

International conference – Urban Sprawl – Problem or Solution?

21st of May, Prague, Czech Republic

Matter and objective of the conference

The purpose of the project is to draw attention to problems caused by suburbanization; look for solutions by means of scientific and Visegrad co-operation; present the solutions to the central/local government and to the public at large; positively influence urban policies of the individual countries.

The purpose is to be served by a conference, publication of conference papers, public debate, workshop and an information campaign. Outputs will be put for a public debate and published.

The conference program will be divided into two parts:

1. Short plenary lectures—general introduction, history, international comparison, drivers of suburbanization, suburbanization in the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia, implications for the economy, developers' view and the role of town planning and construction law.

2. Interactive workshops:

a) opportunities for the central and local governments to influence the situation (role of town planning, participation, etc.);

b) social aspects of suburbanization (symbiosis of old and new residents, transformation of local communities);

c) quality of new developments from the point of view of an architect.

The conference will conclude with a summary of conclusions and recommendations.

A collection of conference papers and conclusions will be published and distributed. It will be available also on the website of Agora CE.

A workshop for central and local governments will be organised, reflecting on the conclusions of the conference;

The conference conclusions will be popularized by means of a broad public debate which will be extensively publicized (TV, radio, LN, etc.); press articles and interviews in the media will attract public attention to the topic.

Target groups and groups benefiting from the project

The groups the conference is supposed to target are state and civic sector bodies at all levels. At the national level these include primarily the central government bodies – the Ministry for Regional Development, Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture. At the regional level, the target group includes representatives of the regional government. At the local level, the conference will target mayors, municipalities, local governments, as well as civic initiatives and citizens from suburban communities. Academic scientists and especially university students (geography, sociology, etc., at the Charles University, Prague) are also an important target group.

Preliminary program and follow up:

A. Plenary – short introductory lectures:

9.30 – 10.00	introduction (Min. reg. development – Půček, deputy minister, Ministry of environment, etc.)
10.00 – 11.15	expert panel – addressing problems and possible solutions (economics, infrastructure, social reflection, urban planning, possibilities of public administration and governments)
11.00 – 11.20	break
11.30 – 12.15	presentation of partners (case of Bratislava, Wroclaw?)
12.15 – 13.00	presentation of Prague and Brno

B. workshops

14.00 – 15.30	Workshops – problems of small municipalities, big municipalities, region
	Every workshop will be opened by one or two typical examples (bad or good) as a starting point. Experts will be looking for possible solutions.
15.30 – 16.00	presentation of workshop outcomes
16.00 –	conclusions, recommendations.

- Follow up: conference proceedings,
- Seminar for municipal officers composed from results of the conference, public debate for general public (potential inhabitants of suburbs) about outcomes.