

The Polish spatial planning system. The sick man of Europe?

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The aim of the presentation

- ▶ The aim of the presentation is to outline the key barriers and problems in the Polish spatial planning system.

CEE Countries

- ▶ the burden of the communist period;
- ▶ too broad a free market in the 1990s;
- ▶ often the need to build a spatial planning system from scratch;
- ▶ the Europeanisation of spatial planning?

Spatial planning instruments (local level)

- ▶ General plans
- ▶ Detailed plans
- ▶ Special plans
- ▶ Strategy

Poland

- ▶ Spatial chaos
- ▶ spatial control problems (overdeveloped property rights, investor pressure)

Spatial planning instruments (local level) - before 2023

- ▶ **Studies of spatial development conditions and directions** - generally non-binding acts, which nevertheless constitute the basis for local plans and set out the directions for development on the scale of a given municipality (in practice, the quality of these documents has not always been the highest);

Spatial planning instruments (local level) - before 2023

- ▶ **local spatial development plans** - acts which are generally binding, but at the same time are adopted on an optional basis by municipalities' decision-making and control bodies. In most areas of Poland (including many areas under urban pressure), plans were not in force;

Spatial planning instruments (local level) - before 2023

- ▶ **decisions on land development conditions** - issued on request, by the executive bodies of municipalities, for areas where plans were not in force.

Spatial planning reform 2023

- ▶ The amendment has slightly modified the criteria for issuing zoning decisions. However, the adoption of a general plan will be crucial. Once this plan has been adopted in a given municipality, decisions on development conditions will only be able to be issued in the development supplement zones designated in these plans.
- ▶ At the same time, municipalities do not have to designate such zones in their plans. The amendment introduces a new instrument at the local level: general plans. This is a separate type of plan at the municipal level. General plans (which all municipalities will have to adopt by the end of 2025) will designate zones in municipalities and define selected parameters.

Spatial planning reform 2023

- ▶ Strengthening the spatial dimension of development strategies.
- ▶ Strategies at local level must have specific guidelines for local spatial planning.

Spatial planning regional level

- ▶ **provincial spatial plans** - not legally binding, designating the location for public purpose (supra-local) investments

Spatial planning - national level

- ▶ no strategic spatial document at national level (laws not included)
- ▶ this affects the weakness of the entire spatial planning system in Poland

Thank you for your attention