

**Vovk Korže, Ana**

**GEOGRAPHIC SOIL ANALYSIS AS A MEANS TO IDENTIFY BIOTOPES: AN EXAMPLE FROM SLOVENIA**

Geographic soil analysis is based on a spatial assessment of soils and their characteristics. Exact soil knowledge enables the definition of biotopes in an area under investigation. Biotopes show soil function and its meaning in a certain landscape. A knowledge of biotopes is important for planning regional development, protecting soils, preserving biotic diversity and developing economic activities based on soils. With soil analysis as the basis for dividing the region into biotopes, four macro-biotopes have been defined in Dravinjske gorice: biotopes in the Dravinja valley, biotopes in the Ložnica valley, biotopes of southern Dravinjske gorice, and biotopes of the middle Dravinjske gorice. To determine the inner balance in a biotope it is necessary to know soil characteristics, relief, lithological parent material, humidity, forest and meadow vegetation, and water balance. The arrangement of biotopes and their characteristics, including land use, indicate certain area potentials.

**Krška, Karel**

**BIOClimatological RESEARCH IN MORAVIA AND SILESIA FROM ITS BEGINNINGS UNTIL 1945**

In Moravia and Silesia, as elsewhere in Europe, the beginnings of bioclimatology are uncertain. We can see its first signs in more regular phenological observations, which in the first half of the 19th century contributed to the specification of the oldest Moravian climate descriptions. The greatest credit for the progress of meteorology and phenology in Moravia and Silesia goes to the Natural Science Society in Brno (Naturforschender Verein in Brünn), which implemented in the second half of the 19th century, an extensive network of monitoring stations and processed and published the results of their measurements. An outstanding member of the Society was the founder of genetics and meteorologist J. G. Mendel. Rapid increase in agrometeorological and forest-meteorological research started after the founding of Czechoslovakia in 1918. It was organised by agricultural and forest research institutes, with the backing from the Ministry of Agriculture and in cooperation with universities. Its leading protagonists in Moravia were Václav Novák and Bohuslav Polanský, both professors at the University of Agriculture in Brno.

**Mikulík, Oldřich, Kolibová, Barbora**

**AN EVALUATION OF CHANGES IN LIFE STYLE FOR RESIDENTS OF THE OSTRAVA REGION**

The findings of surveys carried out on two groups of respondents in the Ostrava region, the employed and the unemployed, are reported in this article. Respondents were selected from the major professional groups – miners, foundry workers and chemists. Additional data were collected in the Paskov-Staříč a.s. and ČSM a.s. mines, as well as in the model area (urban district of Ostrava-Michálkovice). In this research project, we are hoping to offer a deeper understanding of life-style shifts as experienced by the respondents themselves. We also emphasize gaining information about standard of living, perceptions of the quality of the environment, value orientations, etc. This study is a part of a long-term research project focussing on the evaluation of changes in the environment of the Ostrava region.

**Ptáček, Pavel, Létal, Aleš, Sweeney, Sandra**

**AN EVALUATION OF PHYSICAL AND FUNCTIONAL CHANGES TO THE INTERNAL SPATIAL STRUCTURE OF THE HISTORICAL CENTRE OF OLOMOUC, CZECH REPUBLIC, 1980-2000**

Substantial changes have taken place in the physical and functional structure of cities in Central and Eastern Europe since 1989. The post-communist transformation of the urban environment both shares general trends and expresses specific characteristics based on the historical development of a particular city. In this paper we examine both observed and anticipated changes to the internal spatial structure of the historical centre of Olomouc. Those changes which have taken place during the twenty years bracketed by 1980 and 2000 have been derived by comparing equivalent data from the two periods. While it may not be possible to predict with any real precision the future development of the internal spatial structure of the historical city, based on general trends we have highlighted several possible future scenarios. Classical GIS methods were used to connect the spatial and statistical databases.

**Vaishar, Antonín, Zapletalová, Jana**

**PROBLEMS OF EUROPEAN INNER CITIES AND THEIR RESIDENTIAL ENVIRONMENTS**

European inner cities are struggling with the consequences of present demographic changes and the current processes of urbanization. Ageing of the population, the shrinking of household size, and the migration of young, educated and more prosperous inhabitants to the city fringe or surroundings, cause decreases in population density, deficiency of financial sources and the dilapidation of inner city areas. These processes endanger large cities, because their inner parts play an exclusive role in city structure. Hence, the re-urbanization of European inner cities is a very topical problem. In addition to the economic, legal, architectural and other factors, the residential environment and its perception play an important role in the process. An example of the inner city in Brno is presented. The problem is to be investigated within the 5th EU Framework project: Mobilizing Re-urbanization on Condition of Demographic Change.

## ***REPORTS***

**Vaishar, Antonín, Mikulík, Oldřich:** CONFERENCE ON REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY AND ITS APPLICATION

**Wahla, Arnošt:** ATLAS OF SLOVAK TOWNS

**Wahla. Arnošt:** CZECH-POLISH AND CZECH-SLOVAK CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION OF UNIVERSITIES

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