Spatial Monitoring of Germany and neighbouring regions

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Neighbouring regions in focus

- Related to purchasing possibilities and leisure activities borders are no more hurdles.
- But borders are still barriers related to language and especially to in respect to legal, social and administrative systems in the use of infrastructures and services and in spite of the many rules already in place for the labour markets.
- Cross-border provision and use of general public services, for example in education and health, is still an exception.
Neighbouring regions in focus

- National situations and developments affect both domestic and neighbouring areas.
- Differences exist on either side of the border but even more between different border areas.
- Instead of only asking “Border region – yes or no?” the question must be widened to “Border region – but where?”
- The focus on border regions supports the understanding how, where and when European integration works.
The regional breakdown

- NUTS of one level – NUTS 3 - in size and functionality (especially in DE) not appropriate
- Mixture of NUTS level and modification in DE
- Regional level 1: Spatial Planning Regions (ROR) in DE, NUTS 2 in BE und NL, NUTS 3 in FR
- Regional level 2: NUTS 3 in DE, NL, BE, LAU 1 in FR
- Local level: LAU 1 und LAU 2
Selected findings

Border areas are not per se economically weaker than national “inner regions” but show in some areas distinct differences across the border.
Selected findings

Distinct difference in the labour markets in neighbouring regions
Selected findings

Border regions are not less populated in general
In the Western part of Germany cross-border neighbourhoods are characterised by metropolitan areas, in the Eastern part „as between metropolitan areas” regions.
For the location of FOC national borders don‘t matter, potentials of both sides of the border are included profitability considerations.
Selected findings

Areas of growing and declining population are situated in some regions in direct neighbourhood.

SCORUS 16-17 June 2015

“Cities in Europe and in the World”

Brussels
Visibility of borders

“Cliff of population development” between Germany and Poland
“Mountain edge of unemployment” between Germany, Luxemburg and France
The integration of neighbouring regions in the Spatial Monitoring of Germany

The Task

- The German Spatial Planning Law (ROG) defines in § 25 the tasks of the BBR. Among others the BBR, with the BBSR responsible for this within the office, is asked to maintain a Spatial Monitoring systems of Germany and the neighbouring regions.

- Growing demand related to improved knowledge across the border including the neighbouring regions ended up in the formulation of a specific field of observation in between the German and European Spatial Monitoring of the BBSR.
The integration of neighbouring regions in the Spatial Monitoring of Germany

Setting the scene

- Cross-border spatial monitoring must reflect special territorial questions which can only be answered including the use of different national and regional information.
- The use of existing regional knowledge and the involvement of respective regional partners and locally available expertise is crucial in this context.
The integration of neighbouring regions in the Spatial Monitoring of Germany

The way to do it

- In summer 2015 a project will start within the action programme "Demonstration Projects of Spatial Planning" (MORO) of the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure
- MORO supports practical trials and implementations of innovative action approaches and instruments for spatial planning
- The project will use the experiences, knowledge and ideas of a maximum of 8 regions to formulate the needs and specifics of the implementation of a permanent spatial observation of Germany and the neighbouring regions
- The project will run from summer 2015 until end of 2017
Selected aims of the project

- Elaboration of spatial information needs on the basis of different spatial situations of German border regions and neighbouring.
- Formulation of a general indicator model for the observation of living conditions with specific focus on public and private infrastructure and cross-border linkages.
- Elaborations of different spatial dimensions of different functional relations.
- Detection of synergies between regions, Länder and Federal level concerning acquisition and provision of data and possibilities of cooperation within a permanent observatory.
- Preparation (prototype) of a State and perspective report of German regions and neighbouring areas.
Guiding questions of the project:

- Which issues and aspects are of particular importance in a nationwide cross-border observation of spatial developments, which spatial dimensions are relevant and how are they affected by different regional conditions?
- Which indicators are needed to observe the spatial processes and which spatial levels are relevant in which spatial contexts?
- What is the situation related to the availability of data and which data sources can be used. To what extent additional information is needed that is not covered by, for example, the State Statistical Offices and what alternative sources could be used.
The MORO project on cross-border spatial observation

More guiding questions of the project

- Which experiences do the regions have in spatial observation and how can activities of different players within a region, the Land and the federal level might complement each other in this respect?
- How can synergies between different institutional and regional players be achieved and how can actors in neighboring regions be integrated?
- What formal and, where appropriate, institutional recommendations for action can be derived for a permanent establishment of a spatial observation including neighboring regions?