Unity and Diversity in Spatial Planning Across Europe

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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
- CHANGE
  - FAST
  - NON-PLANNED
- ADJUST
  - SLOW
  - PLANNED
- SPATIAL
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](http://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
- Socio-Economic
- Built
- Natural

Rationale
The 'Why of Planning'

The Planning Product

Instruments

Techniques
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