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An Integrated Approach on Spatial Planning FOR Territorial Cohesion

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Abstract. The new agenda of territorial planning for development, in countries in transition such as Kosovo, based on integrated concept should consider the consistency of the complex factors and their coexistence in space (territory), within the need to discuss issues related to the development vision, development potentials and development requirements, through stakeholder's involvement those based on planning activities:

Identifying always relevant data, and measurement based on indicators; focus on developing new areas and marginalized areas and improving public- private partnerships,

Better interrelation between the concepts of academic and institutional understanding and improving institutional expertise, doing decision- making with transparency and responsibility.

Finally, through integrated spatial planning will be achieved territorial cohesion, and this will ensure qualitative and sustainable development and general prosperity of community.

Keywords: growth, development, spatial planning, territorial cohesion, policies, vision, strategies, resources, integration process.

Introduction

The urban growth, (without) urban planning especially in developing countries such as Kosovo, implies a large spatial extent of smaller and larger settlements. The consistency of their coexistence in space (territory) within the development of functional concepts, remains a key issue with regard to territorial cohesion. In this context, research questions should be raised:

- How does the position and extent of the territory as well as the specific geographic conditions affect the spatial planning?
- How to address the population, structure, movements, density and growth in the correct accommodation of their needs?
- Why do communications, interconnections and the polycentric concept are the basis for the integration of the functional development?

Answers to these questions, can be the considered for a sustainable spatial planning and with integrated approach. To ensure territorial cohesion, it is necessary to ensure an integrated approach to spatial development through the cohesion of key factors such as: development policies and strategies, territory and development resources too.

In this context, it is necessary to discuss issues related to the development vision, development potentials and development requirements, through stakeholder's involvement, in understanding the opportunities and needs, and always applying modern trends such as: efficient solutions, S.M.A.R.T. concepts, all this through integration processes based on the vision and development strategies!

- Polycentric development and systemic density
- Improved settlements structure- their functionality

- Urban/ rural- environmental quality
- Development through integrated sectors and integrated areas
- Promotion of hybrid touristic development
- Traffic and movement improvements
- Protection of natural values...

Spatial development, development potentials of Prishtina Region

Based on the specific potentials and resources of the region, development potentials are based on: economic development structure, traffic/ transport structure and heritage/ touristic structure too.



Fig.1. Development potentials (source: research, September 2019)

As can be seen in Fig.1, in Prishtina region, the economic structure is with high development potentials, transport and traffic structure is well integrated with other functions, while heritage and touristic structure is with high potential developments too.

Development systems- geographical position, bordering settlements, urban centers, population, density, settlements, urban centers

Geographical position and bordering of this region, is characterized with different elements: topography, hydrology, eco- systems, inter- connectivity. As plural values they are related to the spatial development potentials of the region.

Scattered settlements vs. compactness, existing and added urban centers through polycentric development based on trends of population movements and their density and density of settlements, all in line with complexity of development spatial functions.

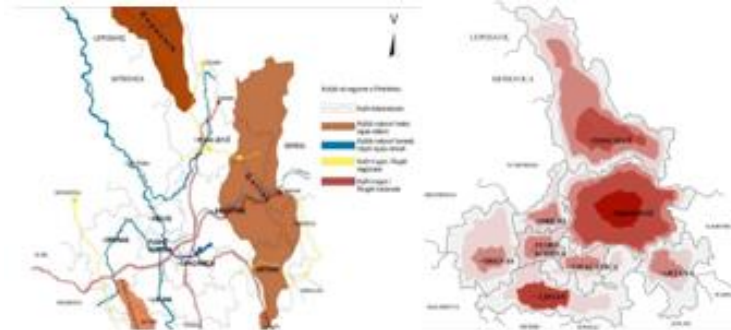


Fig.2. Geographical position, bordering, settlements, urban centers, population and density (source: students project, June 2019)

Development systems- connections, intersections, integration, flow, natural resources and development potentials (tourism and heritage)

Systemic spatial development system, cannot be successful without adequate concepts of integrated connections and intersections, based on flow of people, goods and information's- in area and from area towards surrounding.

Continual and value based spatial development process, is possible if based on values (natural, historic and architectural heritage), through them promoting identity and developing economy and tourism, value based.



Fig.3. Connections, intersections, integration, flow, natural resources and development potentials- economy, tourism and heritage (source: students project, June 2019)

Development systems: integrated planning- spatial cohesion

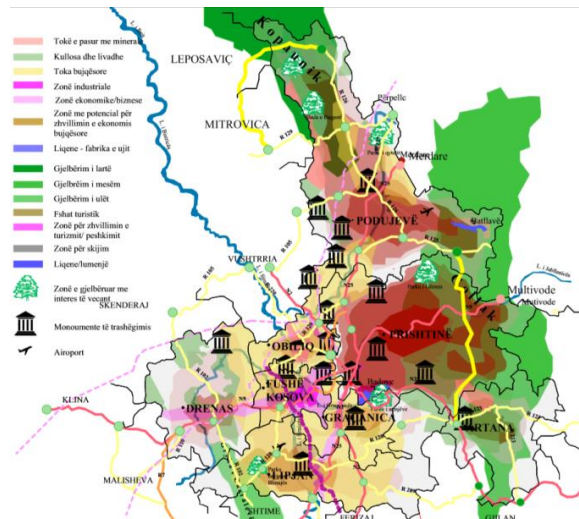


Fig.4. Integrated planning- spatial cohesion (source: students project, June 2019)
 Integrated planning towards spatial cohesion, will ensure that key sustainable development parameters are fulfilled: environmental and physical sustainability (eco-systems, eco- buildings, eco- energy, and eco- traffic, quality of buildings and architectural values); movement and social sustainability (traffic, goods and information flow, employment, culture and tradition, interrelations between different groups of interest); economic and political sustainability (efficient use of potentials and resources, systemic development without marginalized areas; political system based on equity, transparency and responsibility).

Conclusions and recommendation's

In the process of territorial planning for development, in countries in transition based on integrated agenda should consider those planning activities:

- Identifying always relevant data, for sustainable planning
- Indicators selection, for measuring quality of planning
- Better interrelation between the concepts of academic and institutional understanding of spatial development
- Improving institutional expertize, experience and other resources
- Focus on developing new areas and marginalized areas
- Improving public- private partnerships
- Building strong communications with community, in the process
- Doing decision- making with transparency and responsibility...

Finally, through integrated spatial planning will be achieved territorial cohesion, and this will ensure qualitative and sustainable development, integrated policies, areas and functions as well as basics for general prosperity of community.

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