

Climate change and spatial planning

Mojca Golobič

Urban Planning Institute, SLO

The introductory part will briefly outline the vulnerability of living and working environment to climate risks, as is determined by natural hazards, damage potential, and the coping range of society. The presentation will then focus on possible strategies to reduce the vulnerability and the application of these strategies through spatial planning. Three main tracks of response will be discussed: post-disaster recovery and relief, prevention, aimed at mitigation of climate change and prevention, aimed at vulnerability reduction and adaptation. While the policy and research interest has mainly been focused on the first two strategies, the last one has remained largely unexplored. Considering that 'man-made' societal and spatial developments alter the patterns of vulnerability far more forcefully than 'natural' driving forces such as climate change, spatial planning can be one of the most important tools to guide spatial development to desired direction. But the trust in spatial planning as a viable approach to cope with climate change has been undermined by its relative ineffectiveness in mitigating the negative impacts of present natural hazards. Some possible reasons for this inefficiency and possible ways to overcome them will also be discussed. The presentation will include the examples from spatial planning practice in Slovenia as well as by the results from EU V.th framework project REGALP and an ongoing InterregIIIB project ClimChAlp.