



BSR INTERREG III B Project  
 "COMMIN - Promoting Spatial Development by Creating COMmon MINDscapes"  
**Comparison of Planning Systems**

**Table 3: Planning (and management) at regional level(s)**

Sub-theme	1 Territorial organization		2 Forms of planning at regional levels (planning process)	3 Statutory categories of plans (planning products)	4 Body mandated for initiating and approval of plans	5 Binding force of regional plan	
Question	1) Are decentralized state agencies, regional and municipal entities acting authorities in planning?	2) What is the territorial unit of the regional level, what is the decentralized state authority and what is the regional planning authority?	Which forms of planning/ planning processes exist at regional level?	Which statutory categories of plans/ planning products exist at regional level?	Which body is mandated for the initiation and the approval of plans at regional level?	1) Is the regional plan binding on subordinate planning?	2) Are there particular instruments generating a binding force of the regional plan?
Country							
<b>BELARUS</b>	No, decentralized state agencies, regional and municipal entities are not acting authorities in planning.	The territorial unit of the regional level is the Region (oblast), City of Minsk. The decentralized state authority is the Regional Council of deputies. The regional planning authority is the Local planning authority and the planning authority at the regional level is the Committee on Architecture and Territorial Planning of the Regional Executive Committee.	The forms of planning/ planning processes at regional level are Comprehensive planning, specialized (sectoral) planning and Regional planning.	The Regional plan, the Master plan of the City of Minsk and specialized schemes and projects are plans/ planning products at regional level.	The Executive Committee of the Region and the Executive Committee of the City of Minsk are mandated for the initiation of plans at regional level. The President is mandated for the approval of regional plans.	Yes, the regional plan is binding on subordinate planning.	Instruments generating a binding force of the regional plan are: Urban planning requirements; Planning condition; Functional regions/areas/zoning/zone and limitations on territory usage for spatial planning activity.
<b>DENMARK</b>	Yes, decentralized state agencies, regional and municipal entities are acting authorities in planning.	The territorial unit of the regional level is the administrative region (from 1 January 2007; until 31 december 2006 it had been the county). The decentralized state authority is composed of the Regional environmental centres. The regional planning authority is the Regional council.	The form of planning/ planning processes at regional level is regional spatial development planning.	The Regional spatial development plan is the plan at regional level.	For the initiation and the approval of plans at regional level the Regional council is mandated.	No, the regional plan is not binding on subordinate planning.	Yes. The objection from regional environmental centres, neighbour administrative region and municipality is generating a binding force of the regional plan.
<b>ESTONIA</b>	Yes, decentralized state agencies, regional and municipal entities are acting authorities in planning.	The territorial unit of the regional level is the county. The decentralized state authority and the regional planning authority is the county governor.	The forms of planning/ planning processes at regional level are spatial planning and development planning.	The county plan and the development plan of a county are plans at regional level.	A county governor or the Government of the Republic shall initiate and administer the preparation of a county plan. A county plan is approved by the Minister of Regional Affairs and adopted by the county governor.	Yes, the regional plan is binding on subordinate planning.	Yes, there is a supervision of the compliance of a comprehensive plan and /or detailed plan with the adopted county plan generating a binding force of the regional plan.
<b>FINLAND</b>	Yes, decentralized state agencies, regional and municipal entities are acting authorities in planning.	The territorial unit of the regional level is the region. The decentralized state authority is the Regional Environment Centre. The regional planning authority is the Regional Council (a joint municipal board).	The forms of planning/ planning processes at regional level are regional development and regional land use planning.	The Regional development strategy, the Regional development programme and the Regional land use plan are plans at regional level.	For the initiation of plans, the Regional Council is mandated (ratification by the Ministry of the Environment).	Yes, the regional plan is binding on subordinate planning.	



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Country							
<b>GERMANY</b>	Yes, decentralized state agencies, regional and municipal entities are acting authorities in planning.	The territorial unit of the regional level is composed of 1. state (Länder), 2. region, county and administrative district. There is no decentralized state authority. The regional planning authority is composed of 1. State ministry 2. County Council, "Regierungspräsident" (literary president of administrative district).	The forms of planning/ planning processes at regional level are 1. state (Länder) spatial planning, state development planning 2. regional planning, regional development planning, regional policy.	Plans at regional level are: 1. spatial structure plan, state development plan, 2. regional plan, regional development strategy/concept, central-place-system (polycentric development).	The state parliament or the state government are mandated for the initiation of plans at regional level; the approval is done by the state parliament or county council.	Yes, the regional plan is binding on subordinate planning (for planning authorities).	Yes, there are tools for securing and implementing spatial planning, spatial planning procedure, procedure for derogation from spatial planning goals and for amending spatial planning goals and objections by the municipality generating a binding force of the regional plan.
<b>LATVIA</b>	Yes, decentralized state agencies, regional and municipal entities are acting authorities in planning.	The territorial unit of the regional level is composed of 1) Planning Region and 2) District. Decentralised offices of national organizations form the decentralized state authority. The regional planning authorities are 1) Regional Planning Council (in total 15) and 2) District Council.	The forms of planning/ planning processes at regional level are Intermunicipal planning, Regional land use planning and regional development.	Plans at regional level are: 1) Planning Region Spatial Plan, 2) District Spatial Plan.	For the initiation and the approval of plans at regional level are mandated: 1) Planning region council and 2) District council.	Yes, the regional plan is binding on subordinate planning.	Yes. Planning objections are instruments which generate a binding force of the regional plan.
<b>LITHUANIA</b>	Yes, decentralized state agencies, regional and municipal entities are acting authorities in planning.	The territorial unit of the regional level is the County. The decentralized state authority is the County governor. The regional planning authority is the County governor's administration.	The forms of planning/ planning processes at regional level are 1. Regional strategic planning, 2. Regional development planning, 3. Regional territorial planning.	Plans at regional level are: 1. Regional strategic plan 2. Regional development plan, 3. Master (comprehensive, general) and special plans of the county.	1. The County governor initiates and approves the Regional Strategic Plan. 2. The County governor initiates the Regional Development Plan, County Council approves it. 3. The County governor initiates the master (comprehensive, general) and special plans of the territory of county. The Government approves the master (comprehensive, general) plan of the territory of county. The special plans are approved differently (according to the different Rules on preparation of special plans).	Yes, the regional plan is binding on subordinate planning.	The law requirement of the municipal level territorial plans should not contradict the regional level territorial plans. The institution of planning supervision is the County Governor's administration.
<b>NORWAY</b>	Yes, decentralized state agencies, regional and municipal entities are acting authorities in planning.	The territorial unit of the regional level is the County. The decentralized state authority is constituted of the County Governor. The regional planning authority is the County municipality.	The forms of planning/ planning processes at regional level are County planning and Inter-municipal planning.	The County master plan and the Partial county master plan are plans at regional level.	For the initiation of plans at regional level the County council is mandated. For the approval of plans the King in the Government Council Meeting is mandated.	No, the regional plan is not binding on subordinate planning, it is advisory only.	Yes. Planning objections are instruments which generate a binding force of the regional plan.



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Country							
<b>POLAND</b>	Yes, decentralized state agencies, regional and municipal entities are acting authorities in planning.	The territorial unit of the regional level is the Voivodship. The decentralized state authority is the Voivode. The regional planning authority is the Voivodship Parliament.	The form of planning/ planning processes at regional level is Spatial Planning.	The Voivodships' Spatial Management Plan (VSMP) in accordance with National Spatial Management Concept and Regional Development Strategy are plans/ planning products at regional level.	For the initiation of plans at regional level the Self-government body is mandated. For the approval of plans the Voivodship Parliament is mandated.	Yes, the regional plan is binding on subordinate planning but after negotiations only.	Yes, there is a proof of local plans' accordance with the law made by the Voivode.
<b>RUSSIA</b>	Yes, decentralized state agencies, regional and municipal entities are acting authorities in planning.	The territorial unit of the regional level is the Region. The decentralized state authority is constituted of Federal offices (for land use control, state expertise of territorial planning documents and regional executive bodies). The regional planning authority is the Regional ministry or committee on planning and architecture.	The form of planning/ planning processes at regional level is a Planning scheme covering the region.	The Regional territorial planning scheme (comprehensive or sectoral) is a plan at regional level.	The Regional government is mandated for the initiation and approval of plans at regional level.	Yes, the regional plan is binding on subordinate planning.	Yes, a reference to the court is generating a binding force of the regional plan.
<b>SWEDEN</b>	Yes, decentralized state agencies, regional and municipal entities are acting authorities in planning.	The territorial unit of the regional level is the County for regional development programmes, municipalities in cooperation for regional planning. The decentralized state authority is the County administrative board. The regional planning authority is the Regional planning body.	The forms of planning/ planning processes at regional level are Regional development programming, regional planning.	The regional development programme and the regional plan (voluntary) are plans/ planning products at regional level.	The County administrative boards and the regional council are mandated for the initiation and approval of regional development programmes; the National government and the regional planning body are mandated for the initiation and approval of regional plans.	No, the regional plan is not binding on subordinate planning.	No, there are no particular instruments generating a binding force of the regional plan.