**TOPIC**

Through the eastern enlargement of the EU, these cities have moved from their marginal structural position towards the centre of the enlarged Europe. Thus, former disadvantages have become development opportunities. Due to these processes, it is no longer sufficient to consider local problem areas in an isolated way, and it is now necessary to cope with new needs going beyond borders. Long-lasting development structures and viable concepts must be developed for this region, which is characterized by both shrinking and growth.

CONURBATION

"Small Triangle" refers to an association of cities, which has been developing intensively since 2001. It includes Zittau in the southeast of the Free State of Saxony (D), Hrádek nad Nisou (CZ) in the north of the Liberec district, and Bogatynia (PL) on the south western fringe of Województwo Dolnośląskie. Approx. 61,000 inhabitants of different nationalities live in these cities, which form the heart of the Euro region "Neisse".

The urban structure of the three core cities is extremely different. Zittau possesses a listed historic city centre, Hrádek can be considered a typical example of a Bohemian small town and Bogatynia displays structures which are characteristics of both village and industry.

SITE

Profound structural changes have been taking place since 1989 in this region, which is characterized by its industries. Especially on the German side, a considerable number of jobs have been lost. With a trilateral commercial association, the disappearance of traditional industries, such as the textile industry, has been partially compensated for. On the Polish side, comprehensive rationalization measures in the mine and the "Türow" power station are leading to the release of work force. Despite various developments, a decrease of population must be expected in the "Small Triangle" in the medium term.

As a consequence of structural changes, industrial wasteland has evolved in these cities, partly in the direct vicinity of the city centre. Their development is considered a chance to reinforce the function of the respective core cities.

Zittau

Zittau is increasingly gaining importance beyond the borders as an intermediate central community. The city possesses a dense and networked scientific environment with close contacts to business, and is home to innovative enterprises. This position should be further strengthened. A decline in the birth rate and negative migration with stabilization tendencies are leading to a large number of vacant residential units, including renovated ones.

The competition site in Zittau, the area of the old Robur factory, is located in the north of the city centre and in direct vicinity to the station.

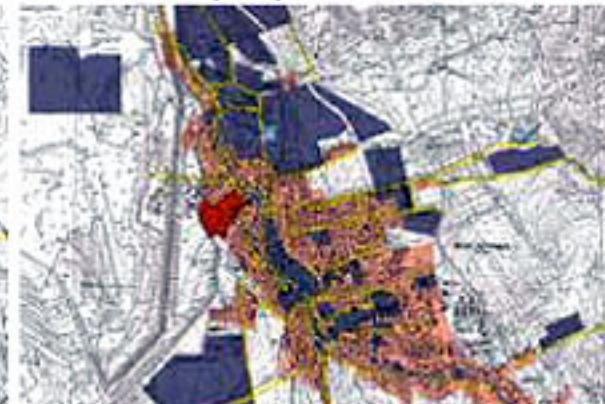
ZITTAU (D)



BOGATYNIA (PL)



HRADEK (CZ)

**Bogatynia**

Population : 26.800

Project area: 3.01 ha

Hrádek nad Nisou

Population: 7.300

Project area: ca. 7.2 ha

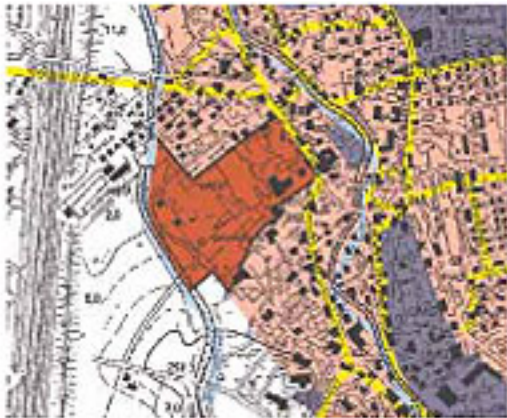
Zittau

Population: 26.224

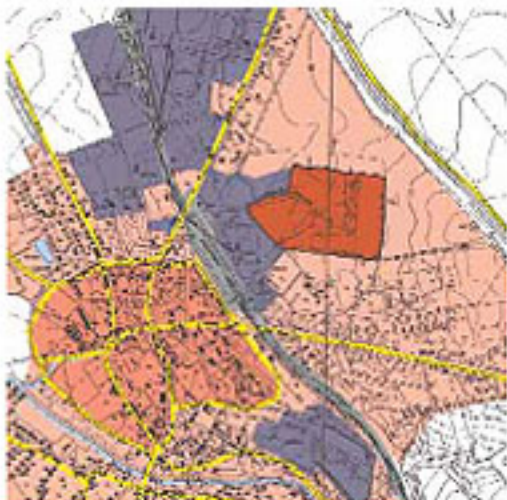
Project area: 0.6 / 1.9 ha



ZITTAU (D)



BOGATYNIA (PL)



HRADEK (CZ)



Hrádek nad Nisou

The city Hrádek is a so-called main centre on the Czech side which, with Lake Krystyna and the existing service facilities, assumes supplementary functions as a leisure and recreation area. Particularly through migration from the district capital Liberec, the city is experiencing a slight population increase. The competition site in Hrádek, the former brickyard, is located on the other side of the railway line, directly adjacent to the station.

Bogatynia

In addition to the city, the municipality of Bogatynia comprises 16 further settlements, but there is no clearly identifiable city centre. Bogatynia supplements the centres of Zgorzelec and Jelena Góra. The city's economic power is determined by surface mining and a power station. There is a need for residential space, since many buildings are still not renovated and traditional family structures are dissolving.

The competition area in Bogatynia is a formerly textile mill, which for the most part is out of use. The area borders directly on the future city centre.

PROGRAMME

On the basis of the regional development concept, a vision must be shaped for this region, which creates an image of the triple city as both an innovative European region and a joint future economic and residential area.

On the city level, the question of what can be done with the inner city wasteland should be investigated, taking into consideration a development of needs-oriented settlement areas. Development potentials and opportunities must be brought together to an added joint value, competition should be excluded and a growing together of the triple city should be supported. On this basis, development proposals must be submitted for all three areas, which are located close to the centre.

ISSUES

When developing an exemplary model, three levels should be considered:

Level 1 - region

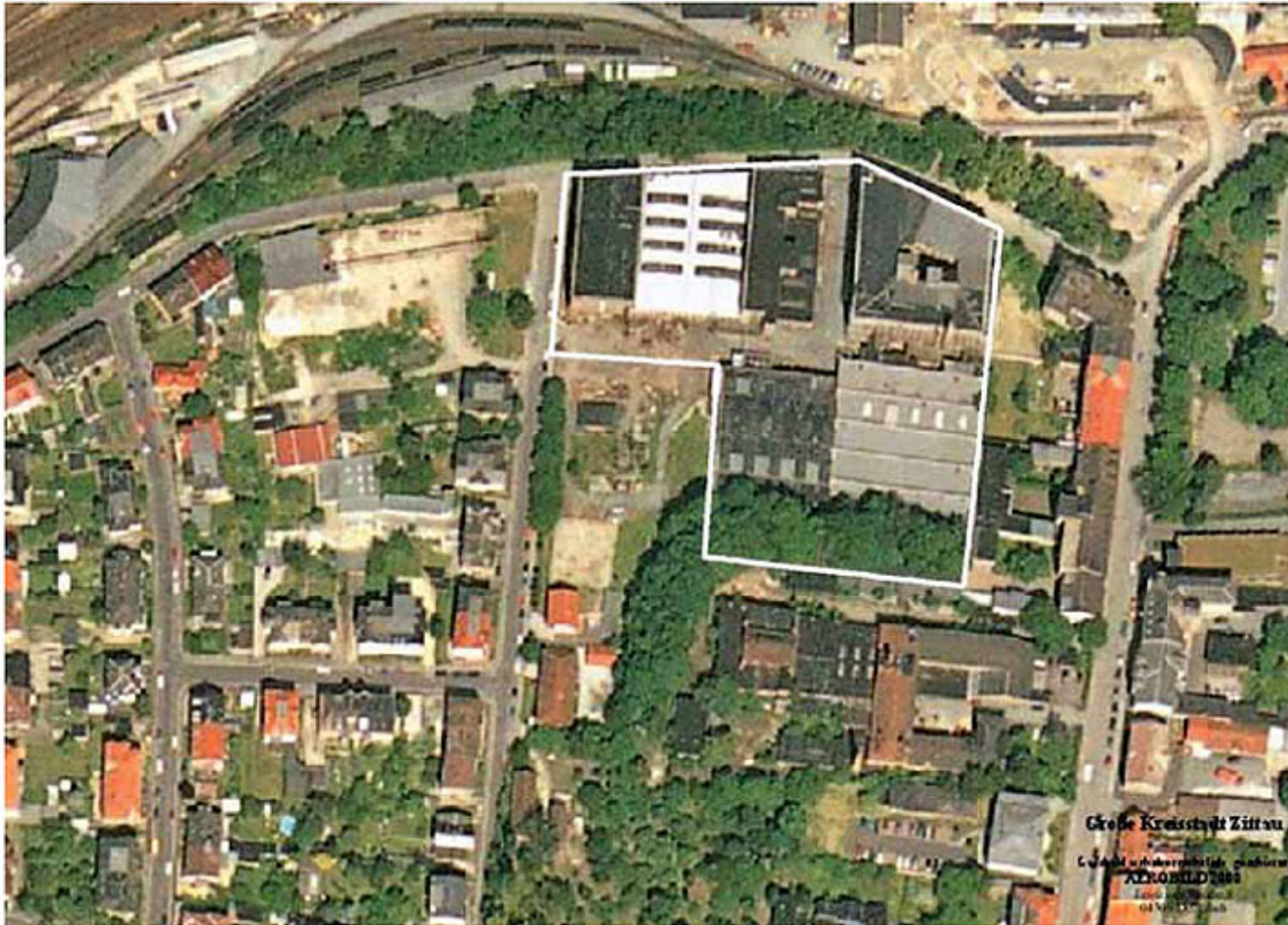
Area under consideration is the whole "Small Triangle". The proposed visions must provide a unique future image for the region and show potentials for a growing together of the triple city.

Level 2 - urban planning structures

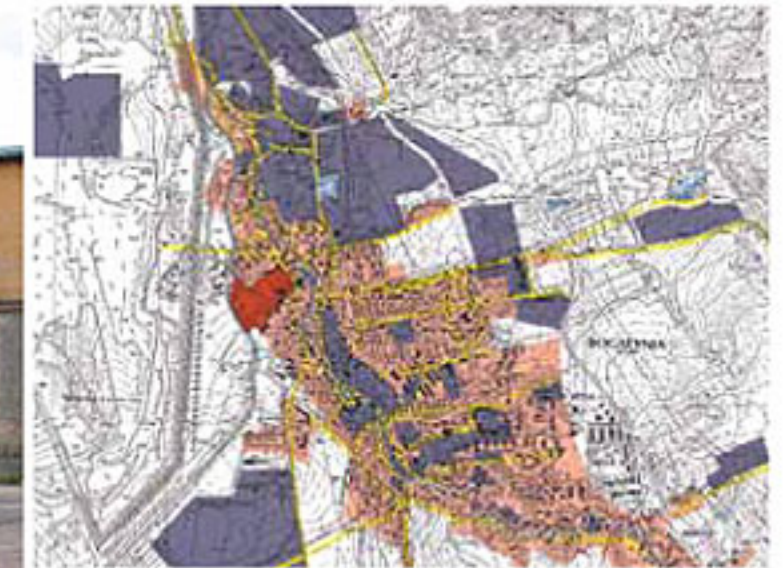
Settlement structures, which are functional in the long-term, must be developed for the urban areas. It must be indicated where settlement may shrink and where a growth of the triple city can be effectively supported. In the first place, the time sequence, describing how spaces for living and working can be altered, should be developed.

Level 3 - wasteland

As an example of one of the three sites, buildings and free spaces must be precisely planned, taking as a basis the results of the foregoing considerations. Interdisciplinary cooperation is recommended for the project.







BOGATYNIA (PL)