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A MULTISTAGE AGGLOMERATIVE APPROACH FOR DEFINING FUNCTIONAL REGIONS OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC: THE USE OF 2001 COMMUTING DATA

The issue of defining functional regions in the Czech Republic is presented in this paper, which contributes to both theoretical discussions (e.g. the modifiable areal unit problem) and practical applications (e.g. spatial administration, regional planning). A multistage agglomerative approach to functional regional taxonomy is applied, which has been used in Czech geographical research for the first time only recently. The regionalisation algorithm provided four optional solutions for this issue, based on the analysis of daily travel-to-work flows from the 2001 census. The resulting regions correspond to the micro-regional level and two additional tiers were identified at this level. The basic statistics for all variants are presented.

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ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF A NEW MOTORWAY CONNECTION ON THE SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION AND INTENSITY OF TRAFFIC FLOWS: A CASE STUDY OF THE D47 MOTORWAY, CZECH REPUBLIC

Assessing changes in the spatial distribution and intensity of traffic flow patterns, considered one of the main direct influences of the construction of transport infrastructure, is discussed in this paper. The central element of the research is a case study assessing such changes in connection with the opening of the D47 motorway in its Lipník nad Bečvou – Ostrava section. The aim of the study is a comparison of traffic conditions before and after the opening of the motorway. The real data on the traffic load of the motorway sections are compared with the official and our own forecast, which is based on applying a basic form of the gravity model for the given area. The results of the analysis confirmed intuitive assumptions about changes in the spatial redistribution of traffic flows.

Jiří TINTĚRA, Aime RUUS, Epi TOHVRI, Zenia KOTVAL

URBAN BROWNFIELDS IN ESTONIA: SCOPE, CONSEQUENCES AND RE- DEVELOPMENT BARRIERS AS PERCEIVED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Awareness of brownfields is limited in Estonia. In fact, there is no specific term officially used for brownfields at present. The aim of this study is to examine concerns in the redevelopment of brownfields and to present preliminary findings regarding the scope, consequences and re-development barriers of Estonian urban brownfields, as perceived and assessed by local authorities. The perceived importance of the negative impacts of brownfields on urban space is more than the mere number of brownfields and their total area, as it is influenced by the presence of other negative socioeconomic phenomena, such as local unemployment or population decline. According to municipal authorities, major barriers to the re-development of Estonian urban brownfields, besides the economic issues, are both the lack of knowledge regarding state and local measures and tools to help the public sector deal with brownfields, and the common perception that brownfields re-development is a private sector issue.

Marek HAVLÍČEK, Renata PAVELKOVÁ CHMELOVÁ, Jindřich FRAJER, Hana SKOKANOVÁ

THE LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT OF WATER BODIES IN THE CONTEXT OF LAND USE: THE CASE OF THE KYJOVKA AND TRKMANKA RIVER BASINS (CZECH REPUBLIC)

The long-term development of water bodies is investigated in this article using the cases of two river basins with similar natural conditions: the Kyjovka and Trkmanka River Basins in the Czech Republic. Using old topographic maps, land use development was assessed and the analysis of driving forces of land use changes was carried out. The essential land use changes in these areas are connected with the processes of agricultural intensification and urbanisation. The largest area of water bodies was recorded in both river basins in 1763. In the second half of the 19th century, the disappearance of most water bodies in the two basins was significantly affected by the above-mentioned driving forces. After World War II, some of the water bodies in the Kyjovka River Basin were restored and new ponds were established. In contrast, no significant water bodies were restored in the Trkmanka River Basin.

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THE IMPACTS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION'S COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY ON
AGRICULTURE IN SLOVAKIA

The impacts of the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union on Slovak agriculture since the accession of Slovakia to the European Union, are discussed in this paper. Structural changes that were made are reflected in the developmental trends of various agricultural areas. In this paper, the changes in agricultural land use and its categories, in particular landscape types, as well as changes in the numbers and structure of the labour force, changes in the organizational structure of agricultural holdings, the development of cropland areas of the most important crops in crop production, and changes in the number of livestock, are discussed. This analysis also focuses on Slovakia's position in terms of overall agricultural production within the EU member states.