



**COMMIN**  
THE BALTIC SPATIAL CONCEPTSHARE

# Towards a COMMIN terminology

Marek Dutkowski, Dietrich Henckel, Mervi Ilmonen



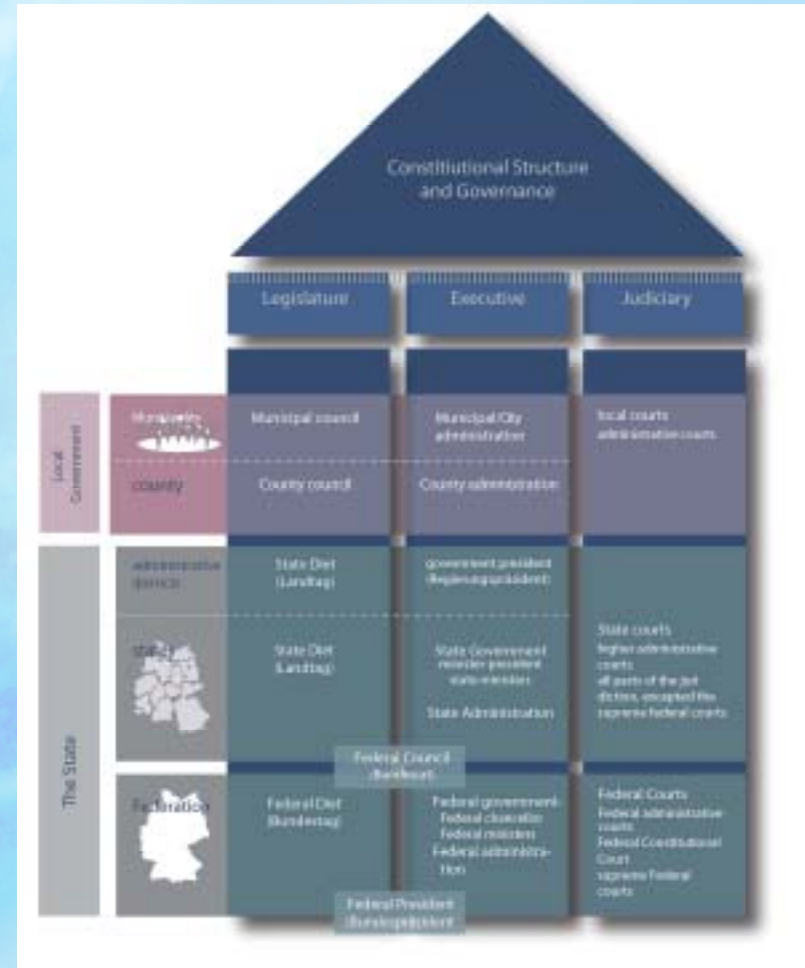
Project  
part-financed  
by the  
European Union

## Aims of WP 1

- ✦ Establishment of an information basis, a dialogue platform, and a tool for effective communication on spatial planning and development in the BSR.
- ✦ Facilitation in mutual understanding on spatial development issues around the Baltic Sea. More effective transnational cooperation in the BSR by reduction of communication barriers and linguistic misunderstandings.
- ✦ Increase in the number of public accessible and up-to-date tools to ease transnational communication within the field of spatial development in the BSR.
- ✦ One common transnational website disseminating national up-to-date information in English and 11 national languages:
  - Text on the national planning systems
  - Glossaries of spatial planning terms
  - Practical examples (fact sheets)

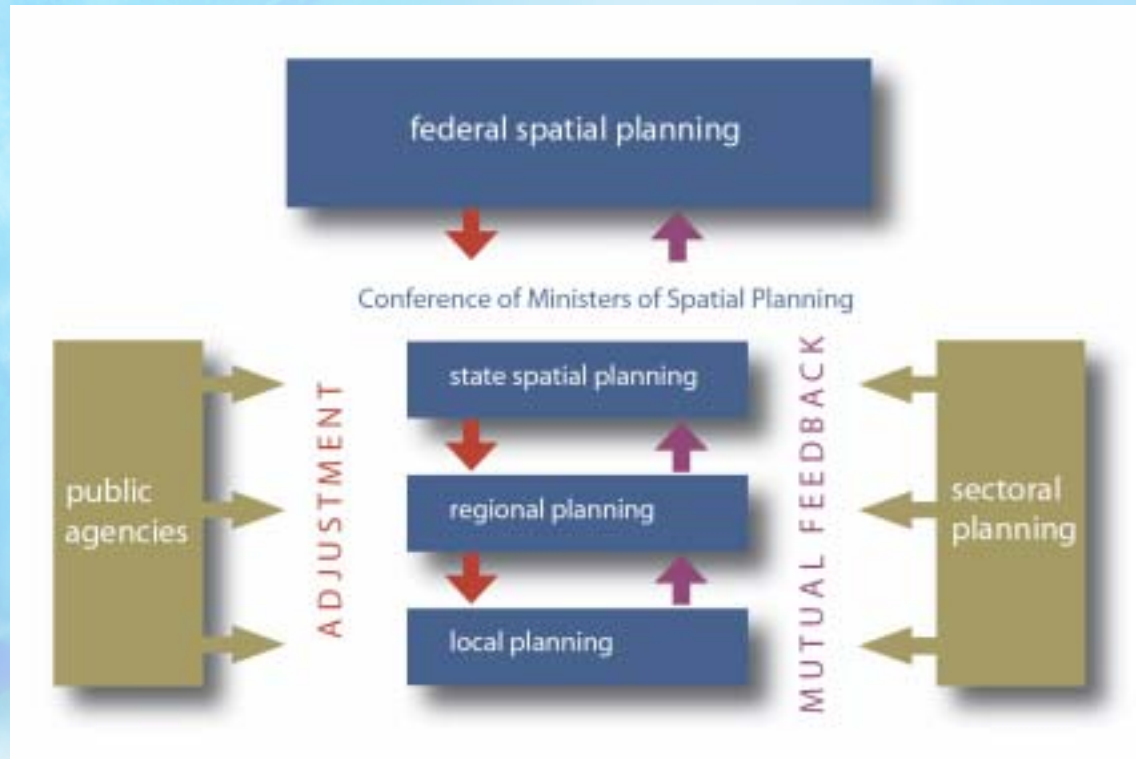
# The House of Planning

- ✦ The House of Planning as basis for mutual understanding
- ✦ A German specificity: More planning levels than in the other countries



# German Specificities in Planning

- ✦ More planning levels than elsewhere
- ✦ „Mutual feedback principle“



## German Examples of Translation Difficulties

Terms in German	Translation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✦ Stadterneuerung</li><li>✦ Stadtumbau</li><li>✦ Bestandsentwicklung</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✦ urban renewal</li><li>✦ urban redevelopment</li><li>✦ building stock development</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✦ Raumordnung</li><li>✦ Bundesraumordnung</li><li>✦ Raumplanung</li><li>✦ Landesplanung</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✦ spatial planning</li></ul>

## Polish Specificities in Spatial Planning

- ✦ Often changing legal basis of planning
- ✦ More informative than legal consequences of planning decisions
- ✦ Weak spatial planning competences at the national level New administrative division created and regional planning level revived since 2000
- ✦ The strongest element of the spatial planning system is the local level with the „Studium” as particular Polish planning instrument
- ✦ Investment of public use as object of different planning procedure
- ✦ Two-way building licence procedure (with, and without a spatial plan)

## Particular translatory problems in Poland

- ✦ Official description of planning system in English, and even in Polish, is not available
- ✦ Official translations of legal and professional terms concerning spatial planning do not exist
- ✦ Differences between official procedures and planning „every-day-reality”
- ✦ Many „fuzzy” terms and names in the Polish spatial planning language

## Polish Examples of Translation Difficulties

Terms in Polish	Translation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✦ zagospodarowanie przestrzenne</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✦ spatial management</li><li>✦ land use management</li><li>✦ planned or existing land use</li><li>✦ spatial economy</li><li>✦ space economy</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✦ ekorozwój</li><li>✦ rozwój zrównoważony</li><li>✦ rozwój podtrzymywalny</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✦ sustainable development</li></ul>

## Joint Learning vs. Translation

- ✦ Joint learning as a prerequisite of mutual understanding
- ✦ Translations alone are insufficient:
  - Several correct translations possible
  - Official and unofficial translations
  - Euroenglish vs. national English
  - Different semantics with same wording
  - Same semantics with different wording

## Conclusions

- ✦ There ain't no such thing as a "common denominator" – due to difficulties in finding compatible wordings
- ✦ Important outcomes of the project for the BSR– Region :
  - Deepening of understanding of own and other planning systems
  - Production of freely available descriptions of the respective planning systems in national languages and English
  - Production of freely available glossaries of planning terms in national languages and English
  - Fact sheets (examples) as an important tool to enhance mutual understanding in practical terms