



ENPL333 – Principles of Spatial Planning 1

Lecture No.1

Introduction to Planning/Spatial Planning

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Planning in General Sense

What is Planning?

A process for *determining and selecting* appropriate *future action* to achieve a *specific goal* upon the *implementation* of the selected action.

Urban Planning

What is Urban Planning?

Is the *process/ activities* that *looks at what is good and bad* about a community in the *present (strengths and weaknesses)*, and plans ahead for *how* the community can maintain and *improve* itself in the *future*.

Urban planning is a *special kind of problem solving*. This kind of problems have *no definitive formulation*, no clear rules, no “true or false answers, *and no clear test for the solution* → *no ‘ideal final plan’*, there is only a best compromise solution for a certain time.

Urban planning has become a *governmental task* to *secure the function of the society despite different interests* – most of all *through* defining the use of land by *law* according to *future visions* of development.

Urban Planning Aspects



Urban Planning Characteristics

1. Is a **collective process** – done by group of individuals working at organizations, governments
2. Is **future oriented** –aims to make the future different from what it would have been without implementing the planned action
3. Aims to achieve **preferred ends** – have goals
4. Proposes **alternative actions** through which the articulated goals can be achieved
5. Involves **rational choices** – to select the most rational alternative
6. Makes **projections** of the future **consequences** of the planned actions
7. Is a **creative process** – unique problems that cannot be attacked with **standard solutions**
8. Can be both **anticipatory** (proactive) and **reactive** – is devoted to anticipating and developing responses to **problems that have not yet presented** themselves as well as it can be devoted to **responding to problems that are here** and demand solutions

Spatial Planning

The Evolution of Spatial Planning

- Though Spatial Planning is as *ancient* human *activity*, it is still a *new subject* in science and policies
- The disciplinary term *spatial planning* is an *emerging topic* that has grown in influence over the *last three decades*, along with an evident and clear *evolution in its meaning*.
- *Spatial planning* can be observed in the planning efforts of the *European countries*.
- Today the term does not only indicate the *large scale, mid-to-long-term temporal* horizons and *strategic goals*, although this has probably been its most common empirical framework.

The Definition of Spatial Planning -I

- Spatial planning *goes beyond traditional land use planning* or *urban planning*
- Spatial planning *includes policies* which can impact on land use by influencing the demands on, or needs for, development, but which are *not capable of being delivered solely* or mainly through the granting or refusal of *planning permission* and which may be implemented by other means.
- *Spatial planning* refers to the *approaches* used to *influence the distribution of people and activities* in territorial units (spaces) *of various scales (national, regional, and local units)*. It brings together and *integrates policies* for the development and use of land (*spatial policies*) with *other policies* and programmes to affect the spatial organization of specific territories and how they function.

The Definition of Spatial Planning -II

According to the European Spatial Planning Charter - 1988:

“Spatial planning gives *geographical expression* to the *economic, social, cultural and ecological policies* of society.

...It is at the same time a scientific discipline, an administrative technique and a policy developed as an *interdisciplinary and comprehensive* approach directed *towards a balanced regional development* and the *physical organisation of space according to an overall strategy*”.

The Scope of Spatial Planning - *Functions*

- The scope of *spatial planning differs greatly* from one country to another.
- Nevertheless, in nearly all countries spatial planning includes the following *three fundamental functions*:
 1. Providing a *long or medium-term strategy* for territories in pursuit of *common objectives, incorporating* different perspectives of *sectoral policies*;
 2. Dealing with *land use and physical development* as a distinct sector of government activity *alongside transport, agriculture, environment, etc.*;
 3. Setting *sectoral policies* according to *different spatial scales*.

The Scope of Spatial Planning – *Administrative Levels*

- Administratively, *spatial planning* is practised at *various tiers* (levels) of government, namely, *national, regional and local* levels.
- *National* spatial planning *guides spatial development* on the *national scale* as well as spatial planning exercises *at lower levels of government*.
- At the *regional* level, planning attempts to *shape and coordinate development*.
- At the *local* or municipal level, spatial planning in many cases centres on *land use planning* to regulate land and property uses.

Assignment – Planning System in Palestine

Review the spatial planning system in Palestine and identify the following: (You can refer to physical planning manual and visit the website of the Palestinian Ministry of Local Government)

1. The involved governmental institutions at the different administrative levels.
2. The produced plans – with brief description

Present your findings using the following table format!

Governmental Institution	Administrative level	Plan	Characteristics