

The 3rd International Geography Symposium - GEOMED2013**Holistic approach to revitalised old industrial areas**

Lučka Lorber*

Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts, University of Maribor, Koroška cesta 160, 2000 Maribor, Slovenia

Abstract

Old industrial centers, especially those in the South-eastern Europe (SEE) which had developed in a different socio-economic system, did not respond to changes in global economic trends of the post-industrial production in a timely manner. Integration in the Common European Market and transition to market economy brought a rapid breakdown of traditional industry sectors. University of Maribor participated in the international project ReTInA – Revitalization of Traditional Industrial Areas within the SEE program. The main aim of the project was to develop a method of Revitalization of old industrial areas in SEE based on a model which results from good practice, case studies and includes engagement of local and regional stakeholders. Socio-political changes in the European area very often resulted in the open question of ownership and the conflict of interests between the public and private sectors. Social responsibility in the initiators of Revitalization is also not developed sufficiently for public funds to be allocated for the preparation of the area (planning, decontamination, spatial plan, etc.) to attract the investors. In the context of the project we came to the conclusion that the SEE countries do not pursue the implementation of the European spatial development perspective policies. We established that a majority of countries do not have adequate strategies to tackle the problem of brownfields. Problems also occur due to the lack of adequate experts. Only the holistic approach to Revitalization of old industrial areas will enable us to assure a new quality to managing urban environment of the degraded cities. The long-term aim of the project is Revitalization of old industrial areas in order to provide new jobs and assure sustainable development, as well as to create synergy between providing quality living, social security and sustainability.

© 2013 The Authors. Published by Elsevier Ltd. Open access under [CC BY-NC-ND license](#).
Selection and peer-review under responsibility of the Organizing Committee of GEOMED2013.

Keywords: Holistic approach; brownfields; old industrial areas; sustainability; ReTInA project.

* Corresponding author. Tel.: +0386-41-331142
E-mail address: lucka.lorber@um.si

1. Introduction

The processes of deindustrialization and tertiarization meant the movement of employees from secondary into tertiary and quaternary activities, a fundamental characteristic of the postindustrial period. Due to the achievements of science, the new industrial production increasingly required new information and financial services, and the existing stereotype of industry changed. The industrial giants, once the pride and driving force of development, were confronted with major difficulties. In the most developed countries, this process began at the end of the 1950's and became a problem in the 1960's. Labour-intensive branches of industry could not compete with the rapidly growing »footloose« industry in creating added value (Lorber, 1999). GDP structure shows the industry and agriculture shares are declining and the share of services is growing. Environments that had responded to the new economic trends, stimulated by the effects of globalization, in a timely manner, and which started preventive structural adjustment to the economic sectors on time avoided the effects of negative de-industrialization. The latter has mainly had an adverse effect on old industrial centres where neither local authorities nor economic management detected any danger. Due to inactivity of the economic management the endangered conventional industrial activities did not experience the crucial structural adjustment of the economy in a timely manner. Consequently, that brought the decline of the old industrial areas featuring mainly labour-intensive, energy-wasteful and environmentally problematic manufacturing activities in the second half of the past century. In addition to textile industry and heavy industry, the crisis reflected on primary energy production in particular – coal mining. The reason for that was in the increasingly globalised world economy and, consequently, the development of global maritime commerce, which, in addition to the too high labour costs in developed countries, was the main reason for the decline of the entire individual processing industries.

During the first industrialization stage, the economic location factors were the ones to define where particular industries should be located. Industrial regions were formed in the proximity of coal mines, raw materials deposits and spatially-bound and expensive transportation at the time, as well as due to the advantages of technologically interconnected manufacturing processes. Building up the industrial centres attracted the flow of labour force. Rapid industrialization and urbanization processes changed the physiognomy of the landscape.

Development of science and technology and new energy sources pushed the old industrial regions into a crisis, which reflected in declining income, high rate of unemployed unskilled labour force and in severe degradation of physical space. The crisis began in the United States of America and, during the mid-Seventies, initially continued in Great Britain, West Germany and France. In Europe, its most adverse effects were seen in textile- and coal industries. Unprofitable production was abandoned and coal mines were closed. By way of doing that, abandoned industrial areas, called brownfields appeared. Many of them were also environmentally degraded and were, as such, potentially hazardous for human health. Abandonment of jobs had an adverse effect on social status of the wider area of the desolate industrial locations. Living conditions deteriorated, which, due to the increase of crime rates, had a negative impact on the entire areas.

In the miscellany *Die Erneuerung alter Industrieregionen - Oekonomischer Strukturwandel und Regionalpolitik im internationalen Vergleich* (Hesse, 1988), the authors published their contributions to the project called Regional structural changes, compared on the international level. The contributions discuss the example of old industrial regions: Pittsburgh, ZDA, (Giarratani, Houston, 1988); West Midlands with Birmingham, Great Britain (Spencer K.M., 1988), Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France (Dormand, 1988) and Ruhr region, Germany (Klemmeier, 1988), (Hesse, 1988).

The destiny these regions shared was similar. In the 60's, they started to make structural adjustments to the conventional industry. The method of problem solving was founded on state consensus and national interest in saving old centres of economic power in individual countries. The approaches to tackling these issues were similar.

For Pittsburgh, the planners created a strategy founded on:

- introduction of high technologies, development and research,
- consolidating regional economic basis for metal industry and on organization of an international corporations headquarters (soft loans, low taxes),
- change in land use, restructuring and improving qualifications of labour force,
- ecologization of the industry and revitalisation of degraded areas,
- improvement of quality of living and residential settlements and revival of tourism,

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/1116853>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/1116853>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)