

**Interreg
Danube Region**



Co-funded by
the European Union



ReInd-BBG

Territorial Agenda 2030 and Beyond

European Spatial Planning Strategies

Re-Industrialization following the Brownfield is Better than Greenfield Principle

D1.1.1 Territorial Agenda 2030 and Beyond. European Spatial Planning Strategies

Version 1

Authors: Emilie Stecher (BOKU); Cecilia Furlan (BOKU); Tanja Faganel (CCIS); Roland Tusch (BOKU);
Jürgen Furchtlehner (BOKU)

Contributors: Ivan Borovcanin (RAV); Petra Velej (Municipality Hrastnik)

Programme call:	The Interreg Danube Region Programme (DRP)
Project Start Date:	01-01-2024
Duration:	30 months
Deliverable Lead Beneficiary:	BOKU
Dissemination Level:	PU
Contact of responsible author:	Cecilia.furlan@boku.ac.at Emilie.Stecher@boku.ac.at

This project has received funding from The Interreg Danube Region Programme (DRP)

Disclaimer:

This document reflects only the author's view. The Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.

Dissemination level:

- PU = Public
- CO = Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)

Content

1	Introduction	6
	Introduction to the activity and its aim	
2	Key event: Territorial Agenda 2030	7
	The expert lecture on European Spatial Planning	
3	Conclusions and Reflection	12
	Presenting the learnings and a clear path forward for the BBG-Interreg project	
	Bibliography	13
	Where to learn more?	13

VERSION	DATE	AUTHOR	ORGANISATION	DESCRIPTION / COMMENTS
1.0		Emilie Stecher Cecilia Furlan	BOKU	Table of Contents and First Draft Version (overall)
1.1	4.6.	Roland Tusch	BOKU	Minor Corrections
1.2	20.6.	Ivan Borovcanin	RAV	Reviewed – Comments
1.3	21.6.	Petra Velej	M. Hrastnik	Reviewed
1.4	24.6.	Emilie Stecher	BOKU	Review comments finalisation of the text
1.5	24.6	Cecilia Furlan	BOKU	Review comments finalisation of the text
1.6	25.6.	Emilie Stecher and Cecilia Furlan	BOKU	Final layout and last changes

Acronyms and Abbreviations used in this Deliverable

ASP – Associated Strategic Partners

DR – Danube Region

PPs – Project Partners

ReInd-BBG – Reindustrialisation Following the Brownfield is Better than Greenfield Principle

Publishable Summary

On May 15, 2024, as part of the ReInd-BBG project's Capacity-Building activities, project partners (PPs), associated strategic partners (ASPs), and the professional community had the opportunity to attend an interactive lecture by Professor Emeritus Andreas Faludi on the Territorial Agenda 2030. The Territorial Agenda 2030 is a strategic framework document guiding the strengthening of the territorial dimension and spatial planning policies at different levels of governance. The agenda aims to foster an inclusive and sustainable future for all regions, aiding in achieving Sustainable Development Goals across Europe. It supports key European objectives, promoting a Just Europe that ensures future opportunities for all places and people and a Green Europe that safeguards everyday livelihoods and drives societal transition. From the perspective of the ReInd-BBG project, this topic is highly significant because the project's transnational roadmap for ReInd-BBG Re-industrialisation is thematically based on objectives formulated in the Territorial Agenda 2030 ("reduce land consumption", "build strong and sustainable local economies"). Past, present, and future European Spatial Planning frameworks and strategies were discussed and elaborated, shedding light on their challenges and opportunities.

On the Territorial Agenda

Prof. Andreas Faludi
TU DELFT

15.05.2024
14.00 - 16.00h
Faculty Club (SCHW-DG/105)



Promoted by: ReInd-BBG Reindustrialisation
Following the Brownfield is Better than Greenfield Principle

Coordination: Emilie Stecher, Cecilia Furlan,
Roland Tusch, Jürgen Furchtlehner



interreg
Danube Region



Co-funded by
the European Union



Figure 1 Poster for the Key Event on the Territorial Agenda 2030 hosting Prof. Andreas Faludi

1. Introduction

This report — Deliverable 1.1.1 of Activity 1.1 — concerns the transnational online event for PPs, ASP, stakeholders, and policy-makers to raise attention to the brownfield issue in the DR in the context of the Territorial Agenda 2030. The Territorial Agenda 2030 is a strategic framework document guiding the strengthening of the territorial dimension and spatial planning policies at different levels of governance. The agenda aims to foster an inclusive and sustainable future for all regions, aiding in achieving Sustainable Development Goals across Europe. It supports key European objectives, promoting a Just Europe that ensures future opportunities for all places and people and a Green Europe that safeguards everyday livelihoods and drives societal transition (TA2030, 2020). The report discusses the results and critical reflections on the organised activity.

The report addresses additions and clarifications to the topic methodology adopted.

The aim of the organized interactive event by the ReInd-BBG project is to highlight the common objective of **sustainable territorial development** while recognising the development potentials and challenges of brownfields. Therefore, an expert on European Spatial Planning Policies has been invited for an online event on the **Territorial Agenda 2030 and Beyond: European Spatial Planning Strategies**. The event took place on May 15th from 14:00 to 16:00 with Professor emeritus Andreas Faludi under the organisation of the BOKU team (Emilie Stecher, Cecilia Furlan, Roland Tusch and Jürgen Furchtlehner).

The event aimed to provide the participating partners with the most comprehensive understanding of European spatial planning through the key figure of **Professor** emeritus **Andreas Faludi**. Prof. Faludi is one of the most influential experts on territorialisation and European Spatial and Territorial Planning (Chapter 1). In an interactive online session, the participating partners, as well as stakeholders, policy-makers, researchers, and students, had the unique chance to learn about the background, development, and future perspectives of spatial planning strategies in Europe and its connection to the Territorial Agenda 2030 from Prof. Faludi (Chapter 2). The discussion results directly impact the ReInd-BBG project's potentials, which aim to promote sustainable territorial development in the context of Brownfield Reindustrialization (Chapter 3).

The BOKU team (Emilie Stecher, Cecilia Furlan, Roland Tusch and Jürgen Furchtlehner) steered the transnational online event on the Territorial Agenda 2030 on behalf of the ReInd-BBG consortium.

2. Key Event: Territorial Agenda 2030

The Territorial Agenda 2030 offers a framework for joint action in European spatial planning yet lacks national support. An online capacity-building event raised awareness of the importance of transnational spatial planning strategies for sustainable territorial development.

Lecture from an international expert

To provide the project partners with the most critical knowledge on the Territorial Agenda 2030, the BOKU team invited professor emeritus Andreas Faludi to an online session titled “The Territorial Agenda 2030 and Beyond: European Spatial Planning Strategies”. Professor Andreas Faludi has been selected for ReInd-BBG capacity building activity because he is one of the most important figures behind the analysis of European spatial planning. His impact has been diverse, unquestionable, and initiating. The European planning discipline developed a solid theoretical foundation through his work and action.

The Dutch and European planning debate has gained many ideas on how to frame spatial development and spatial planning, influencing European spatial planning throughout the last decades. One of the key terms Faludi coined was *'environmental planning'*. He launched the term in the 1990s to connect various forms of Dutch planning within one concept. This included spatial, environmental, water management, traffic and infrastructure planning, and more. One result of his influential work is the proposal of the Dutch government to collect all environmental laws into one; previously, there used to be more than 60 separate ones.

Faludi was born in Budapest and studied architecture and urban planning at the University of Technology, Vienna. He worked at various universities in different fields, such as urban design at Delft University of Technology, planning at the University of Amsterdam, and spatial policy systems

in Europe in Nijmegen. In 2009, he was appointed an honorary member of the Association of European Schools of Planning.

In his latest book, "The Poverty of Territorialism," Faludi synthesises his groundbreaking theoretical and empirical work on the politics of planning and territorial governance in the European Union and proposes a new understanding of possible spatial planning strategies.

As one of Europe's most important figures in spatial planning, we were delighted to host him as our keynote speaker at the transnational online event within the ReInd-BBG project. The event was publicly accessible for online and in-person visitors, including the participating partners, stakeholders, policy-makers, researchers, and students.

Source: Professor Andreas Faludi. (2023, February 7). University of Groningen. Retrieved May 15, 2024, from <https://www.rug.nl/frw/organization/medewerkers/professor-andreas-faludi?lang=en>

The event



Figure 2 Emilie Stecher, MSc, introducing Prof. Andreas Faludi to the audience (Image by Jennifer Fauster)

Online ReInd-BBG event
15th May 2024
14:00 – 16:00 p.m. (CET)

Territorial Agenda 2030 and Beyond: European Spatial Planning Strategies

Guest Speaker:
Prof. Andreas Faludi

There were 36 participants present online, and 4 participants, as well as Faludi, were physically in Vienna at BOKU University, from which the event was streamed. The event occurred from 14:00 to 16:00 at the Faculty Club at BOKU University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna.

The event began with Emilie Stecher, a junior researcher at the Institute of Landscape Architecture of BOKU University, introducing Professor Andreas Faludi, a distinguished figure in spatial planning and European planning policies who, throughout his lifetime, has been an expert on the analysis and shaping of European spatial planning. At the start of the event, Faludi highlighted the importance of European spatial planning strategies; however, after many decades of examining their development, he remains skeptical towards their successful implementation and the current interpretation and definition of the concept of territorialism, which is closely connected to nation-states.

Faludi provided the participants with a detailed overview of the historical development and emergence of spatial planning in Europe from the second half of the 20th century until today. His personal engagement with the topic started with an empirical comparison between the English and Dutch planning systems. The Dutch, especially, were challenged by their outdated strategies. After some time dealing with local and national planning, Faludi got interested in European planning. This started with the presidency of Jacques Delors at the European Commission, bringing about the single market. This idea simultaneously brought threats and opportunities for the nation-states, and especially the French felt endangered by it. The conversation explored the vision and implementation of the single market, shedding light on the regional development funding dynamics within France and the concerns about marginalization.

The meeting then delved into the intricate evolution of European Spatial Planning, elaborating on the challenges and transformations that shaped its development. An informal meeting that brought together 12 EU states' ministers of regional planning in Nantes was highlighted by Faludi as an essential steppingstone for the European spatial development perspective. Furthermore, the discussion encompassed the impact of other significant milestones, such as the European Constitution and the Treaty of Lisbon, and ongoing resistance and Euro-scepticism among member states. The current state of European spatial planning was also discussed, emphasizing that a European spatial plan is unrealistic. Faludi, therefore, highlighted the importance of a shift towards collaboration between experts across borders for research and development.

"(...) the idea of European spatial plan, of whatever description, is now unrealistic and whatever happens now happens in collaboration between groups of experts across borders, in research and on the edges of cross-border areas. (...) There is no, not that I know, serious notion of a European spatial development perspective. (...) the idea, rightly or wrongly, which people had at the beginning we are going to make a European master plan, or whatever you call it, conceptualizing this space called Europe, which is what planning can do, is lost."

He accentuated the historical invention of nations, tracing back to the 18th and 19th centuries and the impact of events like the French Revolution and German Romanticism on the concept of national identity. Faludi emphasized the artificial nature of states and boundaries, highlighting the



Figure 3 Professor Faludi while giving the lecture

role of nation-building in creating traditions, folklore, and infrastructure. The discussion then shifted to the EU's structure, proposing a looser federation like the Middle Ages as a potential model. The participants also explored the possible contributions of Interreg projects to improving the European planning system and cross-border cooperation.

The meeting concluded with a discussion on the concept of territorial cohesion and its relevance for the European Commission, emphasizing the absence of a definition to encompass the diverse perspectives of member states. This resulted in cohesion, being a constant companion in European spatial planning throughout its history, from the beginning until now. The conversation then transitioned to exploring the potential impact of the Rights of Nature movement on shaping future spatial planning strategies, with a specific example of its influence on urban settlements and pollution in the river Drina region in Serbia and Bosnia. The limitations and challenges of the Territorial Agenda in practical implementation were also highlighted, raising questions about its applicability despite the presence of good intentions.

“The EU is not what you think it is. It is not a federation in the making. There are so many derogations, and at the same time, the EU has a vast influence outside the borders. (...) If you look at the EU as it is, it is actually way closer to a Neo-Medieval empire than it is to a federal state.”

In conclusion, it is fundamental to state that the Territorial Agenda 2030 is rooted in a very long history until it came into being. Individual member states' continuous involvement, interest, and collaboration at different points in time brought the project to where it is and made a difference. In this long history, there have been ups and downs in the support from nation-states towards a common spatial planning strategy. With its results, programs like the Interreg Danube Region are fundamental milestones in achieving the targets set in the Territorial Agenda 2030. They are going beyond national borders and national interests and setting a dialogue with local stakeholders, bridging the European Union's top-down ambition with each member state's interest.

Prof. Faludi clearly stated that spatial planning should go beyond national borders to achieve the Territorial Agenda. The ReInd-BBG project aims to contribute to that in the field of productive brownfield regeneration. Planners, stakeholders, and decision-makers should see Europe as a geographical entity that can be driven by the forces of the European Union. Still, its national borders should not be considered as its planning districts. On the contrary, one should consider projects aiming to dissolve borders and strengthen regional, transnational, and international cross-border collaboration. The ReInd-BBG project is one example of such a collaboration.

The various collaborations create the opportunity for multiple points of action. This results in a layered patchwork of multi-scalar projects, which are chaotic and diverse. Within the coming about of the Territorial Agenda 2030, as well as in emerging initiatives, cohesion is a connecting idea for European Spatial Planning. Even though there is no unanimous definition for the concept, precisely this keeps the interpretation thereof open for the diverse cultures of Europe, preserving it as an essential core component throughout the decades of European Spatial Planning.

3. Conclusions and Reflection

Reflecting on Prof. Faludi's contribution, the event on the Territorial Agenda 2030 highlighted and positioned our collaborative project in the broader context of European Spatial Planning. This calls for recognising strategies on an overarching level and fosters action beyond local regulations. The project should not focus on finding single solutions for specific places but rather think within the scope of the Danube Region. All participating partners face similar challenges, dealing with brownfields, climate change, or the necessity to believe in natural cycles and integrate circularity within their strategies. Within the project and beyond, the Danube River could pose a potential connecting landscape element in its cultural, economic, ecological, and historical dimensions. Through our collaboration, the project could promote best practices of spatial planning strategies aiming at dissolving borders.

Furthermore, the participating partners gained awareness of the wider context and importance of our shared project and were able to better understand their role within the overarching project objectives. Therefore, they understood that everyone's individual projects do not end at the national border but have a collateral influence on the wider Danube Region. Through the event, the common framework of a Danube Region collaboration was passed on to all participants, highlighting the importance of knowledge exchange throughout the further development of the project and beyond. The ideas behind the Territorial Agenda provide a solid framework for the project, which the participating partners can now better understand.



Figure 4 Prof. Andreas Faludi and Emilie Stecher, MSc, during the discussion (Image by Jennifer Fauster)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

TA 2030 (2020). Territorial Agenda 2030: A Future for All Places. Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community of Germany. Retrieved from https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/brochure/territorial_agenda_2030_en.pdf

WHERE TO LEARN MORE?

#TerritorialAgenda: A future for all places. (2024) Public Service of Wallonia – Spatial and Urban Planning Department, Belgium. Available on: <https://territorialagenda.eu/>

Territorial Agenda 2030 - A future for all places. (2021). Available on: https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/information/publications/brochures/2021/territorial-agenda-2030-a-future-for-all-places