

SPATIAL PLANNING

Creating a Sustainable Future: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DnsAale9D_k

Spatial planning is largely a public sector function to influence the future spatial distribution of activities. It aims to create a more rational territorial organization of land uses and the linkages between them, to balance demands for development with the need to protect the environment, and to achieve social and economic objectives. Spatial planning tries to coordinate and improve the impacts of other sectoral policies on land use, in order to achieve a more even distribution of economic development within a given territory than would otherwise be created by market forces. Spatial planning is therefore an important lever for promoting sustainable development and improving the quality of life.

Spatial planning refers to the methods used by the public sector to influence the distribution of people and activities in spaces of various scales in order to improve the built, economic and social environments of communities. Separate professional disciplines which involve spatial planning include land use, urban / urban renewal, regional, transportation, economic and community planning. Spatial planning takes place on local, regional, national and inter-national levels and often results in the creation of a spatial plan.

European spatial planning

In 1999, a document called the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) was signed by the ministers responsible for regional planning in the EU member states. Although the ESDP has no binding status, and the European Union has no formal authority for spatial planning, the ESDP has influenced spatial planning policy in European member states.

At the European level, the term territorial cohesion is becoming more widely used. Territorial cohesion is a European Union concept which builds on the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP). The main idea of territorial cohesion is to contribute to European sustainable development and competitiveness. It is intended to strengthen the European regions, promote territorial integration and produce coherence of European Union policies so as to contribute to the sustainable development and global competitiveness of the EU.

Sustainable development is defined as development that "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

The main aim of the territorial cohesion policy is to contribute to a balanced distribution of economic and social resources among the European regions. This means that resources and opportunities should be equally distributed among the regions and their populations. In order to achieve the goal of territorial cohesion, an integrative approach to other EU policies is required. The main resource of EU's territorial cohesion policy is EU's structural funds, considered to be delivered to the most deprived areas of EU.

In the United States, the terms land-use planning, regional planning, urban planning, and urban design are often used interchangeably, and will depend on the state, county, and/or project in question. Despite confusing nomenclature, the essential function of land-use planning remains the same.

Land use

Land use is the human use of land. Land use involves the management and modification of natural environment or wilderness into built environment such as settlements and semi-natural habitats such as arable fields, pastures, and managed woods. It also has been defined as the arrangements, activities and inputs people undertake in a certain land cover type to produce, change or maintain it.

Land use and land management practices have a major impact on natural resources including water, soil, nutrients, plants and animals. The major effect of land use on land cover since 1750 has been deforestation of temperate regions. More recent significant effects of land use include urban sprawl, soil erosion, soil degradation, salinization, and desertification.

According to a report by the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation, land degradation has been greater where there has been an absence of any land use planning. The result has often been misery for large segments of the local population and destruction of valuable ecosystems. Such narrow approaches should be replaced by a technique for the planning and management of land resources that is integrated and holistic. This will ensure the long-term quality of the land for human use, the prevention or resolution of social conflicts related to land use, and the conservation of ecosystems of high biodiversity value.

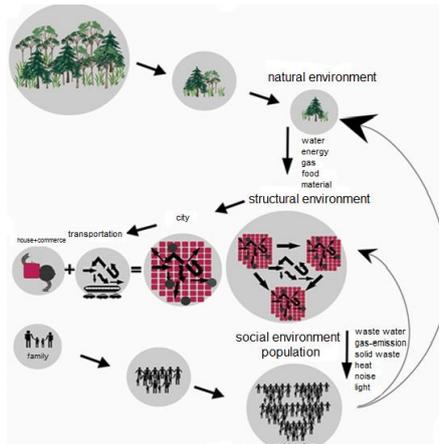
Ecological/environmentally-sensitive landscape planning and its importance

With the population increase, urbanization and industrialization all living environments and the natural assets which must be conserved, have been endangered by the intensive pressure of the unlimited use by people. It is impossible to stop this bad course with standard planning approaches. Therefore, nowadays ecological landscape planning is the most important approach as it is introducing a solution to all those land uses between two contradictory dimensions such as ecological conservation and the economic life today.

When the relationship of cities with the environment is considered, their strong dependence on the neighbouring ecosystems is striking. Cities meet their vital needs such as raw material, water, food and energy first of all from the ecosystems located on their edging, and they leave their wastes again in these areas. Therefore the conservation and continuity of these natural areas are essential for the continuity of cities.

Urban ecosystems are able to survive by obtaining their large amounts of food, water, energy, minerals and other needs from nearby or distant agricultural lands, forests, mines and water basins. As urban areas grow, the need for resources and pollution create a gradually increasing pressure on water resources, aquatic regions, estuaries, forests, cultivated & planted lands, and untouched rural areas.

From the view of environmental problems that cities have caused in the recent years, it follows that the city must be in harmony with its environment and that cities must also be considered an ecosystem. Therefore the natural ecosystems and the urban ecosystem must absolutely be included in the understanding of sustainable city planning. The relationship among natural, structural and social environments is presented in the picture below.



The relationship among natural, structural and social environments (Aydın, 2010)

PRACTICE

1. Complete the following list.

Spatial planning aims to improve the built, economic and social environments of communities. Its main objectives are:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

2. European spatial planning - match the parts of the sentences.

1. Territorial cohesion is a concept	... without compromising future generations to meet their needs.
2. Sustainable development meets the needs of present generations	... are intended to be delivered to the most deprived areas.
3. <i>The European Spatial Development Perspective</i> has no binding status,	... which tries to contribute to European sustainable development and global competitiveness.
4. Structural funds, which are the main resource of EU's territorial cohesion policy,	... but it has influenced spatial planning policy of many EU countries.

3. Land use – translate the following words into English.

razraščanje mesta	pašnik	hranilne snovi
naselbina	zasoljevanje tal	polja
krčenje gozdov	upravljanje z zemljišči	celostni pristop

4. Ecological landscape planning – explain the following expressions in English:

- environmentally-sensitive landscape planning
- sustainable city planning

Viri:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spatial_planning

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land_use

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Territorial_cohesion_in_the_European_Union

http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/hlm/documents/Publications/spatial_planning_e.pdf

<http://www.intechopen.com/books/advances-in-landscape-architecture/impacts-of-improper-land-uses-in-cities-on-the-natural-environment-and-ecological-landscape-planning>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land_use - cite note-9