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Territorial uncertainty and vulnerability as a challenge for urban and regional policy

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Landscape memory and its importance for the future land use planning

Aim of the paper was to record visible and invisible landscape changes on different landscape level in six selected microregions in the Czech Republic. Changes of the landscape macrostructure were evaluated based on the statistical data from 1845, 1948, 1990 and 2013. Changes of the landscape microstructure were compared on the base of old maps, aerial images and field experiences. The area of an arable land was the largest in 1845. Since then it has been decreasing – more in mountain areas, less in lowland ones. It was replaced by forests, grasslands and urban areas, depending on the vegetation period, physical character and vicinity of urban centres. Results show that the microstructure recorded great changes in the communist period: large expanses of fields, irrigation and drainage measures, windbreaks, non-rural buildings in the countryside. Contemporary changes are connected mostly with urbanisation of the landscape.

Different landscapes were impacted by changes in different ways. Suburban landscapes differ from landscapes of intensive agriculture as well as landscapes in lowlands and highlands. Moreover, historical development resulting in different relation of inhabitants to their landscape could differ also due to the landscape changes.

Analysis of landscape microstructure and macrostructure of selected areas was used to determine the driving forces of landscape structure changes and understanding the functioning of the landscape. The results represent a comparative basis showing the current status and further development trends of landscape structure. The next stage of the research is to complete and confront obtained results with mental reflection of landscape structure and the appearance of the landscape in general in the memories of local people. This information will be gathered through interviews with residents.