

Technische Universität Berlin
Faculty VI: Architecture Environment Society
Planning in the International Context

Renewed Efforts to Plan for Sustainable Development

Conference : 29th and 30th August, 2006
TU Berlin, Main Building, Room H 2035



Activities of EA.UE are co-funded
by the European Commission



Programme

Tuesday, 29th August

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration
- 9.00 - 9.15 Opening, Welcome by TU
- 9.15 - 10.15 Adrian Atkinson, TU Berlin: **Facing the Future of Urban Regions in the South**
- 10.15 - 10.30 Coffee Break
- 10.30 - 11.45 Michael Mattingly, Development Planning Unit, University
College London: **Aiming Analysis at Actions that Produce Sustainability**
- 11.45 - 13.00 Christoph Lüthi, Eawag/Sandec, Zürich: **Methods in Planning for Sustainable
Development**
- 13.00 - 14.00 Lunch Break: Café Campus, Buffet
- 14.00 - 17.00 Working Groups: Presentations of Conference Papers and Discussions on
(with Coffee Break) Topics 1 and 2:
**Topic 1: What approaches do planning systems take with regard to attempting
to analyse the environmental sustainability of spatial development; in what
ways and why do planning systems fail to ensure sustainability?**
- Topic 2: Concepts, techniques and procedures designed to enable the planning
system to engage effectively with sustainability problems and to build these
into the planning decision-making process.**
- 17.00 end of first day
- 20.00 Conference Dinner Party

Wednesday, 30th August

- 9.00 - 10.00 Report Backs of Working Groups
- 10.00 - 11.00 Forbes Davidson, Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies, Rotterdam: **Development planning: balancing demands between performance and capacity**
- 11.00 - 11.15 Coffee Break
- 11.15 - 13.00 Presentation and Discussion on Topic 3: **The economic, social and political decision-making process that will be necessary to implement new approaches to achieve effective planning**
- 13.00 - 14.00 Lunch Break: Café Campus, Buffet
- 14.00 - 15.30 Continuation of Discussion on Topic 3
- 15.30 - 15.45 Coffee Break
- 15.45 - 17.00 Round Table Discussion: Clarifying the Problematic
- 17.00 End of Conference
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Key Questions

Topic 1: The first topic is concerned with existing planning systems and asks: **what approaches do planning systems take with regard to attempting to analyse the environmental sustainability of spatial development; in what ways and why do planning systems fail to ensure sustainability?** This looks into the analytical procedures of the planning systems - both those of local government and related non-government interventions - and what is taken into account with respect to devising the framework both for encouraging sustainable development and for inhibiting or restricting undesirable kinds of development. It then looks at the limits of the planning system from the point of view possessing knowledge of what is actually happening in terms of development. It looks at how inadequacies in knowledge come about. It looks also at how development decisions on the part of different developers - government agencies, formal private sector enterprises and informal actors - bypass the planning system, either through inadequate control or through looseness in decision-making, including corruption. Here are some questions for discussion in this working group:

- What are the different kinds of plans which regulate the use of land and to what level of detail is control over development exerted?
- What analysis is carried out to decide what land uses and developments will be allowed at particular locations; how does this bring sustainability issues into the plans and with what result?

- Who is involved in deciding on the content of plans (planners, politicians, CBOs/NGOs, etc.)?
- What are the procedures used to control development and how does this satisfy the requirements of sustainable development?
- How is it that unsustainable developments are allowed or even bypass the development control procedures and what measures, if any, are taken to reverse actions that have not followed the development control procedure (eg demolishing illegal structures)?
- What factors including economic, political and cultural (or any other) inhibit the implementation of a planning system that will bring development into line with the requirements of sustainability?

Topic 2: This topic looks at **concepts, techniques and procedures designed to enable the planning system to engage effectively with sustainability problems and to build these into the planning decision-making process.** For many years now, Environmental Impact Assessment has been a standard part of national planning systems but has fallen far short of the necessary framework to ensure sustainable development in general. Many serviceable concepts and procedures exist - such as 'size distribution of settlements', 'Compact Cities', 'Carrying Capacity', 'Material Flow Analysis' and Local Energy Planning but are hardly ever applied. The aim of this working group is to discuss (maybe explain) these or related concepts and procedures and think through how they might be built into national and local planning systems, taking account of specific economic, political and cultural circumstances. Here are some questions that might be discussed with regard to this topic:

- Discuss concepts and procedures you think might be substantively introduced into the national and/or local planning system to analyse sustainability problems and suggest solutions.
- How should these be built into existing planning mechanisms and procedures?
- Who should be involved in developing and thence implementing these mechanisms and procedures?
- What new methods will need to be adopted to ensure the relative ineffectiveness of existing planning procedures is not reproduced when introducing new procedures?
- Make an assessment of what the impact could be of implementing the chosen concept(s) and procedure(s) in terms of spatial development, if implemented effectively.

Topic 3: This topic now turns to the **economic, social and political decision-making process that will be necessary to implement new approaches to achieve effective planning.** No amount of technical work will suffice on its own to achieve sustainable development. It requires an adequate ethical framework - an agreement among the population on common ends and the means to achieve these. Technocratic planning procedures work more or less well in Europe because there were ethical and political movements in the late 19th and early 20th century that confronted corruption and loose decision-making that had then led to badly built cities and highly polluting industries. Without conscious movements aimed at overcoming the problems (of unsustainable development), new planning procedures will not be effective. Whilst a single conference cannot bring social movements into existence, it is possible and useful to discuss the social and political framework within which such movements can thrive. Here are some of the questions that might be addressed in the discussion of this topic:

- Who in the present situation is included and who excluded from the official planning system and what effects does this have in terms of the result (actual emerging land use patterns)?
 - Outline an overall concept for planning decision-making that opens up the possibility to create a system of planning that answers the long-term needs of the society as a whole.
 - Discuss critically, in terms of its proven strengths and weaknesses, methods of participatory planning that aim to be effective in answering the longer term needs of local populations (eg a Participatory Action Research (PAR) or Local Agenda 21 process)
 - How can the incoherencies between local participatory planning and decision-making at the municipal, city and regional levels be overcome (interconnection and coordination of levels) without diminishing the participatory dimension?
 - Discuss how not only planning decisions but also financing decisions can be brought into a participatory decision-making framework both with relation to public finance (Participatory Budgeting) and in terms of intervention in private sector financing that has spatial results.
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If you wish to participate and you have not registered yet, please send us a completed Registration Form (to be found on the internet site <http://urdn.tu-berlin.de>).

We would appreciate receiving a paper on one of the topics from you. Please try to submit it until August 15th. Papers should clearly address one of the three themes and authors should indicate their choice of workshop and the specific issue their paper deals with. They should provide keywords for reference purposes as well as an abstract which should not exceed 200 words. The actual text should be between 4000 and 6000 words, written in English.

All accepted papers will be included in a published (ISBN Referenced) book of conference proceedings.

The conference fee for both days altogether is 75,00 EUR. For students, there is a reduced fee of 15 EUR. The fee includes participation in all conference activities, the conference documents, snacks and drinks and a free sample of the publication for everyone having submitted a paper.

Those who wish to take lunch with us will be charged 10 EUR per person per day separately.

Accommodation must be organized personally. If you wish, we can help you finding a hotel room.

We are looking forward to welcoming you at TU Berlin.