

**Sylwia DOŁZBŁASZ**

**SYMMETRY OR ASYMMETRY? CROSS-BORDER OPENNESS OF SERVICE PROVIDERS IN POLISH-CZECH AND POLISH-GERMAN BORDER TOWNS**

The symmetry and/or asymmetry in terms of cross-border openness of service providers is examined in this article, for the cases of two border twin towns: Cieszyn/Český Těšín at the Polish-Czech border, and Gubin/Guben at the Polish-German border. To assess the level of openness of firms towards clients from the other side of the border, four trans-border categories were examined: neighbour's language visible at store location; business offers in the language of the neighbour; the possibilities of payment in the neighbour's currency; and the staff's knowledge of the language. This enabled a comparison of both parts of the particular twin towns in relation to the character of cross-border openness, as well as an assessment of their symmetry/asymmetry. Comparisons of Gubin/Guben and Cieszyn/Český Těšín with respect to the analysed features were also carried out. The analysis shows significant variation in the level of cross-border openness towards clients from neighbouring countries. Whereas in the Polish-Czech town a relative symmetry was observed, in the Polish-German case, significant asymmetry was noted.

**Daniel MICHNIAK, Marek WIĘCKOWSKI, Marcin STĘPNIAK, Piotr ROSIK**

**THE IMPACT OF SELECTED PLANNED MOTORWAYS AND EXPRESSWAYS ON THE POTENTIAL ACCESSIBILITY OF THE POLISH-SLOVAK BORDERLAND WITH RESPECT TO TOURISM DEVELOPMENT**

Further tourism development in the Polish-Slovak borderland, as well as its overall economic development, depends on the construction of a motorway and expressway network. This paper analyses the impact of selected planned motorways and expressways (D1, A4, D3/S69, R1/R3/S7, and R4/S19) on the potential accessibility of the Polish-Slovak borderland with respect to the development of tourism. The most important investment project in Slovakia is the completion of the (started) D1 motorway. The R4/S19 and the R1/R3/S7 expressways and the D3 motorway/S69 expressway are expected to contribute to improved cross-border connections.

**Pavel DOMALEWSKI, Jan BAXA**

**THE DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL DIFFERENTIATION OF OFFICE CONSTRUCTION IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC: 1990–2010**

The factors that were crucial for the construction of administrative buildings in the regional capitals of the Czech Republic are subject to examination in this article. One primary question is whether the development of office construction reflects the qualitative importance of the cities, or whether there are some other regularities in the spatial distribution of construction. To identify the key factors, controlled interviews with experts professionally involved in the construction of administrative buildings were carried out, and these data were then extended as part of a large-scale questionnaire survey with other experts on the issue. The results have confirmed the dominant position of the capital city of Prague in terms of its qualitative importance, as the remaining regional capitals have less than one-tenth of the volume of modern office building areas. The greatest differences in the construction of administrative buildings have been noted in Brno and Ostrava, despite the fact that they exhibit similar characteristics when considered in the light of respondent-determined factors.

**Silvie R. KUČEROVÁ, Jan D. BLÁHA, Zdeněk KUČERA**

**TRANSFORMATIONS OF SPATIAL RELATIONSHIPS IN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION: A CASE STUDY OF CHANGES IN TWO CZECH RURAL AREAS SINCE THE SECOND HALF OF THE 20TH CENTURY**

Transformations in the spatial organization of elementary education in Czechia over the last 50 years are examined in this article, via case studies of two rural regions (Turnov district and Zábřeh district). The aim of the study is to investigate the impact of general development trends in elementary schools in territorial detail. Changes in the spatial distribution of schools, the size of school catchment areas, and the main education-related commuter flows are analysed and visualized in cartographic form, in the context of educational policy and management.

**Róbert PAZÚR, Ján OĎAHEL', Martin MARETTA**

**THE DISTRIBUTION OF SELECTED CORINE LAND COVER CLASSES IN DIFFERENT NATURAL LANDSCAPES IN SLOVAKIA: METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK AND APPLICATIONS**

The distribution of selected CORINE land cover classes in different physical conditions was subject to modelling, analysis and evaluation in this article. In three regions with different geo-relief, the occurrence of land cover classes was analysed by using determinants commonly used in land-use models. Using three different modelling frameworks, the importance of methodological design in land-cover modelling was demonstrated. High levels of explanatory power for the factors defined here were found in landscapes of high heterogeneity. Findings derived from the statistical models highlight the importance of landscape disaggregation by natural conditions in complex land-cover or land-use models.