

## **Towards a new integrative planning model for sustainable development - the case of Poland**

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Poland, like other former Communist countries by changing political system and accepting market economy, has deregulated and dismantled control system of physical development in conjunction with the physical planning. As a consequence of the liberal doctrines and global pressure and speculation, land-use planning in Poland has been discredited. Physical Planning is optional. New buildings sites are not sufficiently linked to the responsibility of infrastructure financing by its direct users. Land value generated in the processes of planning and by building the infrastructure is taken over almost all by private sector. The faulty system of planning has accelerated urban sprawl and spatial chaos. In country sites and rural areas we have transfer the land for construction sites up to 60 million people (while Poland has 38.5 million inhabitants). In master plans (called the study of condition and spatial development direction not having the status of local by law) researchers estimated that local authorities have foreseen the land to be transferred for construction purposes for more than 180 to 220 million people.

Poland is looking for a new model of effective spatial planning and territorial development. The separately functioning system of public economic development planning leads to the emergence of a natural contradiction in proceeding and implementing between the sphere of economic and spatial planning. In the face of a lack of consistent methods and the complexity of the analysed processes, these discrepancies are even greater. Socioeconomic planning develops along its own course. Spatial issues are considered marginal, often seen as inconvenient determinants or even obstacles. Spatial factors are treated as variables that complicate forecasting models of development processes and, therefore, are readily ignored in forecasts. Hope lies in the integrated approach to the public planning for the regional and local development. Under the influence of the EU and its funds Poland has

developed relatively well the system of local development strategies and is on the way to develop a new integrated approach to development planning. However the most important challenges and dilemmas related to the reform of the planning are still to be undertaken.

In the paper the author presents the theoretical and practical course of action related with integrative plans and planning. It is the result of the work of the team of practitioners and researchers working at the Polish Academy of Sciences and City Planning Association under the leadership of the author. The fundamental question arises **whether** the integration of planning in terms of procedure will be a satisfactory solution **or** whether it is necessary to integrate the plans? How to ensure greater efficiency of both approaches in formal and legal terms? It is not only the matter of holistic and integrative thinking in specialised planning and spatial planning, but the creation of an integrative system of planning and plans relevant to the modern characteristics of the economy. It should be emphasised that it is about the introduction of integrated plans into the development policy, not just the promotion of integrative planning procedures.

Besides the specific recommendations and models for integrative plans and planning for Poland's situation, some more general conclusions are also formulated. For example, assuming that the implementation of the development policy will be based on the concept of territorial cohesion, territorial capital, in which support for endogenous assets is an integral part the implementation of this policy in functional areas should be commenced. Maintaining the dichotomic system of socioeconomic and spatial development plans particularly in functional areas will be contrary to the idea of the territorial capital development, i.e. the need to coordinate projects and to network functions in conjunction with spatial land development relevant to new needs.

Each integrated plan must include the so-called binding principles related to the protection of public interests in relation to specific functional and problem areas. Due to the fact that spatial planning processes in integrative planning will continue to require the maintenance of their regulatory provisions, the introduction of integrative development planning of a territorial unit into practice must be also done through legislation acts. Integrating socioeconomic planning with spatial planning requires the

focus on key issues, i.e. the issues that have real significance to create changes leaving other matters to the market forces.

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