

10th Network Conference of spa-ce.net*

The Role and Future of Spatial Planning in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe

26-27 September 2013, Dresden

The creation of permanent sustainable and environmentally friendly (ecological) cities and regions is a major concern of spatial planning in Europe. On the one hand, such developments as the demographic and climate change, as well as debates on renewable energies or eco-system services and the labour market confront these countries with a number of complex issues, and present a major challenge to the planner's field of activity. On the other, shifting basic political, economic and societal conditions are causing changes in local value systems, and exerting an influence on spatial planning. These countries harbour a particularly great potential for transformation. In this context, the 10th Network Conference of spa-ce.net is concerned with determining the role and future of spatial planning in these parts of Europe. The following five questions may help take stock of the situation:

- 1) What is spatial planning and development and how is it useful?
- 2) How has the understanding of spatial planning and the planning culture developed to date, and what importance has been accorded to the term sustainability?
- 3) How is the development of spatial planning reflected in the structure and organisation of the spatial planning system?
- 4) What is the relationship between spatial planning and such sectoral planning fields as environmental or land-scape planning?
- 5) What challenges face spatial planning and development, and what are the current approaches to over-coming them?

* Spa-ce.net is a common-interest network of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern European institutes and organisations active in the field of spatial research and planning. The network serves to share common visions, and to develop trust and an interest in cooperation, as well as to motivate and mobilise major actors, and to encourage research. It also provides a forum for a meeting of minds and an exchange of information, experience and research results. The network is always open to new members. Our mission is to ensure sustainable development on the European continent by providing spatial research results to scientists, policy-makers and the interested public. It can contribute significantly to improving the quality of life, to enhancing the protection and management of Europe's cultural and natural heritage, and to creating new jobs and spurring economic growth.