

SETTLEMENT CONCEPTIONS AND PLANNING IN SLOVAKIA DURING TRANSFORMATION PERIOD

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Abstract: The aim of this paper is to compare conceptions of settlement elaborated before 1989 and settlement conceptions prepared and planning procedures applied after 1990. When focusing on current transformation period, we will characterise situation at all levels - from national to local level.

Key words: settlement conceptions, planning, urban regions

1. INTRODUCTION

There emerged discussions concerning new approaches and needs in formulation of settlement conception of Slovakia immediately after 1990, although there was an aversion towards planning in general at the beginning. The aim of this paper is to compare conceptions of settlement elaborated before 1989 and settlement conceptions prepared and planning procedures applied after 1990. When focusing on current transformation period, we will characterise situation at all levels - from national to local level.

Settlement conceptions of the Slovak Republic elaboration were included within the processes of territorial planning, as it is until now. The basic document in the field of territorial planning during last 15 years of previous regime was Project of Urbanisation of the Slovak Socialist Republic (PU SSR). This document respected the fact that process of urbanisation is global process, influencing the development of the whole society. Since 1990, after interim aversion toward planning and cancelling of URBION

(The State institute of territorial planning), the decisive author of mentioned document, there started works on new conception of the territorial development of Slovakia. Its important part is again conception of settlement in Slovakia. Two proposals of this conceptions were submitted until now (1994, 1997). We attempt to compare these conceptions, focusing on following settlement problems: institutional basis, basic settlement structures and their defining, analysis of preceding development for the purpose of forecasting and outlining of main trends in settlement development, position of Bratislava as the capital city of the Slovak Republic within the framework of settlement conceptions of the Slovak Republic. This conception serves as starting point for elaboration of settlement conceptions at the regional and local level, whose elaboration is also mentioned in this study.

2. EVALUATION OF THE LITERATURE

In current transformation period, authors were employed especially with series of problems closely related to conceptions of settlement of the Slovak Republic. Many of them attempted to analyse trends in the latest development of settlement structure in Slovakia, or in former Czechoslovakia (Bašovský, 1995, Bašovský, Slavík, 1995, Dostál, Hampl, 1992, Hampl, 1991, Kára, 1990, Kmeť, 1996, Körner, 1992, Pašiak, 1993, Silvan, 1993, Slavík, 1993a, etc), new tendencies in urban and regional planning (Hrdina, 1991, Kaliská, 1993, Krampl, 1993), strategies of urban development, analysis of settlement structures comparing common and specific features of settlement structure and Slovak cities in particular (Gajdoš, 1993, Pašiak, 1993, Slavík, 1996, 1997B, 1998a, 1998b), and within Central and Eastern Europe (Enyedi, 1990, Očovský, Bezák, Podolák, 1996, Slavík, 1993b, Zentren systeme ..., 1994), new position of Bratislava (Buček, 1995, Divinský, 1998, Falťan, 1997, Heriban, Et Al., 1992, Korec, Smatanová, 1997 etc), many contributions addressed problems of rural settlement in Slovakia.

3. SETTLEMENT CONCEPTIONS OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC BEFORE 1989

Quite extensive research base had been collected especially in central institution for territorial planning in Slovakia - URBION, which was responsible for elaboration of nation-wide planning documentation. Main planning document - Project of Urbanisation of the Slovak Socialist Republic was sufficiently presented in several books (Michalec, Ed., 1978, Zibrin, 1981, Zibrin, Sládek, Kršiak, 1987 etc) and in numerous research studies.

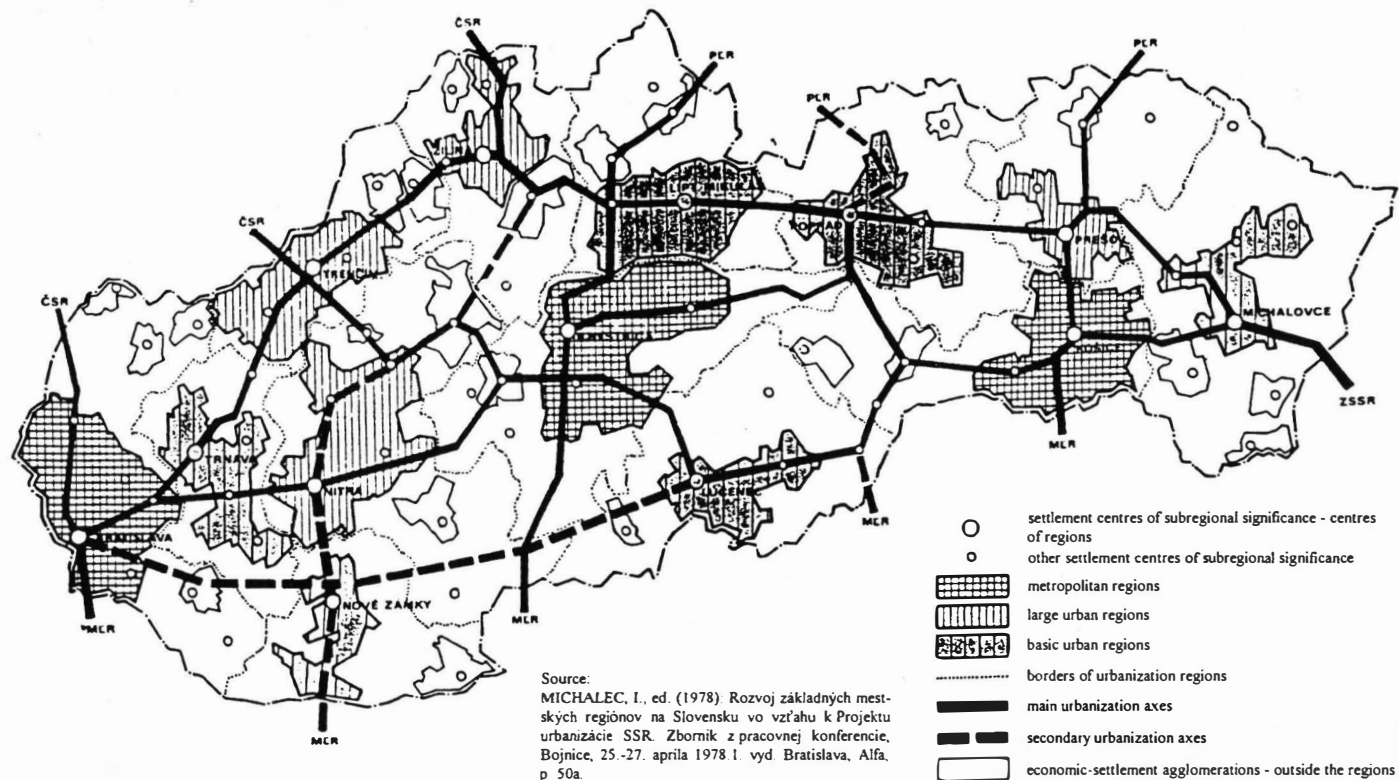
In general, main planning document - PU SSR was evaluated as high-quality and precisely elaborated plan even in international context. Despite this statement, we can present certain critical comments to non-unified methodology, unstable settlement structures (their definition, unclear delimitation and boundaries, etc), as well as changing methods within the processes of the PUSSR actualisation. We suggest, that many comments of the author of this paper were presented in his doctoral dissertation (Slavik, 1986), it means in time of its validity and application.

Table 1 Settlement structures in Project of urbanisation of the SSR and its actualisation

Title of document	Urban regions		Other settlement structures	
	Title	Number	Title	Number
Project of urbanisation SSR, 1976	Metropolitan Regions	3	Economic-settlement agglomerations (HSA)	23
	Large cities regions	4	Point cities	27
	Basic urban regions	6	Cities with specific function	14
Project of urbanisation SSR, I. actualisation, 1983	Settlement - regional agglomerations (SRA)	7	Urbanisation spaces of settlements of local importance (UP SOV)	74
	Urban regions	6		
Project of urbanisation SSR, II. actualisation, 1988	Settlement - regional agglomerations (SRA)	7	Urbanisation spaces of settlement centres of local importance (UP SOOV)	74
	Urban regions	6		

HSA - Economic-settlement agglomerations, UP SOV - Urbanisation spaces of settlements of local importance, UP SOOV - Urbanisation spaces of settlement centres with local importance

In a case of settlement structures (Map 1), there were presented only forecasted structures, whilst there were not defined initial situation of these structures (e.g. HSA, UP SOV). Analysis of the state and the development of urbanisation in Slovakia were realised according to non-unified methodology, usually only by the simplest attributes and under the absence of any wider international comparisons. Opposite to the unified planning conception in majority of branches of the economy in former Czechoslovakia, the settlement conceptions were prepared separately in Slovak and Czech parts. They were gradually harmonised only later, within the processes of actualisation of original projects. The last step in harmonisation of planning documents in both parts of the state, were Conception of Urbanisation of the Slovak Socialist Republic (Krampl, Hrdina, 1989) and Conception of Urbanisation of the Czech Republic (Vrtilek, Dupal, 1989). In this document, we can find for the first time terminological shift from "Project" of urbanisation toward "Conception" of urbanisation. Mentioned failures were partly caused by insufficient use of detailed scientific analysis of the settlement structures and process of urbanisation. Closer co-operation of planners and geographers developed only during last years of previous regime (Bašovský et al., 1986).



Map 1 Project of urbanisation of the SSR, 1976

As far as concentration process into selected settlement structures is concerned, the forecasts were not fulfilled. Instead of spatial concentration, there formed mostly only point concentration into the selected centres of settlement. The realisation of planned sub-urbanisation process in fact did not happen.

4. SETTLEMENT CONCEPTIONS AND PLANNING SINCE 1990

More realistic opinions prevailed, including return to planning, after primary aversion toward the term "plan" immediately after 1989 and following cancellation of the most important state planning institutions (besides URBION it was also VÚOP - Research institute for regional planning). Newly established non-state planning institutions have started to elaborate territorial planning documentation. The dominant position has AUREX, a.s. (joint stock company), as author of the settlement conception of the Slovak Republic, several planning documents for regions and many urban plans etc. Basic planning documents, as nation-wide as regional, were developed since 1994. The development of urban planning documents also accelerated after a few years of absence. However, we can find only extraordinary development of strategic plans for cities and planning document for rural settlements.

4.1. Nation-wide conceptions and documents

The Conception of Territorial Development of the Slovak Republic is the most important document that concerns settlement planning on nation-wide level in current transformation period. It is document with periodic nature, which should be permanently completed and innovated. Two proposals were elaborated until now (1994, 2nd Proposal 1997). The document recognised changed understanding of territory and environment, as well as the need to respect gradual and systematic incorporation of Slovakia into European structures. Future development of the settlement, settlement centres and settlement structures is needed to perceive in new connections. New connections are not only in changed political and economic conditions of Slovakia, but especially in relations and conditions of so-called post-industrial period of social development (Conception of the territorial development of Slovakia, 2nd proposal, 1997).

The settlement of Slovakia should form, according to this document, as polycentric settlement system as the main supposition of its competitiveness to other European regions, with support of territorial-settlement interconnection of borderland areas, gradual improvement of international links between Slovakia and Europe. Emphasise is drawn on strengthening of the regional centres role, as the main cores of the development.

The conception of the settlement system of the Slovak Republic as a whole results especially from two basic premises:

- ♦ connecting to the European settlement network,
- ♦ development of optimum conditions which will allow harmonic and cost effective development of all social activities.

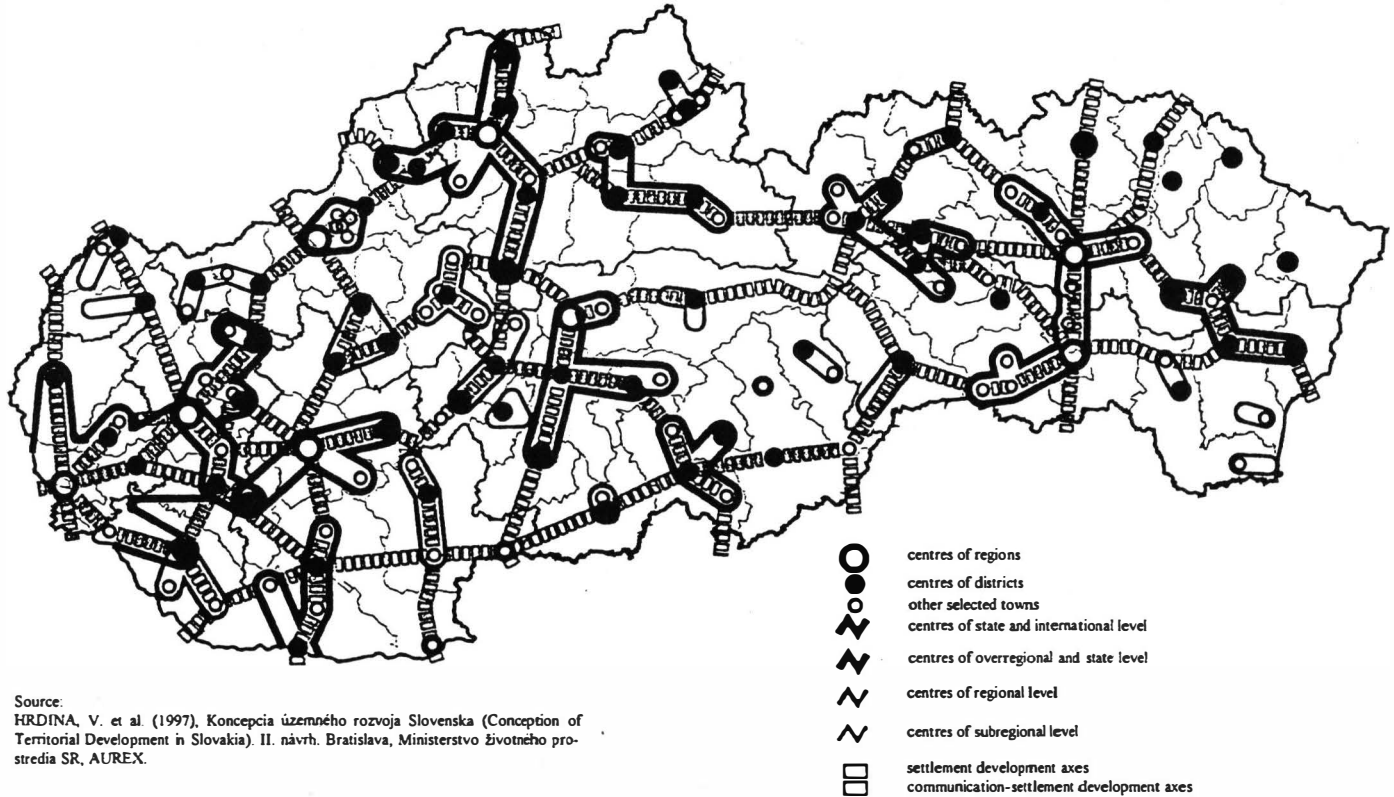
An attachment to European settlement network means not only to accept European settlement development conceptions, respectively conceptions of neighbour states, but especially to offer own conception of participation and utilisation of Slovak settlement structure within spatially wider links. The respect toward international connections, as well as national conditions, is highlighted in this document. Within international aspects are especially emphasised geomorphologic conditions in Europe and Slovakia, existence of high concentration of population and other activities in agglomerations of European significance (Vienna, Budapest, Katowice, Ostrava), existence of settlement centres alongside state boundaries, or closeness of relatively larger cities in neighbour states (Brno, Győr, Miskolc,.), communication networks situation in Europe. Regarding the national conditions, there should be respected geomorphologic conditions, previous development and expected trends, as well as social and economic ties.

In this document, the description of settlement system of the Slovak republic is demonstrated on the basis of development between 1991-1995. There is reflected total decrease of population by natural movement, restructuring and recession in national economy and related growth of unemployment, growing land prices and rising costs of investments especially in settlement centres, almost total interruption of mass housing construction, insufficient financial capacity of local self-governments, that have become responsible for new public investments, including new housing development etc.

Basic settlement structures are according to this document gravitation centres and development axis. The gravitation centres are settlement clusters around particular settlement centres (poles of development). There were designated four hierarchical levels of settlement gravitation centres: gravitation centres of supra-regional and nation-wide significance (6), regional significance (7) and local significance (19). Main poles of development are gravitation centres of nation-wide up to international significance. These gravitation centres are current regional cities (Map 2). The development axis are divided on settlement axis (urbanisation belts) and communication-settlement (inter-connective) axis.

Resulting from previous analysis of this document as well as from knowledge based on the analysis of previous documents and settlement trends development during present transformation period, we can formulate following conclusions concerning the settlement conception of the Slovak Republic since 1990:

The directive document managing processes of urbanisation in the Slovak Republic under previous regime (Project of Urbanisation of the Slovak Republic and its actualisation, 1976, 1983, 1988) was replaced by planning document with recommendation character - The Conception of the Territorial Development of the Slovak Republic (1994, 2nd proposal 1997). An effort of authors for closer affiliation into European settlement structures we can evaluate positively. However, analysis of European settlement trends is not sufficient. The definition of basic settlement units in Slovak Republic is absentiong, for example - city, rural settlement, agglomeration, their



Source:
 HRDINA, V. et al (1997), *Koncepcia územného rozvoja Slovenska (Conception of Territorial Development in Slovakia)*. II. návrh. Bratislava, Ministerstvo životného prostredia SR, AUREX.

Map 2 Conception of territorial development in Slovakia, II. proposal 1997. Settlement structure.

boundaries (statutory cities). The authors of the conception preferred introduction of new terms for settlement structures that are not compatible with terms used in Europe or world-wide. We can also dispute suitability of new term applied - settlement gravitation centres, that replaced well-established and internationally compatible terms as urban regions, or agglomerations. As far as settlement structures are concerned, authors were too influenced by newly introduced territorial-administrative division of the Slovak Republic. Directive hierarchisation was according to settlement system of central places was replaced by hierarchisation according to variable KfV (in 1st proposal 1994). Relatively small attention was paid to inter-urban links with exception of transport network.

In mentioned conception are insufficiently outlined, respectively absenting settlement characteristics and trends observable during transformation period until now (termination of concentration process, starting sub-urbanisation, disintegration of communes, constituting of new capital city, principal change in organisation and control over settlement - renewal of local self-government). Only limited methodical apparatus was used for demonstration of the settlement trends. Analysis of size structure of communes and especially of cities was combined with the new administrative hierarchy of settlement centres - regional centres and district centres. The proposal of the conception was finished in 1997 and contains analysis for 1991 -1995, therefore analysis could be prolonged for next two years. For example, the beginning of sub-urbanisation, especially in the Bratislava's hinterland was underestimated. The quality of analysis of up to now trends is more or less superficial. We can conclude, that authors avoided to confront new conceptions with documents prepared before 1990, and do not considered the need to correct mistakes in planning of settlement structures from previous regime, as it is noticed by more authors (Bašovský, 1995 etc). Besides other aspects, all these statements are connected to fact, that legal documents from previous regime are valid until now. Despite the attempts to approve new legislature there is still valid and serves as main framework the Act on territorial planning and construction order from 1976. The next argument can be placement of planners - authors of conceptions under previous regime in newly established planning institutions and their participation not only in elaboration of nation-wide conceptions, but also in planning at the regional and local level. The authors moved toward schematisation when indicating settlement structures (Map 2) in the second proposal of Conception of Territorial Development (1997). However, when analysing previous period, we discover that authors returned to the form of presentation already used before (Krampl, Hrdina, 1989).

4.2. Settlement planning of Slovakia and global documents

New trends in Slovak settlement development and changes in its planning were presented on more European and global events discussing settlement development. We can say, that the latest planning documentation attempts to apply conclusions adopted at these global events. It is particularly the case of global documents like Agenda 21, Agenda Habitat, Europe 2000, Europe 2000+. The settlement development trends before and after 1989, basic principles of settlement planning at present and outline of future

aims, were manifested in National Report on Settlement Development and Housing in the Slovak Republic prepared for the UNO Habitat II conference hold in Istanbul (1996). In a similar way there is also a need for gradual harmonisation of our documents with European charters related to settlements and theirs' planning, especially European Charter of Cities, European Charter of Local and Regional Self-governments, European Charter of Regional Planning etc. However, we should not remain only in such form of getting closer to European settlement structures. The next steps should include gradual acceptance of these charters. The European Charter of Local and Regional Self-government should be adopted as soon as possible.

4.3. Settlement planning in regions

Less readiness for solving regional problems until now results from lack of basic legal documents in this sphere, missing regional level of state administration in 1991-1996, enduring absence of self-government at the regional level (only partially substituted by regional associations of cities and communes) and unclearness in the transfer of competencies (state - region - local level).

Unemployment and problem of backward regions as the new phenomena attracted main attention in regional development during the transformation period. An extensive development of trans-border co-operation was slow down by lack of relevant legislature. Long lasted postponing of new conception of regional development of the Slovak Republic approval, or new Act on regional development adopting did not help to this situation.

As the priorities in the field of regional development were assigned in the National Report. (1996): preparation of Act on regional development, issues of regional institutions, issues of regional infrastructure, establishment of regional development agencies and institutions, programmes of regional development, co-ordination of regional development with territorial planning, intensification of labour force inter-regional mobility.

The Conception of the Territorial Development of the Slovak Republic is in fact co-ordination base for territorial plans of the regions. The territorial plans of all new administrative regions (UP VUC) were completed during 1997-1998, in which basic trends of settlement structures' development are outlined.

4.4. Planning of cities and rural settlements

What are the developments in urban planning and rural settlements planning? Elaboration of new territorial planning document in a case of cities mostly stagnated during first years of the transformation period (also thanks to the mentioned antipathy toward planning). More pressing were problems related to establishing of local self-government in cities and villages. New territorial plans' development was renewed approximately since 1995, and at present, more Slovak cities approved territorial plans

(e.g. Hlohovec, Liptovský Mikuláš, Modra, Myjava, Piešťany, Ružomberok, Skalica, etc.) and in other they are under elaboration or in preparatory stage. This delay caused planning unpreparedness negatively influencing especially new housing construction. In cities, where new housing construction was not just completion of housing project started during previous regime (subsidised by the state), new housing construction stopped totally for a few years (Conception of State Housing Policy was approved only in 1995)

The positive aspect of current urban planning is great attention to the reconstruction of historical centres of cities, including removal and diminishing of negative interventions from previous regime. Renewal of self-government and certain autonomy of local finances enabled such development. The results of "positive" reconstruction of historical cities' cores in more Slovak cities are more significant than the results of the whole period of "socialist development" in this sphere.

The latest trend in urban and regional planning in Slovak Republic is elaboration of strategies of the development of particular cities (Bratislava, 1993; Trenčín, 1995 etc), that should also solve theirs' position within regions and their role in regional development. However, we can conclude that the strategies finished until now are not prepared so precisely and with such participation of experts (including foreign), as it was in a case of strategic plans of Prague (Turba, 1996, Turba, 1996-97), or more west European metropolises (London,...).

Rural settlements face stagnation or decline (ageing of population, emigration, lack of work places, stagnation in agriculture etc). This was addressed by means of Project of Village Renewal and more projects of agro-tourism development. Nevertheless, small communes have not enough financial resources for elaboration of territorial plans that also caused legal barrier for the emerging sub-urbanisation process, especially in large cities' hinterlands. Some villages solve these problems by elaboration of joint territorial plans for 2-3 villages.

4.5. Planning issues in Bratislava

Changed position of Bratislava that took up the role of the capital city and new trends in development of the Slovak society requires also new approaches in planning of this important settlement unit. The following planning documents were created in relation to Bratislava during transformation period: Actualisation of territorial plan of Bratislava (1993), Strategy of development of Bratislava (proposal, 1993), Territorial plan of the Bratislava Region (1998). Spatial and economic principles (UHZ) of city's new territorial plan were approved in 1998, and new concept of territorial plan is under elaboration at present. Sustainable social development and humanisation of urban environment were declared as the strategic objectives of city's development in Strategy of the Development of Bratislava (proposal 1993).

We can express following recommendations concerning this situation. Regarding rapid changes in urban environment of Bratislava and need for new plan, we consider process and especially the dynamics of new territorial plan creation as insufficient and

obstacle in new planning of the city. Existing actualisation can not be considered as sufficient. The evaluation of Bratislava as metropolitan centre in mentioned documents we perceive as non-adequate. Wide community of experts was not involved into the elaboration of the strategy of development, as it was in a case of elaboration of strategy of development of Prague, or in a case of more western European metropolises (London, etc). Relevant methodical studies in this field were also ignored (e.g. Domański, 1995). More extensive should be use of knowledge generated by many detailed scientific analyses in more precise planning of Bratislava. We can mention as a showcases studies prepared by J. Buček (1995), B. Divinský (1998), grant research project concerning Bratislava is solved under the leadership of P. Korec at present.

5. CONCLUSION

The following facts are derived from the evaluation of outlined settlement conceptions and planning in Slovak Republic. There still remain actual need for adopting new legislature related to various aspects of planning (Act on territorial planning, Act on regional development etc). Prepared reform of public administration should influence future conceptions and planning in much extensive way. It will be transfer of powers to regional and local level that strongly influence the settlement development. There is also a need to cope with lagging of regional planning comparing to territorial planning and creation of its documents.

Gradual introduction of European documents (Charters) into Slovak legislature should be the next important progressive step concerning the settlement. This will also mean the fulfilment of promises for harmonisation and adaptation of the Slovak conditions to European structures and principles. There is a need for more comparative studies that will characterise main features and specificity of Slovak settlement system within Central Europe, respectively within the whole Europe. It is also necessary to remove still existing failures and reserves in methodology, settlement structures definition and need for more complex analysis of settlement development trends.

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Resume

Koncepcie a plánovanie osídlenia SR v transformačnej etape

Hneď od roku 1990 sa začína hovoriť o nových prístupoch a potrebách pri tvorbe koncepcií osídlenia SR, aj keď spočiatku bola averzia na plánovanie vôbec. Cieľom tohoto príspevku je porovnať koncepcie osídlenia do roku 1989 a koncepcie osídlenia od roku 1990, pričom v súčasnej transformačnej etape budeme charakterizovať situáciu od celoštátnej úrovne až na úrovni miest a obcí.

Tvorba koncepcií osídlenia SR bola a je aj doteraz súčasťou tvorby územného plánovania. Keďže proces urbanizácie je globálnym procesom vplyvujúcim na vývoj celej spoločnosti, základným územnoplánovacím dokumentom v posledných 15-tich rokoch bývalého režimu bol Projekt urbanizácie SSR. Od roku 1990 po dočasnej averzii na plánovanie a zrušení URBION-u, hlavného tvorca tohoto dokumentu, sa začalo pracovať na novej koncepcii územného rozvoja Slovenska, ktorého významnou zložkou je opäť aj koncepcia osídlenia Slovenska (doteraz 2 návrhy - 1994, 1997). Osídlenie Slovenska by sa malo podľa tohto dokumentu formovať ako polycentrický sídelný systém ako základný predpoklad konkurencieschopnosti voči ostatným európskym regiónom, s podporou územno-sídelného prepájania prihraničných oblastí, postupného zlepšovania medzinárodného prepojenia Slovenska s Európou. Dôraz sa kladie aj na posilňovanie národných regionálnych centier ako hlavných ohnísk rozvoja.

Koncepcia sídelného systému Slovenskej republiky ako celku vychádza predovšetkým z dvoch základných premis: naviazania sa na európsku sídelnú sieť a vytvorenia optimálnych podmienok pre harmonický a šetrný rozvoj všetkých aktivít spoločnosti.

Základné štruktúry osídlenia sú podľa tohto dokumentu ťažiská osídlenia a rozvojové osi. Ťažiská osídlenia sú sídelné zoskupenia okolo jednotlivých centier osídlenia (pólov rozvoja). Boli stanovené štyri hierarchické úrovne ťažísk osídlenia: celoštátneho až medzinárodného významu (6), nadregionálneho až celoštátneho významu (6), regionálneho významu (7), miestneho významu (19). Hlavnými pólami rozvoja sú ťažiská osídlenia celoštátneho až medzinárodného významu, ktorých centrami sú terajšie krajské mestá (mapa 2). Rozvojové osi sa členia na: - sídelné (urbanizované pásy) - komunikačno- sídelné (prepájacie). Na základe doterajších analýz tohoto materiálu ako aj poznatkov z analýz predchádzajúcich dokumentov a ako aj trendov sídelného vývoja v súčasnej transformačnej etape možno konštatovať nasledovné závery ku

konceptii osídlenia SR od roku 1990: Možno kladne hodnotiť snahu autorov o začleňovanie do celoeurópskych sídelných štruktúr, pričom analýza celoeurópskych sídelných trendov nie je postačujúca. Absentuje definovania základných sídelných jednotiek SR. Autori koncepcie sa priklonili k zavedeniu nových termínov pre sídelné štruktúry, ktoré však nie sú kompatibilné s termínmi v Európe a vo svete (ťažiská osídlenia). V uvedenej koncepcii sú nepostačujúco naznačené resp. absentujú sídelné charakteristiky a trendy v doterajšom transformačnom období. Možno konštatovať, že autori sa vyhýbajú konfrontácii novej koncepcie s dokumentami pred rokom 1990 a nezaoberajú sa potrebou nápravy chýb plánovania sídelných štruktúr z bývalého režimu.

Nové trendy vývoja osídlenia Slovenska a zmeny v jeho plánovaní boli prezentované na viacerých významných celoeurópskych a svetových podujatiach súvisiacich so sídelným vývojom. Možno konštatovať, že najnovšie plánovacie dokumenty u nás sa snažia vychádzať zo záverov týchto globálnych podujatí (Agenda 21, Agenda Habitat, Europa 2000, Europa 2000+). Rovnako sa ukazuje ako potrebné postupné zosúladovanie našich dokumentov s európskymi chartami súvisiacimi so sídlami a ich plánovaním.

Koncepcia územného rozvoja Slovenska je vlastne koordinančný podklad pre územné plány regiónov. V rokoch 1997-1998 boli dokončené územné plány všetkých nových administratívnych regiónov - krajov (ÚP VÚC krajov), v ktorých sú naznačené aj základné trendy vývoja sídelných štruktúr. Doterajšia menšia pripravenosť na riešenie regionálnych problémov vyplývala z absencie základných právnych dokumentov v tejto oblasti, absencia regionálneho stupňa štátnej správy v rokoch 1991-1996 a doterajšia absencia samosprávnych regiónov, neujasnenosť v problematike presunu kompetencií (štát - región - mesto, obec).

Ako prebieha v súčasnosti plánovanie miest a obcí ? V prvých rokoch transformácie spoločnosti tvorba nových územných plánov miest (aj vďaka spomínanej averzii na plány) väčšinou stagnovala, riešili sa iné naliehavejšie úlohy súvisiace s obnovou samosprávy miest a obcí. Tvorba nových územných plánov sa obnovila cca od roku 1995 a v súčasnosti už majú schválené územné plány viaceré mestá SR. Pozitívom súčasnej etapy plánovania miest je koncentrácia pozornosti na reštrukturalizáciu historických centier miest, pričom výsledky "pozitívnej" prestavby historických centier vo viacerých mestách SR sú markantnejšie ako za celú etapu "socialistickej výstavby". Najnovšou tendenciou v plánovaní miest a regiónov SR je spracúvanie stratégií rozvoja miest. Zmena postavenia Bratislavy na hlavné mesto a nové trendy vývoja spoločnosti si vyžadujú aj nové prístupy v plánovaní tohoto významného sídelného celku. Vzhľadom na výrazné zmeny v mestskom organizme Bratislavy a potrebu nového plánu považujeme proces a hlavne tempo tvorby nového územného plánu za nedostatok a brzdu nového plánovania mesta.

Z naznačených hodnotení koncepcií a plánovania osídlenia SR vyplývajú nasledovné skutočnosti: Aktuálnymi úlohami ostáva legislatívna oblasť a prijímanie nových zákonov súvisiacich s plánovaním. Výraznejšou mierou by mala vplývať na budúce koncepcie a plány aj pripravované kroky reformy verejnej správy. Realizácia predovšetkým presunu kompetencií na regionálnu a miestnu úroveň výrazne ovplyvní aj vývoj osídlenia. Ďalšími dôležitými krokmi by malo byť postupné prijímanie európskych dokumentov (chárt) súvisiacich s osídlením, čím by Slovenská republika napĺňala sľuby postupného približovania sa európskym štruktúram. Ukazuje sa potreba porovnávacích štúdií charakterizujúcich hlavné črty a špecifiká osídlenia Slovenska v rámci strednej Európy resp. celej Európy.