

# How do perceive the residents around medium or large river their countryside

International scientific conference **THE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES OF URBAN RIVERS**  
Chateau Křtiny, April 19th – 22th, 2016

© Mgr. Matej Jaššo, PhD.  
Spectra, Centre of Excellence, FA STU Bratislava  
Ing. Igor Kyselka, CSc., Mgr. Robert Veselý  
Institute for spatial development - UUR Brno



## **Guarantors of the project:**

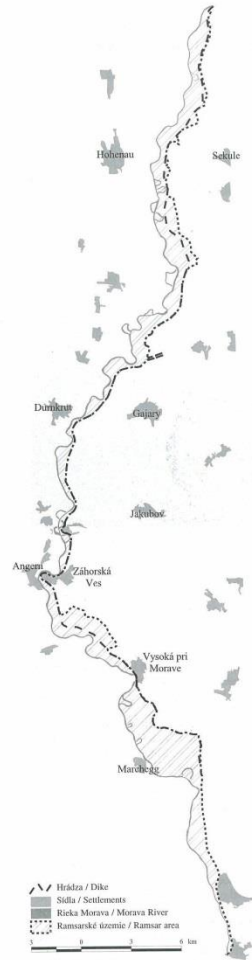
- Academy for Spatial and Regional Planning in Hanover
- SPECTRA, Centre of Excellence at the Faculty of Architecture of the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava

## **Participants in the project:**

- **The Institute for Ecological spatial development in Dresden** - The overall coordination of the project, dealing with the Elbe valley between Dresden and Hřensko
- **University of Jan Evangelista Purkyně in Ústí nad Labem**  
Czech lower Elbe – Ústecko
- **Institute for Spatial Development Brno**  
Niva Morava and Dyje Breclav district after their confluence
- **Faculty of Architecture of the Slovak Technical University in Bratislava**  
Slovak Morava River basin – Zahorie
- **The Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest**  
part of the Tisza in Hungary in the northeastern county of Szabolcs - Szatmár - Bereg

# Area of interest (SK)

Úvod – význam a funkcie aluviálnych lúk, ochrana prírody



## Základné informácie o dolnej časti záplavového územia rieky Moravy Base Information on Low Part of Morava River Floodplain

Dĺžka toku / Length of Morava River flow	78.9 km
Dĺžka hrádze / Length of dikes	63.3 km
Plocha zahrádzovaného územia / Diked area	43.6 km <sup>2</sup>
Plocha ramsarského územia / Ramsar area	51.5 km <sup>2</sup>



Mapa/Map 1. Ramsarské územie „Niva rieky Moravy (slovenská časť)“ / Ramsar site „Morava River floodplain (Slovak part)“

im poskytujú rozsiahle nivné lúky na slovenskej strane rieky. V nive Moravy sa vyskytujú aj mnohé druhy migrujúcich vtákov vrátane viacerých celoeurópsky aj celosvetovo ohrozených druhov. Preto organizácia BirdLife International zaradila toto územie medzi významné vtáčie územia (IBA).

Niva Moravy patrí do geomorfologických oblastí Záhorská nížina a Juhomoravská panva, ktoré sú súčasťou Viedenskej kotliny (Mazúr & Lukniš 1980). Fytogeograficky ju možno zaradiť do oblasti panónskej flóry - Pannonicum (Futák 1980).

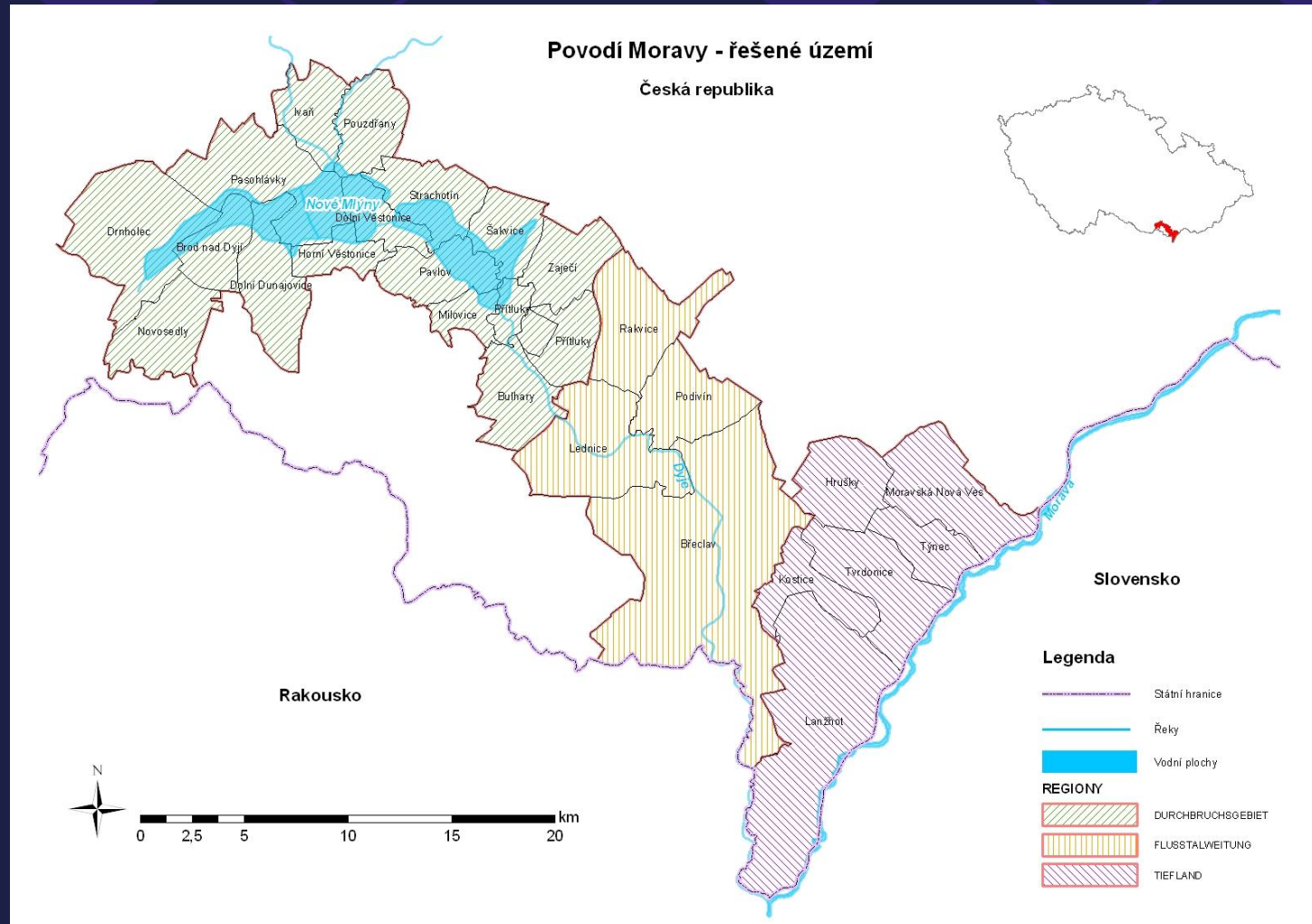
V reliéfe územia sa odráža vplyv štvrtoborných fluvialných a eolických procesov. Rovina s pieskami pokrytými borovicovým lesom v centrálnej časti Záhorskej nížiny patrí medzi menej úrodné oblasti, na rozdiel od riečnych terás Moravy, na ktorých sa vytvorili úrodné pôdy. Najrozšírejšími pôdnymi typmi na skúmanom území sú fluvizeme a čierne. Fluvizeme (nivné pôdy) dominujú najmä v pobrežnej zóne, v maximálnej vzdialenosti 1 km od toku. Na vyšších častiach nivy, kde sa záplavy vyskytujú len občas,

In addition, the Morava River floodplain contains many species of migrating birds, including ones that are threatened on a European and global scale, and is designated as an Important Bird Area (IBA) by BirdLife International.

The Morava River floodplain is part of geomorphological units Záhorská nížina lowland and Juhomoravská panva that belongs to the Vienna Basin (Mazúr & Lukniš 1980). From a phytogeographical point of view (Futák 1980), the study area belongs to the phytogeographical region of pannonic flora - Pannonicum.

The relief of the territory is a result of quarter fluvial and eolic processes. The plains of the central section of Záhorská nížina lowland are less fertile, sandy and covered by pine forest, but the terraces of the Morava River contain fertile soils. Among the soil types, fluvisols and phaeozems are mostly distributed. Fluvisols (alluvial soils) predominate in the riparian zone up to a width of approximately one kilometre, and phaeozems dominate in more elevated parts of the floodplain where floods are temporary. Waterlogged soils

# Area of interest (CZ)

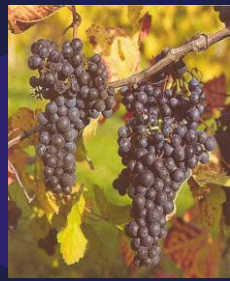


# Characteristics of the area of interest

- The old, from prehistory populated cultural landscape;
- One of the warmest and driest areas in the Czech and Slovak republic
- Significant agricultural and viticultural area;
- Concentration of natural and cultural attractions;
- Biking and wine tourism.



# Objectives of the project:



- Processing of the pilot development regional planning document addressing complex care, use and development of selected sections of the river landscape, where the final solution requires cross-border coordination and cooperation,
- Compliance protection and development of natural and cultural heritage of the selected area, sustainable economic exploitation of the floodplain, taking into account the interests of water management, agriculture, forestry and recreational tourism
- A questionnaire survey findings how strongly affects the life of inhabitants of the river and the issues around it,
- Based on the results of the questionnaires are then significantly modified potentials, perspectives and recommendations for the balanced development of the territory.



# The main purpose of resolving the territory (in the project elaborated in detail)

- Sustainable and scalable land use
  - Renewal of the countryside and revitalising of the landscape
  - Protecting of wet forests
  - Principles of sustainable farming
  - Soft Recreation and Tourism
  - Ensuring compliance in forestry and water management and nature conservation
- Economic Development and Transport



# The main needs of the area in cross-border cooperation

- Coordination of clean water care
- Coordination in flood protection
- Cross-border use of fishing rivers
- Cross-border hiking and biking
- Common action in the protection of endangered animals
  - beavers
  - cormorants
- Transport





# Slovak region - Záhorie

## SK:

- 320 respondents were involved in the research concerning regional identity of the area delimited by river Moravia landscape in Slovakia.
- The following municipalities were represented most frequently: Devín, Devínska Nová Ves, Malacky, Stupava, Plavecký Štvrtok, Zohor, Kúty, Lozorno, Pernek and several smaller settlements in the region Záhorie.
- There were included both the urban as well as typical rural surroundings.
- This distance of the respondents' living place varied from immediate vicinity to river (Devín, Devínska Nová Ves) up to more than 20 km of the river (Pernek).

# Identity of the area

- region is a socially constructed, locally embedded entity that has no exactly delimited borders and there is supposed to be a collective shared meaning among its inhabitants and other local actors (Jekel 2001)
- identity of region, town or area has its origin in Latin word *genius loci*. It means the original qualities of place giving an existential value („place attachment“, „Wir-Gefuehl“).
- phenomena of regional identity is neither exclusively architectural nor cultural/social issue and must be researched and treated by highly balanced interdisciplinary approach.
- regional identity grows up from the combination of the natural characteristics of the living space (rivers, terrain, morphology) and the artificial interventions of the human being (settlements, infrastructure).
- in recent years – several new tools of strategic management appeared in order to steer and communicate the regional identity (Branding, CI).

# Czech region – Lower Podyjí and Pomoraví

## CZ:

- 300 respondents were involved, from the area of Morava and Dyje river landscape.
- The following municipalities were represented most frequently: Dolní Věstonice, Drnholec, Pasohlávky, Lednice, Břeclav, Moravská Nová Ves, Lanžhot
- Predominantly rural settlements (except of Břeclav)
- Only the respondents´ living in the settlement in near vicinity of the river were included



# Perception of Landscape

1<sup>st</sup> family and relations among its members were the principal elements connecting the respondents toward the landscape space

- 2<sup>nd</sup> placed factors of importance were the friends, neighbours, colleagues, former classmates and other types of mate to mate relations
- connection to landscape and natural environment (3<sup>rd</sup> rank) was preferred mainly by middle-aged generation (aged 35-50), larger households members and respondents having completed secondary education.
- the general role of the river in the minds of the respondents has been investigated separately. The river itself denotes primarily the landscape element and the area that is suitable for relax and leisure-time activities. The threat of floods has been also perceived, though with lower intensity. Only occasionally the river was perceived as a transport corridor and even less frequently as a background for livelihood. Almost never the river was considered as a barrier.

# River Identity

the term of identity seems to be rather too complex and sophisticated to be answered directly.

- many respondents answered that river represents „no identity“ for them, although their answers in other question were rather complex.
- analysing the other answers, we can assert that the concept of identity is frequently bound to phenomena of relax, sport, fishing, nature in general etc.
- identity of the living space is predominantly more connected to landscape aspects than to historical and cultural aspects. Some respondents perceived the regional identity in a more dynamic manner (mutual communication, connection to entire world). Some occasional expressions used a metaphor („Living element of the space“, „Soul of the river“).
- we deem extraordinary important to communicate the life stories of the famous people connected to this region, historical experiences and outstanding natural potential of the area in order to foster the feeling of identification with lived space and thus continuously build up „the collective memory of the region“.

# Political and Economical Situation

the economic situation in the region has been perceived as rather favourable. The most of the respondents has preferred a medium profiled answers (rather favourable, rather unfavourable).

- but there is general passivity and rather indifferent reserved attitude toward the regional development. The respondents have shown in their verbal expressions some involvement, though without deeper and binding commitment. („social desirability“)
- positive aspects of the changes during recent 10 years - development of physical environment (new housing development, refurbishment of public places) as well as the improvement of the technical infrastructure.
- the improvement in the „soft“ fields has been perceived as less apparent. The leisure-time and relax amenities, cultural centres and especially sport playgrounds have been considered to be neglected.

# BORDER-FREE RIVER BASINS



## Political and Economical Situation

- the most of the mentioned negative impacts might be deemed as negative side-effects of political and economical transition processes during the nineties (diminishing of work places, decrease of services, less frequent public transport connections).
- environmental situation and protection of nature has been singled out as another significant field of concern.
- rising criminality rate in the region (mainly in rural region Záhorie) – drug abuse, car thefts.
- the insufficient opportunities in term of cultural, relax and sport activities have been outspoken even more sensitive than the lacks in the field of technical infrastructure (sewage, water, roads). The results indicate that although the natural conditions for sport and leisure time activities (landscape, forests, lakes) are of extraordinary good quality, the urban facilities for sport and relax are severely missing („need for urban elements“)

# Relations to Living Space

the connections to family, friends and place are so stable and persistent, that more than 2/3 of respondents easily excluded the option to move away at all.

- the most of the respondents were born at lived place or they have strong family ties regarding this region. The answer „I am fully satisfied living here“ has been also frequent and indicates the vital positive attitude to the lived place. Only a small number of respondents preferred their lived space because of other reasons (favourable geographical position of the region, the proximity to work place etc.).
- on the other hand, the labour and social mobility is significantly low. A conservative, a little bit „sleepy“ attitude regarding the labour mobility is typical especially for the inhabitants of the rural region Záhorie.
- the social climate of the region has been perceived as friendly (do not overestimate it!) but also as „split apart“. In addition, there have been occasional attempts to describe social climate by different adjectives than supplied by questionnaire (selfish, boring, envy, stimulating etc.).



# Values and Image

the natural potential has been shown as clearly dominant value of the region/lived space. The ecological and environmental values were also significantly taken into consideration (mainly in CZ). In opposite, the values connected more to economical growth appeared to be secondary.

- the internal image of the region has been perceived by respondents as clearly positive. The most of the respondents feels to be strongly identified with lived space and manifest a highly profiled attitude of pride and togetherness toward the region.
- the external image of the region has been considered even more positive than internal image. The respondents have considered their region to be among the top regions in Slovakia and have expressed to feel proud to be part of it (might be subjective)
- the region has been perceived as *pleasant, friendly* (mainly in CZ), *spacious* and with *good perspectives*. Less apparently, the region has been pointed out also as expensive, attractive and calm. The respondents were split apart whether the region is noisy or quite and most of them did not consider the region as extraordinary.

# Values and Image

the most of the respondents assumed that there is no visual symbol of the region/lived place. This indicates that the region is not sufficiently communicated within the regional marketing strategy and there is lack in the field of regional Corporate Design or Corporate Identity.

- moreover, we suppose the lack of strategic vision of further regional development which could enable visual style to be anchored on the strategic basis.
- few answers referring to visual language were concentrated on the „Stupava Pub“, that according to renown legend, is still „sad“ or the Cabbage Days in Stupava. Well-known song „Išeu Macek do Mauacek“ was also mentioned several times.
- „Lednice – the Pearl of Moravia“ have been mentioned in CZ, Lanžhot
- however, the symbols that have been mentioned as carriers of the traditional identity, were rather verbal or musical than visual. All the traditional content of visual language heritage (heraldry, visual symbols, colours) is slightly weakened down. This means a real challenge in terms of the communication activities of the region and its municipalities (advertising, promotion).

# EU perspectives

- although only few respondents brought comprehensible answers to question mapping out the modified role of the border river after the accession to EU, the general attitudes are positive attitudes.
- inhabitants strongly feel the shift which the river had made in their minds: the river is no more perceived as a barrier helping the dictatorship regime to separate people and is perceived more in its natural and cultural dimension.
- river landscape is an unparalleled opportunity to relax, enjoy sport and to keep contacts with natural environment.
- Morava as common property of both national states (SLK-AUT, CZ-AUT) making the cross-border cooperation rather more challenging than more difficult.
- Morava has not been perceived as a border-line river between SK and CZ (the mutual ties are still strong)



# BORDER-FREE RIVER BASINS

## Future tasks:

1. coping of the common threats (criminality, migration, environmental catastrophes)
2. synergy effect of the utilisation of the joint potentials (tourism, traffic, relax, water sports)
3. economic development (to build up the strong and highly profiled region successful on European market)



# BORDER-FREE RIVER BASINS

