



POLYCE

Metropolisation and Polycentric Development in Central Europe

MINUTES Final Conference

June 1st, 2012, Vienna University of Technology





Agenda

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| 12.00 | Start of Final Conference Moderation: Sibylla Zech | 14.30-15.00 | Coffee Break |
| 12.00-13.00 | Reception of Guests & Buffet | 15.00 | Plenary Discussion |
| 13.00 | Opening Session | 15.00-16.15 | Recommendations for Smart Central European Metropolises – lessons learned Milan Turba , City of Prague Eva Balašová , City of Bratislava Ivan Stanič , City of Ljubljana Kurt Mittringer , City of Vienna Žaklina Gligorijević , City of Belgrade |
| 13.00-13.15 | Welcome speech Rüdiger Maresch , Member of the Vienna city council | | Open Discussion |
| 13.15-13.30 | How can cities and regions profit from ESPON? Michaela Gensheimer , ESPON representative, Luxembourg | 16.15-16.30 | Perspectives to the Future Kurt Mittringer , Municipal Planning Department, City of Vienna Žaklina Gligorijević , Urban Planning Department, City of Belgrade Rudolf Giffinger , POLYCE project leader, Vienna University of Technology Michaela Gensheimer , ESPON representative, Luxembourg |
| 13.30-14.30 | Metropolitan development in Central Europe – idea, targets and outcomes of the POLYCE project Rudolf Giffinger , Vienna University of Technology Nataša Pichler-Milanovic , University of Ljubljana Ludek Sykora , Charles University in Prague | 16.30 | End & Networking |
| | Questions & answers | | |



Welcome speech by Rüdiger Maresch – Member of the Vienna city council

Rüdiger Maresch focused on the following main topics that should be approached as a result of the POLYCE research project:

- How can we maintain and improve the high quality of living in our metropolises?
- How do we address some of the key challenges such as environmentally-friendly commuter transport or controlled and efficient housing development in metropolitan regions?
- How can we increase the international competitiveness of our metropolises and, at the same time, ensure a socially and ecologically sustainable development for all citizens?
- How can we find the right balance between cooperation and competition in the light of the actual financial and economic crises?

Rüdiger Maresch thanked all the representatives who participated in the POLYCE project: ESPON and Michaela Gensheimer, the members of the international research team (Rudolf Giffinger et.al.), the urban planners from the participating cities Bratislava, Budapest, Ljubljana, Prague and Vienna, the Belgrade urban planning department, Sibylla Zech, the Vienna urban development department, the Austrian Institute for Spatial Planning, the communication agency Johannes Steiner and the Vienna University of Technology.

How can cities and regions profit from ESPON? – Michaela Gensheimer, ESPON Coordination Unit, Supervisor of POLYCE project

Michaela Gensheimer gives in her presentation answers to the three questions:

- What is the ESPON 2013 Programme for?
- How can cities and regions benefit from ESPON?
- How does POLYCE help other cities?

Using the examples of finished and actual ESPON projects (FOCI, SGPTD etc.), Michaela Gensheimer gives a short look inside the work of ESPON (www.espon.eu).

The POLYCE project meets the following policy demands and challenges:

- Understanding better the role and territorial position of cities and of the polycentric network of metropolitan functional urban areas
- Defining policy strategies for the future (e.g. managing growth, re-use of land, regulation of urban sprawl and collective transport modes)

- Cities should reconsider the spatial delimitations, considering functional relations more than administrative borders
- Improvement of relational capital (language, new administrative or strategic capacity): incl. the improvement of contacts and accessibility to information, transforming information into valuable knowledge, producing a broader basis of truth and relational capital, improving the common lobbying
- Tight historical, social and economic ties can be a proper base for further cooperation between public institutions, society and businesses

The ongoing process of cooperation and information should not stop with the end of the POLYCE project.

Metropolitan development in Central Europe – idea, targets and outcomes of the POLYCE project

The representatives of the research team –Rudolf Giffinger (Lead Partner, Vienna University of Technology), Nataša Pichler-Milanovic (University of Ljubljana), Ludek Sykora (Charles University in Prague) – gave an overview of the idea, the targets and the outcomes of the POLYCE project.



Rudolf Giffinger gave an introduction into the POLYCE project. He presented the ideas and the objectives of the project:

- Gain practical knowledge about the polycentric situation in the Danube Region, Governance initiatives and metropolitan strategies

- Relation between metropolisation and polycentric development: Definition of concepts, influence on urban growth and positioning, impact on competitiveness and inclusion
- Recommendations for future urban development: for the 5 metropolises Bratislava, Budapest, Ljubljana, Prague and Vienna & within Central Europe, strengths and weaknesses as urban preconditions (metropolitan profiles), most relevant activities (stakeholder discussions), recommendations for competitive and inclusive development within and between metropolises, first recommendations for the wider Danube Region

Ludek Sykora explained the **concept of polycentricity** and the different polycentric urban systems of Vienna, Prague, Budapest, Bratislava and Ljubljana: The urban system of Vienna is by far the most functionally integrated among the five metropolises. The city of Bratislava is best integrated in the balanced system of small and medium-sized neighboring towns, while Ljubljana dominates the urban system of its wider metropolitan region. Budapest, Vienna and Prague play a far more dominant role in their metropolitan regions. Ludek Sykora showed maps that illustrate the different roles of the five cities concerning commuting, research networks, firm networks and web search intensity.

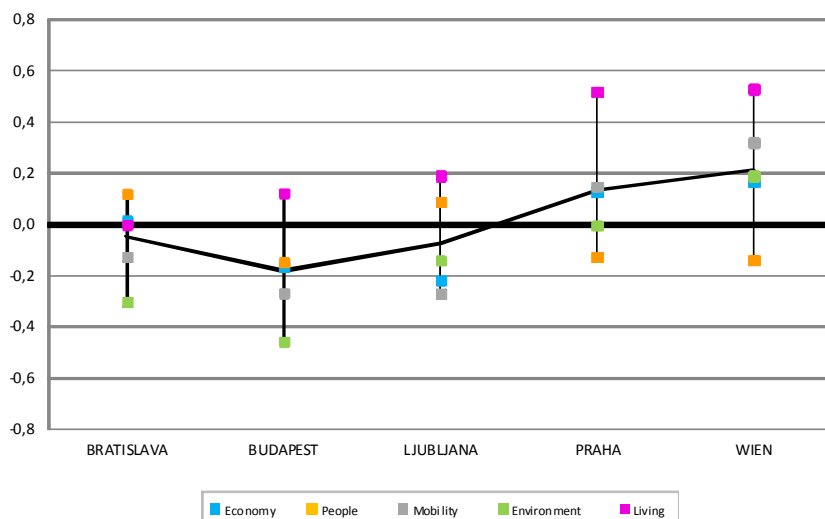
Nataša Pichler-Milanovic presented the **concept of metropolisation** and the performance **profiles** of 50 European metropolises with a focus on the 5 POLYCE metropolises. The metropolitan profiles have been elaborated on the basis of empirical data, parameters were analyzed in five profile categories:

- Economy (reflecting economic performance, entrepreneurship, knowledge-based economy, labor market, R&D Funding, international embeddedness, structural disparities)
- People (reflecting demography, education, ethnic Diversity)
- Mobility (reflecting public transport, commuting, international accessibility, availability of ICT)
- Environment (land use, environmental conditions, pollution, resource consumption, environmental quality)
- Living (cultural facilities, health facilities, housing, safety, touristic attractivity, urban services)

Main results for POLYCE metropolises:

- Vienna is ranked within the top-50 MEGA as a role model (Central) European metropolis;
- There are also differences - with some similarities - between POLYCE metropolitan profiles: (i) Vienna / Prague, (ii) Bratislava / Ljubljana, (iii) Budapest;
- High quality of living characterizes (more or less) all of them;
- There is a clear specialization in other fields of metropolitan development, indicating specific assets for city positioning and future strategic endeavors.

Profiles of the 5 POLYCE Metropolises



Rudolf Giffinger presented conclusions and recommendations of the POLYCE project.

Conclusions:

- lack of strong common polycentric vision and activities between all five metropolises
- lack of polycentric development will negatively influence further demographic or economic growth
- metropolitan profiles and stakeholder discussion are indicating specific assets for positioning and future strategic endeavors

Recommendations:

Supporting smart metropolitan development:

- Based on the new definition and delimitation of the corresponding metropolitan area and metropolitan region
- Enforce and rely on cooperation of different stakeholders (including researchers) within metropolitan regions
- Aim at a mix of strategic endeavors (agenda) steering the process of competitive and/or inclusive development in front of metropolitan profiles

Strengthening the urban/metropolitan system in CE /Danube Region:

- Create a basic common vision and common activities regarding the role of the five metropolises for better positioning and lobbying
- Improve and enforce relational capital between stakeholders through improved conditions of cooperation
- Include other metropolises in the Danube region into cooperative activities of the five metropolises

Questions from the auditory and answers from the research team:



Q: Which stakeholders have been involved?

A: Discussion process (workshops, written survey) with 150 stakeholders of comparable positions in the field of planning, economy, culture, media and press.

Q: Could the economic crises influence the project results, because empirical data are older than 2008?

A: The development of Prague has shown that the crises has so far low influence on actual challenges in the planning sector e.g. suburbanization and urban sprawl is continuing (population with high incomes); in the light of the economic crises cooperation of the cities becomes even more important, the economic crises cannot be solved by single activities.

Q: Who was supplying data for the city profiles?

A: Data on urban areas have been provided by Urban Audit, Eurostat and ESPON

Recommendations for Smart Central European Metropolises – lessons learned

Representatives of the POLYCE metropolises – Ivan Stanič (City of Ljubljana), Milan Turba (City of Prague), Eva Balašová (City of Bratislava), Kurt Mittringer (City of Vienna) – and Žaklina Gligorijević representing the Urban Planning Department City of Belgrade gave answers to the question: ‘What can we learn from POLYCE project?’



Ivan Stanič (City of Ljubljana):

- Existing differences between scientific planning world – administration – politicians requires an adaption of language, it is necessary to understand each other and learn from each other, importance of communication
- Cities have to find the right balance between competition and cooperation with each other
- The cooperation network of the five cities has to be expanded to Graz, Maribor, Zagreb and other cities in CE.

Milan Turba (City of Prague):

- In the light of the ongoing transform processes (economic crises, stronger competition) economic, social and cultural cooperation becomes more important
- Idea of a Danube Global Integration Zone: managing structures, ignore boundaries, functional relations important (core cities and their boundaries)
- In harmony with the Europe 2020 strategy
- Prague has a high intellectual potential, the innovation strategy should be updated and implemented in the Operational Programmes 2014-2020

- Set up a more permanent platform to exchange information, positive and negative experiences, not just 5 cities, but the whole functional metropolitan areas
- Learn from each other: e.g. Prague and Budapest have a similar socioeconomic situation, Vienna shows how to solve parking problems in the city
- Physical distances between our 5 cities are short, but train travel times are long, therefore high-speed-rail is a future chance for our 5 cities

Kurt Mittringer (City of Vienna):

- Empirical analyses help cities to become aware of their problems
- Main topics in planning: how to improve the unsatisfying situation in the field of urban sprawl, traffic development
- Our job is to advise politicians in understanding planning concerns and to prepare acting people to understand the problems of other cities, this is important to come to common decisions, to use the chance to articulate common interests, to make common lobbying towards the European Union, to 'translate' the outcomes of the project into action
- Actual there can be seen a lack of real cooperation between the cities

Eva Balašová (City of Bratislava):

- Definition of the metropolitan area of each city is very important
- Bratislava is actual in preparation of a new masterplan that sees Bratislava in wider borders; functional and economical interdependences with the surroundings
- cooperation with Austria is important, see project 'Bratislava Umland Management' that focus on the relationship between the Bratislava and the Austrian parts of the Bratislava metropolitan area
- cities are dynamic systems that are changing all the time, but the planning documents are very static and technocratic, therefore dynamic planning documents should be established: they should regard functional urban areas, social interactions and include also dynamic factors

Žaklina Gligorijević (City of Belgrade):

- Translate planning language to politicians and to the public
- Pros of Belgrade: size of city, type of city, similarities with other 5 cities, location on the Danube
- Obstacles of Belgrade: political issues, communication often ends at the administrative boundaries, hope that Serbia will get closer to the European Union

What is needed to become Smart Cities?

Kurt Mittringer (City of Vienna):

- Good accessibility of cities is a precondition to be competitive: actual bad train connections
- Cooperation between cities will help to overcome specific obstacles of each city
- Actual deficits in public transport: Lack of financial resources to improve public transport
- Address common needs for EU-fundings
- Problems should be solved within whole metropolitan regions: we should talk about smart regions, not only about smart cities

Eva Balašová (City of Bratislava):

- Better governance, working on new governance models, at the moment only on voluntary level: e.g. Municipality of Bratislava and 10 municipalities around, Bratislava-Umland-Management, Stadt-Umland-Management in Vienna
- Establishing of platforms for cooperation to discuss common topics in a partner way

Ivan Stanič (City of Ljubljana):

- We should talk about smart regions, core city is too small, vision of involving the whole region, e.g. the cooperation of 26 independent municipalities in the Ljubljana region
- Visions and decisions are more important than plans (basis)

Žaklina Gligorijević (City of Belgrade):

- Planning documents are much more obstacles, therefore reduce procedures, find an easier way to implement strategies

Discussion



- Joined planning is very important: planning on functional urban areas, not just on administrative levels. Administrative structure of cities are outdated, joint interests should lead to joint planning
- At the moment planning tools work only within administrative territories: e.g. Lower Austria, Vienna, small municipalities. Planning documents/tools should be harmonized and common guidelines for planning created.
- Following common interest towards the EU is very important, e.g. improvement of the railway connection between Vienna and Bratislava is extremely necessary, but funding is lacking and national implications vary are different in the single countries- EU-fundings can only be asked for with a common convincing concept

Advice to politicians

Ivan Stanič (City of Ljubljana):

- Articulate local visions and come to a common vision, e.g. 26 municipalities formulate their visions and all projects will be put together into a larger picture (macro scale), set focus on what is feasible

Milan Turba (City of Prague):

- Main obstacle is a lack of political willingness to cooperate, e.g. to change the administrative border; recommendations of common projects or platforms to politicians often not succeed because of different political views

Eva Balašová (City of Bratislava):

- Main obstacles: short term wishes against long term visions

- Try to understand each other at all levels of cooperation: scientists, administration, politicians

Žaklina Gligorijević (City of Belgrade):

- Common understanding of stakeholders of the 5 cities exist already
- Belgrad is not yet using the potential of the Danube (transport, environment, tourism etc.)

Perspectives to the Future

Michaela Gensheimer (ESPON representative, Luxembourg)

- Use the experience and lessons learned from POLYCE for future projects, e.g. analyzing Bucharest, Sofia, Athens, Berlin, Paris, Warsaw etc.
- ESPON will ask the POLYCE cities after one year how they dealt with the results.

Kurt Mittringer (Municipal Planning Department, City of Vienna)

- Research has to be continued
- Most important value of the POLYCE project is that we learned what can we do and how we can reach this goals. The next step is to translate the results into a political language
- Advice to politicians: think in wider perspectives, look over administrative borders, look over daily obstacles

Žaklina Gligorijević (City of Belgrade)

- Use the results of the POLYCE project for a “new symphony”

Rudolf Giffinger (POLYCE project leader, Vienna University of Technology)

- Bring down the scientific and academic ESPON language and produce pictures
- Come to a common language
- Discussion on the local level is the starting point
- Principle for a common future in spatial development: Respect partners as equal partners



Media



Press Conference

Wien: Humankapital liegt brach

Studie vergleicht fünf zentraleuropäische Städte

Gudrun Springer

Wien – Wiens größte Stärke: Die Lebensqualität, gefolgt von Fragen der Mobilität (Erreichbarkeit der Stadt, Zufriedenheit mit Öffis). Im Bereich Humankapital schöpft die Hauptstadt ihr Potenzial dagegen nicht aus: Bei Bildung und Integration hapert es. Jetzt gibt es eine Studie, die sich die Bereiche Mobilität, Umwelt, Humankapital, Wirtschaft und Lebensqualität auch in Bratislava, Budapest, Ljubljana und Prag angesehen hat und diese vergleicht. Stadt- und Regionalforscher Rudolf Giffinger präsentierte am Freitag mit Städtevertretern die Ergebnisse des Projekts, deren Leitung die TU Wien innegehabt hat.

Mittels Befragungen und in Workshops mit Akteuren der Raumplanung, Politik und Medien wurde untersucht, wo die Stärken und Schwächen der Ballungsräume liegen. Wien schnitt von den fünf zentraleuropäischen Städten am besten ab: Im Ranking der 50 europäischen Städte belegt es Rang 11 (Amsterdam hat die

besten Werte, Schlusslicht ist Sofia). Prag hat ähnliche Werte wie Wien, steht nur bei Umweltschutz und Mobilität etwas weniger gut da. Knapp unter dem europäischen Mittelwert liegt Bratislava, das aber vor allem im Bereich Humankapital punkten kann, z. B. wegen seiner Gesundheitsversorgung und der Beliebtheit bei Touristen. Der Wert wäre noch besser, wenn mehr in Kultur investiert würde und die Zahl leistbarer Wohnangebote größer wäre.

Ljubljana steht in dem Ranking ein paar Ränge vor Budapest, das im 50-Städte-Vergleich Rang 43 einnimmt. Von den fünf untersuchten Kommunen fehlten am Freitag in Wien nur Vertreter aus Ungarn. „Das hat mich am meisten überrascht“, resümierte Vladimír Schmalz von der Stadtverwaltung Prag. Sein slowakischer Kollege Michal Muránsky meinte, er habe nicht damit gerechnet, dass man so aussagekräftige Daten erhalten werde. Künftig sollen die Städte mehr kooperieren, lautete der Tenor der Veranstaltung. Wie, war aber noch unklar.

In Kürze: Termine

Nachbarmetropolen in Wien im Gespräch

Bratislava, Budapest, Ljubljana, Prag und Wien haben vor zwei Jahren das Forschungsprojekt namens „Poly-CE“ gestartet – ein Metropolenentwicklungsprojekt, das die strategische Position der fünf Städte innerhalb Europas und ihre Synergien untersucht. Zudem werden unterschiedliche Pfade der Metropolenentwicklung aufgezeigt. Ein internationales Konsortium von zentraleuropäischen Universitäten lieferte dazu die Grundlage, die Leitung übernahm die TU Wien, die am 1. Juni auch Schauplatz der Abschlusskonferenz sein wird. Zahlreiche Wissenschaftler, Politiker, Stakeholder

und Experten nehmen an den Diskussionen teil.

→ WEITERE INFORMATIONEN UNTER www.polyce.eu

Wiener Städtebauprojekte in München zu sehen

Wie ambitioniert die Wiener an ihrer Stadt bauen, welche Zukunftsszenarien hier Thema sind und welche Geschichte dahintersteht, wird aktuell bei einer großen Ausstellung im Münchner PlanTreff gezeigt. Im Mittelpunkt von „Stadt bauen. Beispiele für und aus Wien“ steht die Seestadt Aspern. Wien stellt sich dabei auch Beispielen aus Hamburg, Stockholm, Malmö und München selbst.

→ WEITERE INFORMATIONEN UNTER www.muenchen.de/plantreff

Announcement: Die Presse, 30. Mai, Seite F6

Article Der Standard, Sa/So. 2./3. Juni, Seite 12

www.espon.eu

The ESPON 2013 Programme is part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the EU Member States and the Partner States Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland. It shall support policy development in relation to the aim of territorial cohesion and a harmonious development of the European territory.