

Urban Rural Partnership - Its a matter of territorial justice and status of mind!

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SUMMARY

Nearly 20 years ago, in 2003, FIG and many partners from UN Habitat ,UN ECA , UNEP, UN FAO, Arab Federation of Surveyors etc have talked about Urban Rural Interrelationship for sustainable development. The remarkable result was the Marrakech Declaration. Its message and hope was to leave the prevailing urban rural dichotomy behind and to approach functioning urban rural linkages and even fair partnership. Why do we talk again about this issue at this FIG Congress being aware a lot of respective papers from UN GLTN , EU or e.g. European Ministers for Territorial Development („Territorial Agenda 2030: A future for all places“!) etc?

Because it's more urgent than ever in the light of ongoing or even increasing urban rural divide – around the world but even in rich countries like Bavaria, Suisse and Austria. Why does this still happen despite a lot of wonderful papers and promising policies?

My explanation is: It's the mind of decision makers , jobless and young best educated people! The mind of business leaders together with macro economists is conform with the saying that the future is urban! Therefore Apple, Google ,Microsoft, Amazon and other global players decide for agglomerations like Munich instead of moving to the countryside. It's also the mind of jobless people who hope for better jobs and income in the cities and instead very often experience urban poorness and a life in slums. And it's the mind of young mainly academic people who look for urban attractivities and high qualified urban jobs . Automatically they think more and more urban! They even question why the government should invest so much money in rural areas with no or too less economic return. They forget that cities can not live physically without the (land) resources of rural areas. And finally it's the mind of politicians who officially fight for liveable rural areas with jobs and for deceleration of big cities but allow unconsciously or inconsistently by their too liberal or wrong state development policy that big companies with thousands of new jobs still move to the

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metropolitan areas .They increase the urban problems like scarce and expensive housing , increasing poorness, traffic and temperature ,loss of green areas and- they cause a lot of rural problems (emptying areas ,ageing villages ..) etc. An urban rural battle for financial resources is threatening!

In times of climate crisis and loss of biodiversity on the one side and ongoing digitization and growing remote working and communication chances on the other side it is time to start a new urban rural partnership in the urban surroundings but also in the hinterland. This is a matter of solidarity and mutual respect .It is the task of state and its territorial development policies which should follow this fundamental indispensable values of each society!!That means that rural areas get or can generate rural jobs instead offering only commuting traffic to urban ones ;it also means modern infrastructure , education, healthcare etc thus keeping rural people in their homes instead of furthermore attracting them to the cities. Additionally a lot of mutual urban rural activities in the fields of jobs, education ,energy, recreation have to be launched called intercommunal or regional cooperation

The partnership must be based on the insight that there is no hierarchy and that all areas are dependent on each other .Both deserve equivalent living conditions everywhere like it is the message of TA 2030.

It is a matter of territorial justice!

Based on this (new?) mind and conviction we have to implement a lot of methods and instruments for urban rural continuum or even cooperation between urban centers and rural regions- mostly linked with or based on land resources and landmanagement!

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