

Department of
Regional Development and Spatial Planning



APPLIED RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SPATIAL PLANNING DELIVERS THE SCIENTIFIC BACKGROUND FOR A SUSTAINABLE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONS.

The core task of regional development and spatial planning comprises creating, shaping and maintaining equal living-conditions. Hence, regional development and spatial planning support regions in the adaption to current challenges such as globalization, European integration, demographic change, regional and local competition for citizens and companies as well as declining public budgets.

THE OVERALL AIM OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND SPATIAL PLANNING IS TO MAINTAIN AND SHAPE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONS AND COMMUNITIES.

To reach this aim, an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach is applied: Hence, the field of activity comprises statutory regional planning, regional and municipal development, structural policies and regional economics. Within this context, methods and approaches of social, economic and administrative sciences are applied. The spatial focus reaches from a local towards a regional and European level. Especially in a European context, influences of European Union structural and regional policies are crucial for regional development. Thereby, the development of metropolitan areas is as important as the development of rural and peripheral regions.



The Department of Regional Development and Spatial Planning stands for...

- national and international renown in regional development and spatial planning,
- a high skilled, motivated and interdisciplinary team,
- profound experiences in management and conduct of national and international research projects,
- integration in a broad network of public bodies and private organisations,
- the development of future-oriented concepts in regional development and spatial planning,
- the capability to conduct a wide range of scientific research and studies and
- comprehensive experiences in policy consultation at all levels.

The range of services of the Department Regional Development and Spatial Planning comprises...

- scientific consulting and expertise,
- project management and controlling,
- research in spatial development,
- further and advanced training and
- moderation and citizen participation processes.



Main fields of activity:

Fundamental Research

- research on socio-economic structures on regional and local levels
- research on socio-economic structural change
- prospects for the development of rural areas and metropolitan regions
- success factors of regional and local development
- new instruments of spatial planning

Consulting, Planning and Expertise

- up-dating processes of spatial programs and plans
- development concepts for regions and municipalities, assessment reports for subregions
- development of guiding principles
- sectoral development concepts with regard to population, retail (major retail projects and factory outlet centres), tourism and market research in tourism
- regional management and project management
- cross-border co-operation (cross-border development concepts, cross-border project management)
- settlement development and housing market analysis
- regional and location marketing
- municipal economic development
- military, industrial and tourism conversion

Project Management

- projects within the framework of the European regional and structural funding (development, co-ordination, management, overview of funding schemes and application)
- cross-border project management
- moderation

Further Training for Professionals and Scientists in Planning

- seminars and workshops on various topics: e.g. new instruments for regional development, participation in EU-projects, information about funding schemes, steering regional development with regard to demographic change, guidance for the development of conversion areas
 - scientific field-trips
 - conception, organisation and conduction of congresses, conferences, seminars, workshops and training courses (e.g. "Goldkronacher Gespräche", "Kaiserslauterer Forum")
 - presentations at external conferences
 - master's programme in European regional and local development
- ### **Consulting for Enterprises**
- market research and market analyses
 - location research and location management
 - image analyses
 - labour market analyses
 - start-up consultancy for European Economic Interest Grouping (EEIG)

International and National Research Projects (selection)

- INTERREG IB-Project VITO (Integrated Urban Development of Vital Historic Towns as Regional Centres in South East Europe) (2009-2012)
- INTERREG IVB-Project ACCESS (Improving Accessibility of Services of General Interest – Organisational Innovations in Rural Mountain Areas) (2008-2011)
- INTERREG IVB Project INNOCITÉ (How to improve the competitiveness of small-medium cities under the influence of big agglomerations in the Alpine space) (2008-2011)
- INTERREG IIIB-Project ADHOC (Adapted Development of Historical Old Towns in Central and Eastern Europe) (2006-2008)
- Growth Engines out of Metropolitan Areas – research project on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs (2006-2007)
- INTERREG IIIC-Project INCASIS (Institutional Capacity for Assessing the Impact of Structural Funds) (2005-2007)
- INTERREG IIIC-Project MOSAME (Interlinking of University Education and Research in the Field of Cross-Border Spatial Development) (2005-2006)
- INTERREG IIIB-Project DART (Development of Active Regions and Sustainable Tourism) (2004-2007)
- Determinations for Traffic in Regional Plans – research on behalf of the Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs (2004-2005)
- Good Neighbourhood in the Bavarian –Czech Border Area, founded by INTERREG IIIA and by the Bavarian State Ministry of Economic Affairs, Infrastructure, Transport and Technology (2002-2008)



Expertise and Consulting (selection)

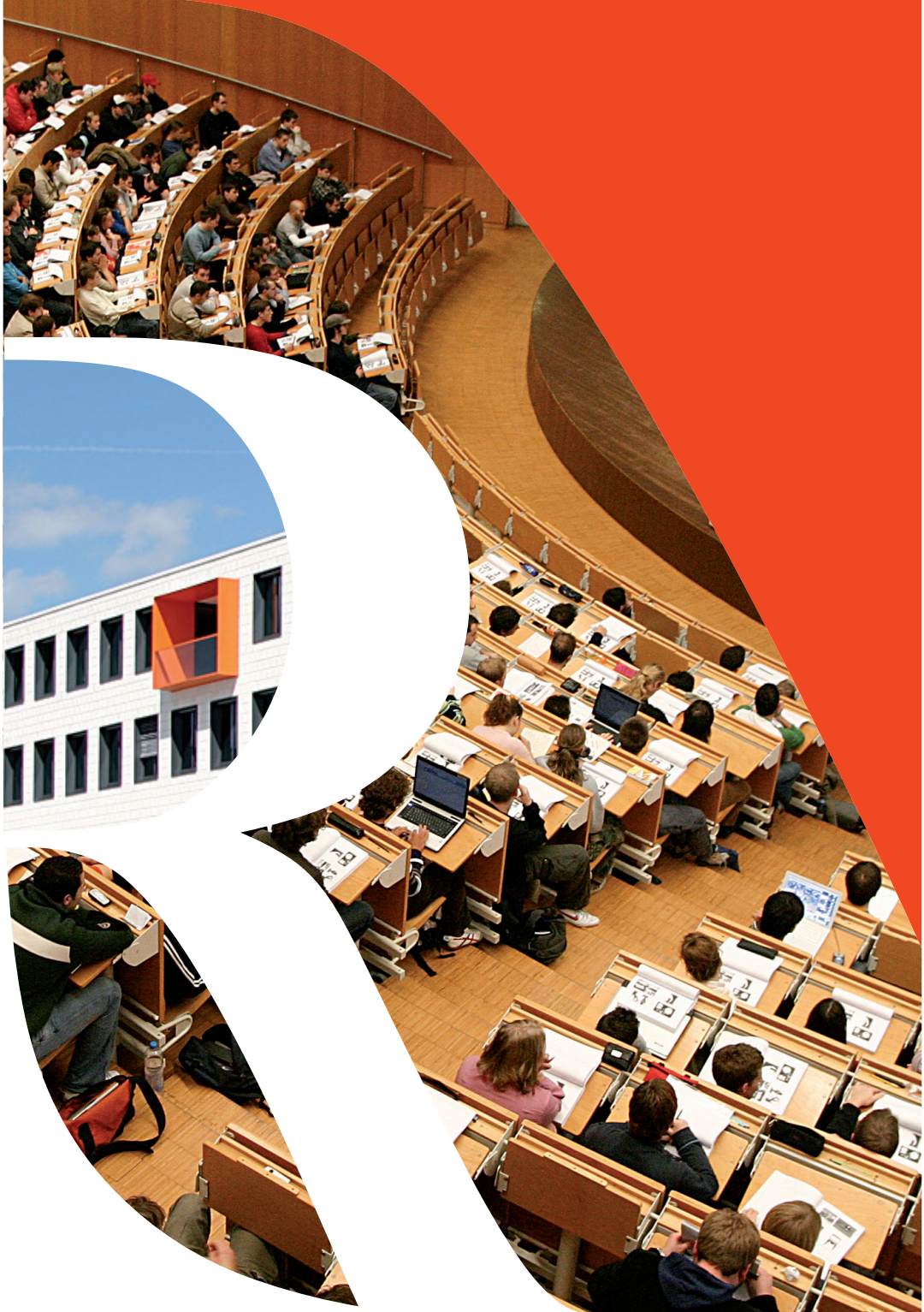
- Development Concept 2020 for the County of Rhein-Sieg, on behalf of the County Rhein-Sieg (2008-2009)
- Community Development Concept for the City of Limburg an der Lahn, on behalf of the city of Limburg an der Lahn (2008-2009)
- Land-Use Management through Innovative Regional Planning (FLAIR) – development of trial planning documents, on behalf of the Institute for Planning Fundamentals, University of Stuttgart
- Regional Development Concept – Living 2020 for the Region of Bonn/Rhein-Sieg/Ahrweiler, on behalf of the regional Working Group Development, Planning and Traffic Bonn/Rhein-Sieg/Ahrweiler (2007-2008)
- Pilot Study for the County of Osnabrück's Retail Conception and its Implementation in the Regional Programme, research on behalf of the County of Osnabrück (2006-2007)
- Community Development Concept with an Integrated Touristic Functional Concept, on behalf of the Municipality St. Peter (Black Forrest) (2006-2007)
- Research on senior citizen housing, on behalf of County of Mainz-Bingen (2006)

International Cooperation with Universities

- University of California Berkeley, CA (USA)
- Virginia Polytechnic Institut and State University Blacksburg/Alexandria, VA (USA)
- Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Richmond, VA (USA)
- American University of Sharjah (Vereinigtes Arabische Emirate)
- Sultan Qaboos University Muscat (Oman)
- Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador (Ecuador)
- Nagoya University (Japan)
- Rjasan States Radiotecnin University (Russland)
- College of Regional Development Prague (Czech Republic)
- University of West Bohemia (Czech Republic)
- University of Primanska Koper (Slowenien)

Series of Publications:

- "Materialien zur Regionalentwicklung und Raumordnung": Publication of research results, dissertations and excellent diploma thesis
- "Arbeitspapiere zur Regionalentwicklung": Publications of excellent student research projects
- "Schriften zur Raumordnung und Landesplanung" (in cooperation with the University of Augsburg): Publications of research results, dissertations and excellent diploma thesis





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