Strategic Spatial Planning and the Promotion of Territorial Cohesion.

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Overview

- What challenge is posed for strategic spatial planning by the promotion of territorial cohesion?
- What can strategic spatial planning practices offer in the achievement of greater territorial cohesion?
- What are the key issues and dilemmas that need to be debated?
- Conclusions – what role for the EU?
1. The Challenge of Territorial Cohesion

The Territorial Agenda of the EU was adopted in May 2007 by the EU Member States to strive for territorial cohesion:

- Seeks to promote a holistic and place-based approach through which it should help achieving the objectives of the Lisbon-Gothenburg Agendas.
- Seeks to promote balanced development and give expression to a European spatiality.
- Proposes that EU sector policies that have spatial impacts need to consider territorial cohesion.
- Intends to enhance the influence on EU sector policy and to promote regional identities.
- Provides an opportunity for better horizontal and vertical coordination between different policy sectors.

Has this opened the door to a more comprehensive spatial development policy?
The challenges for spatial development:

- Promotion of cities and urban areas as motors of Europe’s development.
- Strengthening urban-rural partnerships for balanced development.
- Promotion of trans-national research, business and regional development.
- Strengthening trans-European networks.
- Promotion of trans-European technological and natural risk management.
- Strengthening trans-European ecosystems and cultural resources and heritage.
2. The scope and purpose of strategic spatial planning: a perspective.

**Intervention** – a purposeful activity.

**Future looking** – about time and change.

**Holistic** – integration of outcomes from economic, social and environmental processes.

**Creates places and spaces** – grounded in the built and physical form.

**Legitimate** – embedded in democracy and governance.

**Value based** – pursues normative and desired outcomes.
3. Some Key Issues and Dilemmas

- Diversity of territorial capital and resources
- Scaling of functionality and spatiality – FUAs, PUD, mega-regions
- Construction and use of evidence
- Resolution of sector trade-offs
- Multi-level governance and accountability
- Variety in systems, structures and instruments
The challenge of distributive outcomes and EU wide spatial justice

- From a public welfare perspective, the key consideration is the optimal use of public funds to the greatest possible benefit of all populations in the affected regions.
- However, regional interests may collide with national interests.
- A national priority might not typically be based on the specific needs of the regions, but rather more general national objectives.
- This could be even more true at a pan-European level.
4. Concluding comments on the EU

- Expressions of visions and values – eg. *National Strategic Reference Frameworks & Regional Operational Programmes; State Aid Rules; Water, Birds, Habitats Directives.*

- Common evidence base for interventions – eg. *ESPON; Urban Audit; SEA; TIA*

- Governance structures and processes – eg. *European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC); regions for economic change; cross-border co-operation areas; transnational co-operation areas.*