Assessing and planning the human settlement system in Slovenia: a preliminary report

Dr. David Bole, Dr. Janez Nared, Dr. Jani Kozina

Research center of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts – Anton Melik Geographical Institute

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motivation

• NEW Strategy of spatial development of Slovenia (2004):

• Key document for future spatial development
• Key document for coordinating sectoral politics in space

• our mission: analyze the urban system (cohesiveness, competitiveness)
history

– 1960-ies: polycentric development as a political concept
– spatial equality, egalitarianity, cohesiveness
– 1970-ies: constitution of Yugoslavia
– 1970 and onwards: implementation of the concept; strengthening 64 small towns by
  • industrialization
  • new ‘urban style‘ dwellings
  • ‘communal‘ political organization
history and present

– In the 1980-ies efforts to strengthen the regional capitals, which failed
– after 1990: new reforms, new municipalities (212)
– failed attempt at establishing regions

Present

– two levels of governance:
– local level, national level of governance
– and no regional level of governance or planning
contents

1. brief history of urban development
2. analysis of the settlement system
3. key findings
4. recommendations
analysis

goal: central place system analysis and planning recommendations

Burger, Meijers 2011
1. morphology

a) town size (centrality)

• population size, according to previous spatial strategies:
  1. Nacional centre of international importance
     population above 100.000
  2. National centre
     population above 20.000
  3. Regional centre
     population min. 10.001, max. 20.000
  4. Inter-municipal urban centre
     population min. 3001, max. 10.000
  5. Municipal local centre
     population min. 1501, max. 3000
  6. Rural centre
     population min. 500, max. 1500
1. morphology
   a) town size (centrality)
1. morphology  
b) basic functions

Centrality (functions):

• public services
• education
• health
• judiciary system
• + 7 additional functions

**Education:**
- rank 1: Public university
- rank 2: Higher schools
- rank 3: college
- rank 4: secondary school
- rank 5: elementary school (full)
- rank 6: elementary school (partial)

**Health:**
- rank 1: University clinical centre
- rank 2: General hospital
- rank 3: Specialized hospital, clinic
- rank 4: Health centre
- rank 5: health station (branch)
1. morphological
b) basic functions
2. functional
a) daily mobility

• 2002
• 2014
2. functional
b) gravitational areas of services
3. competitiveness
study goal: central place system analysis and planning recommendations

• unbalanced urban system
  – rank/size mismatch (lack of medium sized towns)
  – function mismatch (lower tier towns over-equipped)
  – unbalanced competitiveness (small towns and rural areas outperform medium-sized cities of regional significance)

• growing importance of only one city (Ljubljana)
key findings

Consequences of the past „polycentric“ spatial policy:

• local level: (+)
  ▪ municipal and inter-municipal towns maintaining or growing importance

• regional level: −
  ▪ weak regional capitals

• national level: +
  ▪ concentration and centralization in one capital city
recommendations for the future strategy of spatial development

1. Strengthening the regional level
   1. Regional level of governance
   2. Regional planning
   3. 'Regional' cities or regional 'twinning'
recommendations for the future strategy of spatial development

1. Strengthening the regional level
   – regional level of governance
   – regional planning
   – ’regional‘ cities or regional ’twinning‘
   – Improving infrastructure among regional capitals

2. Maintaining good cohesiveness at lower tier towns/rural centres

3. Improving competitiveness at higher tier cities/regional capitals (balanced competitiveness)
thank you!

david.bole@zrc-sazu.si