

## The meeting of Atlas Working Group in Wrocław , June 2014.

According to the principles of the European Commission of the History of Town ([www.historiaurbium.org](http://www.historiaurbium.org)) the publication of Historic Towns Atlases is a main goal, in order to create a basis for comparative studies of the roots of the urbanization of Europe and the spatial transformations of the cities.

- The Atlases can be the basis for the work of urban planning, architecture, preservation and study of environmental; they are
- useful for teaching and learning in schools and universities; they
- serve the popularization of the city's history; they provide
- an effective way to prevent damage to the most valuable sources of city mapping.

Of all the above-mentioned purposes of preparing atlases, as the most important to be discussed at the meeting in Wrocław, I suggest those related to land use planning and promotion of the city. Such an aim of preparing new editions of atlases seems to be particularly important in countries with significant civilisational changes, or in countries where such changes in the next few years will be carried out. This concerns in particular Central and Eastern Europe - and especially the new members of the European Union. In the post-communist countries the process of "uncovering" or re-sketching space "erased" in the past can be significantly enhanced by our Atlases. Historical cartographical scientific materials are not only the source of the information, but also the basic tool used for a process of balanced urban planning, leading to fulfill all the life's necessities with no unnecessary harm to geographical and historical environment.

During our meeting, I would therefore ask, how the Atlas reconstruction and reproduced cartographic materials are usable in urban planning respecting history? How can they become the basic and local policy planning tool? How can they serve voters to create pressure on local authorities to promote development based on solid historical basis? To what extent the history of space can be *magister Vitae*?

I suggest, therefore, that we discuss:

- 1 role of the historical mapping in modern spatial planning
- 2 role of the history in the urban planning of the city
- 3 the role of history in the promotion of cities
- 4 the role of historical atlases for tourism and business

An important aspect of our meeting is also to explore not only the theory and practice of the creation of atlases, but also their objects - cities. I assure you that the capital of Silesia (one of the most important commercial emporium of medieval Europe) is a good example for this practice. In recent years the city of Wrocław has undergone a rapid transformation and a deep restoration. On the example the capital of Lower Silesia we want to present this process as typical for this part of Europe.

We also hope that the meeting in Wrocław will be the opportunity to present the latest of our atlases and to compare them with the latest products of our foreign colleagues. I think, that our meeting should obtain the form of a seminar with 8- 10 short interventions. On the second day of our meeting we should visit some "objects" of our Atlases in Silesia, disputing about the impact the history of this towns in their modern development.

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