



**BORDER-FREE RIVER BASINS
FLUSSLANDSCHAFTEN OHNE GRENZEN**



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The Central European Training and Research Centre in Spatial Development at the Faculty of Architecture in Bratislava (SPECTRA Centre of Excellence) along with the German Academy for Spatial Research and Regional Development in Hannover (ARL) under the leadership of Prof. Isolde Roch took an active role in opening this research field to cooperation of the central European team of researchers. Grouped under the SPECTRA-PERSEUS project they concentrated on the issues of river basin management in order to present evidence on the situation in river basin management in the CEE countries. The book was published in the frame of the 5FP project SPECTRA-PERSEUS, EVK4-CT-2002-80006, financed by the European Commission.

The focus of the book is on integrated river basin management in central Europe, considering the rivers Elbe/Labe, Moravia, Tisza – a thematic field, which is especially present in the awareness of scientific research and planning practice thanks to the effects of the flood disasters in 2002. The questions for the research and needs for practical actions formulated in the context of these disasters found broad resonance and the first results from the research and decision-making are already available. The spectrum of the research questions contains ecological principles of constitution and maintenance of river landscape, assessment of land use in its effects towards flood preventions and principles of constitution and maintenance of cultural landscape in the contexts of its development and development control.

To know the specific feature of river landscape is the necessary precondition to manage the development in a comprehensive way, including the river tributary basins from the springs, up to their embouchure. The rivers step over administrative borders and requires a responsible approach by all subjects in the territory. Cross-border cooperation in river basin management and the development of special methods and instruments, coordination of the development goals definition and relevant measures, is a natural imperative and a complex task. There is a knowledge gap, especially in the field of management following the different tasks in the cross-border dimensions, which had to be filled within the collaboration of scientists in the neighbouring countries in the dialogue with the representatives of the planning and decision making practice. Additional research needs have been identified in the cross-border definition of the river landscape values.

A particular issue was the polling on identity in order to analyse the nature of the regional attraction perceived by people living in the river landscapes specially regarding the areas in which they live. The poll also enquired about the characteristics of the river landscape as a space for living.



Similarly, information on values and associations was also sought in so far as they refer to economic stability or economic growth, cultural heritage and natural potentials. The book offers a complex view on the development of river landscapes in its miscellaneous facets. It underlines the needs for cross-border actions and development changes as the management tasks for the subjects in the river basins, using the experiences from the cross-border cooperation and urban development on the river.

The presented case studies from central European river landscapes deal with the above mentioned aspects in the context of current problems and development conditions of certain national territories as well as from the European perspective. One of the goals is to raise the attention and awareness of responsibility for the river landscape development and at the same time to show the example of

the multiplication effects of collaborative research work coordinated by the Academy for Spatial Research and Regional Development (ARL) in Hannover, which opened a new field of questions in this context – territorial specific identity and how to support it.

The authors (I. Roch, C. Roch, D. Petříková, M. Finka, L. Rohrerová, I. Kyselka, R. Veselý, M. Jeřábek, B. Janský, M. Lehotský, A. Grešková, M. Jaško, I. Belčáková, Z. Doevényi, I. Galyas) are addressing the broad spectrum of the scientific disciplines through the comprehensive ways of thinking and integrated, although discipline specific, statements. The book addresses the planning practice, municipalities, regions, states and the EU in the hope to find partners for responsible and new solutions.

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