Territories-In-Between: A European Cross Case Study on the Planning of Areas Between Urban and Rural

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Urbanism / Spatial Planning and Strategy

Area of Research: Urbanism

Research Summary: Europe is largely made of “middle landscapes”, or “hybrid geographies”. These Territories-in-between (TiB) are areas where new functions, uses and lifestyles arise as a result of the on-going interaction of urban and rural elements. They cannot solely be explained as an intensification of urban functions in the rural environment, but have specific spatial and programmatic features that set them apart. Concepts like sub-urbanisation, urban-rural relations or peri-urban do not reflect the diversity and complexity of these territories. The key hypothesis of the research is that the network characteristics of territories-in-between determine their spatial development and performance.

Research Methodology: This project proposes to investigate the research questions through a cross-national comparison of the form and performance of TiB. The investigation includes first the analysis of ten cases to achieve an overview of the variety of spatial structures and performance of TiB in Europe and second the analysis of related spatial policy responses in the cases in order to investigate relations between form, performance and policies.