

**Spatial planning – a public task between  
misconception und misuse**

**Friedrich Schindegger**

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## Basic view

- It's the society that is shaping the space - not spatial planning
- The recent development of our settlement areas is determined by  
welfare-triggered individualism with  
progressive land consumption  
entitled by an ideal conception of  
property focussing on the garden fence
- Settlement areas are the footprint of value conceptions and power structures

# Widespread incorrect concept of spatial planning

Spatial planning doesn't work like construction planning

- Quite different clients
- Diverse implementation
- Different consequences in case of resignation of planning
- Implementation not only by zoning and construction activity
- Policies with spatial impacts determine choice of location and mobility behaviour

# Questionable relations between spatial planning and politics

- Three political levels involved
- Confusing structure of competences
- Spatial planning authorities in Austria are guided by politics
- Planning is not part of the political culture
- Planning is oriented more on clientele rather than on goals
- Populistic misuse of planning instruments
- Reversal of the goal-means-relation ('thrust reversal')

# Strategic reorientation

Enforcement of majority-capable general political principles

- Saving public financial means
- Prevention of waste of resources
- Optimal use of given potentials and
- Reduction of environmental impacts

in policy fields with spatial impacts

Information about costs of urban sprawl

In different Austrian *Länder*:

- Locational regulations for shopping centres
- Settlement core areas
- Settlement boundaries
- Regulations for minimal building density
- Dead line for development
- Transfer of development costs
- Spatial planning commitments for social housing subsidies
- Development of common industrial areas incl. intercommunal tax transfer e.t.c.

## New orientation on common welfare

Spatial planning is providing common welfare in spatial terms by

- Providing optimal locations for land uses with specific requirements
- Avoiding additional traffic by intelligent location planning
- Taking into account side effects on neighbouring and competing areas
- Perceiving functional interrelations with the particular urban setting
- Establishing identity-creating *sites* and perceivable interconnections by *routes* (constituants of spatial know-how) – at the different levels of spatial scale
- Maintaining space for future land use changes

## Notion of space as policy precondition

Realizing space means to recognize and to make use of it – in particular important in the Alps

Within the usable land metropolitan densities  
at the same time low densities relating to the total area  
> disadvantages of agglomeration  
> rather small market potentials

The Alps are a fragmented aggregation of interests rather than a single integrated region

with conformity of environmental conditions,  
competing regions and small scale identities

The dynamic causes disintegration into catchment areas of pre-alpine metropolitan areas (*Bätzing 1999*)



# Spatial planning for rational conflict management

## Clarification

- about impacts of policy fields with spatial impacts
- in 'spatial currency' (= concerned locations, links, areas)
- about extern effects
- about costs and payer

## Planning conception

spatial planning is a precondition for rational conflict-management of demands and measures with spatial impact rather than a harmonic overall concept

## Sound based opinion making

needs information about

- land consumption
- reserves of building land
- zoning activities of the local communities
- spatial distribution of social housing subsidies

## Spatial planning needs majorities

- Spatial planning is a political business
- Referring to legal regulations and scientific insights is not enough
- Dealing with the market of public opinions
- The most important task of spatial planning is the creation of awareness and opinion making – addressing the society and the actors of policy fields with spatial impact
- Common welfare needs backing of the opinion market