



Integrated (Spatial) Planning for Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change

Regional experience: Europe

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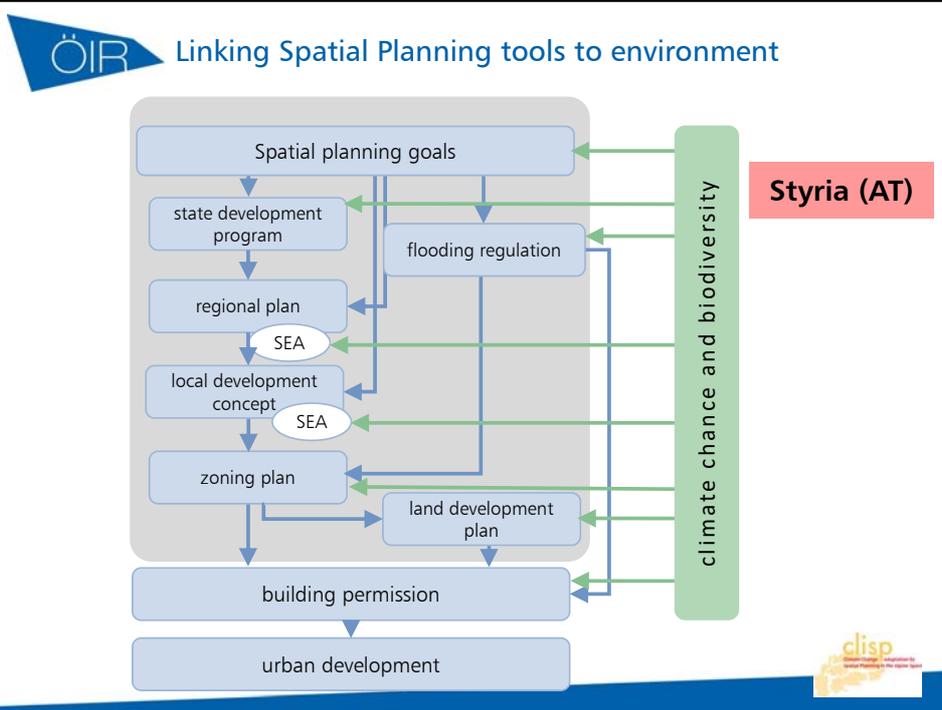


Spatial Planning in the European Union

- ▶ EU has no general competence in spatial planning
- ▶ competences lie on a national - or even sub-national or local level
- ▶ no general agreed definition
 - ⇒ a variety of definitions in Member States
- ▶ variety of systems
 - distributing the formal competences in spatial planning
 - rooted in national planning tradition and custom

(ESPON 2018, 14-26)





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Spatial planning to adapt to climate change

- ▶ **damages caused by flooding in Europe often manmade**
 - ▶▶ spatial planning decides about land use
 - How far are developments allowed in hazard zones?
 - Do rivers have enough room for retention zones or does the development of the settlement limit them?
 - ▶▶ flooding caused by heavy rains in cities depends on soil sealing: Is rainwater disposed to the urban sewage water system or is it drained at the construction site of urban developments?
- ▶ **urban heat islands are influenced building regulations**
 - ▶▶ facade greening and roof greening
 - ▶▶ reduction of soil sealing in cities (share of unsoiled land)



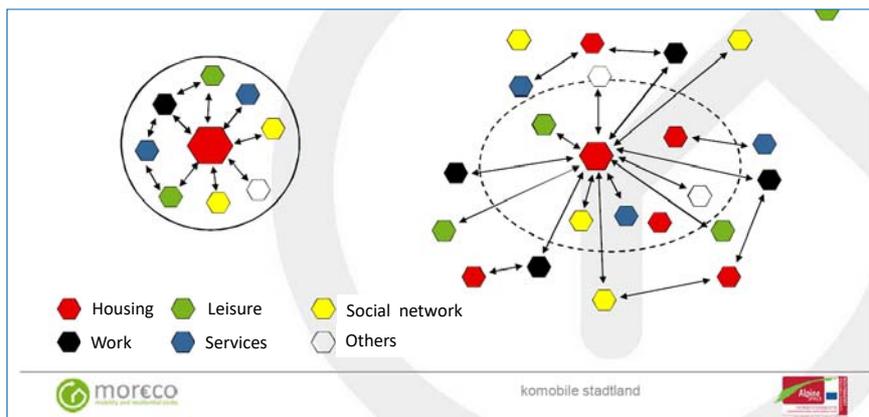
Spatial planning mitigating climate change

90 % of the Austrian CO₂ emissions are rooted in the development of settlements

- ▶ **CO₂ emissions cause climate change**
 - ▶ spatial planning decides about distribution of land use - and influences the induced traffic
 - ▶ housing developments influence the heating demand
- ▶ **soil stores carbon**
 - ▶ spatial planning influences land consumption and soil sealing and the ability to store carbon



Avoid developments making people dependent on car use





Spatial planning influencing biodiversity

- ▶ **definition of protected areas**
 - ▶▶ reserved for species
 - ▶▶ to avoid conflict between land use and protection of species
- ▶ **Assessment of plans and projects according to their impact on the environment**
 - ▶▶ strategic environment assessment e.g. of land use plans
 - ▶▶ environmental impact assessment of large scale projects



General ways of EU legislation and policies to influence spatial development

EU competencies and activities with significant influence on spatial planning

- ▶ **Legislation** (EU Directives)
- ▶ **Incentives** (financial support): regional policy, common agricultural policy
- ▶ **Agenda and discourse setting:**
publications, benchmarking, country specific recommendations

Intergovernmental cooperation spatial and urban policies

- ▶ Spatial planning policies (Territorial Agenda for the EU)
- ▶ Urban policies (Urban Agenda)





European Environmental legislation

to assess negative impacts of plans / programs

- ▶ **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** directive 2001/42/EC
- ▶ **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** directive 2011/92/EU

to protect species

- ▶ Birds Directive 2009/147/EC Habitat Directive 92/43/EEC:
Natura 2000 Network :
special protective areas for endangered species and endangered habitats

to improve water quality

- ▶ **Water Framework Directive (WFD)** 2000/60/EC,
calls for river basin management units and development of
territorially oriented plans for the river basins

(Dallhammer et al 2018)



Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

- ▶ **SEA:** plans and programmes prepared or adopted by national, regional or local authorities (SEA) e.g. land use plans
- ▶ **EIA:** large scale projects (e.g. urban development projects, industrial development projects, motorways, railways etc.)
- ▶ assessment of the **environmental effects** in the fields of fauna, flora, human health, soil water, air, cultural heritage etc.
- ▶ set up of measures to reduce adverse effects
- ▶ contribution to sustainable and integrated urbanisation and human settlement planning mentioned in UN SDG 11: Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

(Dallhammer et al 2018)





European Incentives - funding

Incentives through financial support of Member States and regions

- ▶ **Cohesion Policy**
 - European Structural (ESI) funds (ERDF, ESF)
- ▶ **Rural development policy**
- ▶ **Transport policy**
 - TEN networks

(Dallhammer et al 2018)



European Structural Investment (ESI) Funds

- ▶ influence by incentives in the form of financing projects
- ▶ implementation by national operational programmes
- ▶ a certain percentage of each national program funding has to be reserved for similar actions (“urban earmarking”)
- ▶ Three goals dedicated to biodiversity / climate change:
 4. Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors
 5. Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management
 6. Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency





European agenda and discourse setting

Cohesion report:

- ▶ European wide statistical analysis and maps including environmental status report

European Semester

- ▶ detailed analysis of each country's plans for budget, macroeconomic and structural reforms each year by the Commission
- ▶ country-specific recommendations (CSR) for the next 12-18 months including e.g. explicit recommendations on spatial planning

(Dallhammer et al 2018)



European agenda and discourse setting

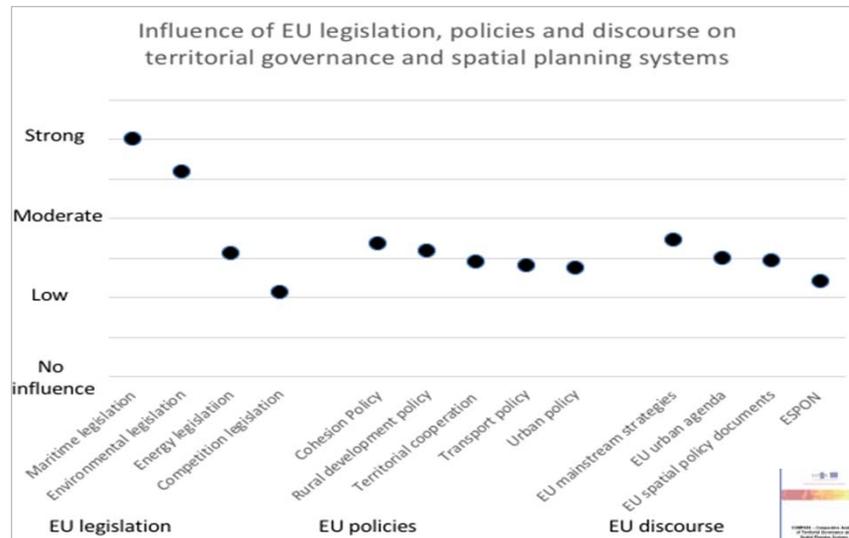
European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP)

- ▶ first spatial planning policy on an EU level - presented by ministers responsible for spatial planning 1999
- ▶ non-binding ⇔ influence by discourse
- ▶ topics: polycentricity and urban-rural partnership, parity of access to infrastructure and **sustainable development** and **protection of nature**
- ▶ successor: Territorial Agenda of the EU (2011): policy guideline to contribute to the Europe 2020 Strategy
- ▶ contributes to UN SDG 11:
Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

(Dallhammer et al 2018)



Expert Judgement: Influence of the European level on spatial planning



(ESPON 2018, 68)



Sources

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