of environment belong to the main problems, furthermore release of these areas from original buildings and equipment. It is a very demanding process as to finance and time. But the principle problem is how these areas are to be used and who will finance their new use. Ostrava has started with promotion of the system approach to prepare and use the damaged areas since 1993 in the frame of the Project Silesia. This project (aimed at

environmental and human health risk assessment and risk management) was managed by the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic and USEPA and was financed by the U.S. government. In addition to valuable knowledge and experience verified on a number of the case studies and demonstration projects (including risks analysis and proposal for remediation of Karolina site), it initiated also mediation of various contacts abroad. In 1997 there were made subsequently contacts with Central European Linkage Program supported with the Heinz Endowment company from Pittsburgh and in 1998 The Brownfields Center of Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh was invited for collaboration. From 1998 several international meetings and workshops have been organized in Ostrava aimed at initiation of solving the brownfields revitalization problems and focused on concrete pilot examples (some typical abandoned industrial areas). Experience of the experts from the U.S.A, where a significant number of successful revitalization projects has been already implemented and examples of new use of earlier devastated and contaminated areas are of great help in starting the regeneration process in Ostrava.

Based on all these initiatives, the Department of Economic Development of the City of Ostrava has started with „The Research and Assessment of brownfields in Ostrava“. There was prepared a survey of ecologically loaded and not used industrial and city localities on the city





territory in graphic and text form for the purpose of formation of digitalized data base of those areas and determination of priority and rules for gradual revitalization and further use of those territories.

To the brownfields with highest re-development potentials belongs the areas of Karolina and Hrusov.

The Karolina Area

was originally used for heavy industry. Today, production has stopped, the industrial complex has been demolished, and a total decontamination and clearing is almost complete. The area is located in the centre of the city, about 500 metres from Ostrava's historic square. The demolition of the old industrial buildings has freed up space for the further development of the City centre, which makes it a particularly attractive investment for developers.

After holding an open international urban architecture competition for the future development of Karolina, the City of Ostrava and the Ostrava-Karviná Mining Company awarded first prize to the proposal from Gliwice, Poland, in November, 2000.

The project "New City" will take up about 9ha of the Karolina Development Area, in accordance with the winning urban-architecture proposal chosen in November, 2000. The "New City" plan calls for the construction of civic facilities, complementing and expanding the existing Ostrava City centre. This will involve compact urban construction around an inner pedestrian square. Municipal transport in the form of trams and trolleybuses will circle the city perimeter. A multi-functional six-floor building is envisioned for the western part of the area, and should include shopping, services and office space, as well as dining and entertainment facilities.

Hrušov:

The Hrušov Development Zone is located in the northeast of the City, and has been designated as an area for light industry. In 1997, the area was struck by floods that severely damaged the buildings within the zone. The site is currently being cleaned up, and further steps are being taken toward revitalization, development, and the resolution of ownership issues. The goal is to have a development zone with complete infrastructure, owned entirely by the City of Ostrava, and dedicated to investors interested in developing light industry.

"This work was supported by the Slovak Research and Development Agency under the contract No. APVV-20-025705"

References:

<http://www.mmo.cz>

<http://www.luda-project.net>

