

Plut, D.

CONCEPTS OF GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LIMITS ON MATERIAL ACTIVITY OF THE HUMANKIND

Owing to the increasing world population and consumption of natural resources per capita the environmental pressures have, in numerous cases, already globally exceeded the capacity of environment. Production and consumption will have to be worked out so that they would not endanger the life support system, i.e. without eroding the environmental basis intended for the future generations. The essence of environmental sustainability is to respect the available natural resources and assess the self-purifying (neutralizing and regenerative) capacities of the environment. In the forefront of concepts made for the global assessment of environmental limits or the sustainable environmental capacity for material activities of the present civilization, are the ecological footprint analysis and the concept of environmental space. The results showed the necessity for radical reductions in the consumption of natural resources and environmental loads of the economically developed countries.

Hönsch, F. W.

METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES OF LOCATIONAL EVALUATION

The paper addresses geographers who are engaged in the field of locational evaluation (Standortbewertung) and interested in comparisons. The author is convinced that the geographical way of thinking and working may contribute to registration and presentation of locational peculiarities (Standortqualitäten) as well. This refers first of all to synoptic-cartographic presentation. The paper presents conceptional and methodological experience the author acquired in German cities in the 1990s. In the limelight were traffic areas of some 10 ha (goods railway stations) the transport function of which would come to an end. The areas are to be converted into superior utilization. The locational evaluation in the paper is made in three steps (macroposition, mesoposition, microposition), which are in each case linked with cartographical examples. In the first step of evaluation, advantages or disadvantages of the position in the national or (western) European economic space (macroposition) are considered. In the second step, chances of the location in regional context are investigated (mesoposition). Connection between macroposition and mesoposition is demonstrated on an example of the city of Pforzheim between Karlsruhe and Stuttgart in southern Germany. The third step of the locational evaluation refers to microposition. In this part the author passes experience on the presentation of a) selected economic and social spatial peculiarities of the location (surroundings of goods railway station) such as local position, accessibility, characterization of neighbourhood, environment and services and b) of contaminated plots in old traffic areas.

Sweeney, A., Ptáček, P., Létal, A.

INSTITUTIONAL FRAGMENTATION AS AN IMPEDIMENT TO SUSTAINABLE LAND-USE IN THE MORAVA RIVER FLOODPLAIN

In this paper we focus on the mechanisms affecting land-use patterns, namely urban sprawl, within the Morava River floodplain. The extreme conditions of the 1997 floods and their aftermath have been chosen to demonstrate the ineffectiveness of the Czech bureaucracy in the field of landscape protection and land-use management. The main aim is not to describe all the causes and consequences of the 1997 floods for which there is mushrooming literature, but to show how, in spite of a well established bureaucratic and legal system, institutional fragmentation, institutional lock-in and institutional thinness contribute to this system's ineffectiveness. Three examples of new post-flood development are introduced as examples of brittle thinking on the part of those institutions responsible for land-use management within the Morava River floodplain.

Kallabová, E.

TRENDS IN THE ISSUE OF PREFAB HOUSING ESTATES WITH EMPHASIS ON THEIR RECOVERY (WITH EXAMPLES FROM THE CZECH REPUBLIC), P. 26-31

The article concerns that part of the housing resources in the Czech Republic, which was influenced by the transformation of economic conditions after political changes in 1989. The complex house building programme which was focused on the construction of prefab blocks of flats condensed in housing estates was brought to an end in accordance with principles of the newly formulated housing policy. Since the prefab housing estates have started to show problems of various types (social, technical, traffic, demographical), they stir attention of not only experts the major goal of the recovery and humanization of these housing estates being the participation of their inhabitants themselves.

Střítežská, Š.**BIOGEOGRAPHICAL CHARACTERISTIC OF THE AREA FOR THE PROJECTED R43 HIGHWAY TO THE NORTH OF BRNO**

Biogeographical characteristic of the area is based on the author's dissertation which dealt with possible consequences of the construction of projected highway R43 on the biota and landscape in the area stretch planned for the highway route between Brno-Bystrc and Lipůvka. Based on a comparison of potential and actual condition of biocoenoses and demarcation of valuable landscape segments, the projected highway route was assessed for its collision with the area system of ecological stability and for a possible threat to the protected plant and animal species. The measure and purposefulness of this intervention into the landscape were subjected to a consideration.

Michniak, D.**ACCESSIBILITY OF DISTRICT TOWNS AS A CRITERION OF PREPARATION AND ASSESSMENT OF THE TERRITORIAL-ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION: CASE STUDY OF THE BANSKÁ BYSTRICA REGION (SLOVAKIA)**

The aim of this paper is to expose the possibilities of application of the district town accessibility criterion to the assessment of the existing or preparation of a new territorial-administrative division on example of the Banská Bystrica region. Accessibility of district towns was assessed by using six simple indices of accessibility. Some existing district towns are characterised by poor accessibility and therefore some changes were proposed with the purpose of its improving. These changes are classified into three groups: re-location of district town on the basis of the mean weighed distance, establishment of new districts in extensive poor accessibility zones (30 and more km from the district town) and changes of boundaries of the districts based on the proximity of villages to the district towns, followed by the effect of the changes on the accessibility level. This study stresses the necessity to apply the accessibility criterion in any administrative-territorial reform.

Bednárík, T.**DRUG ADDICTION AND QUALITY OF LIFE IN SLOVAKIA: SOME GEOGRAPHICAL ASPECTS**

The content of this paper is the picture of drug addiction as one of life quality indices. Incidence of drug addiction increased in Slovakia after political changes in 1989. The critical development in recent years has provoked numerous discussions focused on the problem. The drug problem is a subject treated by different scientific branches such as sociology, medicine, criminology, psychology and human geography. The paper reflects the geographically relevant results of drug addiction research in Slovakia while the dependence between the number of drug addicts and the selected indices is studied, too. The paper points out a distinct spatial differentiation of the incidence and delimits the areas of the highest concentration. Emphasis is put on the structure assessment of the drug addict population by selected traits, which eventually leads to the identification of the population group, which is most affected by the problem.

REPORTS

Vaishar, A., Ira, V.: THE 6TH CZECHO-SLOVAK ACADEMIC WORKSHOP IN ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

Martinec, P., Mikulík, O.: SEMINAR OVER THE PROJECT "INFLUENCE OF UNDERGROUND MININGDAMP-DOWN ON PROCESSES IN LITOSPHERE AND ENVIRONMENT"