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**United Nations
Economic Commission for Europe**

**UNECE Study on Spatial Planning:
SPATIAL PLANNING – KEY INSTRUMENT FOR
DEVELOPMENT AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE**

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Spatial Planning

- provides a vision and common directions for strategies and programmes
- identifies political priorities
- helps to avoid duplication of effort by different departments



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Spatial Planning

A tool for:

- democratic governance
- effective and sustainable use of land and other resources



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Spatial Planning

Two basic functions:

- regulatory (re-active) – initiative belongs individuals or the private sector; government regulates permissions
- development (pro-active by the public sector) – government takes the initiative for development, protection, etc



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Prerequisites for setting up a good planning system:

- qualified planners
- political awareness of the importance of a good planning system



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Implementation of spatial planning

Needs:

- cross-sectoral cooperation (spatial planning is carried out in many sectors)
- involvement and transparency of decision making

Highlights:

- the importance of local level (final results of planning for development)



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The ECE Study on Spatial Planning was prepared by:

- Mr Dominic Stead (UK)
- Mr Vincent Nadin (UK)

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with the support of a Reference Group composed of:

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The study on Spatial Planning aims:

- to draw attention of policymakers to the importance of spatial planning
- to raise the awareness for community involvement and stakeholder dialogue



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The study on Spatial Planning:

- **not** a manual for an 'ideal planning system model'

but rather

- an overview of the attributes of a good planning system, aiming to provide guidance to improve functioning of spatial planning systems in the ECE member countries, with a focus on countries transition



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The study stresses the importance of:

- creating a common vision for development
- the efficient use of resources
- good governance
- PP partnership
- effective, transparent and democratic decision making



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Study on Spatial Planning:

4 Chapters:

- 1. BENEFITS OF SPATIAL PLANNING**
- 2. TRANSNATIONAL STRATEGIES**
- 3. DISTRIBUTION OF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**
- 4. IMPLEMENTATION**



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Chapter I: BENEFITS OF GOOD SPATIAL PLANNING

A. Spatial planning as an instrument for development based on democratic, transparent decision-making process

B. Characteristics of spatial planning in the UNECE region with a focus on countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asian region.



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Chapter II: TRANSNATIONAL STRATEGIES

- A. UNECE Strategy for Sustainable Quality of Life in Human Settlements in the 21st Century
- B. Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent (CEMAT)
- C. EU-European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) and EU-ESPON Programme



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Chapter III: DISTRIBUTION OF ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. Principles for distribution of roles and responsibilities between the national, regional and local levels
- B. National responsibilities and functions
- C. Regional (provincial) responsibilities and functions
- D. Local responsibilities and functions



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Principles for distribution of roles and responsibilities between the national, regional and local levels

- **clear distribution of responsibilities** between the different levels of administration
- **cooperative governance** (local plans in line with regional priorities and strategies; regional plans in line with national priorities and strategies. National and regional level consult lower levels)
- **clear legal framework** (ex.: integrated spatial planning act/law)
- **inter-sectoral integration**



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National responsibilities and functions

- establishment of **effective framework legislation** to relate:
 - a) the aims and planning principles
 - b) the planning instruments and rules of democratic and participatory procedures
 - c) other questions, such as permit conditions, zoning, infrastructure provision
- **horizontal** (with other sectors) and **vertical co-ordination** (between levels of government)
- educative and facilitative **monitoring**
- **support and advice**



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Regional responsibilities and functions

- to interpret and adapt national policies and priorities to regional conditions
- to prepare a strategic plan which addresses the functional planning relationships and overall development patterns
- to coordinate regional plans with local plans
- to provide guidance and assistance and support to local authorities



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Local responsibilities and functions

- to establish the priorities for development action at local level
- to prepare local spatial plans
- to prepare regulatory planning instruments setting out decision rules
- to take proactive measures to encourage development in accordance with the agreed planning framework
- to create project partnerships across the public, private and community sectors to deliver specific proposals
- to engage the community and to promote participatory planning



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Chapter IV: IMPLEMENTING EFFECTIVE SPATIAL PLANNING

- A. Legislation, tools and instruments
- B. Spatial planning at the local level
- C. Capacity building
- D. Role of land administration in spatial planning
- E. Cooperation and Coordination
- F. Public participation, involvement of NGOs and other stakeholders
- G. Terminology and communication in spatial planning



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Legislation, tools and instruments

- National decisions
- Policy statements
- Spatial strategies
- Spatial frameworks plans
- Land use regulations or development management
- Enforcement
- Evidence and monitoring



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Spatial planning at the local level

Local plans need:

- credible information basis to help authorities identify opportunities, constraints and issues
- effective programme management

Local plans should:

- provide a clear guidance for directions of its implementation
- be focused and understable
- its implementation should be budget-led
- be approved by politically elected representatives



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Capacity building

- Education
- Professional training
- Awareness-raising (general and politicians)
- Participation

but also **information** (data)



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Role of land administration in spatial planning

Spatial planning needs a good, efficient and easily up-dated system of land registration with:

- patterns of ownership
- detailed information on use of the land, location of infrastructures, buildings, etc



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Public participation, involvement of NGOs and other stakeholders

Community involvement and engagement of stakeholders - allows exchanging knowledge and information, helps reaching consensus and increased support for policies

Processes:

- Participation
- Consultation
- Representation
- Appeals (to a higher administrative authority or to court)



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Last but not least, because

We all need to speak with the same language in order to understand one another and to communicate,

the study provides a

Glossary of terms of spatial planning



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Thank you