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**RAUMFORSCHUNG UND
RAUMORDNUNG**

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Call for Paper

Land management and property management – new challenges in declining and growing cities and regions

Special issue of the journal “Raumforschung und Raumordnung | Spatial Research and Planning”

Land and property management has a cross-sectional field of responsibility, with objectives and strategies that are influenced by profound changes in demography, economy and ecology. Similarly, there has been a change in the role of state and civil society, in the inherent logic of the actors involved, and in understandings of what constitutes social values.

In recent years complex problems and challenges have emerged in regions characterised by dynamic growth, and also in those experiencing decline. Furthermore, this has occurred on various spatial scales and has affected the spatial development of both urban and rural regions. The wide range of analytical and strategic issues relevant to land and property management can be outlined by considering the following five fields:

- A first strategic area concerns demographic change and regional and international migration. In declining regions – in cities as in villages – it is necessary to manage the long-term adaptation of settlement structures and infrastructure in line with decreasing population figures and the aging and increased diversity of the population. Consequently, targeted strategies are required to ensure that equitable living conditions are provided in all sub-regions, under consideration of social premises like economic sustainability, accessibility and the quality of public services. There is also a need for development prospects for city and town centres experiencing abandonment, structurally weak regions, brownfield sites and empty buildings, etc. On the other hand, prosperous regions are experiencing new allocation and distribution problems in terms of socially fair land uses and adequate housing provision. Due to intraregional variations in strongly growing and declining areas, sustain-

able development also requires the implementation of compensation mechanisms on different spatial scales.

- A second strategic field is linked to land-use management outside urban areas, where there has been rapid growth in demand for land for various purposes. Significant drivers of land consumption are the sustained growth in land used for settlement and transport, food production to ensure global food security, the production of biomass for energy and material use, and the use of land for environmental protection and nature conservation. The focus is on concepts, analysis methods, evaluation approaches and strategies for resource-efficient sustainable land use that can also deal with conflicts between competing land uses.
- A third strategic field is concerned with the consequences of global climate change. Current research findings on medium- and long-term effects suggest that comprehensive mitigation and adaptation measures for spatial structures and land use are necessary. These include the energy transition as a contribution to climate protection, particularly in terms of the comprehensive management of the location of developments for the production of renewable energy. Also of relevance is risk management as a contribution to climate adaptation in the cities and regions, for instance through preventative flood protection.
- Changes in social values give rise to a fourth field, which is of great relevance to land policy. Recognition of the limited nature of natural resources and system linkages and their fundamental importance for sustainable development is leading to changes in valuations and weightings used in spatial planning and development processes. The protection of biotic and abiotic resources including built areas and open space, the conservation of biodiversity and the protection and development of cultural landscapes through adapted land development concepts are intended to contribute towards the safeguarding of ecosystem services for society in the long term.
- Finally, new forms of governance and planning methods for land and property management are rendered necessary by political transformations involving changes in understandings of state and society, moving away from notions of the caring welfare state towards a motivating and enabling social state with active citizenship. Such governance forms and planning methods can be summarised under the keywords cooperative, citizen-oriented and participative, project-oriented and implementation-friendly. As the public sphere withdraws from attempts to direct development, at least in some instances, and governance structures change, it is necessary to find optimised solutions that involve the – preferably voluntary – participation of many actors. Capacity building thus also faces new challenges.

In the light of fundamental changes in the coupled human-environment systems of cities and regions, the range of new tasks for land and property management is complex and requires intensive analysis of theoretical bases and models, a broadening of empirical foundations, and the critical examination and further development of instruments and working practices.

The increasing importance of cross-sectoral interactions renders an even stronger interdisciplinary approach indispensable. The significant progress made in data and information analysis, information exchange and transparency, e.g. the greater requirements for transparency in the property market, must be integrated in working practices.

This is the background against which the journal “Raumforschung und Raumordnung” is preparing a special issue on the topic of “Land management and property management – new challenges in declining and growing cities and regions”. The editors of the journal are inviting submissions of papers focusing on the points named above.

Papers must be submitted online by August 31, 2017 via the journal website (<http://www.springer.com/earth+sciences+and+geography/geography/journal/13147>). The website also contains guidelines for manuscript preparation. In September 2017 you will be

notified as to whether the submitted manuscript has been accepted for the review process. It is anticipated that the review process will be completed by the end of 2017. Publication of the special issue is planned for 2018.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Concerning the contents of the papers: Prof. Dr. Theo Kötter, University of Bonn (E-Mail: koetter@uni-bonn.de). For organizational questions: The Editors-in-Chief Prof. Dr. Andreas Klee (E-Mail: klee@arl-net.de) and Angelika Krehl (E-Mail: angelika.krehl@ils-forschung.de).