Urban-rural partnerships and governance of peri-urban areas in an European perspective

Jörg Knieling
Hafencity University Hamburg
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Jörg Knieling, Marta Jacuniak-Suda, Andreas Obersteg
HafenCity University Hamburg
Overview

• Regenerative City-Regions
• URMA
• SURF
• EU-Policy
• Conclusion
The concept of regenerative cities
(H. Girardet, World Future Council)

• Development of an environmentally enhancing the relationship between cities and the natural systems whose resources they depend on

• Initiating respective comprehensive political, financial and technological strategies
Today: ‘Petropolis’

- Town
- Navigable river
- Air imports/exports
- Road imports/exports
- Rail imports/exports
- Sea imports/exports
- Global communications
- Oil imports
- Food imports
- Motorway links

Source: Herbert Girardet/Rick Lawrence
The Future: ‘Ecopolis’

- Town
- Navigable river
- Market gardening and community supported farms
- Nature park and community orchard
- Mixed farming and renewable energy
- Grazing and forests
- Air imports/exports
- Road imports/exports
- Sea imports/exports
- Global communications
- Renewable energy

Source: Herbert Girardet/Rick Lawrence
Linear metabolism

Based on Herbert Girardet/Rick Lawrence
Circular metabolism

- Recycling of organic waste
- Recycling of materials
- Minimum of emissions and waste

Based on Herbert Girardet/Rick Lawrence
The regenerative city means…

- Small ecological footprint
- Compact city development
- Energy efficiency
- Use of local renewable energy

A GIANT FOOTPRINT
The city on the left wastes resources:
- It gorges itself on meat, with animals fed mainly on imported feeds
- It uses timber and paper products without concern about their forest origins
- It emits vast amounts of CO2, requiring vast areas of vegetation to reabsorb it

A NIMBLE FOOTPRINT
The city on the right takes another chance:
- It citizens limit their meat consumption, preferring vegetable foods
- Timber and paper are used frugally and efficiently
- Tree planting schemes assure reabsorption of its limited CO2 output

Based on Herbert Girardet / Rick Lawrence
The regenerative city means...

- Zero emissions transport system
- Economically active city: environmental techniques and renewable energies
- Biodiversity in landscape design
- A city embedded in agricultural land, e.g. Detroit
From sustainable to regenerative development

- Minimises energy use, pollution and waste only to meet legal requirements.
- Places humans above ecosystems

- Minimises energy use, pollution and waste but does not challenge production or consumption patterns.
- Still places humans above ecosystems

- Minimises energy use, pollution and waste and challenges production and consumption and restores ecological cycles.
- Places humans within ecosystems
What are Urban-Rural Partnerships (URPs)?

“Project-oriented cooperation initiatives between different actors in metropolitan areas and their surrounding and more distant rural hinterlands with the aim to establish stable but flexible cooperation structures.”

(URMA-Approach)
Urban-Rural Partnerships as Instrument of EU Cohesion

- Focus on polycentric spatial development and new urban-rural relationships (ESDP 1999, 20)
- Recognition of mutual urban-rural dependency by integrated planning and steering based on a broad partnership (TAEU 2020, 8)
- Metropolitan regions should be responsible for the development of their surrounding areas (TAEU 2020, 8)
URMA Facts

• 01.12 – 12.2014
• Nine partners from six EU countries
  Westpomeranian, PL
  Krakow, PL
  Tuscany Region, IT
  Lombardia Region, IT
  Pleven, BUL
  Borne, NL
  City of Enschede, NL
  Hamburg, GER
URMA Objectives

- Promoting of urban-rural partnerships for territorial cohesion in Europe
- Exploring potentials of regional economic circles
- Implementing good practices of urban-rural cooperation
Typology of spatial approaches of URPs in the context of URMA

- **Inner-metropolitan scale**: cooperation between metropolitan core and its periurban area(s) (e.g. Milan metropolitan area)

- **Medium scale**: Inner-metropolitan region cooperation between urban area(s) and rural area(s). Also includes predominantly rural area(s) with a polycentric structure (e.g. Twente-Borne)

- **Large scale**: Supra-regional cooperation of metropolitan core area with rural hinterland (e.g. Hamburg-Jutland)
Governance in sub-urban areas in Hamburg Metropolitan Region

Lead projects of the Hamburg Metropolitan Region with the focus on energy, food, climate change, land use:

- Inter-state inland waters flood protection
- Research Project KLIMZUG-NORD: Strategies adapted to climate changes concerning Hamburg Metropolitan Region
- Changing attitudes to land use (Elmshorn)
- “Aus der Region für die Region”
- Neighbourhood forums (SURF)
Sustainable Urban Fringes (SURF)
INTERREG IV B, North Sea Programme 2009-2013

- Urban fringes are neglected areas in many city-regions
- Need for the recognition of opportunities and values of urban fringes
- Cities rely on the ecological services offered by the surrounding fringe area
Hamburg Neighborhood Forums

Stadt-Umland-Dialog
Struktur der "Nachbarschaftsforen"

Nordwest

Nordost

Süd
SURF: Recommendations

- Recognition of the role urban fringe areas can contribute to sustainable development through:
  - enhancing economic development,
  - enabling social cohesion and
  - promoting environmental sustainability

- Integration of urban fringes within future urban policy by the European Commission

- Development of specific urban fringe policies that bridge the gap between urban and rural
EU Policy perspectives?

• Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI): Possibility to bundle various EU-funds to implement a territorial strategy

• Community Lead Local Development (CLLD): funds for joint bottom-up local development strategies

• **RURBAN** initiative of the EU parliament and the Commission
RURBAN Objectives

- Better cooperation between different actors to develop and implement urban-rural initiatives
- Promotion of territorial multilevel governance
- Identifying the potential role of URPs to improve regional development
- Analysis how EU Regional Development / Agricultural funding can be used to support urban-rural cooperation
Urban-Rural Partnerships: Outlook

• How does the vision of the “Regenerative City-Region” look like?
• How to define a new relationship of urban and peri-urban resp. rural?
• What are approaches beyond administrative boundaries?
• What peri-urban governance is suitable: actors, institutions, processes …?
HafenCity University Hamburg
Urban Planning and Regional Development

Prof. Dr. Jörg Knieling
joerg.knieling@hcu-hamburg.de

Marta Jacuniak-Suda
marta.jacuniak@hcu-hamburg.de

Andreas Obersteg
andreas.obersteg@hcu-hamburg.de

Thank you!