CASCAIS DECLARATION ON SPATIAL PLANNING

MORE OF THE SAME IS NOT ENOUGH

SPATIAL PLANNING FOR PEOPLE

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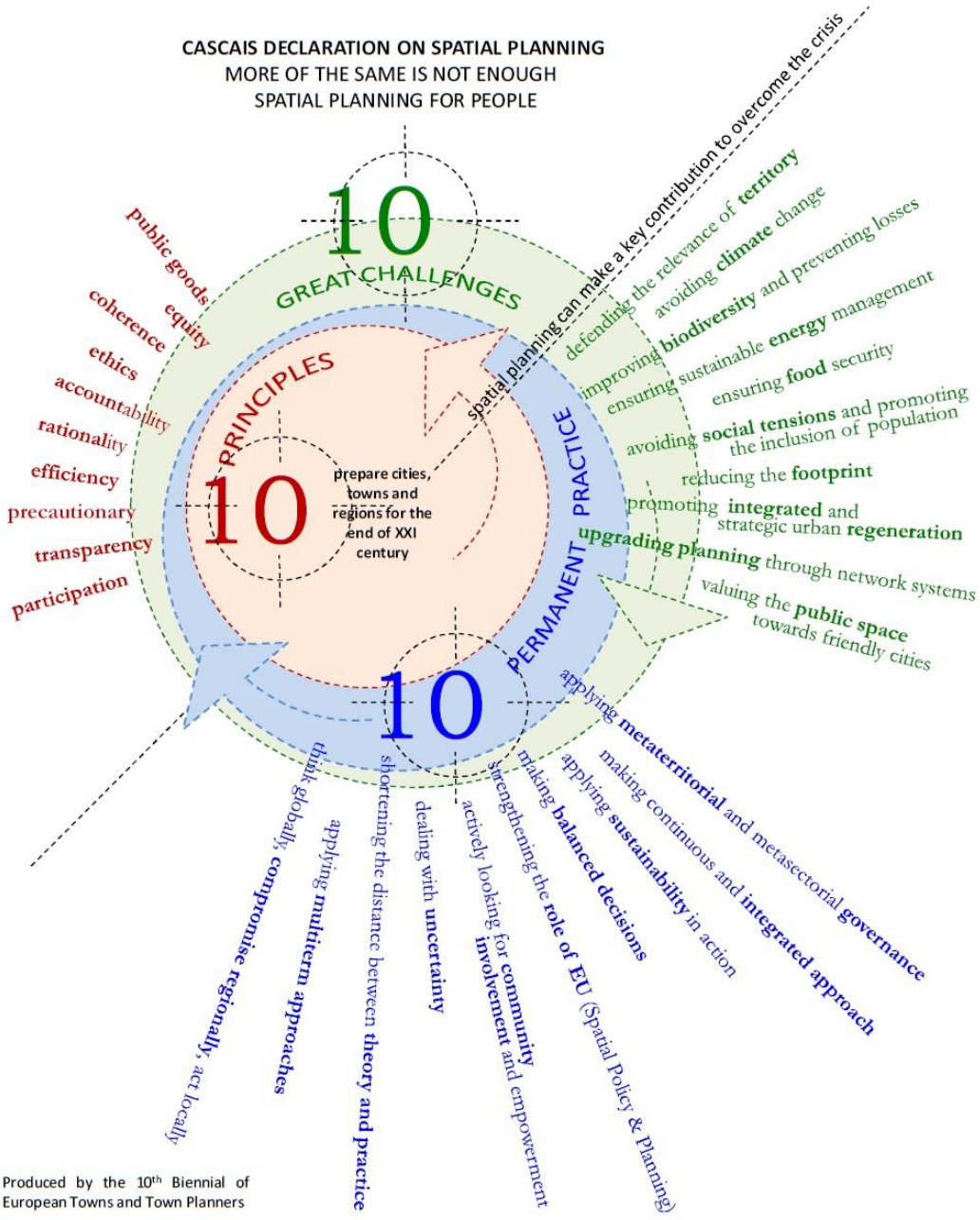
Key Words: defending the relevance of territory; climate change**;** biodiversity loss**;** sustainable energy management**;** food security**;** social tensions; inclusion; ecological footprint; urban regeneration; network systems; public space; public goods; equity; coherence; ethics; accountability; rationality; efficiency; precautionary; transparency; participation; metaterritorial governance**;** metasectorial governance; integrated approach; sustainability in action**;** balanced decisions; EU spatial policy and planning; community involvement and empowerment**;** uncertainty**;** theory and practice; multiterm approach; think globally; compromise regionally; act locally.


CASCAIS DECLARATION ON SPATIAL PLANNING
MORE OF THE SAME IS NOT ENOUGH
SPATIAL PLANNING FOR PEOPLE
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GREAT CHALLENGES
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prepare cities, towns and regions for the end of XXI century
PERMANENT PRACTICE
10
spatial planning can make a key contribution to overcome the crisis
defending the relevance of territory
avoiding climate change
improving biodiversity and preventing losses
ensuring sustainable energy management
ensuring food security
avoiding social tensions and promoting the inclusion of population
reducing the footprint
promoting integrated and strategic urban regeneration
upgrading planning through network systems
valuing the public space towards friendly cities
applying metaterritorial and metasectorial governance
making continuous and integrated approach
applying sustainability in action
making balanced decisions
strengthening the role of EU (Spatial Policy & Planning)
actively looking for community involvement and empowerment
dealing with uncertainty
shortening the distance between theory and practice
applying multiterm approaches
think globally, compromise regionally, act locally
public goods
equity
coherence
ethics
accountability
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efficiency
precautionary
transparency
participation
Produced by the 10th Biennial of European Towns and Town Planners

We are now living in an ecological overshoot, consuming more resources than the planet can replace, drawing down the stock of natural resources. Assuming these present trends, the World in 2030 will have 14% more population and will need 50% more food, 45% more energy and 30% more water.

For the first time in history, Humanity is facing global problems that can change: Earth's ecological system; global climate; bio-physical trends; and biodiversity. These global changes' main drivers are: the global economy; electronics and communications; the balance of global powers and policies; new health, production, energy, infrastructures and transports technologies; sustainable growth; climate; and ecological systems.
Society is at a turning point, the transition from the end of the Industrial Age to the New Age. This transition is bringing new challenges to spatial planning.

A transition of ages is always a long and difficult period, in which it is necessary to overcome difficult problems, solving the short term ones in the scope of the long term transition. The way to an Ecological civilization on a healthy planet obliges us to seek new solutions. This unprecedented moment is an opportunity to rethink policies, institutions, objectives, methodologies, models, to renew focus and every day practices.

During the last century, philosophy, sciences, arts, technology, policies, economy, society, citizens' rights, family structure and working conditions changed deeply. Changes followed also in planning: new theories, new objectives, new movements and new methodologies. New paradigms follow these changes.

Our culture is changing. *More is no longer better*. This tendency will be universal. The consumption model will change. We will look for better and not for more, for sustainable and durable and not for consumable, for a more intelligent economic model incorporating scientific knowledge, technology, quality, cohesion, environment, cultural values, social values as well as territorial values, which are, planning values.
Good spatial planning is a key component for the New Age.

Many of the decisions taken in the coming years will have a strong impact into the future decades. Infrastructures, agriculture, energy, biodiversity, spatial planning, innovation policies, vision, strategies, targets and measures will determine the development for decades.
"Business as usual" presents several global risks that can severely threaten human society.
The current crisis can be an opportunity to make the necessary changes. These changes will challenge Spatial Planning.

Spatial planners have to go further than study actual situation, and aim to comprehend, and perhaps control, tendencies for future scenarios, leading to a new vision of cities and regions - the sustainable urban life after the crisis. The actual crisis is a part of the transition process.

Overcoming the current crisis is not only necessary to solve present financial and economical problems. It is also necessary to face medium and long term problems, which bring cities to new performances and spatial planners new challenges.
Sustainable spatial planning and urban design are key factors for humans to live according to earth's "limits of growth".

Spatial Planning's great civilizing role is to integrate territorial, technological, social, economical, and environmental policies, visions, strategies, targets, programmes, plans and actions.
Spatial Planners are forced to action.
This is the opportunity to create a movement that inspire masses.
Therefore, during the 10th Biennial of European Towns and Town Planners, keynote speakers and participants from several countries, with different experiences and expertise; concluded that in the near future, spatial planning shall look for:

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10 GREAT CHALLENGES

Defending the relevance of Territory	Avoiding social tensions and promoting the inclusion of population
Avoiding climate change	Reducing the ecological footprint
Improving biodiversity and preventing losses	Promoting integrated and strategic urban regeneration
Ensuring sustainable energy management	Upgrade planning through networking systems
Ensuring food security	Valuing the public space, towards friendly cities

10 PRINCIPLES

Public Goods	Rationality
Equity	Efficiency
Coherence	Precautionary
Ethics	Transparency
Accountability	Participation

10 PERMANENT PRACTICES

Applying metaterritorial and metasectorial governance	Actively looking for community involvement and empowerment
Making continuous and integrated approaches	Dealing with uncertainty
Applying sustainability in action	Shortening the distance between theory and practice
Making balanced decisions	Applying multiterm approaches
Strengthening the role of EU (Spatial Policy & Planning)	Think globally, compromise regionally, act locally

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10 GREAT CHALLENGES

Defending the relevance of Territory – making it relevant for all developmental policies, to be place-based, territories whereon citizens live, work and recreate; improving on policy formulation and delivery through more focused attention on the territory and addressing the need for coherence and coordination between policies at all levels, making sure that the territorial dimension is taken into account at every stage: analysis, diagnosis, vision, objectives, measures, programmes, projects, setting of priorities, implementation, evaluation, monitoring, and assessing territorial impacts of all policies.

Defending that the territory is relevant to promote competitiveness and to address national, regional and social inequities and to maintain the balance between urban and rural systems, reinforcing the balance between built up and open areas. Defending the relevance of territory includes: the improvement of historical and heritage character; the development of Territorial Cohesion, that is one of the three objectives of the Lisbon Treaty; the respect for uniqueness, identity, character, distinctiveness, and individuality; new forms of urban life (such as compact urban areas and cities, sustainable densities; green cities, comfortable and affordable houses; a healthy and secure environment; adequate urban infrastructure and services; a sustainable transportation system that ensures mobility; a communication system that ensures connectivity; personal safety; access to health and education; a spatial form that facilitates sociability, anchored in public spaces; that shall be people-centred, valuing urbanity and cosmopolitism, rather than profit-centred); the improvement of landscapes; the accessibility and the recreational opportunities offered by the landscapes; giving a territorial dimension to general impact assessments (GIA), the application of Territorial Impact Assessment (TIA); the application of integrated (multi-scale, multilevel, transectorial, multi-term, interdependent, consistent, partnership and monitored) territorial approaches; the relevant policies take shape in territories, cities and regions; the production of national, regional and local territorial strategies; research on spatial planning; the demonstration of programmes and projects; the sharing of technologies and experiences; the valuing of urbanity, modernity and cosmopolitanism; the increment of patrimonial areas, and enhancing the Image and Marketing.

Avoiding climate change - applying climate strategies to limit the maximum increase average global temperature to 2ºC and making enduring and firm commitments; adopting adaptation and mitigation policies and strategies (such as: coastal protection, cleaner technologies, carbon zero urban planning, infrastructures and building design, transport, ecological networks, upgrading biodiversity, carbon capture, storage and absorption, the carbon virtuous cycle).

Urban regeneration and retrofitting urban centres is very important: reducing energy demand; locally producing the energy (facade and roofs); reducing travel patterns (using mix-use, closing housing, chops and equipments); promoting public and electric means of transport; upgrading car and bike sharing systems; making virtuous water cycles (reducing water consumption; recycling and reuse water; reducing water run-off); upgrading street trees and urban green zones; having real time transportation information; and promoting food production.

Improving biodiversity and preventing losses - maintaining the balance in the biosphere (mainly carbon, nitrogen and phosphorous cycles, flood control, water management, support of soil fertility, resilience to disturbances); having a conservation strategy, protecting regimes for ecosystems, natural and ecological reserves and networks, reducing human footprint on biodiversity, controlling water stress; upgrading ecological services and reducing deforestation; reducing urban expansions; integrating policies with long term targets (avoiding the expansion of agricultural areas, providing enough food, less meat intensive diets, reducing post-harvest losses, using zero-carbon options, having integrated approaches towards environmental policy, integrating the landscape into spatial planning; and integrating urban green in the ecosystems).

Ensuring sustainable energy management towards a low carbon economy and viable near zero energy balance **–** increasing urban passive design ; increasing energy efficiency and the decarbonisation of the power supply (using renewable power production such as hydro power, wind power, solar power, sea power, produced by end users and smart grids, such as: solar photovoltaic systems, small scale wind turbines, micro biogas heating and power systems, geothermic); saving energy (urban and buildings design, creative daylight design, retrofitting city centres, intelligent street illumination, LED lighting, household energy saving solutions); upgrading the grids to facilitate shares of power from renewable sources; gather and use energy efficiently; reducing drastically the global greenhouse emissions; enlarging carbon markets; and exploring the ocean as an energy resource.

Ensuring food security – providing enough food (availability, stability, accessibility and utilization), accelerating productivity gains, safe drinking water and energy for the poorest; reducing in post-harvest losses and food waste**;** avoiding the expansion of agricultural areas; changing possible lifestyles and diets and increasing productivity, to satisfy the increasing population's demand; prolonging life time of products; replacing animal protein in diets; reducing water loss; in a right balance between biodiversity and agriculture, creating innovative solutions in the landscapes such as the capacity to satisfy a share of the basic needs without depending on commercial consumption, for instance, growing their own food within the metropolitan territory (urban farming).

Avoiding social tensions and promoting the inclusion of population: actively reinforcing cultural, social, intergenerational and religious integration and exchanges; promoting social solidarity among different ethnic, age, genre, social and religious groups; increasing social solutions available to vulnerable groups of society, namely seniors and children, taking into consideration the fast aging process of demographic structures, and the current changes in families' constitution, which have occurred in the last decades; stimulating the development of creative industries as a strategy to attain social inclusion, a greater capacity to find jobs, by becoming involved in cultural local activities, and other inclusive town communal activities; while also giving added value to the functional and identity procedures applicable in the town's

different dwelling quarters, relating to the contextual notion, or conception, of an urban unit, as town of proximity in relation to its populations.

Reducing the ecological footprint – preventing and mitigating natural and technological risks; promoting the control of the demanding side, with the same quality, namely in materials, transportation, food and urban land consumption; putting virtuous cycles in action; controlling water stress; reusing and recycling the waste; repairing and reusing items; optimizing and not maximizing; having progressive environmental standards; not polluting; minimizing the loss and the use of resources; diffusing the information; using local resources; applying low-technologies or solutions when appropriate; investing in fast learning technologies; and ensuring experimental applications.

Promoting integrated and strategic urban regeneration: contributing to the resolution of the main problems related to the current economic situation, global warming, energy consumption, social exclusion and urban decline, preparing European Towns and Cities for the future; constituting a real support for local communities, to help Cities and Towns the overcome the European economical crises in a sustainable way; promoting the overall prosperity and competitiveness of Cities, Towns and Regions; contributing towards the achievement of sustainable development; protecting heritage values and the uniqueness of place and stimulate new activities as engines of development; enhancing the Cities and Towns with a variety of sustainable solutions as efficient energy, efficient use of resources, mobility, air quality, compact city, higher urban densities, urban sprawl control, flexible solutions, mixed use, eco-cycle infrastructures, local shopping and biodiversity; solving economic, social, physical, environmental, housing, transportation and health problems in a strategic, integrated, comprehensive and sustainable way; mobilizing and upgrading the contributions of culture, knowledge, innovation, new industries and recreation to the urban regeneration; identifying actions that can enhance sustainability, contribute towards economic growth and promote social inclusion; enhancing the role of public space in sociability practice; turning problematic areas into opportunities for sustainable urban development; mobilizing and integrating the participation, from the beginning, of all partners and stakeholders, involving communities and their neighbour; having a comprehensive vision and strategy for the area, integrated in the vision and the city and region strategy, with reference of the national urban policy, in a sustainable way (an integrated vision, strategy, plan and actions, including economic and financial issues, new activities, employment, education, training, physical and environmental aspects, health, social and community issues, and housing and transportation issues, with the best possible consensus and cooperation); mobilizing the participation and cooperation of all the stakeholders: professional, political, social, financial, stakeholders, community members and neighbouring communities, which guaranties improvement in the quality of urban life; integrating vertical and horizontal activities and resources, along with cooperation of all partners, including statutory authorities; giving a great emphasis on urban design and quality; designing "bottom-up" and "top-down" approaches; integrating clear and operational short , medium and long term objectives and goals, quantified whenever possible, and progress milestones;

constructing a solid institutional basis with a strategic role at a local and regional level, with economic and financially stable resources; monitoring and evaluating urban regeneration, quantified when possible, including sustainable indicators, to analyse the achievement of objectives and sustainability results, to revise the programmes when and if necessary, and to disseminate that information.

Upgrade planning through networking systems – network systems are changing society. The large flows of people, capital, energy, information, goods are intensifying and changing spatial patterns and locations. Networking systems are creating deterritorialisation, more connectivity and better accessibility. They are turning: spatial barriers less relevant; boundaries less rigid; systems less centralized; online and bigger community involvement and empowerment; and quicker decisions.

In the future, the changes will be bigger in ICT, energy, transportation, water, sewage, and garbage systems. All these infrastructure systems will change with new technologies, upgrading life quality, protecting the environment and modifying spatial planning. The networks (water, energy, transportation, ICT, etc.) will be more interdependent, related, co-evolved, working in the same system and with interacting flows (cross conception and cross management). Appropriated solutions will be applied in developing countries, looking for new technologies and materials, for sustainability. Some new systems, especially transportation ones, will create new nodes, main components of emerging centres, new urbanities in the convergence of traffic flows. It is necessary to: upgrade the network cooperation; increase the use; cooperate in international/intercity networks; stimulate the creativity; and evaluate the impact in spatial planning.

Valuing the public space, towards friendly cities: promoting the qualification and appropriation of public space, understanding the need to reinforce urban sociability and community identity though accessible, secure and healthy city; promoting the use of public space in order to explore (democratic) potential of public space, upraising society social and cultural network; promoting the competitive role of public spaces in cities attraction, challenging urban competitiveness evolution, towards to new behaviours for transversal sociability practice. Therefore, public spaces must be duly qualified and quite attractive, besides being inductors themselves of appropriation and inclusion factors. They should be integrating stakeholders for the different standards of living within the status of communal town activities, and according to the available urban patterns; therefore public spaces should promote sustainable new urban means of living, allowing both social and economic activities to flourish.

10 PRINCIPLES

Principle of public goods: Public goods are those that are recognized by all the groups of citizens applied to common people, policies and all stakeholders. Public goods are an added value to society, of the public organizations and individuals in the short, medium and long term balance, conducted in a sustainable way, applying ethics, accountability, transparency, precautionary and efficiency principles. Public interest should be ensured, no matter which role a public entity is fulfilling. Community assets are represented by public interest and value, set as priority in planning terms.

Principle of equity: Fairness is the right to equal provision, opportunities and result for everyone, an effective chance as another of similar characteristics, conforming to established standards or rules, and free from favoritism, self-interest, bias or deception. More than equal opportunities to similar situations, equity must be achieved, sensitive to specific situations, ensuring social cohesion and civic identity.

Principle of coherence: Coherence is the integrated systematic, logical interconnection and consistency between diverse values, elements or relationships. The reasons that are used to justify one solution are not unique for a given situation; considering all possible actions and ensuring coherence between them, also making sure that an integrated vision and plan is being fulfilled. The solutions adopted should provide an improvement of living conditions of the populations concerned, considering short, medium, and long term effect.

Principle of ethics: Ethics is the code of rules that must be applied to fulfill the law, the codes of conduct, the sustainability, the accountability and the rationality. Being an eminently social norm, and with a global society, can assume new forms, the concept can change in different ways, but keeping ethical standards.

Principle of accountability: Accountability is the obligation and responsibility of one person or institution to demonstrate the achievement of desired results, to explain decisions made, to answer for them and to disclose the results in a transparent way and to keep accurate records of property, documents or funds. Also to ensure good management and results, especially in public entities that take community resources to actions that benefit society.

Principle of rationality: Rationality is a decision-making process that is based on making optimal decisions to achieve a goal or solving a problem, that result in the most optimal level of benefit and utility for society or individuals, taken based on one's beliefs or one's ethical, aesthetic, scientific, religious or other motive. The adopted solutions should correspond to a use considered an efficient resource use or reducing cost maintaining objectives.

Principle of efficiency: Improve the relationship balance between the results and the resources used. Search for available knowledge in related areas in order to optimize efficiency. Consider an urban "engine" as multiple systems that can, in several aspects, be improved *input* and *output standarts*, optimizing the balance between *value gain* and *lost in the process*. Understand that biologic behavior of urban systems should search (trough management) for perfect performance. This issue can be related to urban competence.

Precautionary principle: The precautionary principle is applied when the risks are incompatible with the level of protection required, because: the scientific data is insufficient, inconclusive or uncertain; or a preliminary scientific evaluation shows that potentially dangerous effects can reasonably be feared. The precautionary principle includes: preventive anticipation; safeguarding; duty of care; and proportionality. The principle of "reverse onus" is inherent in the precautionary principle.

Principle of transparency: Transparency is the duty to act, make decisions and take actions, visible and understandable, through open communication and information. The solutions adopted should be disclosed and justified; Society should know their own opportunities and decisions, on terms, times, and responsible decision makers.

Principle of participation: Public participation is a right that seeks the involvement of those affected by or interested in a policy process, influencing it, and contributing towards better decision making. Therefore, solutions adopted should have been discussed by all stakeholders involved, looking for solution acknowledgement as much as possible.

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10 PERMANENT PRACTICES

Applying metaterritorial and metasectorial governance: promoting multilevel approach, with reference at all territorial levels: at European level (related to European Spatial Planning and spelling the territorial dimension of 'Europe 2020'); at national level (related to the main framework and policies); at regional and local levels (related to citizens and businesses); **promoting multisectorial approach** involving actively all actors local, regional, national authorities, investors, private enterprises, researchers, universities, NGO, citizens; **promoting interdependency** between sectorial and territorial structures following a mediation of development and territorial planning strategies; **creating evolutive geographical spaces**, in accordance with the different geographies of variables, competences and institutions, overcoming discrepancies between the functional areas and institutional ones.

Making continuous and integrated approaches - Improving on policy formulation and delivery through more focused attention for territory and addressing the need for coherence and coordination between

policies at all levels, making sure that the territorial dimension is taken into account at every stage: analysis, diagnosis, vision, objectives, measures, programmes, projects, setting of priorities, implementation, evaluation and monitoring. Territorial impacts assessment of all policies must be carried out.

The application of integrated territorial approaches means multi-scale, multilevel, transectorial, multi-term, interdependent, consistent, partnership and monitored actions. The relevant policies take shape in territories: cities and regions; the production of national, regional and local territorial strategies; demonstration programmes and projects; the transference of technologies and experiences.

Applying sustainability in action – with a strategy and a method; having long term vision and targets, investing in robust measures, avoiding unwanted outcomes, anticipating windows of opportunity in a step by step way; producing national, regional and local sustainable territorial strategies; upgrading and stimulating investment; stimulating the production and transfer of knowledge; creating synergies, based on strategies for sustainable development cooperation (e.g. metropolitan or urban/rural partnerships, also with neighbouring territories); the application of global perspectives, transcending partial and sectorial ones; enhancing practices to favour sustainable use of resources, mainly land and water (storing water in the landscapes, preventing water loss, recycling and reusing water, using water as a climate benefit); adopting appropriated solutions, applying methodologies, concepts and solutions to the local context; mobilizing urban potential of non-used and stand-by urban resources; teaching sustainability values and instruments to professionals and youth, promoting sustainability entrepreneurship; demonstrating sustainable solutions; promoting universal design and accessibility for all users; increasing safety in public areas; stimulating creativity; promoting compact urban areas, with intermodality, censuring "city proximity"; and also rethinking the strategy performance: strategic political (re)thinking (the planning policy vision); strategic (re)thinking (policy review) and strategic (re)action (policy reform); Dealing with unfinished and empty spaces.

Making balanced decisions- namely balancing between: Competitiveness; Cooperation; Solidarity (to address regional and social inequities); and sustainability (within its components); balancing between: equity (the social pillar), efficiency (the economic pillar) and sustainability (the environmental pillar); looking for mutual adjustments of interests; between long term, medium term and short term vision, targets and measures; consider several hypotheses / scenarios development, and focus on the goals considering the resources. Also take advantage of monitoring and evaluating plans, programs and projects.

Strengthening the role of EU, namely in EU Spatial Policy and Planning – created by EU, mainly in the last two decades, through several spatial planning instruments, such as charters, declarations, guiding principles, policy guidelines, action programmes, green papers, policies, strategies, scenarios, funds, new terms in the official language, key meetings, the "urban agenda", the European Spatial Planning Agenda, that are guiding spatial planning in European territory and State Members, although spatial planning is

not a competence of the EU, because it was not delegated by the Member States. These and other instruments are Europeanization national planning systems.

The more relevant outcomes are: the dimension of some sectorial EU and national policies, such as economic development, energy, environment, agriculture and transports, that have a territorial dimension; the legislation agreed by EU Member States and implemented by national legislation; the territorial cooperation between countries, regions, cities and towns in spatial planning issues across Europe; the cross boundary transnational cooperation; the enhancement of attractiveness and competitiveness of European regions and cities; the terminology , the information, the spatial data and information, the communication technologies; the institutional framework and governance; the research on territorial policies and trends; and the territorial funds.

Actively looking for community involvement and empowerment – directly and indirectly in: developing policies visible to citizens in their territories, encouraging them to deliberate with their political representatives on all matters relating to their lives; inducing new forms of urban life that shall be people-centred rather than profit-centred; helping to structure the public debate, the participation and involvement of citizens and stakeholders; stimulating the networks of citizens and stakeholders; creating Forums to articulate relevant issues in which relevant actors take place; promoting the multi-cultural richness, exchanges and integration.

Dealing with uncertainty – applying the principles of flexibility, robustness, equity, precautionary, transparency, legitimacy, accountability, proportionality, subsidiarity and cohesion. Looking for diverse solutions, in several subjects such as land use, building use, energy, landscape, transportation and ecology. Applying evolutionary theories and methods and interaction approaches. Applying innovation and step by step methodologies (goals, measures, programmes and projects), linking theory to practice, not adopting rigid planning systems, adopting praxis methodologies, involving spatial dynamics, adopting adaptive, iterative and co-evolutionary processes.

Shortening the distance between theory and practice: by favouring it, with applied scientific research, applying in practice the theory development, to overcome discrepancies between theory and practice; balancing the full learning aim with theoretical reflection focussed on the lessons of practical and professional experience; adding up an internal layout, both in the learning and practical probation terms, with the cooperation of professional teams of multisubject capacity, as well as providing regular attendance to scientific events, which enclose theoretical and political discussions, about urban planning programs and projects; reinforcing the specific qualifications of professional urban planners in the areas of larger strategic planning; aiming to develop the best solutions and added value towards solving, with perspicacity and knowledge, the main planning and quality living urban problems, which actually remain in this area.

Applying multiterm approaches: having coordinated short, medium and long term objectives and goals, quantified whenever possible, and milestones of progress; applying the principles of consistency, effectiveness, accountability and continuity; evaluating the scenarios according to the evolution of the strategy; privileging the objectives relative to the means; having a clear emphasis on actions, mechanisms and resources that will contribute to achieve the vision and the objectives; having clear contracts with all partners, the ways of cooperation of each one and between them, the activities of each one, the financial resources that each one will mobilize, the timings and the benefits; a vertical and horizontal integration of activities and resources and cooperation of all partners, including statutory authorities; reducing bureaucracy and simplifying processes; making the implementation of the plans flexible and valuing the "public interest"; applying different forms of public private partnerships.

Think globally, compromise regionally, act locally: In the future, recall and re-set the agenda 21' mission, ensuring that it makes a regional compromise, empathising regions role on urban systems. Local actions should come from global vision, but to ensure full potential with an integrated regional program, where new dimensions of metropolitan scale are being consolidated. Also set transversal platforms that programs can be irradiated regionally (at least) promising more wider cooperation, especially in social terms.

These principles shall be applied with integrated, multi-scale, long target, robust and committed joint policies, strategies, programmes, plans and projects for a sustainable future, ensuring healthy cities and towns. Spatial planners and all actors and stakeholders shall study the current situation and current tendencies, so that we can construct and create the vision of the cities and of the regions for the end of the XXI century. **Spatial planning can make a key contribution to overcome this crisis.** All European cities need urban regeneration. Sustainable and Integrated Urban Regeneration can make an enormous contribution towards the resolution of main problems related to the current economic situation, global warming, energy consumption, social exclusion and urban decline. **It will be the preparation of European Towns and Cities for the Future.** This will only be achieved if a concerted action is taken across all European countries.

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