Spatial Monitoring on Functional Regions in Germany

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Spatial Monitoring on Functional Regions in Germany

- exchange of actions and guarantee of different functions of life

- normative (functional) planning regions
- geographically fixed functional regions
- socially constructed functional regions

- social-economic aspects of exchange within a functional region
- descriptive construction on administrative units
- different constructed functional regions for different problems
Spatial Monitoring on Functional Regions in Germany

- all functional regions in the Spatial monitoring system are based on commuting flows

1. Spatial planning regions
   - base = counties (NUTS3)
   - respect borders of federal states
   - availability of data for monitoring purposes is very high
   - mainly economic and environmental aspects of territorial development

2. Labour market regions

3. City-country-regions
   - base = municipalities (LAU2)
   - overlap over other administrative or federal borders allowed
   - availability of data for monitoring purposes is limited
   - mainly social and „every day life“ aspects of territorial development

4. City regions
1. Spatial planning regions

Spatial planning regions

- planning regions of the federal states
- divergent definition if 15% of commuting flows cross the borders of the planning region
- 96 functional regions

Source: Spatial Monitoring System of the BBSR
Geometry: BKG/BBSR, counties/spatial planning regions and planning regions of the federal states, 31.12.2014
1. Spatial planning regions

- approved by BBSR and the planning authorities of the federal states
- no planning relevance, only monitoring
- monitoring of cross sectional and large scale territorial developments
1. Spatial planning regions - example

Sustainable regional development

- highly under average
- under average
- average
- above average
- highly above average

Share of the dimensions contributing to the sustainability deficit

- economy
- social dimension
- ecology

Source: Spatial Monitoring System of the BBSR

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2. Labour market regions

- regional supply with jobs for at least 65% of regional labour force
- traveling time to work within the region at maximum of 45 minutes for daily commuters
- 258 functional regions
2. Labour market regions

Demographic change with regard on regional economy and labour market

Settlement type of the labour market regions:
- Urban
- Rural
- Rural and sparsely populated

Challenges of demographic change for regional economy and labour market - Index deviation from average:
- Highly under average
- Average
- Highly above average
3. City-country-regions (Stadt-Land-Regionen)

- regional supply with jobs, services, daily interactions
- core cities have a central function as job centres and regarding services of general interest and have a minimum day population of 15,000 (inhabitants and workforce)
- allocation of each municipality to a core city regarding the strongest commuting relation
- regions have a minimum size of day population
- step-wise method in defining the final city-country-regions
- 266 functional regions

Source: Spatial Monitoring System of the BBSR
3. City-country-regions - example

Growing and shrinking of city-country-regions 2009-2014 - types of property markets

- tight market situation
- growing above average
- growing

- relaxed market situation
- without clear trend
- shrinking
- shrinking above average

Source: Spatial Monitoring System of the BBSR
Geometry: BKG/BBSR, City-country-regions 31.12.2014

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4. City-regions (regions of large cities/Großstadtregionen)

City regions
Commuting zones of large cities

- core city
- larger core area
- inner commuting zone
- outer commuting zone
- municipalities outside the city regions

Source: Spatial Monitoring System of the BBSR

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100 km

Source: Spatial Monitoring System of the BBSR

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100 km
4. City-regions (regions of large cities/Großstadtregionen)

- development of large cities and their hinterland
- core cities have at minimum 100,000 inhabitants and are centres for jobs
- larger core area: neighbouring municipalities of core cities with very strong commuting relations in both directions
- inner commuting zone: 50% of workers of a municipality commute into the core city or their larger core area
- outer commuting zone: 25% of workers of a municipality commute into the core city or their larger core area
- 49 functional regions
- zones – core city, larger core area, inner and outer commuting zone - are the main level of analysis
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Summary:

- functional regions play an important role in the monitoring of territorial trends
- different definitions of functional regions for different research questions
- commuting flows are used as criteria to define the borders
- two „concepts“:
  - inner commuting relations are strong, low commuting relations to other regions outside (1. spatial planning regions, 2. labour market regions)
  - commuting flows to a distinct core/centre (3. city-country-regions, 4. city regions)
- thresholds are empirically based or subjective, but in their definition the regions are very stable over time
Thank you for your attention!

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