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# CEMAT GLOSSARY OF KEY EXPRESSIONS USED IN SPATIAL
# DEVELOPMENT POLICIES IN EUROPE

*Document presented at the 14<sup>th</sup> Session of the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial/regional Planning, Lisbon (Portugal), 26-27 October 2006*

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*The Council of Europe CEMAT Glossary of key expressions used in spatial development policies in Europe was part of the Working Programme of the Committee of Senior Officials and presented at the 14th Session of the European Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial/Regional Planning, Lisbon (Portugal), 26-27 October 2006 on "Networks for sustainable spatial development of the European continent: Bridges over Europe". It is addressed to officials, professionals and representatives of the civil society involved in territorial development policies and related activities. The Glossary was established by the Committee of Senior Officials of the CEMAT, with the assistance of Mr Jacques ROBERT, Expert of the Council of Europe.*

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*Directorate of Culture and Cultural and Natural Heritage*

*http://www.coe.int/CEMAT*
*http://www.coe.int/CEMAT/fr*
*http://www.coe.int/EuropeanLandscapeConvention*
*http://www.coe.int/Conventioneuropéennedupaysage*
*http://www.coe.int/naturopa*
*http://www.coe.int/naturopa/fr*

*Preface*

Within the framework of the preparation of the 14th session of CEMAT, on the general theme *"Networks for sustainable spatial development of the European Continent: Bridges over Europe",* the Work Programme 2004-2007 of the Committee of Senior Officials integrated the theme "Exchange of information, know-how and experience" having the general purpose of encouraging collective learning experiences, a culture of communication and the practice of transnational cooperation within Europe and with neighbouring States as well as to increase ability to implement the various thematic aspects of the CEMAT "Guiding Principles For Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent".

Considering that there was a need to clarify a number of specific expressions and concepts frequently used in most European States in the context of spatial development policies, the Committee of Senior Officials of CEMAT decided that, as part of the Work Programme, the preparation of a glossary of concepts, categories and terms used in areas related to spatial development would both answer an existing need for clarification of those concepts and terms and be a good contribution to help "build bridges" of understanding and communication between the professionals of the member States.

The goal of the glossary is to match current professional and policy linguistic and cultural diversity in the member States with the need for communication and comparability of situations and results, considering a number of specific expressions and concepts frequently used in most European States, in the context of spatial development policies.

The "*CEMAT Glossary of key expressions used in spatial development policies in Europe*" was prepared by the Committee of Senior Officials with the assistance of Mr Jacques Robert, Expert of the Council of Europe. A special word of praise is due to their effort.

Currently including 68 concepts and expressions ranging from "Accessibility to Urban structure / Settlement structure", the glossary provides a definition of expressions and concepts frequently used in most European States as well as explanations about their use and recent evolution, as some of the expressions are traditional professional expressions, while others were recently introduced into the professional vocabulary, especially through the elaboration and publication of the CEMAT Guiding Principles or the EU European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP).

The Committee of Senior Officials wishes this CEMAT Glossary to be considered as the first phase of an open and dynamic project to be permanently up-dated, by adding either more expressions or new concepts. As well, because it resulted from the contributions of its members that also agreed on its content, the Committee feels it should be translated and adapted to the diverse national languages of the 47 member States of the Council of Europe, thus enlarging its usefulness as a common basis of understanding and cooperation in spatial development.

Maria José FESTAS
Chair of the Committee of Senior Officials
of the 14th Session of the European Conference of Ministers responsible
for Spatial/Regional Planning of the Council of Europe (CEMAT/CoE)

**Presentation**

In the context of spatial development policies, a number of specific expressions and concepts are frequently used in most European States. Some of them are traditional professional expressions, while others were recently introduced into the professional vocabulary, especially through the elaboration and publication of the Recommendation Rec. (2002) 1 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development of the European Continent (GPSSDEC-CEMAT) or the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP)[1]. The objective of the present Glossary is to provide a definition of such expressions, as well as some explanations about their use and recent evolution.

The Glossary is addressed to a wide range of officials, professionals and representatives of the civil society involved in territorial development policies and related activities at the various levels. It is aimed at clarifying the content of widely used concepts and expressions in this field as well as the distinctions between them.

It its present form, the Glossary cannot be considered as a "final" product. Further concepts and expressions can be added in future, according to specific demands and to the evolution of spatial development activities.

Each concept or expression presented in the Glossary contains a definition, generally followed by comments in italic providing further information on the origin, the context, the evolution or the policy implications of the concept. A large number of concepts or expressions are related to other concepts and expressions, either by a similarity of meaning or by policy considerations. Such links of affinity are also indicated.

A large number of documents[2], which cannot all be mentioned, were consulted for the elaboration of the Glossary providing either definitions or information about the meaning of the expressions concerned. In a number of cases, various expressions are very close to each other as far as their signification is concerned. They have been grouped into a single category and the text illustrates the slight differences existing between them.

The expressions selected are presented in the Glossary in alphabetical order.

**List of concepts and expressions contained in the glossary**

Accessibility
Administrative level
Brownfield land
Business park
Comprehensive spatial development approach
Connectivity
Conurbation
Cross-border, transnational, interregional co-operation
Cultural routes
Derelict area
Disadvantaged regions
Endogenous development
Environmental planning
Environmental impact assessment

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[1] Adopted in 1999.
[2] Among them various CEMAT/Council of Europe documents, including the Guiding Principles (Recommendation Rec. (2002) 1 of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on the Guiding Principles for Sustainable Spatial Development), the Ljubljana Declaration on "The territorial dimension of sustainable development" (13th CEMAT/CoE, 2003) and the Lisbon Declaration on "Networks for sustainable spatial development of the European Continent: Bridges over Europe" (14th CEMAT/CoE, 2006) (http://www.coe.int/CEMAT), as well as the ESDP. The free encyclopaedia Wikipedia has also been a valuable support for the definition and explanation of a number of concepts and expressions.

Eurocorridor
Functional urban area
Gateway cities
Governmental level
Integrated coastal management
Integrated planning
Land management
Landscape
Landscape planning
Landscape policies
Land-use planning, zoning
Metropolitan region / Metropolitan area
Natural risk / Natural hazard / Natural disaster
Participatory planning
Partnership /cooperation
Peripheral regions
Peri-urban areas
Physical planning
Polycentric spatial structure / Polycentric spatial development
Public-private partnership
Public services
Region
Regional development / Regional planning
River basin management
Rural area / Countryside
Rural development
Rural development pole
Spatial development, Spatial development policy
Spatial development projects
Spatial planning
Strategic environmental impact assessment
Suburbanisation
Sustainable spatial development
Sustainability assessment
Technological risk / Technological hazard
Technopole / Technology centre / Technology park / Science park
Territorial cohesion
Territorial cooperation
Territorial development
Territorial governance
Territorial potential
Territorial impact assessment
Town and country planning
Urban areas
Urbanisation
Urban development
Urban design
Urban ecosystem
Urban management
Urban planning
Urban renewal / Urban regeneration / Urban revitalisation / Urban rehabilitation / Urban restoration
Urban-rural partnerships
Urban sprawl
Urban structure / Settlement structure

## GLOSSARY

**Accessibility**

Accessibility refers to the ease of reaching destinations[3]. In addition to physical accessibility through transport infrastructure, connectivity through advanced telecommunication systems contributes to improving the intangible accessibility of areas.

*Accessibility depends upon the extension and quality of transport infrastructure and services. People living in places that are highly accessible can reach many destinations quickly, while people in inaccessible places can reach fewer places in the same amount of time. The progress of telecommunication systems has created a new form of intangible accessibility which plays a significant part in territorial development potentialities. The level of accessibility is a very important factor for territorial development, especially in the present context of globalisation.*

*See also "Connectivity"*

**Administrative level**

Administrative levels correspond to the territorial/administrative units where public administrations are established, independently from the existence or not of elected bodies at the corresponding levels.

*In the various European States, three or for administrative levels generally exist. Rather frequently, state and decentralised (regional, municipal) administrations co-exist at certain levels. There, where various administrative levels depend upon a single governmental level (elected body), they are generally organised in a hierarchical way.*

*See also "Governmental level".*

**Brownfield land**

Brownfield land is land previously used for industrial purposes or certain commercial uses and that may be contaminated by low concentrations of hazardous waste or pollution and has the potential to be re-used once it is cleaned up[4]. Sometimes, the concept of brownfield land is also used for designating areas which were previously developed and have become obsolete, but are non necessarily contaminated.

*Generally, brownfields sites exist in a town's industrial section, on land containing abandoned factories or commercial buildings, or other previously polluting operations. Small brownfields may also be found in many older residential neighbourhoods with dry cleaning establishments, gas stations, etc. While many contaminated brownfields were unused for decades, emphasis has recently been put on their de-contamination and rehabilitation for other uses as demand for developable land is permanently growing.*

*See also "Derelict area".*

**Business park**

A business park or business estate is an area of land in which many office and commercial buildings are grouped together[5]. Business parks are groupings of tertiary activities and differ from industrial parks (manufacturing activities) or technology parks (research and technological development activities).

*Business parks are generally located in suburban areas at the most accessible points of the metropolitan road network.*

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[3] Cf. Free Encyclopedia Wikipedia.
[4] *Idem.*
[5] *Idem.*

**Comprehensive spatial development approach**

A comprehensive spatial development approach is an approach of spatial development policy which considers all factors likely to influence the spatial development of a specific territory whatever their nature may be (natural factors such as climate change or natural hazards, human activities such as those related to private investments or social/cultural behaviours, public policies in various fields, etc.). It pays particular attention to the coherence of public (sectoral) policies which have clear impacts on the territory so as to ensure a high degree of territorial cohesion and to avoid shortcomings such as insufficient synergies, sub-optimal effects of resource allocation and the production of territorial impacts counteracting the desired spatial evolution.

*See also "Spatial development", "Sustainable spatial development".*

**Connectivity**

The connectivity of a specific urban settlement or location corresponds to the number, nature and capacity of transport and communication/telecommunication links with other urban settlements and with the major networks.

*The level of connectivity does not depend only upon the proximity of major transport and communication networks, but also and primarily upon the proximity to the points of access to these networks (railway stations, entrance to motorways). The concept of connectivity applies to both transport and telecommunication networks.*

*See also "Eurocorridor", "Accessibility".*

**Conurbation**

A conurbation is an aggregation or continuous network of urban communities which have physically merged through population growth and expansion. It is a polycentric form of agglomeration[6].

*Physical proximity and continuity of built-up areas are a prerequisite for the definition of a conurbation, which does not exclude that interstitial open spaces may also exist. Conurbations generally developed during the industrial revolution when settlements were built up in areas with significant raw materials (especially mines) or along coastal strips (between the shore line and the mountains in the hinterland).*

**Cross-border, transnational, interregional co-operation**

Territorial cooperation between national, regional and local authorities is an important element of European integration. It aims at abolishing the negative impacts of national borders on territorial development. According to the territorial scale, a distinction is made between:

–       **Cross-border cooperation** which takes place on relatively short distances between areas on both sides of national borders. Cross-border cooperation encompasses all types of activities belonging to normal activities of local and regional communities, such as economic development, spatial planning, tourism and recreation, training, transport, environmental protection, etc. Cross-border cooperation concerns also areas such as the Euroregions and, in a number of cases, areas where more than two countries are converging (Saar-Lor-Lux region, Upper Rhine Triangle for instance).

–       **Transnational cooperation** is a more recent type of territorial cooperation stretching across national borders over large areas (Atlantic Arc, Baltic Sea Region, Western Mediterranean Regions, etc.). Cooperation is more focussed on specific strategic issues, such as networks of metropolitan areas, promotion of the maritime economy of coastal regions, general improvement of accessibility, large-scale measures related to the enhancement of the natural and cultural heritage, etc.

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[6] *Idem.*

– **Interregional cooperation** is of thematic nature and takes place between regions of different States, sometimes far away from each other, generally without territorial continuity. Interregional cooperation may comprise transfers of know-how and experience, the joint improvement of techniques and methodologies contributing to the development of regions or enterprises, the promotion of long-distance tourism, etc. Interregional cooperation may also take place between regions of the same State, with or without territorial continuity.

**Cultural routes**

Cultural routes are itineraries which gather significant elements of heritage and traditions witnessing and illustrating specific periods and events of European history. Cultural routes involve also intangible and spatial dynamics not possessed by a cultural landscape, which is more static and restricted in nature.

*The cultural routes programme of the Council of Europe is an instrument for reading the European values that emerge from the complexity of the cultures and societies constituting Europe. It is based on themes representative for European values, which, moreover, are common to several countries of Europe. These themes are handled by multidisciplinary networks established in several Member States. They appear in a whole series of projects of multilateral co-operation. Examples of cultural routes are: the Pilgrim Pathways, the Monastic Influence Routes, the Celts Routes, Hanseatic sites, routes and monuments, fortified military architectures in Europe, etc. Cultural routes are important for the development of cultural tourism[7].*

**Derelict area**

Derelict areas are (generally urban) areas which have suffered a significant downturn, with declining or abandoned industries, closed businesses and houses, vacant storefronts, a degraded environment and virtually empty streets at night. Some derelict areas are also contaminated and can be considered as brownfields sites. Derelict areas are a major cause of environmental stress in urban areas.

*See also "Brownfield land".*

**Disadvantaged regions**

Disadvantaged (or disfavoured) regions are regions with a relatively low level of economic development which may result from their geographical location, especially from remote and peripheral situations, from natural and climate conditions (regions in polar areas or regions subject to drought, mountainous regions), from the characteristics of their population (sparsely populated regions with extremely low population density, regions subject to out-migration), from accessibility constraints (insular regions, regions badly connected to centres through efficient transport infrastructures). Regions characterised by obsolete economic structures (old industrial regions subject to economic reconversion) are also often considered disadvantaged regions.

*Regional development policies address in priority disadvantaged regions and support them through measures of infrastructure development, technological development, training and professional qualification and promotion of economic activities.*

**Endogenous development**

Endogenous development is a specific form of economic development which relies primarily on the internal resources of a specific territory. These comprise natural resources and raw materials, skills, know-how and innovation capacity, specific local productions (agriculture, forestry, handicraft, local manufacturing), factors of attractiveness for the residential and tourist economy (climate conditions, natural and cultural heritage, attractive landscapes and other amenities).

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[7] Cf. Cultural Routes Programme of the Council of Europe.

*Endogenous development is opposed to (or complements) exogenous development which is based on investments made by foreign enterprises (from another State or region).*

**Environmental planning**

Environmental planning is a relatively new discipline aiming at merging the practice of urban/regional planning with the concerns of environmentalism[8]. Environmental planning concerns both urban/metropolitan and rural/natural areas. Environmental planning considers a full range of environmental regulations from the European to the local level.

*The most common expression of environmental planning is the realisation of rigorous environmental impact assessments of projects and programmes concerning land-use, economic development, transportation, housing development, air, noise, water, wetlands, endangered species and habitats, ecosystems, flood zones, coastal zones, visual aspects, etc.*

**Environmental impact assessment**

An environmental assessment is an analysis of the likely impacts that a project may have on ecosystems, human health and on changes to nature's services. The main impacts to be analysed are: soil contamination impacts, air pollution impacts, noise health effects, ecology impacts including endangered species assessment, geological hazards assessment and water pollution impacts.

*The EU Directive on environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was introduced in 1985 and amended in 1997 and 2003. The EIA procedure ensures that environmental consequences of projects are identified and assessed before authorisation is given. The public can give its opinion and all results are taken into account in the authorisation procedure of the project. The public is informed of the decision afterwards.*

*See also "Strategic Environmental Assessment".*

**Eurocorridor (or Pan-European corridor)**

A Eurocorridor is a category of space of linear nature connecting large agglomerations over various national borders. They are areas of rapid and large-scale spatial dynamics within a Europe of vanishing national borders. Four interrelated dimensions can be distinguished in Eurocorridors: infrastructure and transport (mainly the Trans-European Networks), urbanisation, economic development and environmental sustainability.

*The rapid dynamism of Eurocorridor zones is increasingly complex in both spatial and political sense. For example, political conflicts may arise from tensions between the rapid construction of new physical infrastructure and business sites on the one hand and initially present nature, landscape and rural scenery on the other. This illustrates the need for advanced spatial planning and policy-making of Eurocorridor development.*

**Functional urban area**

A functional urban area characterises the area of influence of a city. It is generally delineated on the basis of statistics (for instance commuter flows).

*Most European States have definitions of Functional Urban Areas or similar concepts, such as travel to-work-areas, commuting catchment areas, commuting zones or functional urban regions. In the context of the ESPON I Programme, an attempt has been made to produce an identification and delineation of functional urban areas (FUA) at European level, using a harmonised statistical definition[9].*

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[8] Cf. Free Encyclopedia Wikipedia.
[9] Cf. ESPON Study 1.1.1. "The role, specific situation and potentials of urban areas as nodes in a polycentric development" coordinated by Nordregio. Final report. 2004.

**Gateway cities**

Gateway cities are key entry points to Europe, typically based on major ports and/or airports, but also trade fair and exhibition cities and cultural centres likely to be the first point of call of international tourists.

*The removal of national boundaries within the European Union and the EU enlargements have created new possibilities. Cities and metropolitan regions that were once on national peripheries or mainly connected to non-EU countries can grow a new role as gateway cities in polycentric networks. To achieve this potential they must be connected to Trans-European Networks. Global gateways are major urban conglomerations, often split across more than a single city, that have the potential to offer goods and services at an international scale. They rely on the combination of scale, excellent communications (focused around the conjunction of international air and rail terminals), high-quality ICT networks that create the context for a 'knowledge-rich' environment, and high quality R&D facilities (usually in the form of universities and research centres) which help to create the potential for cutting-edge research and the production of a highly skilled labour force. Given such assets, global gateways provide the means of attracting international inward investment and significant international export of goods and services.*

**Governmental level**

Governmental levels correspond to territorial/administrative units where an elected assembly, together with its own administration, is established.

*In decentralised countries, three or four governmental levels generally exist, while in more centralised countries, no more than two levels (national and local) can be found.*

*See also "Administrative level", "Territorial governance".*

**Integrated coastal management**

An integrated, participative territorial approach is required to ensure that the management of Europe's coastal zones is environmentally and economically sustainable, as well as socially equitable and cohesive. It aims at resolving the conflicting demands of society for products and services, taking into account both current and future interests. Major objectives are to:

–    strengthen sectoral management by improving training, legislation and staffing;
–    preserve the biological diversity of coastal ecosystems by preventing habitat destruction, pollution and over-exploitation; and
–    promote the rational development and sustainable use of coastal resources.

*Coastal zones are of strategic importance. They are home to a large percentage of European citizens, a major source of food and raw materials, a vital link for transport and trade, the location of some of the most valuable habitats, and the favoured destination for leisure time. Yet coastal zones are facing serious problems of habitat destruction, water contamination, coastal erosion and resource depletion. This depletion of the limited resources of the coastal zone (including the limited physical space) is leading to increasingly frequent conflict between uses, such as between aquaculture and tourism. Coastal zones also suffer from serious socio-economic and cultural problems, such as weakening of the social fabric, marginalization, unemployment and destruction of property by erosion. At EU level, a programme of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) is being implemented.*

*See also "Integrated planning".*

**Integrated planning**

Integrated planning (as opposed to sectoral planning) is a process involving the drawing together of level and sector specific planning efforts which permits strategic decision-making and provides a synoptic view of resources and commitments. Integrated planning acts as a focal point for institutional initiatives and

resource allocation. In the context of integrated (or comprehensive) planning, economic, social, ecological and cultural factors are jointly used and combined to guide land- and facility-use decisions towards sustainable territorial development.

**Land management**

Land management can be defined as the process of managing the use and development of land resources in a sustainable way[10].

*As land resources are used for a variety of purposes which interact and may compete with one another, all land uses should be planned and managed in an integrated manner. Land management is closely related to land-use planning and physical planning. Land management may also comprise the activity of land assembly (purchase of land by public authorities to facilitate future land uses such as the protection of natural areas or the development of land for specific purposes, such as housing or infrastructure).*

**Landscape**

According to the European Landscape convention, "landscape means an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors"[11].

*The Guiding Principles[12] indicate that "Europe is composed of a plurality of landscapes. They are a significant part of European heritage and a witness of the past and present relationships between man and his natural and built environments. Developments in production techniques in agriculture, forestry and industry and changes in town planning, transport, other types of infrastructure, tourism and leisure time behaviour are accelerating the transformation of European landscapes and can also have a negative impact on their quality and use. This not only concerns valuable natural landscapes, but also applies generally to all types of cultural landscapes, especially those that are an essential component of the urban environment."*

**Landscape planning**

Landscape planning is an activity involving both public and private professionals, aiming at the creation, conservation, enhancement and restoration of landscapes at various scales, from greenways and public parks to large areas, such as forests, large wilderness areas and reclamation of degraded landscapes such as mines or landfills.

*Landscape planning encompasses a variety of skills, such as landscape architecture and design, nature conservation, knowledge of plants, ecosystems, soil science, hydrology, cultural landscapes, etc. The provisions of the European Landscape Convention are important guidelines for the content and procedures of landscape planning.*

*See also "Landscape", "Landscape policies".*

**Landscape policies**

According to the European Landscape Convention, "landscape policy means an expression by the competent public authorities of general principles, strategies and guidelines that permit the taking of specific measures aims at the protection, management and planning of landscapes".

*Under this general heading, various types of landscape policies can be identified:*

*–       the European Landscape convention indicates that:*

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[10] Cf. Free Encyclopedia Wikipedia.
[11] Cf. the European Landscape Convention has entered into force in  2004. Council of Europe.
[12] Guiding Principles for the Sustainable Spatial Development of the European continent. CEMAT. 2000.

> *- "Landscape protection means actions to conserve and maintain the significant or characteristic features of a landscape, justified by its heritage value derived from its natural configuration and/or from human activity;*
>
> *- landscape management means action, from a perspective of sustainable development, to ensure the regular upkeep of a landscape, so as to guide and harmonise changes which are brought about by social, economic and environmental processes;*
>
> *- landscape planning means strong forward-looking action to enhance, restore or create landscapes."*

*–    the Guiding Principles indicate that "Spatial development policy can contribute to protecting, managing and enhancing landscapes by adopting appropriate measures, in particular by organising better interactions between various sectoral policies with regard to their territorial impacts". Various types of measures are likely to contribute to this aim, such as: the integration of landscape development into spatial planning as well as into sectoral policies, the examination and general assessment of landscapes, the implementation of integrated policies, the consideration of landscape development and protection in international programmes, in cross-border and transnational cooperation, the strengthening of awareness of people, private organisations and territorial authorities of the value of landscapes, the stronger integration of landscape development into training programmes.*

## Land-use planning, zoning

Land-use planning is a branch of public policy which encompasses various disciplines seeking to order and regulate the use of land in an efficient way[13]. It means the scientific, aesthetic and orderly disposition of land, resources, facilities and services with a view to securing the physical, economic, social and environmental efficiency, health and well-being of urban and rural communities.

*Zoning is an important component of land-use planning. It commonly includes regulation of the kinds of activities which will be acceptable on particular lots (such as open spaces, residential, agricultural, commercial or industrial), the densities at which those activities can be performed, the amount of space structures may occupy, etc.*

## Metropolitan region / Metropolitan area

A metropolitan area is a settlement system consisting of a large city (together with its suburbs) and its adjacent zones of influence, which may comprise various urban centres of different sizes[14]. These adjacent zones are generally the so-called commuter belt. Interstitial open spaces also form part of the metropolitan area.

A metropolitan region is generally considered as a region (in the administrative or geographical sense) dominated by an important metropolitan area. In spatial terms, its extension is therefore wider than that of the metropolitan area, but in some interpretations the two concepts of metropolitan area and metropolitan region have similar meanings.

## Natural risk / Natural hazard / Natural disaster

Numerous natural events represent a risk for the living, built and natural environment as they threaten human and animal life and may cause serious damages to settlements. For that reason, human settlements have to be protected, as far as possible, against natural risks through adapted prevention measures.

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[13] Cf. Free Encyclopedia Wikipedia.
[14] *Idem.*

According to their intensity, impacts and damages, these natural events (or hazards) may be considered as natural disasters. A natural disaster is therefore the consequence of the combination of a natural hazard and human activities[15].

Main natural hazards are: avalanches, drought, earthquakes, floods, land slides, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, tornados, cyclones, wildfires, etc.

*Recent decades witnessed a significant increase in the occurrence, severity and intensity of natural disasters. There is considerable scope for the reduction of risk through the application of disaster prevention and mitigation efforts based, for instance, on modern forecasting technology in terms of the development of early warning systems as well as improved land-use and settlement planning and safer building practices.*

**Participatory planning**

Participatory planning is a specific form of planning activities practiced by public authorities mainly at local level which makes possible for the citizens to play a part in the planning process.

*The most common form of participatory planning is consultation of the population on projects before their formal approval. More substantial and creative forms of public participation are also in use, such as workshops, public debates, etc. Internet plays an ever growing part in participatory planning, either for the dissemination of information on planning projects or in the context of interactive communication systems.*

**Partnership /cooperation**

The governance of territorial development policies has significantly changed over the past decades in order to face more efficiently the new challenges. While, in the past, territorial governance was mainly of hierarchical nature, often in the context of top-down relations, a number of factors have led to the adoption of more flexible approaches in which cooperation and partnerships play a more important part, especially in the following fields:

–       vertical and horizontal relationships in public administrations responsible for both territorial planning and sectoral policies with territorial impacts, partly substituted to authoritarian relationships and enabling the progressive coherence of public policies with the aim of producing added value for territorial cohesion and sustainability;

–       relationships between public administrations and bodies representing the civil society with the aim to strengthen the adhesion of civil society to spatial planning objectives, to harmonise public policies with private decisions, in particular in the field of investments, and to smooth potential conflicts of interest;

–       relationships between urban and rural areas with the aim to strengthen the development of rural areas through the services provided by urban entities, to alleviate the pressure that metropolitan areas exert on surrounding rural areas and to provide the various functions of urban-rural relations with a sustainable character;

–       cross-border and transnational relationships aiming at harmonising territorial development policies across national borders.

**Peripheral regions**

Peripheral regions are areas located far away from the main urban and economic centres, either within a State or on the European continent. Peripheral regions generally have lower economic potential and

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[15] *Idem.*

accessibility than the more central ones. Regional development policies pay a specific attention to peripheral regions.

## Peri-urban areas

Peri-urban areas are areas that are in some form of transition from strictly rural to urban. These areas often form the immediate urban-rural interface and may eventually evolve into being fully urban. Peri-urban areas are places where people are key components: they are lived-in environments.

*The majority of peri-urban areas are on the fringe of established urban areas, but they may also be clusters of residential development within rural landscapes. Peri-urban areas are most frequently an output of the process of suburbanisation or urban sprawl.*

*See also "Suburbanisation".*

## Physical planning

Physical planning is strongly related to land-use planning, urban design, transport planning, landscape planning, building plans, etc. It addresses activities which immediately affect and programme the physical structure and environment of cities and neighbourhoods (as opposed to economic planning or social planning activities).

## Polycentric spatial structure / Polycentric spatial development

A polycentric spatial structure refers to the morphology of the settlement system. It assumes that a plurality of urban agglomerations of similar size exist at the various levels of the urban hierarchy, as opposed to situations where a single large urban centre dominates each level and even eliminates the presence of intermediary levels. The principle of polycentric spatial structure and development can be applied at the various geographical scales, from the European to the regional one.

*The concept of polycentric spatial development was first introduced into the European debate on spatial development policies by the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) and was taken over into the Guiding Principles. Polycentricity of settlement systems is considered to favour sustainable territorial development as well as the reduction of territorial imbalances.*

*An important aspect of polycentricity is that it is valid at different scales:*

*– applied at European scale, it should enable the emergence of alternative global economic integration zones likely to counteract the polarisation effects of the so-called pentagon London-Paris-Milan-Munich-Hamburg;*

*– at intermediate scale (for instance at national scale or in transnational areas), polycentricity should lead to a balanced settlement system with growth benefiting to several metropolitan areas of various size and not only to the national capital cities;*

*– at regional level, polycentricity has to ensure that growth and development benefits also to medium-sized and smaller towns to maintain and increase vitality in the more rural parts of the region.*

*CEMAT Resolution N°1 (2006) on "Polycentric development: promoting competitiveness, enhancing cohesion" indicates that polycentricity is an umbrella theme that encompass different conceptual debates. In order to favour polycentric development, spatial development policies should:*

-   *Promote functional complementarity between government levels;*
-   *Take into consideration the existence of overlapping polycentric networks;*
-   *Favour an integrative cross-sectorial multi-scale policy;*
-   *Strengthen the institutional capacity-building;*

- *Take into consideration the existence of soft instruments that may comprise more effective use of available infrastructural organisational and human resources;*
- *Target growth potentials, understanding cities as economic drivers, essential to endogenous regional development;*
- *Promote adapted administrative and organisational structures with competence to support equitable sharing and redistribution of diverse regional resources as well as to absorb the burdens and negative impacts of spatial decisions that often traverse local administrative borders.*

## Public-private partnership

A public-private partnership is a formal agreement (generally a contract) by which a public body (government, regional or local authority) and one or more private entity (ies) decide to cooperate for building assets or delivering services.

*The choice of private entities is generally made on the basis of competition. The role of the public entity is to ensure that the public interests are respected in the operation. For this purpose, the contract stipulates precisely the tasks to be fulfilled by the private entities, in terms of services to be delivered, of capital to be invested, of security norms to be respected, etc. Private entities generally participate in bringing equity and / or in operating services. There are many different forms of public-private partnerships (for instance concessions, BOT, etc.). In the context of the neo-liberal economic systems which prevailed during the past decades, numerous public-private partnerships were created throughout Europe.*

## Public services

"Public services" is a generic term to designate services provided (directly or indirectly) by public authorities to citizens. Public services are delivered in a variety of fields, such as public transport, mail distribution and collection, health care, education, telecommunications, etc.[16]

*The principles upon which public services are based are those of equality (equal access to everybody) and reasonable conditions of access (most public services are subsidized because they are not profitable). In the context of the neo-liberal which has developed throughout Europe over the past decades, numerous public services were privatised and have been partly or totally transformed into private services, with increasing prices and less equal conditions of access on the territory. A sustained debate has resulted from this evolution. In the EU terminology, public services are called services of general interest.*

## Region

The concept of region is a multi-dimensional one which may refer to:

– a geographical area which has a strong natural identity and homogeneity (for instance mountain or coastal region);

– a territory with a significant economic identity or homogeneity (for instance a space which is polarised around a metropolitan area, an area characterises by specific activities such as manufacturing industries);

– a political-administrative unit governed by an elected regional assembly or administered by representatives of the national administration;

– a territory with a particular cultural identity and history (regional language and culture, etc.).

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[16] *Idem.*

**Regional development / Regional planning**

Regional development is considered as both the increase of wealth in a region and the activities leading to that increase. Regional development has a strong economic orientation, although it may also include social and cultural considerations.

Regional planning is a branch of land-use planning dealing with the organisation of infrastructure, settlement growth and non-built areas at the scale of a region[17]. Regional planning generally contributes to regional development, but may also fulfil additional objectives, such as sustainability in the environmental sense. Regional planning is generally understood as the spatial planning activities at regional scale.

**River basin management**

River basin management refers to the management of the water resources in a river basin, comprising the main river, all its tributaries as well as ground water. Water management activities include the prevention of flooding, the control of activities which influence the level and quality of water resources (water extraction, punctual and diffuse pollution) and all measures necessary to maintain the ecological balance related to the hydrologic system of the basin.

**Rural area / Countryside**

Rural areas are sparsely settled areas without significant large city or town. The countryside refers to certain forms of landscapes and land uses where agriculture and natural areas play an important part.

*Rural areas are more and more diverse, as far as their economic base is concerned. While agriculture still plays an important part in numerous rural areas, other sources of income have developed such as rural tourism, small-scale manufacturing activities, residential economy (location of retirees), production of renewable energy, etc. Many rural areas are multifunctional and a number of them are under the influence of metropolitan areas and large cities as a result of ever improved transport and communication facilities*

*See also "rural development" and "rural development pole".*

**Rural development**

Rural development is a specific aspect of territorial development. It originates in the fact that the industrial and urban society which has been prevailing in Europe for more than one century has left out from growth and development trends numerous rural areas, in particular the most remote and peripheral ones. Rural development has therefore become a priority of spatial development policies in most European States.

*In more recent years, a strong diversification of rural areas has however taken place in Europe, with some rural regions benefiting largely from the proximity of large agglomerations, others from tourism and/or from the settlement of retirees, while a number of other rural areas are still facing constraints of remoteness and marginalisation leading to out-migration of the population. It results from this that the tasks related to rural development are rather diversified and largely depend upon the context and situation of the rural areas considered. They comprise measures such as the improvement of accessibility, of living conditions, of the environment, the conservation of cultural landscapes and of the cultural and natural heritage, the promotion of soft tourism, the encouragement of small and medium-sized towns as well as large villages to act as service suppliers for their rural hinterlands, the promotion of high-quality regional agricultural, forestry and craft products while adopting environmentally-friendly production practices.*

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[17] *Idem.*

**Rural development pole**

A rural development pole is an inhabited, significantly rural area where the social, economic and territorial evolutions are led within the framework of an integrated and prospective development plan. A rural pole is not an agglomeration, but a rural territory as a whole, which may include one or more small towns.

The territorial development plan determines the objectives of results in short, medium and long terms. It specifies the guidelines for development, the human and material means to achieve the results targeted. The civil society, public and private actors must be partner for its development and its assessment[18].

**Spatial development, Spatial development policy**

Spatial development refers to the evolution of territories in all their dimensions (economic, social, environmental, physical).

*The observation of spatial development (for instance in the context of the ESPON programme), the realisation of analyses of spatial development trends and of foresight studies on spatial development are activities necessary for the preparation of spatial development policies.*

"Spatial development policy" is a rather recent concept originating from the 1990s (when the ESDP and the Guiding Principles were adopted) which means a policy promoting the development of space in accordance with general principles. Various public policies (sectoral and non-sectoral) should converge for the achievement of these general principles described in the Guiding Principles and in the ESDP.

*See also: "Territorial development", "Sustainable spatial development".*

**Spatial development projects**

Spatial development projects are projects generated or controlled by public bodies which contribute positively to territorial development at different scales. Spatial development projects may comprise infrastructure works, the economic promotion and development of specific areas, urban rehabilitation measures, the restoration of damaged ecosystems, etc.

*Generally, spatial development projects are elements of more comprehensive spatial development strategies. While some spatial development projects are of top-down nature and involve mainly public authorities, others are of more bottom-up nature and may largely involve the civil society as well as private interests (such as public-private partnerships).*

**Spatial planning**

Spatial planning refers to the methods used by the public sector to influence the distribution of people and activities in spaces at various scales[19] as well as the location of the various infrastructures, recreation and nature areas.

*Spatial planning activities are carried out at different administrative or governmental levels (local, regional, national), while activities of cooperation in this field are also implemented in cross-border, transnational and European contexts.*

**Strategic environmental impact assessment**

The Strategic Impact Assessment does not refer to the likely impacts of individual projects (as in the case of the EIA), but to the likely environmental impacts of certain plans and programmes.

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[18] Definition proposed by the international association Rurality-Environment-Development (RED).
[19] Cf. Free Encyclopedia Wikipedia.

*The SEA Directive (EU legislation), adopted in 2001, ensures that environmental consequences of certain plans and programmes are identified and assessed during their preparation and before their adoption. The public and environmental authorities can give their opinion and all results are integrated and taken into account in the course of the planning procedure. After the adoption of the plan or programme, the public is informed about the decision and the way in which it was made. In the case of likely transboundary significant effects, the affected Member State and its public are informed and have the possibility to make comments which are also integrated into the national decision making process. SEA aims at contributing to more transparent planning by involving the public and by integrating environmental considerations and therefore to achieving the goal of sustainable development.*

**Suburbanisation**

Suburbanisation is a process related to the development of suburbs around large cities and metropolitan areas. The process of suburbanisation is generated by the growth (increase of total population) as well as by internal re-structuring of cities.

*Many residents of larger cities no longer live and work in the same urban area, choosing instead to live in suburbs and commute to work in other areas. Suburbs are inhabited districts located either on the outer rim of a city or outside the official limits of a city or even the outer elements of a conurbation. The suburbanisation process is often assimilated to that of urban sprawl, especially when it comes to blame the growing traffic problems and the destruction of natural landscapes and resources[20].*

*See also "Urban sprawl".*

**Sustainable spatial development**

The concept of sustainable spatial development is the main objective of the Guiding Principles. Sustainability is related to long-term approaches: the benefits provided by spatial development policies should have long-lasting character and should not be jeopardised by the overlooking of important interferences between public policies or sectors of activity. Four dimensions of territorial sustainability have been identified in the Guiding Principles: economic, social, environmental and cultural sustainability.

*While numerous processes are challenging the sustainability of our common European future, policies aiming at sustainable spatial development have to achieve a variety of tasks such as reducing disparities, supporting balanced polycentric development, providing measures for the revitalisation of declining settlements, increasing the efficiency of transport and energy networks, preventing and reducing the potential damages of natural hazards, protecting and improving the natural and the built environment, promoting environmentally-friendly practices in agriculture and forestry, achieving a balance between preserving the existing cultural heritage, attracting new investments and supporting existing living and working communities in urban and rural areas and increasing public participation in spatial development approaches[21].*

*See also: "Spatial development", "Comprehensive spatial development approach".*

**Sustainability assessment**

A high percentage of the costs and environmental burden of products and processes are determined in early stages of design, often causing impacts for 20 years or more. Sustainability assessment is a method which has been developed to support enterprises in order to make products and services more sustainable.

*The life cycle assessment of products aims at reaching a better understanding of their social, economic and environmental impacts. Sustainability Impact Assessments are also being carried out in a wider perspective. The European Union, for instance, carries out SIAs for the negotiations of its major*

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[20] *Idem.*
[21] Ljubljana Declaration on the Territorial Dimension of Sustainable Development. CEMAT. 2003.

*multilateral and bilateral trade agreements[22]. Various public policies, as well as Public-Private Partnerships, can also be subject to similar procedures likely to identify their long-term economic, social and environmental impacts.*

**Technological risk / Technological hazard**

A technological risk is necessarily related to human activities in the fields of manufacturing and energy production, transport, buildings, public works, etc. Risks due to industrial, nuclear, mining and subterranean activities or risks due to the transport of hazardous substances (by land, river or sea) or the threat of a dam rupture are all considered major technological risks.

*Prevention against technological risks, aiming at limiting the occurrence of technological hazards as well as their potential impacts, is prescribed in the respective national legislations. It may comprise measures pertaining to spatial development policies, especially in terms of land-use policy.*

**Technopole / Technology centre / Technology park / Science park**

A technopole (also called technology centre, technology park or science park) refers to an areas where numerous private and public activities pertaining to research and development, technological development, technology transfer, high-level scientific education, high-tech manufacturing activities and services, etc. are concentrated. In numerous cases, technopoles encompass one or several specialised cluster(s) of high-tech enterprises, incubators for startups, a business and innovation centre, consultancy clusters.

*The principles governing technopoles are the development of synergies between the various stakeholders present on the site (enterprises, R&D activities, startups, services, etc.), the selection of activities to be located on the site (eliminating for instance warehouses or polluting industrial activities), the promotion and support by public authorities (facilitation of land acquisition and development, support to research and educational activities, etc.) and finally the availability of an outstanding working environment which is important for the image of enterprises and organisations present on the site.*

**Territorial cohesion**

The concept of territorial cohesion is an overarching objective of territorial development of the Guiding Principles and of the ESDP. Although it is included at highest level in official documents, the concept of territorial cohesion has so far not been the object of an official definition. It is generally considered as complementary to the objectives of economic and social cohesion and aims at promoting a harmonious and homogeneous development of the entire territory. A wide agreement prevails on the fact that territorial cohesion is a multi-dimensional concept with at least three main components[23]:

–       territorial quality: the quality of the living and working environment; comparable living standards across territories; similar access to services of general interest and to knowledge;

–       territorial efficiency: resource-efficiency with respect to energy, land and natural resources; competitiveness of the economic fabric and attractiveness of the territory; internal and external accessibility; capacity of resistance against de-structuring forces related to the globalisation process; territorial integration and cooperation between regions;

–       territorial identity: presence of "social capital", capability of developing shared visions of the future; local know-how and specificities; productive "vocations" and competitive advantage of each territory.

**Territorial cooperation**

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[22] Cf. Communication of the European Commission on sustainability Impact Assessment. 2002.
[23] Roberto Camagni: "The rationale for territorial cohesion and the place of territorial development policies in the European model of society". Paper presented at the Vienna Seminar on "Territorial cohesion and the European model of society", July 2005.

Territorial cooperation is understood as the development of joint activities related to territorial development policies for areas belonging to various administrative jurisdictions. Territorial cooperation is particularly important along national borders, but it is also relevant between administrative units of the same State. The aim of territorial cooperation is to facilitate territorial integration and to promote more competitive and sustainable forms of territorial development than would result from individual, segmented territorial development policies without cooperation. Territorial cooperation is driven by public authorities of the various levels, but it may associate other types of stakeholders (NGOs, private sector, civil society).

*See also: "Cross-border, transnational, interregional cooperation".*

**Territorial development**

Territorial development is understood as the process through which the geography of territories inhabited by human societies is progressively transformed. It involves physical components (infrastructure, landscapes and townscapes, etc.), but also the territorial structure or settlement pattern, i.e. the geographic distribution of population and human activities, in particular the size of and relationships between cities.

Territorial development is a comprehensive concept also used as an objective of public policies ("territorial development policy"). This comprehensive character results from the fact that it does not only aim at economic growth in the respective regions, but also at sustainability in its economic, social, environmental and cultural aspects. Territorial development has therefore a highly qualitative dimension requiring substantial amounts of coherence in the conception and implementation of public policies.

*It strongly reflects the present context of Europe characterised by low growth rates and strong regional imbalances. While in the period of strong growth of the post-war decades the main tasks of public policies regarding the territory were to guide the growth process through land-use regulation, provision of infrastructure and attribution of incentives to attract investments (the related policy concepts were "territorial planning", "aménagement du territoire", "Raumordnung", "Ordenacion del territorio", etc.), developing the territory has become a generalised priority in order to provide employment and services and to reduce the territorial imbalances.*

**Territorial governance**

Territorial governance is a global concept which characterises the way how spatially-relevant policies, considered together, are applied. Territorial governance is assessed against its contribution to the achievement of the objectives of spatial development policies. It is the result of the quality of multi-level and cross-sectoral relationships in the field of public policies. It refers to horizontal and vertical cooperation in the shaping and implementation of these policies. In this respect, the principles of subsidiarity and reciprocity advocated in the Guiding Principles, are of particular relevance.

"Governance can be understood as the emergence and the implementation of innovative shared forms of planning and managing of socio-spatial dynamics. At its simplest level, territorial governance can therefore be understood as the cultural embeddedness and practical application of the general principles of governance to spatial development policies... sound territorial governance aims at managing territorial dynamics through indicating the spatial consequences of various policies planned by public and private sector actors. The aim is to negotiate a set of commonly agreed objectives as well as a framework of shared responsibilities by the use of spatial development strategies and policies"[24].

*Improving the quality of territorial governance often requires the strengthening of the role of regional and local authorities which ensure the coherence and increase of efficiency of public policies applied on the territory.*

**Territorial potential**

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[24] CEMAT Resolution N° 2 (2006) on territorial governance: empowerment through enhanced coordination.

It has been recognised that each area has a specific potential (or capital) which is distinct from that of other areas and which is determined by a series of factors which may include the area's geographical location, size, endowment with factors of production and infrastructures, climate, natural resources, quality of life and of the environment or the agglomeration economies provided by its cities, the business incubators, industrial districts or other business network which reduce transaction cost. Other components are of more social and cultural nature, comprising factors such as traditions, understandings, informal rules that enable economic actors to work together under conditions of uncertainty, solidarity, mutual assistance. The concept of territorial potential comprises also a more intangible dimension related to the outcome of a combination of institutions, rules, practices, actors such as producers, researchers and policy makers that make a certain creativity and innovation possible[25].

*The concept of territorial potential (or capital) is underlying the endogenous growth theories and strategies which have been developed and applied since the 1970s as a reaction against the instability or negative impacts of exogenous factors causing unemployment, closing down or relocation of businesses. In recent years, the concept of territorial potential has become topical again because of increasing international and interregional competition in the context of European integration and accelerating globalisation.*

**Territorial impact assessment**

Territorial impact assessment is a method which aims at identifying the impacts that all types of spatially-relevant public policies, measures and projects may have on the territory, especially on territorial sustainability and cohesion. In this respect, the territorial impacts to be identified may be of economic, social, environmental and cultural nature. They may be related to changes in accessibility, biodiversity, locational preferences, regional/local employment opportunities, quality of life, etc.

*Territorial impact assessments are required because numerous sectoral policies/projects influence the evolution of the territory without necessarily contributing to the implementation of the objectives of spatial development policies.*

*Ex-post territorial impact assessments show how policies applied in the past have influenced the evolution of the territory and which lessons can be drawn from this. They are useful for awareness-raising purposes as well as for the improvement of assessment methods.*

*Ex-ante territorial impact assessments are necessary to anticipate the potential impacts of future policies and therefore to facilitate the choice between various possible policy options.*

*The method of territorial impact assessment is of complex nature because of the numerous possible interferences to be considered. It is therefore still in a process of elaboration and of improvement.*

**Town and country planning**

Town and country planning is an expression originating from the UK (Town and Country Planning Act of 1947 adopted in the immediate post-war period in response to industrialisation and urbanisation) which has also been largely used on the whole European continent and comprises a sector of public policies encompassing various activities, such as land-use planning, urban design, landscape planning, urban renewal, transport planning, the development of facilities and utilities, etc. The global aim of town and country planning is to maintain a balance between economic development, social welfare and the environmental quality.

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[25] OECD Territorial Outlook. 2001. p. 15.

**Urban area**

An urban area is an area which physically forms part of a town or city and is characterised by an important share of built-up surfaces, high density of population and employment and significant amounts of transport and other infrastructure (as opposed to rural areas). Urban areas may also comprise non built-up, green areas generally used for recreational purposes by urban dwellers.

*See also: "Urbanisation", "Urban development", "Rural area".*

**Urbanisation**

Urbanisation is a long-term process which characterises both the increasing share of population living in towns and cities and the growth of urban areas.

*In Europe the urbanisation process started with the beginning of the industrial revolution in the 18$^{th}$ century and has been spreading throughout the continent over two centuries in heterogeneous ways. The process comprises various phases (urbanisation, de-urbanisation or counter-urbanisation, re-urbanisation) which have reached the European countries at different times, according to geographical and historical situations. The level of urbanisation is the share of the total population of a country (or region) living in towns. The urbanisation rate represents the increase in the proportion of the urban population over the period[26]. The urbanisation process of a region has profound effects on its economy and ecology. There are different forms (or patterns) of urbanisation or concentration of human activities, settlements and social infrastructures (mono-centric, polycentric settlements, compact cities, suburbs, etc.).*

**Urban development**

As in the case of spatial development, urban development can be understood as the evolution of a specific (urban) area or as the various activities contributing to develop this area. Promoting urban development means acting towards the enhancement of the various economic, social, environmental and cultural potentials of cities and urban areas.

*This involves a wide range of public policies based on multidisciplinary knowledge. The involvement of the civil society through participatory actions and partnerships is also essential to tackle the complex issues of urban development. In recent years, the objectives of sustainability and of promotion of inclusiveness and social cohesion have become topical in urban development strategies.*

**Urban design**

Urban design is a traditional discipline of urban planning which was particularly in fashion when urban planning was essentially expressed by building plans. Urban design was also particularly used in the planning of new towns, encompassing the layout of entire cities. More recently, its focus is put on the planning of public spaces, including the totality of spaces that are used freely on a day-to-day basis by the general public, especially streets and parks[27].

*The design, construction and management of public spaces require interdisciplinary inputs (engineering, ecology, local history, transport planning, architecture, etc.) as well as consultation and negotiation with a variety of levels and stakeholders.*

**Urban ecosystem**

An urban ecosystem is the community of plants, animals and humans that inhabit the urban environment. Although it is an area physically dominated by built structures like buildings, roads, sewers and power

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[26] Cf. Free Encyclopedia Wikipedia.
[27] *Idem.*

lines, it also contains a rich patchwork of green spaces (parks, yards, street planting, greenways, urban streams, commercial landscaping and unbuilt lots) that provide the living heart of the urban ecosystem.

*As separate and fragmented as these elements sometimes appear, they work together as a single organism. Urban ecosystems are generally highly disturbed systems, subject to rapid changes in soil and plant cover, as well as temperature and water availability. The plant life in urban ecosystems is different from that in natural ecosystems too. Even in the city's natural or semi-natural areas like parks, the vegetation is often highly altered, with many non-native and invasive species. One extremely important issue for urban ecosystems is their ability to provide healthy environments, both for the natural ecosystem and for the citizens. Urban ecology, a relatively recent discipline, studies and monitors urban ecosystems (factors allowing wild plants and animals to survive in built environments, effects of urban development patterns on ecological conditions) and attempts to shape the conditions of healthier and better managed communities[28].*

**Urban management**

In the general context of spatial development policies, urban management comprises a set of public policies developed and applied at local or metropolitan level addressing a wide range of issues in the fields of land-use planning, transportation, housing, urban renewal and reconversion of derelict land and brownfield sites, environmental protection, waste management, energy and water supply, provision of services and facilities, economic development, social cohesion and integration, protection and enhancement of the cultural heritage, cultural promotion and development, etc.

*Major urban challenges in Europe are increasingly complex interlinkages between deprivation, low income, unemployment, poor educational and skill levels, sub-standards housing and inadequate urban fabric and facilities, progress of urban sprawl, etc.[29] Cities have also to promote their competitiveness and their image in order to develop functions with high economic added value and to attract investments. A particular task of urban management is the revitalisation of declining inner-city areas and of problematic suburban areas, addressing not only the physical and environmental characteristics, but also the economic and social resources of the residents, as well as their socio-cultural integration. Approaches incorporating housing provision and improvement within more integrated area-based participatory regeneration programmes are essential elements of urban management policies.*

**Urban planning**

Urban, city or town planning is the planning discipline dealing with the physical, social, economic and environmental development of metropolitan regions, municipalities and neighbourhoods[30]. The expression of urban planning consists in elaborating land-use and building plans as well as local building and environmental regulations.

*Historically (nineteenth century) urban planning was influenced by the newly formalised disciplines of architecture and civil engineering which began to codify both rational and stylistic approaches to solving city problems through physical design. During the twentieth century, the domain of urban planning was expanded to include economic development planning, community social planning and environmental planning.*

**Urban renewal / Urban regeneration / Urban revitalisation / Urban rehabilitation / Urban restoration**

Cities are confronted to both the ageing of their fabric and built-up areas and to changes in their economic functions and in the social characteristics of their population. In order to maintain a harmonious living

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[28] Cf. Urban Ecosystems profile. Earth on Edge. Bill Moyers Report.
[29] "Basis for the Ljubljana Declaration". CEMAT. 2003, in Council of Europe, 13th European Conference of Ministers responsible for Spatial/Regional Planning (CEMAT), Ljubljana (Slovenia), 16-17 September 2003 : *Proceedings*, Council of Europe Series " European Spatial Planning and landscape", 2005, n° 71 and *Documents of the Conference*, "Territory and landscape Series", 2005, n° 1.
[30] Cf. Free Encyclopedia Wikipedia.

environment, a buoyant economy and a balanced social structure, a number of public (and sometimes public-private) activities are necessary. A distinction can be made between:

– **urban renewal** which aims at replacing impoverished urban neighbourhoods and derelict areas by large-scale projects related to housing, services, transport systems, recreation areas, etc. Sometimes, the costs of urban renewal for living communities is high and this type of activity is nowadays less frequently carried out than some decades ago;

– **urban regeneration and revitalisation** which aims at transforming the obsolete socio-economic base of certain urban areas into a more sustainable socio-economic base through the attraction of new activities and companies, modernisation of the urban fabric, improvement of the urban environment and diversification of the social structure;

– **urban rehabilitation and restoration** which aims mainly at regenerating and conserving the built heritage or the urban environment, including the ecosystems. In addition to the refurbishment of historical buildings and townscapes, such activities also comprise the modernisation and upgrading of technical facilities and the respect of environmental and security norms and standards.

**Urban-rural partnerships**

Rural-urban interactions can be defined as linkages across space (such as flows of people, goods, money, information and wastes) and linkages between sectors (for example between agriculture and services and manufacturing). In broad terms, they also include "rural" activities taking place in urban centres (such as urban agriculture) and activities often classified as "urban", such as manufacturing and services) taking place in rural settlements.

*In recent decades, urban-rural interactions have intensified throughout Europe, in terms of commuter flows, recreation and leisure activities, settlement of former urban dwellers in rural areas, location of formerly urban functions and activities in rural areas, etc. In other words, the urban influence of cities on rural areas has increased. Rural-urban linkages are important to achieve balanced economic development and to reduce vulnerability of less favoured rural regions. Rural-urban interactions have often critical influences on natural resources use and management, especially in the peri-urban interface. In order to promote harmonious territorial development, urban-rural partnerships are being set up between urban and rural communities (generally represented by local authorities but also involving NGOs and the civil society) aiming at providing services, protecting natural and environmental resources, favouring regular contacts between urban and rural communities, developing economic synergies, etc.*

**Urban sprawl**

Urban sprawl is the unplanned, uncontrolled spreading of urban development into areas adjoining the edge of a city. The term is also used to designate the expansive, rapid and sometimes reckless growth of a greater metropolitan area over a large area. Urban sprawl is characterised by several land-use patterns such as single-use zoning (commercial, residential, industrial), car-depending communities, low-density land-use but larger scale of development than older established areas (wider roads, larger stores with expansive parking lots) and lack of diversity in design, sometimes creating a sense of uniform urban environment[31].

*See also "Suburbanisation"*

**Urban structure / Settlement structure**

A morphological /functional appraisal and analysis of towns, cities and other settlements makes possible to identify their structure. The urban structure is characterised by the main elements and functions existing inside the urban area, such as the morphology of the city (compact or dispersed, single nucleus or

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[31] *Idem.*

multiple nuclei), the distribution of urban areas according to age (medieval, post-war, etc.), to main functions (commercial, housing, industrial, recreation, etc.), to social distribution and organisation (poor and derelict areas, gentrified areas, middle-class areas, areas with a high proportion of immigrants, etc.), the main characteristics of transport and communication axes (road system, public transportation system).

The settlement structure refers to the characteristics of the distribution of towns, cities, villages, hamlets, etc. at a wider scale. In this respect, differences can be made between: agglomerated regions (various settlements organised around a dominating metropolitan area), dispersed settlements (homogenous distribution of small and medium-sized urban entities over an area), polycentric settlement systems (organisation of a region around several urban entities), networks of cities (strongly interdependent urban entities in terms of functions without physical continuity), conurbations (groupings of various urban entities close to each other).