

## MODERN AND SUCCESSFUL URBAN AND REGIONAL PLANNING

(Council of Drammen/ECTP-CEU)

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### CONCLUSIONS

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The central question of the Drammen conference was: which criteria and considerations will be **critical factors of the success for future spatial plans**? Or, in other words, which aspects of spatial planning interventions and of decision making processes are essential for the effective preparation of spatial developments in the near future?

These questions are considered here on basis of the information from projects which were recently awarded in the *European Urban & Regional Planning Awards*. On top of that the jury reports of the three last Urban & Regional Planning Awards schemes are analysed, jury presidents are interviewed, and finally the outcomes of the debate as led by Virna Bussadori during the Drammen conference, are taken into consideration.

**On that basis next items are identified as decisive for successful modern planning: those items are translated into 9 criteria which address respectively actual global issues, plan contents and processes/approaches.**

1. Spatial Plans should from the first ideas on, aim at integration of sector aspects towards **sustainable developments**.

Mutual gains of social, economic and ecologic values provide optimal solutions. In that way, sustainable development will not be a side effect, but the core of proposals for planning interventions. Clear decisions do not compromise but offer synergy among various interests.

2. Coordinate from the start on the objectives of different levels of government (**multi-level governance**). Involvement of different levels does not only eventually speed up the processes including the necessary approvals, but offers also better possibilities to find new solutions.

3. Cohesion, as the central EU policy objective is worded, can be stimulated in various ways:

- **Social cohesion** can be achieved by intensive empowerment of the public in an open decision making process and by balancing scenarios which integrate the competing interests in different combinations.

- **Economic cohesion** can be furthered by developing regional and local qualities and characteristics into opportunities for new economic activities.

- **Territorial cohesion** results from facilitating and enhancing the relations of different activities and objects, in such a way that the ecologic aspects of the landscape as well as the socio economic aspects of the urban pattern are supportive to each other.

4. Decision making processes are supported by maps, expressing possible scenarios for developments. By comparing different integrated solutions, the **transparency** is created which is necessary for **consensus building** and support for implementation.

5. The **creativity of planners** is needed to develop **scenarios**, showing different combinations of solutions respecting and addressing the values and interests of the actors. New unexpected solutions open new possibilities and wider perspectives.

Two motto's apply:

**“Good is not good enough, we want to prepare an excellent plan”.**

**“Stick to the objectives with great perseverance.”**

The above observations can be summarized in next essential aspects of sound spatial plans and planning: ***the famous ECTP-CEU's 8 C's.***

COMPREHENSIVE approaches, with  
CONSISTENCY into the direction of the objectives, and  
CREATIVITY to possible solutions, leading through open  
COMMUNICATION towards  
CONSENSUS about specific solutions for  
CONNECTED CITIZENS, CITIES and ECONOMIES (NCA2003), which are  
COHERENT internally as well as within the  
CONTEXT, that considers all scales.

The conference provided lessons for application by future juries of the European Urban and Regional Planning Awards. Although judging of the projects will be always at the discretion of the judges, and the jury should consider the relative magnitude of the innovation leap within the specific context, nine general criteria resulted:

1. GLOBAL ISSUE CRITERIA:

- **Inclusion of measures to prevent, mitigate and adapt to climate change and its consequences?**
- **Stimulation of social integration with concrete plan components. (social inclusion of ethnic groups and age groups).**
- **Support and facilitate innovation towards knowledge based economy in a specific field, related to the cultural and physical identity of the region**

2. PLAN CONTENT CRITERIA:

- **Does the plan result from well balanced integration of all relevant sectoral and other interests, thereby providing an attractive future environment?**
- **Are all aspects of sustainable development included in an integrative/holistic way and used as crucial components which structure the spatial design?**
- **Does the design of the spatial plan enhance the characteristics of the site and the identity of the settlement while resulting in a clear structure, securing the internal and external connectedness?**

3. PROCESS/APPROACH CRITERIA:

- **Did the plan preparation involve next to stakeholders also the wider public in order to share ownership?**

- **Were the plan's boundaries based on the spatial extension of issues and network relations rather than on the confined administrative borders? Are organizational obstacles between levels of government conquered?**
- **Did the planners, as enablers and generators of ideas, guide the process in an open way, open to new views, and at the same time secure continuity of long term objectives?**