

STAV A VÝVOJ VIDIECKYCH SÍDIEL A KRAJINY V MARGINÁLNYCH ÚZEMIACH

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ABSTRACT

Huba, M.: State and Development of Rural Settlements and Landscape in Marginal Territories

Marginal rural settlements and landscape in Slovakia with important natural and cultural values experiences continuous transformation. Among important challenges for them belong: restructuring of the local (micro-regional) economy, reduction of the threat of growing unemployment and poverty, more efficient and environmentally friendly use of resources, quality of life improvement, achievement of sustainable development, based on the nature and cultural heritage conservation, more sensitive decision-making with long-term perspectives, public participation, ethical considerations, and several others. Detail geographic analyses as well as enquiries/interviews applied allow comparisons between the individual settlements and landscape in the region and allow us to characterise level of marginalisation. One of the preconditions for the further vital development of rural communes is activation of local sources based on the bottom-up initiative. Results of case studies within the territories of the *Polana – Podpolanie* and *Biele Karpaty* point to important task of the management of the territory based on sustainability principles.

Key words: rural settlements, landscape, marginal territories