

HALLE/LEIPZIG: Intercommunal development of commercial areas



Henry Pfeifer

Since 1990 the Halle/Leipzig region has developed into a dynamic economic region, with major industrial and logistics companies establishing themselves here. However, there is an increasing shortage of marketable industrial space, while at the same time it has been difficult for years to market industrial areas which don't have the right location or infrastructure, and are therefore a burden on municipal budgets. In order to remain competitive the cities of Halle (Saale) and Leipzig have been working together with the surrounding municipalities since 2009 for the purpose of developing and marketing trans-regionally important commercial areas. Within the framework of City Regions this cooperation is to be intensified and extended to other municipalities.

TURIN: Giving the municipalities a greater role in decision-making



Turin has successfully managed the transition from a post-industrial city to a cultural metropolis. Today the city and its surrounding region are struggling to deal with the financial crisis, cuts in public subsidies and new administrative legislation. In future more than 300 municipalities ranging from the Alps to the Po Valley will become part of the metropolitan region. As a result 38 municipalities are now cooperating with the aim of agreeing an innovative planning strategy which will offer greater possibilities for shared decision-making. In the City Regions pilot project experts and a consultation working group are cooperating closely on drawing up a basic analysis together with a time schedule for a strategic framework which will provide the basis for the selection of suitable projects for implementation.

Project partners



The following cities and city regions are working together in five city and regional partnerships:

- City of Leipzig (DE)**
- Saxon State Ministry of the Interior**
- City of Graz (AT)**
- Regional Management Graz & Graz Region**
- City of Wrocław (PL)**
- Lower Silesia Region – Institute for Territorial Development**
- Prague 9 City Council (CZ)**
- Regional Development Agency Central Bohemia**
- City of Turin (IT)**
- „Torino Internazionale“ Association**

The City Regions project is implemented through the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

Also covered by the financing is the City Regions Makro project, which focuses in particular on the positioning of city regions within macro-regional strategies from the point of view of Germany's federal states.

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LEIPZIG



GRAZ



PRAGUE



TURIN



WROCLAW

Pilot regions facilitate intercommunal cooperation

Within our globalised society the pressure of economic competition is on the increase. The organisation of infrastructure and transport as well as the development of residential and commercial areas are challenges which are increasingly difficult for many cities and municipalities to master on their own. It is accordingly the aim of the CENTRAL EUROPE project City Regions to promote cooperation between city regions and their surrounding municipalities. In five regional pilot projects the partner cities and regions are testing methods of cooperation to develop existing partnerships further. The aim is to create durable governance structures and recommendations for further action. These will also include the positioning of city regions within the macro-regional strategies of the EU and in the EU's structural support programmes. For this reason a transnational group of experts is accompanying and monitoring the work done in the pilot projects.

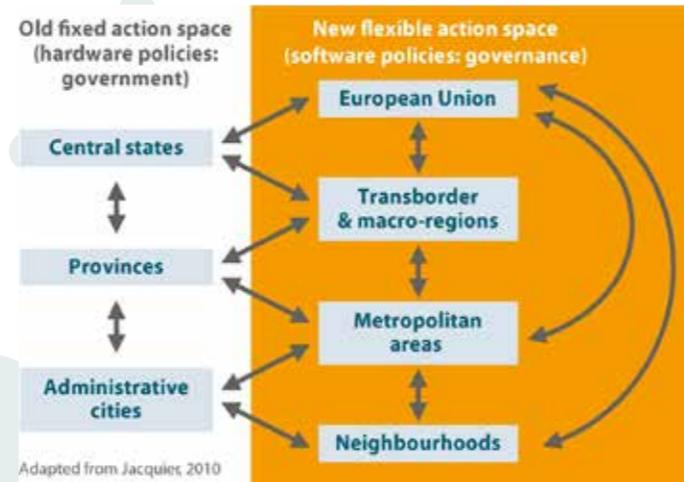
European relevance

The settlement structure of Central Europe is characterised by conurbations with a high population density in which the economic power of the area is concentrated. However, strengthening the functional relationships between the major cities and their surrounding areas is decisive when it comes to the full exploitation of competitive advantages and promoting polycentric development in the macroregion. The European Spatial Development Perspective describes a balanced and polycentric system of cities together with a new relationship between city and country as one of its three main guidelines. The Leipzig Charter on Sustainable European Cities has as its aims closer decision-making processes between cities and rural areas, together with a partnership on the basis of equality between cities and rural areas and among small and

medium-sized towns as well as cities within urban and metropolitan regions. And not least the EU 2020 Territorial Agenda demands that the mutual interdependence of cities and rural areas should be taken into account by integrated planning within the framework of a comprehensive partnership. Conurbations are to assume responsibility for developments in their wider surroundings.

The City Regions project makes a contribution towards overcoming these challenges with its aim of reinforcing and institutionalising binding intercommunal cooperation agreements within selected priority areas for action. Within the framework of the project core cities and surrounding municipalities consult together on plans of action, division of responsibilities and financing, thus improving regional competitiveness.

From fixed to flexible boundaries, from government to governance



Adapted from Jacquier, 2010

European Commission, DG Regional Policy (2011): Cities of tomorrow Challenges, visions, ways forward, p. 87

GRAZ: Easier access to recreational areas



Zechner + Zechner ZT GmbH

Urban sprawl, streams of commuters, growing resident numbers in the city – in order to meet these challenges Graz and its surrounding municipalities are operating an integrated development strategy for the city and its environs. Within the framework of City Regions the focal point is on sustainable transport and mobility measures. For this purpose the city region of Graz can build on existing concepts for linking the core city and its surrounding municipalities. The current initiative is focusing above all on making recreational areas more accessible. Besides the city of Graz the pilot area covers intermunicipal associations involving a total of 16 municipalities in the surrounding region.

PRAGUE 9: Improving urban mobility



The transport situation in the district of Prague 9 is deteriorating continuously. More and more cars on the road and delays in developing the local infrastructure are leading to traffic jams and delays to buses and trams. The number of passengers using public transport is stagnating and there is an insufficient network of

cycle lanes and footpaths. The situation can only be remedied by close cooperation between the district of Prague 9, the surrounding districts and the institutions of the Capital City, while affected municipalities in the region of Central Bohemia also need to be involved on specific aspects. Traffic volumes and passenger behaviour are being analysed as a possible basis for drawing up local transport concepts.

WROCŁAW / LOWER SILESIA: Kindergartens, park & ride and green spaces



A balanced, comprehensive network of kindergartens is to be established in the city of Wrocław and surrounding municipalities. This is not an easy undertaking because demand varies widely from region to region and is also difficult to predict. A further difficulty is that so far there has been no cooperation among municipalities in the city region or local strategies for such a network. Intercommunal cooperation is to provide a solution here and to reduce costs. In addition park & ride services are being developed at the regional level for implementation at the municipal level. A strategy is also being developed for the metropolitan region's green spaces and leisure areas in order to protect them against urban sprawl and to conserve their natural and recreational character.

