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ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL FACTORS INFLUENCING THE DEVELOPMENT OF GAY BUSINESSES AND PLACES: EVIDENCE FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION

The late 20th century emergence of gay neighbourhoods and their related businesses has been examined by a number of researchers, but few have tackled this issue on a larger scale compared to case studies in a national context. This study considers the development of European gay businesses and gay non-residential places, using principal components analysis on data from the Spartacus International Gay Guide of 2007. This is an unusual quantitative approach in the largely qualitatively-dominated field of geographies of sexualities. It has identified gay commodification and gay (in)visibilities as the most likely factors of spatial diversity in observed gay places. These two identified dimensions are then analysed in terms of their linkages, specificities and regional importance. Subsequently, the interactions between economic, cultural and social factors at stake in the development of gay business and non-residential places across Europe, are evaluated.

Jaroslav MARYÁŠ, Josef KUNC, Petr TONEV, Zdeněk SZCZYRBA

SHOPPING AND SERVICES RELATED TRAVEL IN THE HINTERLAND OF BRNO: CHANGES FROM THE SOCIALIST PERIOD TO THE PRESENT

Shopping and services related travel represent significant aspects of the service functions of settlements and belong to basic region-forming processes. They are relatively irregular movements, and the analyses of these processes are based on data which are not available from official sources. This article presents some results from a survey on the attraction of retail and services provision, as exemplified by service processes in the hinterland of Brno City. The results from our survey contain both a time dimension in a single-model space (in terms of a comparison between current results and those from the socialist era at the end of the 1970s), and the possibility to compare various methodologies using responses from municipalities and those from local residents. Hence, this article presents an outline of selected changes in the shopping resources and shopping and services related travel in the Brno hinterland, over a period of about three decades, with some interesting methodological aspects.

Michal DRUGA, Vladimír FALŤAN

INFLUENCES OF ENVIRONMENTAL DRIVERS ON LAND COVER STRUCTURE AND ITS LONG-TERM CHANGES: A CASE STUDY OF THE VILLAGES OF MALACHOV AND PODKONICE IN SLOVAKIA

The influence of environmental drivers on long-term land cover changes in two mountainous villages in Central Slovakia is assessed in this paper using generalized linear models (GLM). Historical cadastral maps and aerial photographs were analyzed to describe the land cover change over five time horizons ranging from 1860 to the present, using the CORINE Land Cover classification. The hypothesis that higher slope, elevation and distance to settlement strongly influence lower intensities of land use was mostly confirmed, but geology was also identified as an important factor. The category of 'forests' was the most accounted for land cover class, while arable land and grassland were only considerably affected by the drivers in some periods. On the other hand, shrubs were almost completely unrelated to the investigated drivers. The areas of land cover change were not so well explained by the GLMs.

Petr KLADIVO, Pavel NOVÁČEK, Jan MACHÁČEK, Jiří TEICHMANN

THE STATE OF THE FUTURE INDEX FOR THE CZECH REPUBLIC

The potential development of the Czech Republic is discussed in this paper by using the State of the Future Index (SOFI). This is the only index currently used worldwide that focuses not only on the present (unlike the Human Development Index and others), but also on the future development of opportunities and threats. The paper presents the computation of partial indices focusing economic, demographic, social and environmental factors, where the selection of indicators that enter the computations, including their weighting, is the outcome of a survey conducted among regional development and sustainability experts and academics.

Miloslav ŠERÝ

THE IDENTIFICATION OF RESIDENTS WITH THEIR REGION AND THE CONTINUITY OF SOCIO-HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

The regional identity of inhabitants in typologically different regions, which differ mainly in terms of the continuity of their socio-historical development, is examined in this article using the example of two case study areas. An important dimension of the concept of any population's regional identity is the phenomenon of the identification of inhabitants with their region, and this is subject to analysis in this paper. The research demonstrated that a stronger form of the identity phenomenon could be reported for the case study region in which socio-historical development had an uninterrupted continuity. The observed findings helped to confirm the importance of long-term processes in a region's formation.