

National Outline Plans for the Spatial Distribution of the Population and their Influence on the Population's Dispersal - Lessons and Suggestions for the Future

The Plan for the Spatial Distribution of the Population - A "Key" Plan Without "Teeth"

The plan for the spatial distribution of the population of Israel should have been the most important plan of all the other statutory national plans.

It is the only plan which defines population targets for the whole country, its districts and subdistricts and all its towns and settlements, thus defining the development needs of the state.

From 1948 to 1986, 8 such plans were prepared. However, only two of these received statutory status, the "5 Million (people) Plan" was fully approved, and the "7 Million Plan" is partially approved (the government has not granted yet its final approval).

The national outline plan for spatial distribution of population should, according to the "1965 Planning and Building Law" forecast changes in the distribution of the population throughout the country, including stages of development and their favorable timing, the desired size of existing settlements, and the desired location and size of new settlements. Thus, this plan should be the "key plan" for other national statutory plans. The trouble is that its actual influence is less than should have been expected.

Both the "5 Million" and the "7 Million" plans include recommended Means for their implementation. However, despite their statutory approval, these means were not used. Nevertheless, it may be argued that the plans for the spatial distribution of the population were relatively successful. This is due to the fact that the percentage of the population in the three peripheral districts grew from 30% of the total population in 1948 to about 40% in 1982 (including the Jews in Judea and Samaria). It is necessary to determine if this change stems just from the existence of the plan or from the fact that all of the Israeli governments in the first two decades practiced the ideology of population dispersal, without relying exclusively on the statutory plan.

This situation changed gradually through the 70's and the 80's. Accordingly, the gap between goals and implementation widened,

"Dispersal of the Population" - Original Concept and What Became of It

The concept of "population dispersal" is considered one of the corner stones in the development of the state of Israel. Population dispersal was undertaken to

As customary, we bring a **brief review of the activities of the Institute.**

The Hebrew language part of this issue closes with a survey of the **Israel Land Administration, Annual Report of Activities, 1988, and with Agricultural Lease prices, 1989** as set by the Israel Land Administration for those leasing its lands.

The English part of our journal contains a translation of Architect Y. Golani's article mentioned above.

With publication of Issue No. 31 of KARKA, we call on contributors and readers to increase cooperation with our journal. either with written material or by making suggestions or comments on content and form. With this help, we shall be able to continue relating to the land policy challenges facing society in Israel.

