



SPATIAL AND REGIONAL PLANNING

Lecture 8. Planning systems

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Planning system

The combination of legal, institutional and other arrangements in place in a country or region for undertaking spatial planning. The elements of a system may not be interdependent but will be interrelated in their impact on spatial development.



Spatial planning is usually considered within a specific national structure. Within this framework, several planning dimensions are developed:

- **physical planning**
- **land use constraints**
- **development incentives**
- **environmental considerations**
 - **participation issues**

National planning systems have been developed in Europe and are relatively independent from each other. There are differences and similarities between individual planning systems. Individual countries can benefit a lot by adopting good practices and tried-and-tested approaches and by avoiding defective solutions or those ineffective.

They feature various classifications of European countries based on the planning style. These classifications include:

- **legal and institutional parameters**
- **operational parameters**
- **reflecting the actual planning practice**

Classifications of European planning style

Below are presented classifications available in the literature and in European programs (eg EPSON 2.3.2.)

Spheres of Action

- Constitutional level
- Institutional level
- Operational level

Typology of Regionalization

- Administrative Regionalisation
- Regional Decentralisation
- Regionalisation through the existing Local Authorities
- Regional autonomy (Political Regionalisation)
- Regionalisation through the Federate Authorities

Governmental

- Systems Unitary
(with varying levels of decentralization)
- Regionalised
- Federal

Classifications of European planning style

Families of Legal Systems

- Roman
- Germanic
- Nordic
- Anglo-Saxon
- Socialist
- Far Eastern
- Islamic
- Hindu

National Planning Systems

- British family
- Napoleonic family
- Germanic family
- Scandinavian family
- Eastern European family

Traditions of Spatial Planning

- Regional Economic Planning Approach
- Comprehensive Integrated Approach
- Land Use Management
- Urbanism Tradition

Classifications of European planning style

Spatial Planning: Devolution of powers

- Unitary states
 - Devolution to regions (real power in central state)
 - Devolution to regions (real power in regions)
 - Centralization: Dominant central state
- Federal states
 - Devolution to regions (strong central state and regions)
 - Devolution to regions (weak central state and regions)
 - Devolution to regions (weak central state, strong regions)
- Interaction and negotiation (national – regional)
- Contracts (national – regional or regional – subregional)
- Devolution to subregions within regions
- Regional – metropolitan authorities (overlaps with previous category)
- Regional planning through inter-municipal cooperation
- Relative weakness of central state
- Strong local – municipal level
 - With strong national state
 - With weak national state

CLASSIFICATION OF SPATIAL PLANNING SYSTEMS

Planning regional economy

- This system is focused on the economics of a region (regional economic planning)
- It is characteristic of this system to strive for economic and social goals, especially in relation to gaps between regions.
- Central government planning is essential in spatial planning and development. This balances various stimulating development activity through oversight and public purpose investment.
- National and regional spatial plans are drawn up by central and regional authorities.
- The main tools, that make up development guidelines at the local level, are translated into executive acts.
- The spatial range of studies is large, which is why most of them concern only selected sectors. This causes difficulties in their coordination between industries and is a disadvantage of this model.
- This is a top-down planning style where information comes from higher levels.

France's regional economy planning system is an example of this approach.

CLASSIFICATION OF SPATIAL PLANNING SYSTEMS

General planning

- This planning system is comprehensively integrated.
- It is a formalised system and contains a detailed set of plans and planning documents that are integrated at various administrative levels.
- It is characterised by very good coordination of plans, both between sectors and between different levels.
- Mature administrative system is necessary for this system to exist as the development is supported and managed by a network. This creates certain network planning challenges.
- Although the final decisions are made locally, the participation of senior governments is essential, especially in regard to infrastructure implementation.

Germany's comprehensive integrated planning system is an example of this approach.

CLASSIFICATION OF SPATIAL PLANNING SYSTEMS

Land use management

- This system aims primarily to create a development framework for investment.
- In this system, the target function of land use is set at the lowest level by local development plans.
- Spatial planning is not well developed at higher level.
- Competences of self-governments are significant, but higher levels of authority have supervisory tools that they use to influence the final planning effect.
- At the higher levels of planning authority, national strategies and guidelines are created that must be implemented locally.

UK's land use management planning system is an example of this approach.

CLASSIFICATION OF SPATIAL PLANNING SYSTEMS

Urbanism

- The spatial planning system based on urbanism is characterised by a strong focus on architectural factors.
- The transfer of zoning regulations burden to urban design, landscape design as well as control of new developments at the local level is characteristic for this system.
- Despite many provisions regarding the placement of new buildings, the system itself is not extensive and does not take into account broader spatial policy or social participation factors.
- Urbanism is relatively ineffective in controlling spatial development.
- Higher level decisions often do not address local problems, and sometimes they even are contradictory to the local plans.
- Very detailed regulations, often created locally, allow for better matching of investments to the environment.
- Due to the lack of support in higher-level studies, capturing a broader context at the local level is very difficult.

Mediterranean countries urbanism system is an example of this approach.

Common requirements for spatial planning systems in European countries:

- To achieve a greater mix of land uses and densities in the urban structure that provide a full range of urban functions, e.g. housing, employment and services. To minimise the need to travel great distances to work, shop or conduct business. The efficient use of land needs to be compatible with the social well-being and healthy environment objectives.
- To initiate urban regeneration in inner city areas and main streets with high density concentrations of mixed employment, residential and other uses. These areas with adequate investment in modernisation and renovation of the existing stock and infrastructure can provide housing closer to services and a wider range of lifestyle opportunities.
- To enhance and support regeneration of housing estates through innovative financing, technological and regulatory initiatives, and demonstration projects. Focusing on elimination of barriers towards investment will facilitate small-scale urban renewal through cooperative efforts and self-help.
- To enhance broad participation, improve community involvement and build support for sustainable planning policies and programmes; to promote community identity through creation of meeting places, public spaces, pedestrian networks, preservation of historic buildings and attractive streetscapes.

Common requirements for spatial planning systems in European countries:

- To provide a range of cultural and recreational opportunities that correspond to diverse needs through efficient use of natural areas for passive recreation and cultural purposes; to maintain a system of integrated and interconnected open spaces, parks, river valleys and waterfronts; to protect the natural habitat and resources in these areas.
- To provide water and sewerage infrastructure that accommodates the needs of the local community, while meeting the healthy environment objectives; to undertake considerable improvement of existing infrastructure in order to reduce the amount of untreated urban runoff and waste water discharge; to increase the capacity of the existing infrastructure to accommodate urban growth and intensification.
- To improve and expand the transport system to meet the challenges of readjustment in the urban economy and to sustain the competitiveness of public transport. To maximise efficiency, supplement conventional public transit with specialised services directed at specific market segments; to promote energy efficiency and alternative modes of transport.

The most important factors for bringing about a stronger and more effective **system of spatial planning** include:

- Involvement of stakeholders early in the process and continued communication and dialogue;
- Agreement on spatial development principles, objectives and strategies (which do not require detailed, inflexible zoning approaches);
- Development of a spatial planning evidence base to provide a solid foundation for policies and decisions;
- Fair and consistent procedures that ensure that those affected have access to the decision-making process;
- A simple framework plan that provides certainty and offers opportunities for flexibility in areas that are subject to major change;
- A flexible process to address unanticipated consequences and design more sustainable solutions, taking into account local conditions;
- Application of appraisal and feasibility techniques to assess the potential impacts of policy options;
- Integrated urban and rural strategies to ensure that sectoral interests work in concert;
- Leadership, strategy and the coordination of resources – the key foundations of implementation.

Impact of the European Union on spatial planning

The European Union has had an influence on spatial planning in Members States through:

- Legislation, especially EU Directives on environmental matters
- Policy related to issues related to spatial dimension, such as trans-European Networks, reform of the Common Agricultural Policy
- Formulation and implementation of policy, and above all cohesion policy supported by Structural Funds



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