

COMPARISON OF PLANNING SYSTEMS

THE TOOL

A complex Matrix is the central tool for a comparison of planning systems.

- It resulted from intensive discussions and collaborative work among COMMIN project partners from all 11 BSR countries.
- The Matrix consists of identical sub-themes and questions, answered individually for all 11 BSR countries' planning systems.
- The attempt of working with matrix tables when explaining the 11 countries' different planning systems turned out to be very complex but overall quite well applicable.

CONTENT of the Matrix

The complete Matrix is structured in several tables, assorted by the five main themes

- national constitutions and planning systems
- national planning level
- regional planning level
- municipal/ local planning level
- participation in planning processes (distinguished between national, regional, local master and local detailed level)

Theme	Question	Answer	Comments
THEME	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	
COUNTRY	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	
ESTONIA	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	
LITHUANIA	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	
POLAND	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	

Table 1: National constitutions and planning systems (Excerpt)

Theme	Question	Answer	Comments
THEME	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	
COUNTRY	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	
ESTONIA	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	
LITHUANIA	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	
POLAND	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	

Table 2: National planning level (Excerpt)

Theme	Question	Answer	Comments
THEME	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	
COUNTRY	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	
ESTONIA	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	
LITHUANIA	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	
POLAND	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	

Table 3: Regional planning level (Excerpt)

Theme	Question	Answer	Comments
THEME	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	
COUNTRY	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	
ESTONIA	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	
LITHUANIA	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	
POLAND	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	

Table 4: Municipal/ local planning level (Excerpt)

Theme	Question	Answer	Comments
THEME	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	
COUNTRY	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	
ESTONIA	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	
LITHUANIA	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	
POLAND	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	What is the legal basis of the national planning system?	

Table 5: Participation in planning processes (for each: national, regional, local master and local detail level) (Excerpt)

The PROCESS of developing and working with the tool

- Basing on a first draft of the matrix structure, the project partners discussed and jointly decided on all final main themes, sub-themes and exact wording of each question and the meaning behind it. This process had been concluded and implemented in changing groups, each consisting of representatives from 3-5 different BSR countries, as well as in the whole group, during a 2-day workshop meeting. As an outcome, each table comprises sub-themes, each with up to five questions.
- The result is a matrix for the comparison of all 11 BSR planning systems covering
 - five main themes
 - more than 30 sub-themes
 - more than 60 questions asked to each country
- Representatives of each country then filled in the answers on these equally asked questions with regard to his/ her country's conditions and already discussed and arranged the answers (and the exact meaning behind it) jointly with the partners from the other countries. This already was a process of "calibrating" the exact wording used.

USAGE and EFFECTS of the tool

- The user of the tool within the COMMIN website will be able to inform himself about the 11 countries' different planning systems by selecting main themes, sub-themes or single questions compiled in the matrix.
- It is not only a tool providing the user with relevant information (answers) about the different planning systems but also an insight into a part of the work the project partners from all 11 BSR countries have done during the whole process, their ideas and questions that came up in their minds during the discussions about their own and the others' countries conditions.
- It shows the wide variety of the different planning systems which is often a difficulty on the way of understanding each others' words and expressions when exchanging experiences or information, working together in transnational projects and trying to find common solutions for similar or common tasks.
- With the complex information provided on the public available COMMIN website the transnational mutual understanding will be facilitated, supporting the process of the transnational cohesion within the whole Baltic Sea Region.