



SPATIAL AND REGIONAL PLANNING

Lecture 15. Challenges for spatial planning

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Challenges for spatial planning according to the document UNECE *Strategy for Sustainable Quality of Life in Human Settlements in the Twenty-first Century*

GLOBALIZATION

Trends in globalization have clearly changed the outlook for political, economic and social development in European countries.

Trends in globalization:

- Increasing acceptance of democratic institutions and market economic systems;
- Trade liberalization and international capital flows;
- Increase in the number and impact of transnational corporations;
- Fast technological innovations, in particular in the field of information and communication technologies.

These territories can significantly affect the community structure and cause changes such as:

- increasing internationalization of metropolitan areas in terms of capital and labor
- changes in the division of responsibility between the public and private sectors,
- Strengthening the role of big cities in a given country
- reducing the polarization of economic standards in cities

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GLOBALIZATION

The potential and opportunities of globalization:

- Globalization intensifies competition between cities, especially when it is strengthened by European integration
- Large European cities are attracting labour resources and reorganizing economic and residential activities
- Thanks to technological changes, and especially new technologies, big cities became centers of services, education, know-how and capital, and also serve as gates to international markets.

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The concept of sustainable development strengthens the needs for planning, construction and management of human settlements, especially such as:

- The need for appropriate construction and ecological technologies for projects;
- The need to reduce energy consumption and promote renewable energy;
- Need for selective and efficient use of resources, recycling;
- The need to introduce ecological principles to direct the development of settlement and land use;
- The need for public participation in the decision-making process.

Most European countries have adopted the concept of sustainable development and its challenges.

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EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND MARKET ECONOMY REFORMS

The new Member States since the accession to the European Union have undergone mass restructuring in many economic sectors, especially in the fields of industry, agriculture and the services. The general trend was to increase employment in the services sector at the expense of the industrial and agricultural sectors. This led to changes in the location of places, employment or changes in the infrastructure related to places of employment. This had a different impact on the migration of employees.

Trade relations between the old and new EU Member States have considerably strengthened and the regions on the borders between the old and new EU Member States have improved. Despite positive changes, the economic and social division into old and new Member States is still noticeable.

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DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

Population of UNECE countries in Europe lived in urban areas

- in 1970 - 63 per cent
- in 2000 - 72 per cent
- In 2014 - 73 per cent
- by 2030 it is forecasted that 78 per cent will live in urban areas
- By 2050 is expected to be over 80

Central and Eastern Europe

- in 2000 - 68 per cent
- By 2030 is expected to be 74

Urbanization in UNECE countries in Europe is growing and is set to increase further

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DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE

The key demographic trend is the general decline in the population, which affects both rural and urban areas

In the case of urban areas, the total number of inhabitants does not change, but the trends are also that the number of inhabitants of the city center is decreasing and the number of suburban residents is increasing. As a result, cities are spreading and facing growing demands on existing infrastructure such as transport, utilities and waste disposal.

In the case of rural areas, local public services are being eliminated because the number of inhabitants of these areas is decreasing.

In almost all UNECE countries, the number of households is growing, while the average household size is falling. This means that the demand for housing continues to grow in some parts of Europe.

Populations in some countries have a higher percentage of older people than in others (eg in Southern Europe), which additionally encumbers local finances and provision of services.

Increased exposure to globalisation: structural changes after the global economic crisis

- Accelerating globalization and growing vulnerability to external shocks in some cases threaten the prosperity and stability of cities and regions. This situation has intensified during the recent financial and economic crisis. The long-term effects of the crisis vary territorially, the time of recovery and the extent of possible policy responses vary across regions.
- Globalization can bring significant territorial consequences at EU, national, regional and local levels.
- Metropolises, other urban and international regions can be assets for the development of the entire territory of Europe, provided that other regions benefit from their dynamics and are connected by a network.
- Local equipment and territorial features are increasingly important for regions to deal with external shocks and to meet them.

Challenges of EU integration and the growing interdependencies of regions

- Deepening and widening of EU integration is challenged by internal factors such as regions divided by administrative borders, and differences in fiscal discipline and commitment between Member States.
- Changes in one part of Europe can have effects in other parts of the continent due to the growing interdependencies of regions.
- The challenge of the core-periphery division is still present, even on the national scale.
- Cohesion at the external borders is crucial, as disparities and differences in legal, social and political systems have important consequences especially in terms of migration and trade.
- The growing interdependence of regions generates demand for better connectivity at global, European and national level.
- Integration barriers at local and regional level can result in the underutilization of human, cultural, economic and ecological resources of the border regions and increase their peripheral position and social exclusion.

Territorially diverse demographic and social challenges, segregation of vulnerable groups

- Europe faces increasing and territorially differentiated demographic challenges.
- One of the more serious problems is aging and depopulation, which will bring about changes in many regions, including rural and peripheral areas, and will lead to serious consequences for social and territorial cohesion, the provision of public services, the labor market and housing.
- The problem of other regions is the increase in the population which causes other types of pressure. Population growth, mainly in urban areas, is caused by significant intra-European migration after EU enlargement and immigration, mainly from less developed countries outside the EU
- Exclusion from the socio-economic circuit definitely has a strong territorial character. The risk of exclusion is higher in areas with low accessibility, weak economic performance, lack of social opportunities or other particular territorial circumstances. Vulnerable groups and ethnic minorities often end up concentrated in certain urban and rural areas and their integration is hindered as a result.

Territorially diverse demographic and social challenges, segregation of vulnerable groups

Migration

- Every year over 5 million people cross international borders to live in a developed country.
- Currently there are 214 million international migrants in the world.
- Only over one third of migrants moved from a developing country to a developed country - (less than 70 million people)
- Most of the 200 million international migrants in the world are moving from one developing country to another or from developed countries
- Currently migration is becoming a significant challenge for sustainable development, especially if in the face of a large inflow of migrants, there is not enough demand for new apartments and basic services to be met.
- Cities are facing the problem of the rapid growth of segregated informal settlements. Increasing inequalities and segregation sometimes cause violence, both in industrialized and poorer countries.

Climate change and environmental risks: geographically diverse impacts

- Climate change affects different geographical regions of Europe in different ways. The effects of changes vary and depend on the type of impact and vulnerability of the region.
- Increased risk of sea level rise, drought, desertification, floods and other natural hazards requires territorially different reactions.
- Territorial coordination of policies is particularly needed, especially in the areas of climate, energy, water management, agriculture, housing, tourism and transport.
- Air, soil and water quality across Europe is diverse, and air pollution and noise are causing serious health problems. In some cases, it correlates with social inequality.
- Differences in access to clean air, water and soil occur not only between countries and regions, but also between urban and rural areas, as well as within cities.

Energy challenges come to the fore and threaten regional competitiveness

- Some European regions are heavily dependent on imports of fossil fuels from third countries that are susceptible to economic or political instability. It raises problems related to energy security.
- Rising energy and emissions costs result in the need to apply sustainable energy solutions, such as harnessing the potential of renewable energy sources and moving to greener, low-carbon economic activities.
- It is necessary to diversify production and energy supply as well as develop the energy market and integration.
- Uncontrolled urban development contributes to high, unsustainable levels of energy consumption.

Loss of biodiversity, vulnerable natural, landscape and cultural heritage

- The natural and cultural heritage is part of the territorial capital and identity. Ecological values, environmental quality and cultural goods are key to technology and economic prospects, and offer unique development opportunities.
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- Excessive exploitation of these resources can cause serious damage and may threaten territorial development.
- Lack of territorial coordination in the field of urbanization, intensification of agriculture and fisheries, transport and other types of infrastructure development, can cause serious environmental problems.
- A threat to cultural and landscape assets may be urbanization, mass tourism, changes in the way land is used.

Common spatial planning trends in various European countries

- environmental protection and sustainability
- controlling and balancing growth
- integrating policies
- partnership.

Spatial planning sectors

- Commercial development
- Economic development
- Environmental management
- Heritage
- Housing
- Industrial development
- Leisure and tourism
- Natural resources
- Transport
- Waste management and pollution

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