

**Jan LACINA, Petr HALAS, Pavel ŠVEC**

**BIOGEOGRAPHICAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN LANDSCAPE PATTERNS, SOME LOCAL ABIOTIC FACTORS AND VEGETATION OF FOREST EDGES (CZECH REPUBLIC)**

Forest edges consist of specific ecotone plant associations. Their species composition reflects conditions within the local environment and the character of the surrounding landscape, as well as the history of the given area. This article aims to ascertain the importance of local conditions and the characteristics of the surrounding landscape on the species composition. The results show that the species composition of forest edges is adversely influenced by agricultural use of the surrounding landscape and differs according to the north-south gradient of aspect. In terms of their species composition, forest edges represent important refuges of certain plant species that have already disappeared from the surrounding landscape.

**Lenka JAKEŠOVÁ, Antonín VAISHAR**

**SUSTAINABLE INNER PERIPHERIES? A CASE STUDY OF THE OLEŠNICE MICRO-REGION (CZECH REPUBLIC)**

The Olešnice micro-region represents municipalities situated at the boundary of the South Moravian Region. These come under the inner peripheries which do not develop economically, lose their population, get older and have a lower social and economic standard and a worse infrastructure. The authors work on a hypothesis that from the natural point of view the area has a strong recreational potential. The question is how local actors contribute to its development, what their relationships to the territory are and whether they are aware of the values of the area. The study is based on results of a questionnaire with local residents and also on a comparison with other peripheral rural areas in the region. The outcomes suggest that important requirements of sustainable development are not always included in the everyday lives of local people.

**Marcela KÁČEROVÁ, Jana ONDAČKOVÁ, Jozef MLÁDEK**

**A COMPARISON OF POPULATION AGEING IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC BASED ON GENERATION SUPPORT AND EXCHANGE**

The object of study is the population of the Czech Republic and Slovak Republic, and the aim was to identify the process of population ageing using two approaches: temporal and spatial. In the analysis of population ageing sophisticated instruments of cognition were used. Indicators are based on the comparison of selected generation groups. The comparison shows a high degree of similarity. In the development of ageing processes, we can observe however also certain differences between the CR and SR. The population ageing in the Czech Republic starts earlier than in Slovakia, and the process is more intense.

**Josef KUNC, Bohumil FRANTÁL, Petr TONEV, Zdeněk SZCZYRBA**

**SPATIAL PATTERNS OF DAILY AND NON-DAILY COMMUTING FOR RETAIL SHOPPING: THE CASE OF THE BRNO CITY, CZECH REPUBLIC**

Retailing has become a significant driver of changes in the urban environment and one of the key setters of consumption rhythms in the Czech Republic after 1989. Commuting for retail shopping represents a significant part of daily mobility of inhabitants within the city. Weekend and irregular (specialized) shopping in shopping centers at the city periphery has grown in importance recently. The inner city is not a primary destination when buying foodstuffs anymore and it has been losing its position even in shopping for other than foodstuffs goods. A survey implemented within the inner Brno City has provided a view into the spatial patterns of urban shopping behavior and analyzed shopping places of local inhabitants. The paper presents and discusses selected results of the survey.