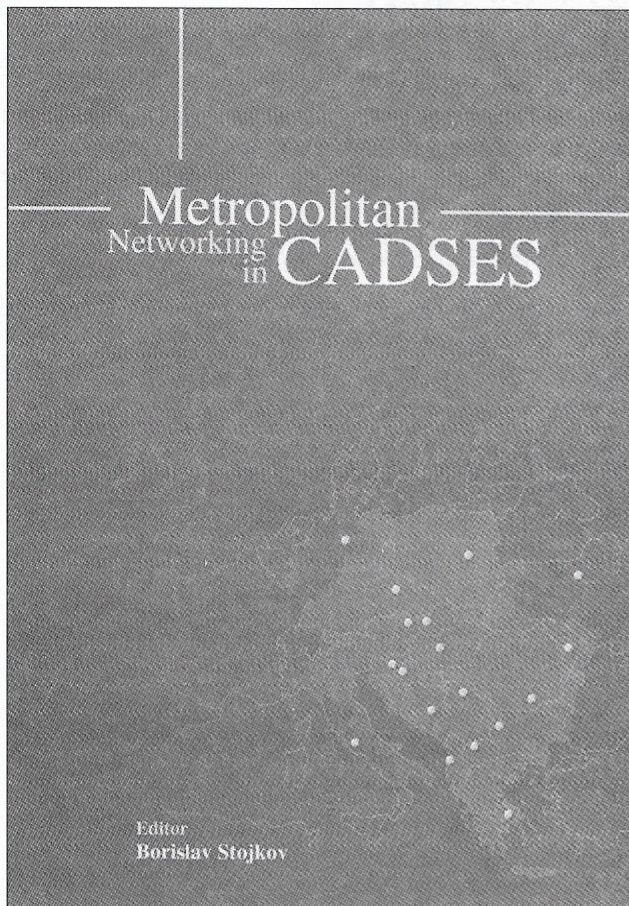




METROPOLITAN NETWORKING IN CADSES



**Competition between Cities in Central Europe:
Opportunities and Risks of Cooperation.**
Editor: Borislav Stojkov (2006),
University in Belgrade,
Institut für ökologische Raumentwicklung,
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The metropolitan networking is a pressing and rather complex issue for the European Union and its spatial development, raised by the ESDP and followed by many documents up to date. It is an intrinsic idea for EU enlargement and final integration accomplishment, but also for its future position and competitiveness at the global level.

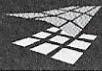
On the path to future integrated Europe one of the challenges is CADSES, its position in enlarged Europe, its spatial development and the role of metropolitan areas in the current and the future processes.

Decentralised Europe oriented both to the West and to the East, Europe competitive at the global level, Europe as an integrated and coherent whole, unified and diverse, potent and fragile, rich and poor, inevitably needs to look upon CADSES and metropolitan areas as potential engines for the future.

The issue of metropolitan networking in CADSES has been strengthened by the INTERREG IIIB project PlaNetCenSE, and supported by the group of experts from spatial planning research institutes in CADSES. Also, the informal network of institutes in the field of spatial planning SPA-CE.NET, with the Institut fuer Oekologische Raumentwicklung from Dresden and the SPECTRA Centre from the Faculty of Architecture of the SUT in Bratislava, as leaders of the network, supported the idea of the Institute for Spatial Planning (Faculty of Geography) in Belgrade, to exchange ideas on metropolitan networking in CADSES collected in the book.

The book is focused on three groups of issues. First part is focused on metropolitan networking as a general issue of particular importance for CADSES. The role of metropolitan regions in the knowledge based economy is becoming fundamental in future development of urban systems as well as in their networking and also something that contributes to "a detachment of Eastern European metropolitan regions from their national systems", something that should be carefully thought about in spatial development of CADSES and its metropolitan regions. On the other hand the different kinds of small scale integration zones should be conceived: the integration zones characterized by small and medium sized urban areas as opposite to integration zone under metropolitan impact and metropolitan networking must be related closely to the role and functions of medium and small towns in the constellation.

In the second part the focus is on contemporary examples of networking CADSES cities. The latest is the case of Vienna/Bratislava region, i.e. networking two capitals being on two sides of the "Iron Curtain" not so long ago, and now reestablishing very close economic, cultural and other functional links. Cooperation among CADSES metropolitan regions asks for inter-communal cooperation for strengthening regional level, and vertical cooperation



between municipalities in the sub-metropolitan area. This region is estimated as one of the continent's most dynamic economic region with "enormous growth opportunities". Cooperation with Bratislava (twin-city) is aiming to better positioning of the city of Vienna "as a metropolitan region in the European context", embracing also other cities such as Brno, Gyoer, Trnava, St. Polten, Eisenstadt in this cooperative network (CENTROPE). The spatial functionality of the region with approx. 6 mill. people "is reflected in cross-border economic, cultural and social/activities". But, on the other hand, CENTROPE is facing some hindrances like common symbols for better affiliation of people living there, huge differences in size between Vienna and some other minor centres, imbalance of European power of Vienna and others, relation of powers between political elites of different tiers. A joint cross-border vision for spatial development is necessary to identify common topics and to find an effective way to cooperate at the regional multilateral level.

There is also another position of the problems of metropolitan networking in CADSES to look at the region from the point of view of non-member country such as Serbia is to day and discussing metropolitan regions in Serbia and their potentials for integration of south-east Europe. The point is the fact that urban centres distribution is favourable in geographic terms but not operating in polycentric member due to still strong centralism in Serbia. After analyzing the functional structure of urban settlements the authors conclude that polycentrism must become both political and planning concept, with "demetropolization of Belgrade agglomeration, alleviation and disfunctionality in the settlement system and the beginning of functional balancing". Macroregional centres

of Serbia should consequently become centres of future regional cooperation within south-east Europe and CADSES. The Belgrade metropolitan area, with 2,5 mill. people has a particular role in the process of integration as the future technology development centre in south-east Europe and centre with objective potential of 3MEGA. Serbia as an axle of integration processes in SE Europe in restructured urban system in Serbia. The role of Belgrade's urban region is highlighted primarily from the point of articulated identity of south-east Europe, similar to west or north Europe.

The third part of the book is taking us out of Europe and bringing us to the idea of ecumenopolis (Doxiadis) or oligopolies. The demographic, political and economic changes in Latin America and Chile in particular are more an evident but "each metropolis has their own characteristics regarding their historical development, strongly linked to their spatial and socio-economic structure, something of a kind recognizable in south-east Europe and more or less in CADSES as a whole.

For CADSES area this book is a good lesson offering ideas and clues for their future positioning in Europe and in the world. Of course, based on their institutional, organizational and administrative capacities some of the cities in CADSES will continue integrating and net-working while some will be not-working, leaving advantage to others. The very substance of the book is the call, opportunity and support to networking of metropolitan areas in CADSES.

Dagmar Petříková