The strategic importance of brand positioning in the place brand concept: elements, structure and application capabilities

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Abstract. The concept of place brand building and managing is largely discussed in literature on the subject and more and more frequently put into practice. The key element which determines effective implementation thereof is to define brand positioning. This is because brand positioning determines the framework of visual and communication-related execution. What is more, it also determines future brand development as brand positioning is the basis for gaining competitive advantage, especially in the context of global changes.

In the article, the author identifies the fundamental elements which constitute the structure of the positioning claim which results from the brand positioning process and indicates the opportunities and limitations of applying the concept.

Keywords: place brand positioning, place brand identity

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INTRODUCTION

Contemporary branding is facing challenges including hyper-competition, mass good consumption and globalization. These premises affect consumer products and places alike. Countries, regions and cities compete against each other in an increasingly aggressive way (Anholt 2006). This rivalry develops in all aspects of places’ operations; at stake is awareness of the inhabitants, tourists as well as investors. The growing