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# Spatial Planning and IWRM/WFD

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# This Presentation

- n Land Planning and Spatial planning
  - n Spatial Planning and IWRM/WFD
  - n Norway experience
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# Land use planning

According to the European Environmental Agency (EEA) land use planning is seen as:

- n The systematic assessment of land and water potential, alternative patterns of land use and other physical, social and economic conditions, for the purpose of selecting and adopting land-use options which are most beneficial to land users without degrading the resources or the environment, together with the selection of measures most likely to encourage such land uses.
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# Land use planning cont..

Land-use planning may be at different levels

- n international, national, district regional (project, catchment) or local (village) levels (municipalities, cities).
  - n It includes participation by land users, planners and decision-makers and covers educational, legal, fiscal and financial measures.
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# ESDP - European Spatial Development Perspective

- n After a drafting process lasting from 1993 to 1999, the ESDP was adopted at the European Council meeting in May 1999.
  - n The ESDP is the first EU level policy document on spatial planning. The philosophy and the objectives of the ESDP relate to the wider objectives of the European Union such as sustainability and competitiveness.
  - n The ESDP is a non-binding document, implying that the Members States are not obliged to apply it.
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# ESDP - European Spatial Development Perspective

- n The ESDP mirrors a number of prevailing aims and principles from both national and European-level planning discourse of the 1990s. The three main ESDP policy guidelines for the spatial orientation

of policies are:

- n Development of a balanced and polycentric urban system and a new urban-rural relationship
- n Securing parity of access to infrastructure and knowledge
- n Sustainable development, prudent management ,and the protection of our natural and cultural heritage

A novel approach fostered by the ESDP is that of cooperation between all levels (vertical integration) and all sectors (horizontal integration) that have spatial impacts.

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# Spatial Planning

According the EU Compendium of Spatial Planning Systems

- n refers to the methods used largely by the public sector to influence the future distribution of activities in space.
  - n It is undertaken with the aims of creating a more rational territorial organisation of land uses and the linkages between them, to balance demands for development with the need to protect the environment, and to achieve social and economic objectives.
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# Spatial Planning

Spatial planning embraces measures to

- n co-ordinate the spatial impacts of other sectoral policies, to achieve a more even distribution of economic development between regions that would otherwise be created by market forces, and to regulate the conversion of land and property uses.
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# WFD and Spatial Planning

- n The WFD implies no explicit provisions in relation to land-use planning. It is however stated that

*“water resources must be planned and managed in an integrated and holistic way”.*

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# WFD and Spatial Planning

- n Although the WFD does not explicitly demand the integration of water management and spatial planning, the arrangements for its implementation may need to ensure that bodies responsible for land use planning take into account the objectives stipulated in the future water management plans for river basin districts.
  - n All approaches to integration mentioned in the directives connect, more or less, river basin management planning to activities embedded within spatial planning.
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# WFD and IWRM

- n The main reason behind the need for greater coordination between water management and other sectors relates to the **physical** and **spatial** characteristics of waters.
  - n Firstly, water resources have a territorial function, since they are the basis for other activities for instance shipping and agriculture.
  - n Moreover, water resources have a utility function since they are materially used in processes, for example in industries, sanitation, drinking water supply, etc.
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# WFD and IWRM

- n Thus, water management aims at “preserving water from deterioration, in order to guarantee the precondition for those functions”.



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## The existing spatial planning system in Norway

- n The Planning and Building Act (PBA) –the overall integration tool for spatial development and conservation
- n Still a challenge in order to co-ordinate all sectors and their legislations–under or with the PBA
- n PBA §2: "Planning pursuant to the Actions intended to facilitate coordination of national, county and municipal activity and provide a basis for decisions concerning the use and protection of resources and concerning development and to safeguard aesthetic considerations"

Planning tasks at national, county and municipal levels

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## **Municipal planning –a coordination task**

- n The 431 municipalities in Norway have the main responsibility for spatial planning
  - n Each municipality shall make a master plan for their area
  - n Idea of comprehensive planning (coordinate physical, economic, social, aesthetic and cultural development within their areas)
  - n Continuous planning
  - n Can make plans for limited areas or subjects
  - n The land use plan is legally binding
  - n Decided by the Municipal Council, but regional authorities can make objections to the plan
  
  - n The master plan shall make a framework for the local zoning plans
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## **Municipal planning –a coordination task cont...**

- n The municipalities are not intended to make their plans alone
  - n Relevant state actors on regional level shall participate
  - n The county municipality has a guiding and supervising role
  - n The county governor as coordinator at the regional level, particular in the case of conflicts (mediator)
  - n Affected individuals and groups shall be given an opportunity to participate actively in the planning process
  - n Emphasis on open and inclusive planning processes
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# County Planning

- n 19 county municipalities—responsibility for county plans (and regional plans for limited areas or subjects)
  - n Continuous planning
  - n Increasing focus on spatial planning at the regional level
  - n Decided by the County Council, approved by the King (the Ministry of environment)
  - n The plans are not legally binding, but shall serve as a guideline for the municipal planning within the county
  - n Have a weak position today—but efforts have been put in place to strength this type of planning (suggestion about legally binding, focus on partnership approaches)
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# National planning tasks

- n The Ministry of Environment—the overall responsibility for planning
  - n White paper: Regional planning and land use policy
  - n National policy provisions and guidelines –in order to safe guard national or regional interests (e.g. for transport and land use planning, protected water courses, coastal planning in the Greater Oslo fjord),
  - n Make decisions to any possible objections against municipal plans from other actors
  - n Centrally prepared municipal and use plan or zoning plan
  - n Conservation of the shore
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## Experiences from the pilot projects

- n A rather weak coordination between water resource management (and WFD so far) and the spatial planning system
  - n Exceptions: Some good examples on municipal land regional water course plans in accordance to the PBA
  - n But still a lack of coordination between land use planning and development, and water management
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## The spatial planning system (PBA) in relation to the WFD

- n A framework for co-ordination and democratic decision and planning processes
  - n A model of stakeholder and public participation similar to the claims in the WFD
  - n But: a weak regional planning system to achieve regional co-ordination
  - n Also in Norway the regional level is under discussion
  - n A central question: will implementation of WFD strength the regional level in Norway?
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