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TOWARDS A GEOGRAPHY OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND/OR SUSTAINABILITY?

Conceptual analysis reveals strong differences in the meanings of 'sustainable development' and 'sustainability'. The inter-relationships between economic, environmental and socio-political dimensions of sustainability are intricate and complex, revealing some new methodological challenges. The role of Geography, as a discipline, in exploring these relationships appears to be quite sound for the case of sustainable development. In comparison, the demands posed for research on sustainability, with the prominence afforded to governance issues, call into question many of the traditional approaches in Geography. An outline of potential responses to these questions is presented, together with some examples taken from research carried out in Canada.

Vladimír Ira, Jana Zapletalová

SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION CHANGES OF CZECH NATIONALS IN SLOVAKIA AND SLOVAK NATIONALS IN CZECHIA WITH AN EMPHASIS ON THE PERIOD FROM 1991-2001

The paper deals with the spatial distribution of Czech/Slovak population in the Slovak/Czech Republic. Before the division of the former Czechoslovakia into two separate independent countries in 1992, Czech and Slovak nationals constituted together a major ethnic group in the common state and the question of their geographical distribution was not a frequented theme in geographical literature. Since 1993 (after the split of the common state), the Slovak and Czech nationals became minor ethnic groups in the Czech and Slovak Republics, resp., their migrations between the Czech Republic and Slovakia becoming of international charakter. The work contributes to learn the development of the geographical distribution of Czech/Slovak population in the Slovak/Czech Republic, respectively.

Jaromír Kaňok, Magdalena Matysik

HYDROLOGICAL REGIME OF SOME SPRINGS IN THE UPPER ODER RIVER BASIN

The research area was the Upper Oder River Basin: from its springs to the Koźle gauge-station. The total area of the territory studied was 9,173.6 km2. Field observations were carried out in the hydrological years: 1996, 1998, 1999 and 2000. In the course of field research in the Polish part of the river basin, 18 springs were chosen for periodical observations which were made at monthly intervals. In the Czech part, the study comprised nine springs, which are part of the Czech Hydrometeorological Institute (CHMI) observation network. Yields of the researched springs vary. From the time series measurement of spring yields, for most of the objects the yield is predominantly influenced by thaw water alimentation, and to a lesser degree by rainwater. Most of the researched springs have the thaw-rain regime. The Upper Oder River Basin is predominated by springs with yields of up to 1 $dm^3.s^{-1}$.

Anton Michálek, Peter Podolák

SEASONAL ASPECT OF URBAN CRIME IN SLOVAKIA

The pronounced increase in the incidence of crime in Slovakia after 1989 is a serious negative consequence of the political and economic changes. The increasing trend in crime, as evidenced by detailed monthly analyses, shows periodic oscillations, i.e., a seasonal effect. The oscillations result from the continuing effects of the transformation, especially those of an economic and social nature. An estimation of the significance of seasonality and the selection of relevant information on laws of seasonal effects, for the sample of towns in Slovakia and for some types of crimes, contributes to both theory and methodology, as well as to the practical control of crime in the towns analyzed. The derived SI [seasonal index] values make possible the identification of important temporal horizons of crime incidence and to classify the risk periods (months) in the towns under study. The information gained from this research can be used in future sociological studies focusing on the social and temporal determinants of crime in urban environments.

Anna Rafajová

SOME ASPECTS OF THE BIOTIC POTENTIAL OF THE OSTRAVA REGION

A brief evaluation of the biotic potential and the actual condition of the landscape in individual bioregions in the Ostrava region is presented. Ostrava is one of the regions in the Czech Republic most impacted by anthropogenic activities. The term biotic potential is understood here as expressing overall possibilities for the existence of biotically valuable landscape areas, with stabilization, regulation and regeneration functions. Attention is focused on ecologically important landscape

segments, especially on the existing network of designated protected areas, and their significance in the necessary gradual improvement of ecological stability of the landscape in the Ostrava region.

Miroslav Vysoudil, Martin Jurek

AIR POLLUTION IN THE OLOMOUC CITY IN THE PERIOD 1991–2000

The nature and trends of air pollution in the city of Olomouc between 1991 and 2000 are discussed. This was a period of fundamental structural economic changes in the Czech Republic. The spatial distributions of SO2, NOx, particulate matter and O3 were studied, and an air quality index was assessed. The ambient air quality of the city is most seriously affected by NOx emissions, for which traffic is considered to be the principal source. Limit values of SO2 and particulate matter are exceeded only in the case of considerably worsened pollutant dispersion conditions. During the decade studied, there was stagnation or even a decrease in the emission of SO2 and suspended particulate matter. In the case of NOx and ground-level O3, the trend cannot be described unambiguously. According to the values of the annual air quality index IKOr (SO2, NOx and suspended particulate matter values assessed), it is possible to consider air quality as relatively good in the city of Olomouc over the whole period 1991–2000. Values of IKOr were mostly between 1 and 2, which is interpreted as a suitable air quality.

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Doc. Ing. Jan Lacina, CSc. (60)

In memoriam Dr. Peter Mariot (1940 – 2004)