Unity and Diversity in Spatial Planning Across Europe

Hendrik W van der Kamp – Vice-President European Council of Spatial Planners

Cities, Communities and Homes: Is the Urban Future Livable? Conference Keynote. Thursday 22nd June, 2017

Spatial Planning as a Profession

- A reality of diversity in Europe
- Why we need unity?
- The City as the main challenge
- Towards defining the profession

The Planner as an Architect

- 1929-1935 CIAM
- Separation of land uses, zoning
- Functional city
- Charter of Athens
- Blueprint planning – planning as design
- Planning: a thing of beauty

The Planner as an Analyst

- UK: Patrick Geddes
- Survey – Analysis – Plan
- The rationale for intervention
- Diagnosis before treatment
- Analysis before policy
- Planning: a matter of research

The Planner as a Rationalist

- USA: Meyerson and Banfield
- Synoptic Planning Model
- Goals and Objectives first
- Rationality as the core of planning
- Optimisation
- The planner: a matter of politics

The Planner as a Communicator

- Communicative Planning
- Common good or public interest not objectively defined but subjectively agreed
- Consensus building
- Planning for the citizen
- Planning: a matter of discourse

The Planner as an Environmentalist

- Ecological planning
- Environmental constraints
- Supply based planning
- Planning to achieve sustainability
- Systems approach
- Planning for a circular economy

Diversity in the Theory of Planning

- Roots of spatial planning vary across Europe
- Paradigms have changed (from blueprint to communicative planning)
- Rationale for intervention in the market can be:
  - Civic design: architectural tradition
  - Public health: social tradition
  - Market inefficiencies: economic tradition
  - Resource limitations: environmental tradition

Diversity in the Practice of Planning

- Central and eastern Europe: Chambers
- Southern Europe: Architecture
- Western Europe: professional accreditation
- Northern Europe: not regulated

A Conference about the City

- How will urban environments change?
- Are the cities likely to contract or expand?
- How will these changes impact on communities and the way they are housed?
- Will new technologies facilitate community engagement with planning?
- Will resident voices be heard by planners?
- Will unaffordable housing turn some cities into enclaves of the wealthy, or will the private sector and personal preference gate our communities?

Focus on the City: six trends

- *Demographics*: people move to the cities, ageing populations
- *Spatial*: cities become bigger – megacities
- *Technology*: embodied technology in buildings and infrastructure, smart city

Focus on the City: six trends

- *Climate change*: flood risk and storm damage, resilience needed

- *Social*: melting pot of cultures, demand for participative democracy

- *Economic*: cities compete with cities, reduced ties to countries, increased ties to international networks
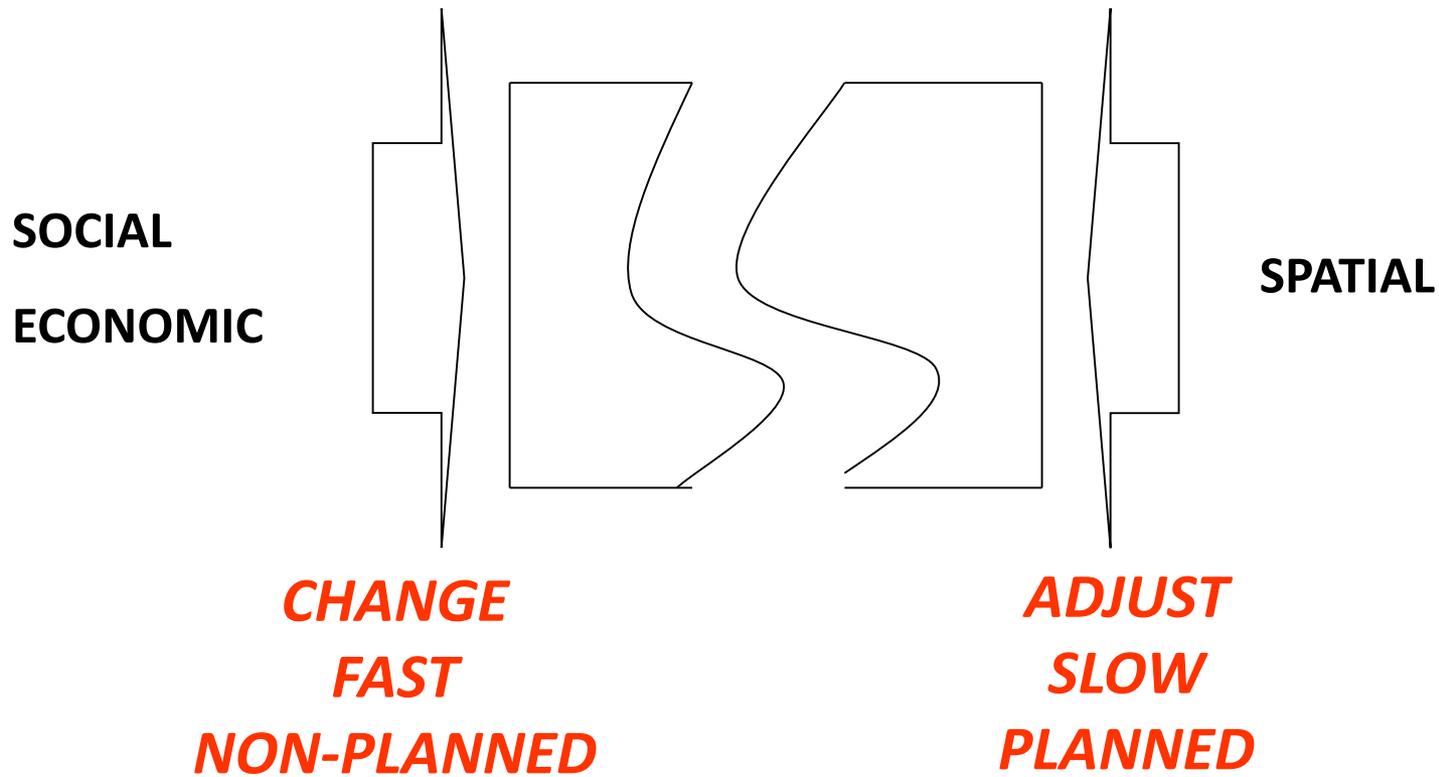
Urban Agenda for the EU

- Urban Agenda for the EU: 'Pact of Amsterdam' (2016)

- Polycentric principle (ESDP)

- Subsidiarity principle commitment - no spatial planning competency in EU

- Three pillars: regulation, funding and knowledge

Pact of Amsterdam: some of the 12 themes

- **Quality**: Air quality, Sustainable use of land and Nature-Based solutions, Urban mobility
- **Resilience**: Circular economy, Climate adaptation (including green infrastructure solutions), Energy transition
- **Equality**: Inclusion of migrants and refugees, Urban poverty, Housing

A City: Shell and Content

SOCIAL

ECONOMIC

SPATIAL

CHANGE
FAST
NON-PLANNED

ADJUST
SLOW
PLANNED

About ECTP-CEU

- European Council of Spatial Planners (ECTP)
- Network of Town Planning Institutes across many European countries.
- Network of planning professionals
- www.ectp-ceu.eu

The European Spatial Planner

- The Charter of European Planning
- Adopted by ECTP-CEU in April 2013
- www.ectp-ceu.eu
- Common vision and principles to which planners across Europe are committed
- Part A: A Vision for the future
- Part B: Roles for spatial planners
- Part C: Professional standards

Part C – Commitments of the European Spatial Planner

- a leader of change
- a humanist-scientist part of a knowledge-based profession
- a designer and a visionary
- a political advisor and mediator
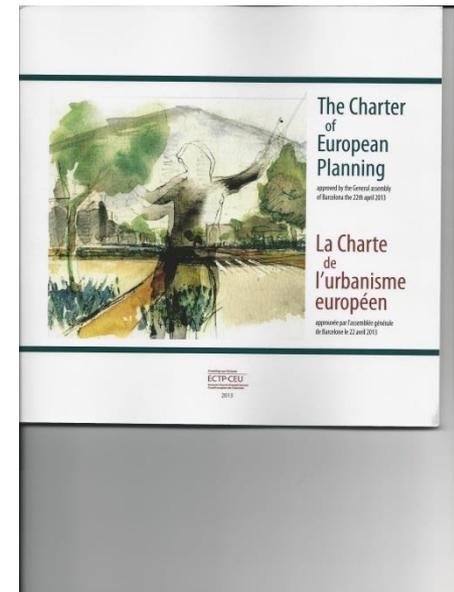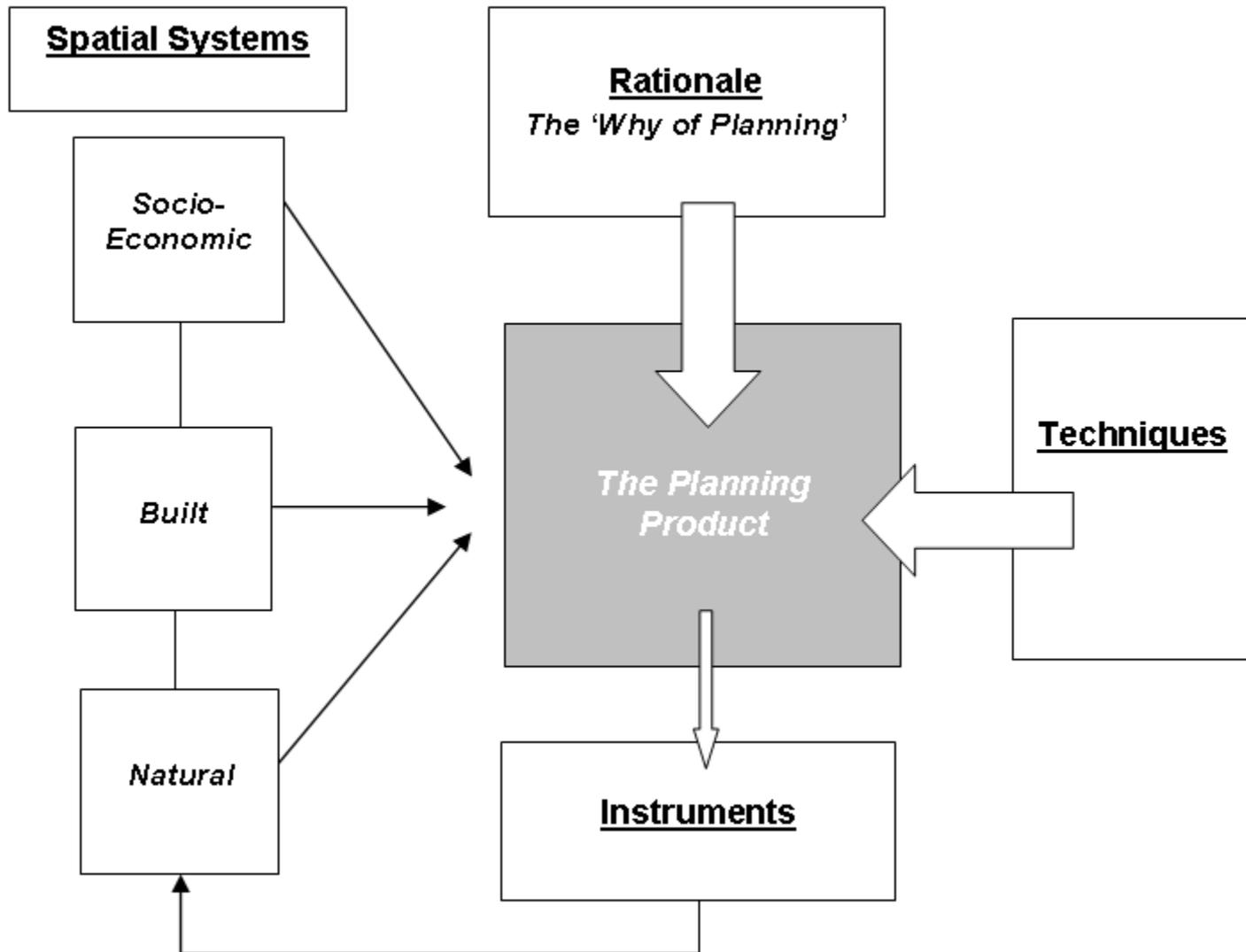- a manager of cities and regions

Figure 4.1:   Aspects of Planning Practice

Spatial Systems

Rationale
The 'Why of Planning'

Socio-Economic

Built

The Planning Product

Techniques

Natural

Instruments

Conclusions

- Diversity: range of definitions of spatial planner across Europe
- Unity: Need to achieve common definition
- Reasons: mobility of planners, credibility of profession, public understanding
- European charter is first step but not enough
- Main challenge: to define the core competences