FOCUS ON HOUSING DEMANDS IN SPATIAL PLANNING

In 1997 the Flemish government adopted the Spatial Structure Plan. The leading idea of the plan is to keep Flanders ‘urban and open’, by realizing only 40% of all new housing in the countryside and at least 60% in the urban centres, a ratio based on the spatial pattern and on the actual supply of building lots. Despite the spatial policy to revalue the urban centres, people still seem to prefer more rural living environments and the 60/40 ratio is not realised.

Regarding the law of supply and demand in housing and spatial policies, my doctoral survey explores the latter. The hypothesis is that people choose a specific housing environment in relation to their lifestyle. A typology of lifestyles, on the one side, and of housing environments, on the other side, will be created, in order to deliver new insights for spatial planning.