Supraregional Partnership in Germany – a Demonstration Project

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VASAB Expert Workshop
“Urban-Rural Partnership in the Baltic Sea Region“
21. September 2010 in Minsk, Belarus
Assignment from national and EU level

“... establishing large-scale communities of responsibility and developing them further.“ (Concepts and Strategies for Spatial Development in Germany 2006, p. 16)

“We need new forms of partnership and territorial governance between rural and urban areas.“ (Territorial Agenda 2007, p. 5)
Concept: Growth and Innovation

Metropolitan Region
- Cores of the Capital Region and of existing European Metropolitan Regions
- Other nodes with Metropolitan Functions
- Metropolitan Region
- Areas of influence including rural areas
- Transition region between Metropolitan Regions

Growth regions outside Metropolitan Regions

Stabilisation areas

Spatial structure
- Central area of high density
- Dense intermediate area

The map is illustrating the concept. However, the signature do not stand for determined planning.
Demonstration projects (MORO)

- informal planning instrument since 1996 from federal level for various topics
- goals: trying new ways for regional development with the help of model regions, creating good practice and positive examples for other regions (to adopt and to modify)
- convincing instead of laws (even impossible in the German federal system)
- budget about 1 Mio Euro per year
- MORO has proven to be a powerful instrument
• 7 demonstration regions with 38 projects, selected out of 65 ideas
• large variety of topics
• covering 52% of Germany with 48% of the population
• from 1/2008 to 6/2010 + extension to 12/2012
Support (from federal level)
(Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs and Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning)

- interest in this topic
- project management for coordination, workshops and publications
- 670,000 Euro for 3 years for regions and project management (+ 730,000 Euro from the regions themselves) [+ '11/'12: ~ 270,000 Euro]
- publications, meetings (3 times a year)
- analysis of the results and formulation of political advice
Regional chains of value added – e.g. Nürnberg region

• creation intensive links between urban and rural regions, increase of value added in the region

• network of 16 partners

• regional marketing of e.g. food stuff, wood products (from furniture to houses – 95 % out of the region)

• Siemens-canteen: 50 % to 75 % of fresh food out of the region = 4 Mio. Euro for regional agriculture – e.g. apples from the region and not from New Zealand
Cluster and networks – e.g. Nürnberg region

- network of existing clusters: within branches, between branches, between institutions and economy
- classical approach for spatial development, but here in a large regional context
- synergies and exchange of ideas, as the existing clusters and networks are too small (i.e. networking of networks)
Spatial planning – e.g. Stuttgart region

- one instead of five regional development plans in Stuttgart and surrounding
- e.g. matched concept for logistics – how to deal with traffic, land prices and competition in a densely settled area?
- Joint negotiations with German Railway for an adequate timetable in the regions
Rural areas – e.g. Hamburg/Northern Germany

- two conferences for an exchange of ideas between regions and actors
- survey among 325 actors from urban and rural areas about their topics and goals
- strategy paper presented in April 2010 to incorporate the needs and potentials of rural areas
Skilled labour – e.g. Brandenburg/Mecklenburg Western Pomerania

• a regions between Hamburg and Berlin
• trade show for pupils about vocational training in region (1.000 visitors)
• region far away from colleges: establishment of a distance learning university to combine work and further training
+ further topics, e.g.

• knowledge networks covering large spaces
• international and internal marketing
• improvement of transport infrastructure
• networks and clusters
• natural heritage and tourism concepts
• cross-border cooperation with neighbour countries (another demonstration project)
• appropriate governance models
• [social infrastructure]
Some Results
Basic Observations

- Urban-rural partnerships are possible (even on a large scale).
- Shared problems or the hope for a positive effect promote urban-rural partnerships.
- Win-win- (at least: win-stand-by-) situations are important.
- Many topics can lead to urban-rural partnerships.
- Functional linkages between regions as basis for partnerships.
- (Spatial) difference between a strategic and an operative (project) level (variable geometry).
- Trust among actors (from politics, economy, civil society) is important.
- Goal: (Every) region can contribute with its potentials and has to benefit from the results.
Some key factors

- **positive**: shared agenda, guiding principles or defined goals
- **beneficial**: variety of projects to incorporate many actors and to compensate failure
- **pragmatic**: from win-win-situations to conflict management
- **purposive**: from successful projects to governance
- **practical**: use of existing structures and networks, experience in regional co-operation
- **motivating**: successful project motivate actors (!!) and bring political attention
- **important**: voluntary bottom-up processes on the same eye-level (with support from the top)
- **flexible**: topics dependent on regional setting and needs
Thank you for your kind audience!

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Please feel free to contact me.