

Dušan Blaganje

European Integration and the Future of Spatial Planning in Slovenia

The most important questions regarding the future transeuropean co-operation in the field of spatial development from Slovenian point of view are: how should the common European principles of sustainable spatial development, as determined in the documents of the Council of Europe and European Union, be implemented; how important should transeuropean co-operation in the field of spatial planning be for Slovenia and what endeavours should it invest into it; in which frameworks should Slovenia be active as a member state of the European Union and how should Slovenia implement the European principles of sustainable spatial development?

Slovenia has adopted some crucial spatial development documents and a new spatial planning act recently. On one hand The Assessment of Current State and Tendencies in the Space of the Republic of Slovenia calls for a national spatial development policy and deals with the assumed development interests of Slovenia, and on the other hand The Spatial Development Policy seems land-protectionist and stresses the challenges of the EU accession. None of the two important documents is considering the interests of other countries or the necessity of transnational co-operation. Thus Slovenia still has to develop an appropriate framework for its transeuropean co-operation in the field of spatial planning. After the accession to the EU Slovenia should remain active in the Council of Europe - CEMAT. But internally, the key to sustainable spatial development within Slovenia lies in the ability of local authorities and of administrative units to implement the planning legislation correctly.

Valentina Lavrenčič, Jelena Hladnik

The Future of Spatial Planning in a Globalized World

Globalization has set completely new spatial requirements and issues; it is therefore necessary to encourage the development of a modern spatial planning, capable of finding the appropriate answers to developmental challenges. By the help of professional methods, spatial planners should be able to provide professional and competent answers to ever more complex problems of spatial planning. This demands the adoption of an updated spatial legislation, the obligatory preliminary preparation of the professional blueprints, verification of various possibilities and alternative solutions, with the evaluation of the consequences of their choice, and a strategic assessment of the environmental impacts. An important part of spatial planning includes public participation as a guarantee of spatial planning democratization.

This paper clarifies the problems of modern spatial development, and the methods of planning and managing the space, which require an "integral" treatment of the complete space and a consistent respect of the principles of sustainable spatial development. The conceptual and the contents-wise framework of the paper is the Chapter on achieving a sustainable spatial development.

Dr. Marjan Ravbar

European Spatial Development Documents - the Role and Challenges of the Implementation of Polycentric Regional Development in Slovenia

In Slovenia, the notion of a "balanced and polycentric development" has a longer tradition than in European spatial documents, since it was already widely used in the 1970s, while in the European context, this term appeared for the first time only in the Leipzig document (1994): "the bases of the European spatial development policy" and in subsequent documents the measures for its implementation were elaborated in detail. Consonant with its geopolitical position, Slovenia has become part of "network economies", which are marked by (cutting-edge) manufacturing and service activities and are gaining an increasingly supranational character, although in relation to spatial planning they usually "go it alone". Slovenia's competitiveness is no longer determined merely by its geographical location and its geopolitical and infrastructural capacities, but by the creative environment, and by a manufacturing and regulatory ("network") system made up of manufacturing quality, financial, public and supply activities and the symbiosis of institutional economic resources.

Ivo Piry

European Spatial Perspectives (EPRP) - A new Initiative for a Balanced Regional Development of Slovenia?

The purpose of this paper is to highlight some of the EPRP Chapters, for example "The Impact of Community Policies on the EU Territory" from the point of view of the assessment of the possible impacts on the balanced regional development of Slovenia, and to answer the question as to whether the introduction of EPRP policy objectives and options would speed up the attainment of the goals set up by the Strategy of Regional Development of Slovenia. The thesis as contained in the EPRP -- that the spatial development processes in the new member countries should not be carried out merely as a remake of the well known development processes in the current EU Member States, but are expected to lead to new structures and processes - is analysed, in particular, from the point of view of the time schedule for these changes and in light of the experiences gained so far from the adaptation to the European legal system.

Dušan Plut, Ph.D.

The Environmental Characteristics and Dimensions of Enforcing the European Spatial Conception in Slovenia

A new feature of European spatial planning policy is the priority it places on close-to-nature sustainability. The key spatial planning/development challenge facing Europe is the optimal distribution of material activities so as to enable progress while maintaining its spatial and environmental identity and differences.

The key environmental protection objectives of Slovenia are: reduction of air emissions in excessively polluted settlements and areas, reduction of noise, reduction of the burden on soil and vegetation, improvement and preservation of the quality of water sources, reduction of the burden on the environment caused by municipal waste and preservation of landscape and biodiversity.

The best way for Slovenia to put into effect the environmental protection characteristics and dimensions of its national and European spatial development concepts is through environmentally-sensitive distribution of the basic spatial structures which, along with thermal power stations, are the main sources of strain on the environment: major towns and conurbations, the motorway network and plain areas with intensive (chemical) agriculture.

D.Sc. Janez Marušič

The Future of Slovenian Landscapes - Possible Effects of Inclusion of Slovenia in Europe

Slovenian landscapes could be described as small scale landscapes, in a way archaic by their appearance. They are determined by rough topography and small properties - more than 40% of farming land is owned by small farms of less than 5 hectares. They remain small despite the rapid change in the countryside economy - only 7,4 % of all farming households acquire income by farming only. The urban way of life is becoming most common within traditional villages. The overgrowing of farming land is one of the consequences of the situation in the countryside economy. In the year 1953 the forests were covering 42 % of national territory. In the year 1995, they have become the most extended land cover, covering 54,2% of the national territory.

There are different possible scenarios that could describe the landscape transformation due to the Slovenian approach to the European Union. The scenarios should follow the spontaneous processes described above and improve or redirect them by considering the expected European agricultural policy and interests within the Slovenian society. The elements of the scenarios should be:

- to intensify interdependence between urban and rural areas
- to spatially articulate policies of rural development by defining:
 - areas of intensification of agricultural production
 - areas of diversified activities - agricultural as well as other supporting activities
 - areas of extensive agricultural production
 - areas marginal for farming
- to protect naturalness and bio-diversity of landscapes

- to conserve countryside environment and to mitigate the environmental load
- to conserve and enhance cultural landscapes.

Janja Kreitmayer McKenzie

Spatial Planning in Slovenia at the National Level - a New Approach, A brief Introduction of Changes with a Focus on National Spatial Planning Documents

Changes that occurred in Slovenia in past decade - independence, parliamentary democracy, market economy, and globalization with its spatial impact - required a different attitude toward space. The purpose of this paper is to present the new system of spatial planning documents in Slovenia, to examine some key changes at the national spatial planning level conditioned by new approaches to spatial planning in general. This paper focuses on describing the national spatial planning documents and their priorities for spatial development.

Jelena Hladnik

Implementation of International Documents into Spatial Acts in Slovenia

Slovenia has begun the process of enacting sustainable spatial development and thereby putting into practice the principles of ESDP, CEMAT, Agenda Habitat and other international agreements (Alpine Convention, Barcelona Convention) on a national, regional and local level. When the European documents were prepared introducing the principle of sustainable spatial development (Guiding Principles for the Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent and the European Spatial Development Perspectives), Slovenia was also preparing, by adopting the Spatial Planning Policy, and changing the spatial planning system. In this way, Slovenia has attained the principal goals of spatial planning and management, and introduced modern spatial planning, which allows sustainable spatial development to be achieved.

The purpose of this paper is to highlight the connection between the goals set forth by international spatial planning documents, and spatial development as defined in Slovenia, and to identify various ways of attaining the desired development in spatial planning documents.

Aša Mansoor

International Instruments for Ensuring Sustainable Spatial Development

This paper outlines the most important instruments for ensuring sustainable spatial development at the international level - instruments of which Slovenia makes use. Given that Slovenia currently holds the presidency of the European conference of ministers responsible for regional planning (CEMAT) and that preparations are well underway for the 13th conference, the paper focuses much of its attention on CEMAT activities and on the implementation of the Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent, which constitute a modern and forward-looking framework for cooperation between countries, regions and municipalities and lay down spatial development policy measures that will enable people in member states to enjoy decent living standards.

Košak Eva

Polycentric Development and Partnership Between the Urban and Rural Areas

The Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia continues the policy of polycentric development of the settlement network and promotes the qualities of universality, complexity, specialization and networking. The basis for the rational functioning of a society in the space is a connected spatial organisation of settlement, the infrastructure and the landscape.

A balanced network of settlements, a rational distribution of activities, accessibility, connection, respect for the interdependence of the location of housing areas and jobs, and a quality environment, form the basis for the implementation of sustainable spatial development and the quality of life.

Natalija Fon- Boštjančič

Sustainable Development of Settlements - Guidelines and Recommendations

Development in the sense of sustainability means, in addition to concern for people's health and an adequate living and working environment also harmonised relations between urban and rural regions and urban and infrastructural networks adapted to nature. Important guidelines relating to the sustainable development of settlements are therefore: polycentric development of the network of settlements and strengthening the role of regional centres and other centres of inter-municipal and municipal importance, encouraging de-concentrated density of settlement, preparing spatial development strategies for towns, urban and rural regions aimed at preserving their identity, encouraging effective and balanced infrastructural systems, encouraging care for the environment and good management of the heritage and natural resources, stimulating peripheral regions and preventing undesirable phenomena of urbanisation.

Dr. Andrej Pogačnik

The Future of Slovenian Regions in a Globalised Europe, Variants in the Conception of Slovenian Regions

The author's views on the spatial development of eight Slovenian planning/functional regions in light of the principles of European Spatial Development Perspectives are given. The ESDP guidelines should be incorporated into the regional scheme of spatial development. In so doing the developmental and conservational aspects must be deliberately coordinated, as the ESDP argue in favour of the two approaches simultaneously. In regional development it is also necessary to consider international cooperation, as all the Slovenian regions - with the possible exception of Central Slovenia - are part of major European cross-border regions. Employing an active scenario of development, it is necessary to prevent marginalisation and a peripheral role for Slovenian regions within the framework of the Alpine, Mediterranean, Danube/Pannonian and even Balkan Euro-regions.

Andrej Gulič

Current Affairs with Policies of the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) for a Preparation of the Regional Conception of Spatial Development in the Slovenian Statistical Regions - Example of Carynthian Statistical Region

The purpose of this paper is to present certain spatial development challenges and dilemmas in the sphere of settlement and transport infrastructure development arising within the Carynthian statistical region, for the preparation of a regional conception of spatial development in the above-mentioned region. Problem areas are presented in the form of development scenarios describing also the top priority development aims and policies in both such spheres. Four development scenarios, scenarios of a dispersed, monocentric, polycentric, and sustainable spatial development were designed within the scope of the regional conception of the spatial development for the Carynthian statistical region. Scenarios were presented at one of the workshops as part of the implementation of the stated project, where the regional participants assessed them and selected the one that seemed the most suitable. The scenario of sustainable spatial development was selected by the participants from the region concerned as the most appropriate one. In the initial part, the current legislative and planning scopes in the landscape are briefly presented, followed by an outlined of the basic landscape characteristics of the Carynthian statistical region, as well as the content of the development scenarios. The final section deals with the substantive inclusion of the selected guidelines of the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) and the Landscape Planning Policy of the Republic of Slovenia, featuring the Slovenian equivalent to the stated European document in the sphere of settlements and transport infrastructure.

Maja Štefula, B. Sc., Arch.

Spatial development in specific areas in Slovenia, Spatial development of coastal areas

This article describes the specificity of coastal areas defining the context of preparing a regional conception of spatial development and for a potential creation of a Euroregion. This article is introducing regional platforms for the settlement development, economy, tourism and infrastructure development. This article also describes the Mediterranean framework for the elaboration of a regional conception of spatial development, within the framework of carrying out the activities of the Mediterranean Action Plan/ UNEP.