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of the Regions**

**Commission for
Territorial Cohesion Policy
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COTER

Spatial planning and governance within EU policies and legislation and their relevance to the New Urban Agenda



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Introduction: Competencies and policies

In view of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda adopted in 2016, this paper aims at providing an overview of legislation and policies on an EU level contributing to selected aspects of those UN declarations in the field of spatial planning and governance.

Definition and distribution of competences

“Spatial planning” is a term which has no general agreed upon definition, therefore a variety of broader and more specific definitions is available on a European level as well as on the level of the Member States. For the purpose of this document the definition of the EU compendium of spatial planning systems and policies can act as an aid for understanding (EUROPEAN COMMISSION 1997, 24):

Spatial planning refers to the methods used largely by the public sector to influence the future distribution of activities in space. It is undertaken with the aims of creating a more rational territorial organisation of land uses and the linkages between them, to balance demands for development with the need to protect the environment, and to achieve social economic objectives.

Spatial planning embraces measures to co-ordinate the spatial impacts of other sectoral policies, to achieve a more even distortion of economic development between regions than would otherwise be created by market forces, and to regulate the conversion of land and property uses.

The competences for spatial planning lie on a national- or even sub-national or local level. The EU itself has no general competence assigned within this field.

On the Member State level a wide variety of systems distributing the formal competences in spatial planning exists. These systems are rooted in national planning tradition and custom and differ significantly from each other. However, some common features can be distinguished (ESPON 2018, 14-26).

In general, most Member States have a system in place where 3 levels of government are fitted with some sort of competence in planning. (A level of government is characterized by a directly elected body with decision making power.) Exceptions to this approach are for example Denmark, Malta or Sweden where only 2 levels of government have competences in planning, while in Germany, Ireland, Italy or Poland there are 4 levels and in Portugal even 5 levels

with such competences. Apart from Belgium, Spain and the United Kingdom, all EU Member States have at least some kind of planning competences on the national level.

While law-making as well as policy-making competences are usually concentrated in higher administrative levels (i.e. national government or federal states), plan- and decision-making competences are mostly shared between all levels of government. However, the scopes of the planning instruments available are to some extent connected to the administrative level, though in many cases the below remains more theory than practice.

At the **national level**, a relatively high amount of planning instruments has a visionary approach, setting the general goals or the agenda of principles for spatial planning. Common types of instruments are national spatial plans or territorial development strategies.

At the **sub-national (regional) level** strategic or framework-setting instruments are typical, defining concrete policies and references for decision making and providing a frame of reference for coordinated action. Examples include state development plans and regional plans in Germany.

At the **local level** most planning instruments are regulative in nature. Typically, the preparation of instruments is done by the local planning authority while the implementation lies upon the municipal council. Examples are land use plans resp. zoning and building schemes.

General ways of EU legislation and policies to influence spatial development

Even if the EU has no explicit competence in spatial planning, it is by no means without influence in regard to spatial planning and development. A major influence on spatial planning in the Member States by the EU is driven by existing sectoral competencies and activities that influence spatial planning instruments and spatial developments indirectly. These include parts of the EU legislation, incentives as e.g. EU funding and the agenda and discourse setting by European institutions.

Additionally, informal influence through dialogue on an intergovernmental basis can exert influence on planning within Member States even without binding agreements. However, most instruments available to actors on a supranational

level are rather weak in regard to exercising territorial policies (PBL 2016, 17-19 and BÖHME 2007).

The below table provides a first overview on which policy measures at European level have significant influence on spatial planning in Europe.

Examples of EU competencies and activities with significant influence on spatial planning			Intergovernmental cooperation spatial and urban policies	
Legislation	Incentives	Agenda and discourse setting*	Spatial planning policies	Urban policies
Environment – SEA Directive – EIA Directive – Birds Directive – Habitat Directive – Water Framework Directive – Floods Directive – Environmental Noise Directive – SEVESO III Directive – Waste Framework Directive – Landfill Directive Energy – Renewable Energy Directive – Energy Efficiency Directive – Regulation on Guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure Competition – Directive on public procurement and Directive on procurement by entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors Maritime – Marine Spatial Planning Directive – Marine Strategy Framework Directive	Cohesion Policy – ESI Funds (EFRE, ESF) – CLLD – ITI Rural development policy – EAFRD – LEADER Transport policy – TEN networks	– Reports on Urban Europe, Urban Audit, State of cities report – Cohesion report – European Environment – state and outlook – Country Specific Recommendations (CSR)	– European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) – Territorial Agenda of the EU (TAEU) 2007 – Territorial Agenda of the EU 2020 (TA2020)	– Leipzig Charter – Urban Agenda for the EU (UAEU) – Pact of Amsterdam

* As these discourse setting processes influence spatial planning very weakly and informally, they are not further analysed in the following chapter.

EU competencies and activities

European legislation (directives, regulations) can affect planning processes. On one hand it might restrict certain planning initiatives, but on the other hand it can stimulate developments in the spatial planning system. For instance the SEA Directive set new standards for reflecting environmental issues in the planning process in a structured way in several countries.

The EU and its various bodies have a wide range to **incentives** Member States, regions and cities – most notably through various forms of financial support. In many cases these incentives impact (explicitly or implicitly) also spatial developments. Among the most prominent incentive systems are Cohesion Policy, rural development policies and in particular EAFRD incl. LEADER/CLLD, transport policies with major investments in European transport systems.

Furthermore, in a wide range of areas, the EU influences spatial planning through **agenda and discourse setting**. This can be done through publications, benchmarking, awards etc. Most directly there are a range of such publications on urban areas and cities in Europe, there is the Cohesion Report and the regular environmental status reports.

The European Semester is an established procedure enabling the EU Member States to coordinate their economic policies throughout addressing economic challenges facing the EU. During this process the Commission undertakes a detailed analysis of each country's plans for budget, macroeconomic and structural reforms each year. The results of these analyses are laid down in the **country-specific recommendations** (CSR) for the next 12-18 months. The Commission used the CSR also to provide explicit recommendations on spatial planning, e.g. for (among others) Poland, UK, Ireland, Sweden and Portugal. These hints were impulses for a discussion on spatial planning issues in these countries.

Intergovernmental cooperation

Intergovernmental cooperation on spatial and urban policies describes initiatives, policies and papers that were developed in a dialogue between the Member States and the Commission. The results are usually non-binding documents. However, based on the power of the dialogue process, these documents could become guiding documents for national and European policies. Examples are the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP), the Territorial Agenda of the EU, the Leipzig Charter and the Urban Agenda for the EU (UAEU).

Examples of main EU legislation and policies influencing spatial planning

The European influence on national spatial planning systems is rather complex and in many cases not even intended but a by-product of different actions. Accordingly not only the content of a legislative or policy document itself but also the actual impact in the Member States has to be taken into account when identifying main EU legislation and policies influencing spatial planning.

Within the ESPON COMPASS project, experts from each Member State have identified the most influential legislation and policies regarding spatial planning within their country. All of those which are relevant to the task at hand are included in the list below. The main fields of influence are environmental, energy, competition and maritime legislation as well as cohesion, rural development, territorial cooperation, urban and transport policies. However, the impact strongly varies by sector and geographical area (ESPON 2018, 40-54). It includes EU legislation as well as setting development incentives by EU funding.

A main goal of this paper is to illustrate the contribution of the identified legislation and policies to the UN SDGs and the New Urban Agenda. Particularly, target 3 of SDG 11 is of concern, as it explicitly mentions participatory, integrated and sustainable settlement planning and management. Within the New Urban Agenda primarily the section “Planning and managing Urban Spatial Development” is regarded, wherein the articles 96, 98, 99 and 105 are of specific interest. Those articles are especially concerned with plans and development strategies mainly in the responsibility of local and regional authorities (LRAs). As LRAs are key players in urban spatial development planning, an emphasis is laid on their role within this paper.

In the following section, the directives, regulations and documents with significant influence on spatial planning are described briefly and their contribution to target 3 of UN SGD 11 and to the New Urban Agenda is outlined.

Environmental legislation

The **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** directive 2001/42/EC requires an impact assessment to be conducted for certain plans and programmes prepared or adopted by national, regional or local authorities. This includes amongst others land use plans and other spatial plans. The SEA assesses these plans according to the environmental effects especially in the fields of fauna, flora, human health, soil water, air, cultural heritage etc. according to international, EU-wide or MS-wide environmental goals. It analyses the impact of the planned activities on protected areas. Measures undertaken to reduce adverse effects need to be identified. The SEA contributes to sustainable and integrated urbanisation and human settlement planning mentioned in UN SDG 11 as well as to article 98 of the New Urban Agenda.

The **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** directive 2011/92/EU requires an impact assessment for certain types of large scale projects, including among others urban development projects, industrial development projects, motorways, railways and other transport infrastructure. The assessment must include information on all relevant environmental effects on fauna, flora, biodiversity, human health, soil water, air, cultural heritage etc.. Measures undertaken to reduce adverse effects need to be set up. EIAs contribute to sustainable human settlement planning mentioned in UN SDG 11 as well as article 98 of the New Urban Agenda is to be expected.

The **Birds Directive** 2009/147/EC aims at protecting, managing and controlling all species of birds within the EU and establishes the Natura 2000 Network in combination with the **Habitat Directive** 92/43/EEC. The main influence on spatial planning is exerted by requiring the creation of special protective areas for endangered species and endangered habitats. Within those areas the directive requires impact assessments to be carried out for each project or plan likely to affect the protective goals.

The **Water Framework Directive (WFD)** 2000/60/EC in general aims for a coordinated approach towards water management and improving water quality within the EU. It calls for is the creation of river basin management units based on hydrographical factors and the development of territorially oriented plans for the river basins. In some Member states new territorially based authorities were established. Building on the WFD, the **Floods Directive (FD)** 2007/60/EC aims for the reduction of adverse effects by floods to human health, cultural heritage, the environment and economic activities. Under the directive, flood risk maps and flood risk management plans have to be prepared by the Member States, which among other instruments should utilize spatial planning as a mitigation

tool. Thus, both directives have a clear impact on sustainable human settlement planning and management as well as article 98 of the New Urban Agenda.

The **Environmental Noise Directive** (END) 2002/49/EC aims at reducing harmful effects of noise on human health. Periodical mapping of noise effects on agglomerations from infrastructural facilities such as major roads, railways or airports is required. Action plans aiming at the reduction of identified noise issues are required to be elaborated. The END introduces the terms “acoustical planning” and “noise zoning”, specifically mentioning land use planning as possible tool to reduce adverse effects of noise. The potential of contributing to sustainable settlement planning as mentioned in UN SDG 11 and to articles 98 and 105 of the New Urban Agenda therefore is high, however little use of acoustic zoning is reported for the last 16 years (ESPON 2018, Annex 7).

The **SEVESO III Directive** 2012/18/EU targets at the reduction of risks due to hazardous materials emphasising risk mitigation by land use planning. Planning authorities have to ensure, that risks especially for residential areas and sensitive natural areas are taken into account in the planning process when zoning land for enterprises with potential risks. The Directive can thus be considered to contribute to UN SDG 11 as well as article 98 of the New Urban Agenda.

Waste Management Plans as required by the **Waste Framework Directive** (WFD) 2008/98/EC aim at reducing adverse effects of waste on human health and the environment. These plans are oriented towards the organisational side of waste prevention with little regard to the spatial perspective. The creation of inter-municipal cooperation networks in waste treatment facilities can however be considered a contribution to article 96 of the New Urban Agenda. More explicitly than the WFD, the **Landfill Directive** (LD) 1999/31/EC regards the spatial perspective as it requires sites for landfills to be chosen only in consideration of (among others) distance to residential, recreational or other urban areas.

Legislation in regard to Energy

The **Renewable Energy Directive** 2009/28/EC establishes a common framework for the use of energy from renewable sources within the European Union. It sets mandatory national targets for the overall share of energy from renewable sources in gross final consumption of energy and for the share of energy from renewable sources in transport. It lays down rules relating to statistical transfers between Member States, joint projects between Member States and with third countries, guarantees of origin, administrative procedures, information and training, and access to the electricity grid for energy from

renewable sources. It establishes sustainability criteria for biofuels and bioliquids. Member States shall ensure that the respective responsibilities of national, regional and local administrative bodies for authorisation, certification and licensing procedures including spatial planning are clearly coordinated and defined, with transparent timetables for determining planning and building applications. Thus, the directive has a clear impact on sustainable human settlement planning and management mentioned in UN SDG 11 as well as articles 96, 98 and 105 of the New Urban Agenda.

The **Energy Efficiency Directive** 2012/27/EU establishes a common framework of measures for the promotion of energy efficiency within the Union in order to ensure the achievement of the Union's 2020 target on energy efficiency. The directive lays down rules designed to remove barriers in the energy market and to overcome market failures that impede efficiency in the supply and use of energy. Member States should encourage municipalities and other public bodies to adopt integrated and sustainable energy efficiency plans, to involve citizens in their development and implementation. Such plans can yield considerable energy savings, especially if they are implemented by energy management systems that allow the public bodies to better manage their energy consumption. The directive has a clear impact on sustainable human settlement planning and management as mentioned in UN SDG 11 as well as articles 96, 98 and 105 of the New Urban Agenda.

The **Regulation (EU) 347/2013 on Guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure** lays down guidelines for the timely development and interoperability of priority corridors and areas of trans-European energy infrastructure. The planning and implementation of projects of common interest in the areas of energy, transport and telecommunication infrastructure should be coordinated from an overall economic, technical, environmental and spatial planning point of view. Preference should be given to integrating transport, communication and energy networks in order to ensure that as little land as possible is taken up, ensuring, that existing or disused routes are reused, in order to reduce to a minimum any negative social, economic, environmental and financial impact. Projects of common interest shall be allocated the status of the highest national significance possible and be treated as such in permit granting processes – and if national law so provides, in spatial planning – including those relating to environmental assessments. The directive has a clear impact on sustainable human settlement planning and management as mentioned in UN SDG 11 as well as articles 96 and 98 of the New Urban Agenda.

Legislation on competition

The **Directive 2014/24/EU on public procurement** and the **Directive 2014/25/EU on procurement by entities operating in the water, energy, transport and postal services sectors** establish rules on the procedures for procurement by contracting entities with respect to contracts as well as design contests. “Design contests” means procedures which enable the contracting entity to acquire a plan or design selected by a jury after being put out to competition with or without the award of prizes. Design contests are traditionally used in the fields of town and country planning. Therefore, these directives contribute to article 96, 98, 99 and 105 of the New Urban Agenda as well as to UN SDG 11.

Maritime spatial planning

The **Directive 2014/89/EU** establishing a framework **for maritime spatial planning** establishes a framework for maritime spatial planning aimed at promoting the sustainable growth of maritime economies, the sustainable development of marine areas and the sustainable use of marine resources. The directive applies to marine waters of Member States. It does not apply to coastal waters and to town and country planning. Maritime spatial plans include activities as aquaculture areas, fishing areas, infrastructures for the exploitation of oil, of gas and other energy resources and for the production of energy from renewable sources, maritime transport routes, nature and species conservation sites and protected areas, raw material extraction areas, submarine cable and pipeline routes, etc. The directive has no impact on sustainable human settlement planning and management as mentioned in UN SDG 11 as well as articles 96, 98, 99 and 105 of the New Urban Agenda.

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC establishes a framework within Member States shall take measures to achieve or maintain good environmental status in the marine environment. Marine strategies shall be developed and implemented in order to protect and preserve the marine environment or restore marine ecosystems in areas where they have been adversely affected. This directive applies to all marine waters. Thus, it has indirect impact on sustainable human settlement planning and management as mentioned in UN SDG 11 as well as articles 96, 98, 99 and 105 of the New Urban Agenda.

European Incentives – Cohesion policy and rural development policy

The **European Structural Investment Funds (ESI Funds)** play a significant role in various EU-policies, especially Cohesion, Rural Development and Territorial Cooperation. Their influence is exerted by incentives in the form of financing projects within the Member States. The implementation of the funds is achieved by national operational programmes based on a fund-specific regulation on an EU level as well as a “common provisions” regulation (1303/2013) for all ESI-funds. Through the funds, a minimum of 330mn EUR has to be made available for “innovative action in the field of sustainable urban development”, and a certain percentage of each national programmes funding has to be reserved for similar actions. Those minimum requirements are referred to as “urban earmarking”. Furthermore, an emphasis is laid on integrated territorial development and the support of urban-rural linkages by programmes. Integrated territorial investments coordinating the use of more than one of the ESI funds for financing urban development strategies or other territorial strategies are introduced as well.

Sustainable urban development is an explicit objective within the **European Regional Development funds (ERDF)** regulation No. 1301/2013 and subsequently the operational programmes of the Member States derived thereof. An amount of at least 5% of the funding made available under the “investment for growth and jobs” goal has to be allocated towards actions that tackle that objective.

A core principle of ERDF actions is “interlinking”, meaning actions should not be funded isolated from each other but rather be developed in an integrated context of a wider strategy responding to the problems of a specific urban area. Integrated urban strategies should take into account social, economic, environmental, climate and demographic factors as well as the institutional context and existing strategies and policies contributing to the state, the problems and the opportunities of a specific urban region. Recommendations for the implementation of urban development strategies of the EC further emphasize the role of cooperation between citizens, civil society and other governance levels in the creation of integrated strategies. To enhance the interlinking of strategies, Member States are also encouraged to seek synergies with other ESI funds like the ESF, particularly via the use of the “ITI”-instrument described below.

As a means of strengthening the role of lower administrative levels, certain tasks regarding the implementation of strategies have to be delegated (contrary to

other areas of the ESI funds where they *may be* delegated) from managing authorities – usually bodies on a national or at least regional level – to urban authorities.

Territorial Cooperation policy funding is made available via the ERDF for a variety of measures ranging from regional- and cross-border exchange of experience to cooperation in the drafting of development strategies however this has exerted a rather low influence on spatial planning within the EU.

The **European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)** regulation No. 1698/2005 supports the creation of local development strategies and plans, the use of urban-rural links and the investment in basic infrastructural services to rural areas.

One of the major initiatives funded via ESI funds is **LEADER/CLLD** approach: LEADER is a local development method aiming at including local actors in the design and delivery of strategies, decision-making and resource allocation for the development of their rural areas. It is implemented by around 2 600 Local Action Groups (LAGs), covering over 54% of the rural population in the EU and bringing together public, private and civil-society stakeholders in a particular area (https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/leader-clld_en). Whereas LEADER was concentrated on rural areas the broader term Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) enables to apply the LEADER approach in other non-rural regions and other ESI Funds.

Where territorial strategies like urban development strategies require the use of funding from multiple ESI funds, the action can be carried out as an Integrated Territorial Investment (ITI). This instrument allows for a more coordinated approach instead of multiple parallel funding schemes to intersecting with each other. Via an ITI, funding from all ESI funds including the **European Social Fund (ESF)** regulation No. 1304/2013, the **European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF)** regulation 508/2014 and the **Cohesion Fund (CF)** regulation No. 1300/2013 can be combined. Managing of an ITI can be delegated to authorities down to the local level where necessary, therefore empowering lower levels of administration.

All in all, the ESI funds contribute to article 96 and 98 of the New Urban Agenda as well as to UN SDG 11. A contribution to other articles as 99 or 105 of the New Urban Agenda is also possible within the framework of the funds, however this depends on the individual operational programmes.

Transport policy

The **Regulation (EU) 1315/2013 on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network (TEN)** establishes guidelines for the development of a trans-European transport network consisting of the comprehensive network and of the core network. This regulation identifies projects of common interest and specifies the requirements to be complied with for the management of the infrastructure of the trans-European transport network. It sets out the priorities for the development of the trans-European transport network. According to the ESPON-project “COMPASS” EU transport policy has only moderate influence over the domestic spatial planning systems. On the national level the TEN-T regulations take effect as a persuasive (rather than a legal) instrument. The stronger influence in Eastern Europe is explained by the strong relations between the TEN-T programme and EU cohesion policy. Accordingly, funding for projects connected to TEN-T is made available via the Cohesion Fund and the ERDF besides the European Fund for Strategic Investment and the Connecting Europe Facility. Challenges to infrastructure development related to EU policy have led to new planning instruments (e.g. EE). Urban mobility planning has in some cases been added to local land-use planning (e.g. RO). Generally, the moderate influence is due to the very sectoral character of transport issues. Thus, the directive has no clear impact on sustainable human settlement planning and management as mentioned in UN SDG 11 as well as articles 96, 98, 99 and 105 of the New Urban Agenda.

Intergovernmental cooperation on urban policies

The **Leipzig Charter** on Sustainable European Cities points out the necessity of integrated urban development policy as a key prerequisite for implementing the EU Sustainable Development Strategy. It emphasizes to intensify the exchange of knowledge and experience between policy makers, practitioners and researchers at local, regional, national and European level in the future. European structural funds must be made available for local projects that embrace this integral approach. Key areas on which urban policy should focus are e.g. dealing with deprived neighbourhoods, improving public spaces, modernising infrastructure with a focus on saving energy, proactive education and training policies for children and young people, promotion of efficient and affordable urban transport. Thus the directive has a clear impact on sustainable human settlement planning and management mentioned in UN SDG 11 as well as articles 96, 98 and 105 of the New Urban Agenda.

The **Urban Agenda for the EU** states that a balanced, sustainable and integrated approach towards urban challenges should, in line with the Leipzig Charter on sustainable European cities, focus on all major aspects of urban development (in particular economic, environmental, social, territorial, and cultural). The Urban Agenda for the EU emphasizes the link with the New Urban Agenda (Habitat III) of the UN and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Sustainable use of land and housing are mentioned as one of the priority themes. The objectives are: affordable housing of good quality, reducing poverty and improve the inclusion of people in poverty or at risk of poverty in deprived neighbourhoods, ensure that the changes in Urban Areas are respectful of the environment and improving quality of life (avoiding urban sprawl, development of brownfields, etc.), as well as urban-rural cooperation and citizens participation. According to the ESPON-project “COMPASS” the Urban Agenda for the EU explicitly records direct impacts locally, through the inspiration of integrated plans for urban regeneration, of inter-municipal partnerships, or sustainable urban strategies. In some countries, the EU Urban Agenda influences explicitly numerous national, regional and local spatial plans such as sustainable urban mobility, urban renovation and social inclusion. Experts reported that cities are very active in the development of their own strategies for the adaptation to climate change, smart development strategies etc. apparently without explicit connection to EU documents. Summarizing, the Urban Agenda for the EU has a clear impact on sustainable human settlement planning and management as mentioned in UN SDG 11 as well as articles 96 and 98 of the New Urban Agenda.

Intergovernmental cooperation on spatial planning policies

On the European level several policy discussions on spatial planning issues were launched. What can be considered the first spatial planning policy on an EU level is the **European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP)** adopted in 1999. It is a non-binding document presented by the ministers responsible for spatial planning in the Member States that exerts influence mainly by persuasion by discourse rather than formal instruments or implementation structures. It defined three policy guidelines of the spatial planning agenda of the EU as polycentricity and urban-rural partnership, parity of access to infrastructure and knowledge and sustainable development and protection of nature and cultural heritage (BÖHME 2002, 22-32 and FALUDI, 3). As a policy document, the ESDP clearly contributes to articles 96 and 98 of the New Urban Agenda as well as UN SDG 11.

Rooted in the ESDP, in 2007 the first **Territorial Agenda of the EU** was presented by the ministers responsible for spatial planning. Like the ESDP it is a non-binding document, outlining the intentions of the Member States towards

territorial development. Apart from defining the priorities of the EU in that regard, it also lists measures which needed to be taken on an EU and on a member state level to implement the agenda (FALUDI 2007, TAEU 2007). A follow up territorial agenda was agreed on in 2011 acting as a policy guideline to contribute to the Europe 2020 Strategy. Again, it calls for strengthening the instruments implementing the agenda are made, most notably the call towards the Commission to require the inclusion of territorial aspects in the stages of programming, evaluating and monitoring of all policies and programmes (TAEU2020). Both the 2007 and the 2011 versions of the territorial agenda contain suggestions and guidelines which contribute to UN SGD 11 and articles 96, 98 and 99 of the New Urban Agenda.

Summary table summarising the EU legislation and policies by spatial planning dimensions

Name	Type	Geographical area				Key concepts				Estimation of strength of impact
		Urban	Rural	Coastal	Mountainous	Sustainable urban development	Urban-rural relations	Access to infrastructure/public services	Protection of natural/cultural heritage	
Environmental Impact Assessment Directive	Directive	X	X	X	X	X			X	Clear impact: requires assessment of effects of projects in the field of urban development, industrial development and transport infrastructure
Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive	Directive	X	X	X	X	X			X	Clear impact: requires assessment of effects of plans and programmes for land use, town and country planning
Water Framework Directive	Directive	X	X	X	X			X	X	Marginal impact on spatial planning via creation of territorially based administrative units
Flood Directive	Directive	X	X	X	X	X			X	Clear impact: the effect of floods on human settlements has to be mapped, mitigation measures should include spatial planning action
Environmental Noise Directive	Directive	X	X	X	X	X				Clear impact: introduction of “acoustical planning” and “noise zoning” to reduce adverse effects of noise
SEVESO III Directive	Directive	X	X	X	X	X			X	Clear impact: danger to residential areas has to be taken into account by planning authorities
Waste Framework Directive Landfill Directive	Directive	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	No clear impact: only marginal effects on spatial planning, mainly targeting the organisational side of waste prevention
Renewable Energy Directive	Directive	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		Clear impact: coordination between national, regional and local administrative bodies – including spatial planning – is to be ensured
Energy Efficiency Directive	Directive	X	X	X	X	X	X			Clear impact: exchange of experience between cities, towns and other public bodies; involvement of citizens in development and implementation integrated and sustainable energy efficiency plans
Maritime spatial planning Directive	Directive								X	Indirect impact: directive does not apply to town and country planning
Marine Strategy Framework Directive	Directive									Indirect impact: directive applies to marine waters, not to coastal waters and to town and country planning

Name	Type	Geographical area				Key concepts				Estimation of strength of impact
		Urban	Rural	Coastal	Mountainous	Sustainable urban development	Urban-rural relations	Access to infrastructure/public services	Protection of natural/cultural heritage	
Public procurement Directive	Directive	X	X	X	X	X				Clear impact: design contests are traditionally used in the fields of town and country planning
Guidelines for trans-European energy infrastructure	Regulation	X	X	X	X	X		X		Clear impact: planning and implementation coordinated to generate synergies from an spatial planning point of view; ensuring that as little land as possible is taken up
ESI Common Provisions	Regulation	X	X	X	X	X	X			Clear impact: general rules for application of ESI Funds, minimum requirement of 330mn EUR for sustainable urban development, support of urban-rural linkages
ERDF Fund	Regulation	X	X	X	X	X	X			Clear impact: funding of projects in the field of spatial planning or with a spatial impact, introduction of an urban development network
EARDF Fund	Regulation		X				X	X		Clear impact: support of urban-rural links, support of local development strategies and plans, investment in basic infrastructure in rural areas
Guidelines for the development of the TEN-T	Regulation	X	X	X	X			X		Indirect impact: only marginal influence on spatial planning; stronger influence in Eastern Europe through strong relations between TEN-T programme and EU cohesion policy; moderate influence due to the sectoral character of transport
Leipzig Charter	Intergovernmental cooperation policy	X				X	X	X	X	Clear impact: integrated urban development policy, knowledge exchange between policy makers, practitioners, researchers at local, regional, national and European level; key areas: deprived neighbourhoods, public spaces, infrastructure, education, efficient and affordable urban transport
Urban Agenda for the EU	Intergovernmental cooperation policy	X				X	X	X		Clear impact: sustainable use of land, affordable housing of good quality, reducing poverty, urban-rural cooperation, citizens participation
European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP)	Intergovernmental cooperation policy	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Clear impact: polycentrism, urban-rural partnerships, parity of access to infrastructure, sustainable territorial development, conservation of natural and cultural heritage, cooperation between multiple levels of government and territories are suggested
Territorial Agenda of the EU	Intergovernmental cooperation policy	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Clear impact: core topics are sustainable urban development, cooperation between urban and rural areas, security of access to basic services for the population, protection of natural and cultural heritage

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**European Committee
of the Regions**

Created in 1994 following the signing of the Maastricht Treaty,
the European Committee of the Regions is the EU's assembly of 350 regional and
local representatives from all 28 Member States, representing over 507 million Europeans.

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