

Young Planners Working Group 2012



Planning and Territorial Cohesion



February 2012

Young Planners Working Group on Planning and Territorial Cohesion

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1.- Introduction.

1.1 Young Planners Working Group: an ECTP-CEU project

ECTP-CEU (the European Council of Spatial Planners - Conseil européen des urbanistes), founded in 1985, brings together 24 professional town planning associations and institutes from 22 European countries.

It is an umbrella association providing its members with a common framework for planning practice, planning education, continuing professional development and the definition of professional responsibilities.

ECTP-CEU sets standards of education and conduct for the planning profession; identifies, celebrates and rewards examples of good planning all over Europe, and engages in dialogue with local, national and European government.

In accordance with these objectives the initiative of the workshop "*Young planners planning and territorial cohesion*" seeks to set out the principles and rules of territorial planning and to promote exchange of experience among young European planners.

1.2.- Team coordinators and teaching staff.

At ECTP-CEU's last General Assembly, Paris, November 5th 2011, the following delegates were designated as team coordinators and teaching staff:

<u>French group</u>	Martin Averlant: maverlant@cnju.fr
<u>Spanish group</u>	Ignacio Pemán: ignaciopeman@futurnet.es
<u>English group</u>	Vincent Goodstad: vannegoodstadt@btinternet.com
<u>Irish group</u>	Brendan Allen: info@irishplanninginstitute.ie
<u>Czech group</u>	Filip Novosád: filip.nvd@seznam.cz and auup@volny.cz
<u>Norwegian group</u>	Kristin Nordli: kristin.nordli@md.dep.no
<u>Belgian group</u>	Joris Scheers: joris.scheers@bz.vlaanderen.be

Ignacio Pemán was appointed as Project Coordinator.

The English group will also be coordinated by Rachel Ferguson: rachel.ferguson24@gmail.com and Judith Eversley: judith.eversley@rtpi.org.uk;

2.- Project description

2.1 General aspects

The working group on " Planning and Territorial Cohesion" involves parallel work by these groups on spatial planning in conformity with the principles of territorial cohesion elaborated in the institutions of the European Union.

2.2 Main objectives

The main objectives of the project are to improve participants' knowledge of the methodology and technical working of spatial planning, and knowledge of the principles of territorial cohesion; in short:

- a) To improve knowledge of SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats).
- b) To improve knowledge of the principles of territorial cohesion.
- c) To exchange experiences between groups from different European countries.

2.3.- Project content

Since the elaboration of a complete Plan would be beyond the scope of the Working Group, each group will come up with a description and general diagnosis for the territory. The final document will focus on the most significant aspects of the territory.

The project will include a general diagnosis for each region and specific proposals on some issues depending on territorial questions raised in the region:

- a) Urban system of cities
- b) Balancing protection of the natural environment with promotion of tourism
- c) Rural areas and economic development
- d) Impact of the economic crisis
- e) Community involvement and spatial development.

3.- Working method and organization of the Working Group.

3.1.- Working documentation.

The work will be developed by each group independently and in parallel for the selected region of each country.

The common basis for the work will be the methodological guide *Fifteen Steps towards Territorial Cohesion: Spatial Planning Guidance* by Jan Vogelij (published by Unibook, 2010).

Other relevant documentation includes the European documents: European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) (Potsdam version, 1999); the Territorial Agenda approved at the Leipzig informal Ministerial conference of the EU, 25 May 2007; and the Green paper

on Territorial Cohesion “Turning Territorial Diversity into Strength” (October 2008).

3.2. Meeting Format.

a) Because of the cost of travel, only the exhibition of the final work will take place in a face-to-face meeting of the groups at the Brussels Secretariat of ECTP-CEU. The first, second and third phases will be conducted via skipe-conferences.

b) The meetings are planned as an exchange of experiences between young planners and for that the main role will be the own planners. Would be desirable most of planners could participate during the explanation.

c) Meetings will be coordinated by Dominique Lancrenon and Ignacio Pemán and logistical aspects will be coordinated by ECTP Secretariat (Julian Hills).

c) Teaching staff will composed by group coordinators.

Coordinators will check the work of their groups and during the meeting and they will be able to suggest so much on contents as methodological aspects exposed by other groups.

d) Meeting format:

a. During the meeting each group will present its work during 20 minutes.

b. After each presentation the rest of groups will be able to ask questions they want to clarify.

c. After finishing all presentations, the coordinators will be able to ask questions or to comment on projects.

e) In order to take advantages of the skipe conference 15 days before presentations, each group should receive documentation from the other Groups to make best use of the discussion.

f) In order to avoid technical problems, one day before to each meeting, the coordinators will assure communicate adequately.

4.- Planning the work

To take advantage of the exchange of experiences among participants, the project will be developed in fourth phases; at each stage, interim results will shared so that the other groups can understand and discuss the problems and the suggested spatial solutions from the other groups.

a) Preliminary phase: February

In the preliminary phase, two objectives will be reached:

- the groups will be organized and all participants listed
- a contents list of the project will be shared so that all the groups know what the other groups are proposing to facilitate co-ordination.

-Meeting: Skype conference/ only for coordinators/

- February 25th 2012

b) First phase of Workshop: Presentation and introduction

Objective: To introduce participants each other, title of works and objectives of each group.

Date: March 16rd 6,30 p.m.

Place of meeting: teleconference

Chair: President of ECTP and Ignacio Pemán

c) Second phase: Description of territorial area.

Because of the complexity of working at the regional scale, it is important to explain in this first phase the main characteristics of the region and their location in a spatial context. For that, in the first phase, each team will describe the main spatial elements of the region (population, urbanisation, cultural and environmental heritage, economic activity, infrastructure, spatial context).

- Date of Meeting: April 10rd, 6,00 p.m.

- Place of meeting: teleconference

- Chair: Ignacio Pemán and coordinators

c) Third phase: Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats

- Objective: In the second phase, strengths, weaknesses and opportunities manifest in the territory, and – crucially – threats to it will be summed up and the most problematic territorial elements will be described. Also in this phase, topics to be given more detailed attention in the final document will be indicated.

- Elements of a SWOT analysis

A strength = a resource or capacity the organisation can use effectively to achieve its objectives	An opportunity = any favourable situation in the organisation's environment
A weaknesses = a limitation, fault or defect in the organisation that will keep it from achieving its objectives.	A threat = any unfavourable situation in the organisation's environment

The actions to be undertaken that can be deduced from these four elements are:

- *Build* on strengths
- *Eliminate* weaknesses
- *Exploit* opportunities
- *Mitigate* the effect of threats

A scan of the inventory: the detection of the *major trends* and *problems* likely to affect the future of the territory through a consideration of a number of important socio-demographic, economic, political and physical indicators.

- Date of Meeting: June 1st /2012
- Place of Meeting: skype-conference/ connection during ECTP-CEU General Assembly in Istanbul
- Chair: ECTP-CEU President, Ignacio Pemán/coordinators

b) Fourth phase Actions and evaluation

- The stages of implementing a SWOT analysis include:
 - Creation of an inventory of *possible actions*.
 - Evaluation of a strategy, producing a *portfolio of activities*, containing a set of interventions, some of which link up strengths and opportunities while others try to compensate for weaknesses or to counteract threats.

- Date of meeting: October 5th/ 6,00 p.m.
- Place of meeting: skype-conference
- Chair: ECTP-CEU President, Ignacio Pemán/coordinators

d) Fifth phase. Presentation of final works

- In this phase the final document will be presented as follows:
 - Presentation of a final document of up to 40 pages and five plans
 - PowerPoint presentation of up to 60 slides
- Meeting date: December 6th / European Awards Ceremony and ECTP General Assembly
- Meeting place: Committee des Regions/ Brussels
- Chair: ECTP-CEU President, ExCo members

5.- Final phase. Publication

Publication of a final document

4.- Time table:

In accordance with this working plan the phases of the work will take place on the basis of this calendar:

- a) Preliminary questions: February 2012.
 - a. Skype conference, for coordinators only: February 25th 6,00 p.m
- b) Interim presentations by skype-conference
 - a.- Presentation: March 16th 2012, 6,00 p.m.
 - b.- Territorial description: April 10th 2012. 6,00 p.m
 - c.-Main strengths and weakness: June 1st 2012
 - d.- Actions: October 19th 2012 6,00 p.m.
- c) Final presentation in Brussels: December 6th 2012

ECTP-CEU Executive Committee
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