



## **URBAN PLANNING AS A SYSTEM FOR ORGANIZING SUSTAINABLE CITY DEVELOPMENT**

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### **Abstract**

The article puts forward the issues of organizing territorial space at the heart of urban planning, that is, creating conditions for interaction between various organizations and communities in urban areas.

**Keywords:** Space, urbanization, transport infrastructure, sustainable city.

### **Introduction**

Today, urban planning is viewed as a system of conscious, collaborative activity that creates or transforms the appearance of small and large cities, urban districts, or a broader territory. Furthermore, urban planning is directly linked to the implementation of priority outcomes of activities related to investment in territorial development, financing the development of basic infrastructure, the adoption of environmental measures, and the implementation of land use regulation principles.

According to previous views, urban planning implied the creation of a planning structure for the territory in order to establish control over the use of land.

At the core of urban planning is the organization of territorial space, i.e., creating conditions for interaction between various organizations and communities within urban areas. Today, planning is viewed as a strategic rather than a comprehensive activity, necessitating a selective approach and particular attention to existing problems, the timely resolution of which will have a positive impact on the future of the area.

It's important to note that the planning system prioritizes development from the past to the future, meaning it allows for the current selection of appropriate measures based on their potential impact on the formation of social and territorial relations in the



future. This approach entails the creation of project concepts for several generations to come, particularly with regard to investment in infrastructure and the rational use of natural resources, which ultimately determines people's quality of life.

Planning should be geared toward developing compact urban development that meets the specific conditions of the situation. However, there is currently a trend toward further urban sprawl in the outskirts of cities. For the planning process to be effective, it is necessary to explore possible ways to manage it, ensuring comprehensive support and strengthening the overall urban planning system.

In addition, an important criterion is the expansion of opportunities for economic activity and the creation of sources of income for low-income groups of the population, the improvement of infrastructure, the provision of services and the organization of social and domestic services [1, 5].

Planning goals and methods for achieving them are formed within the specific context of urban governance [5, p. 33]. This reflects the public's position on the following issues: the development of urban districts; the distribution of material goods; and the balance between human rights and the interests of society.

Urban planning is sometimes viewed as a solution to many important problems facing cities and towns, while at other times it is viewed as excessive government intervention in market activity [5]. Recently, there has been a growing belief that urban planning systems in developing countries are the cause of many urban problems, establishing unrealistic standards and restrictions that fuel urban poverty and social insecurity.

In the future, urban planning must take into account factors that influence the social and spatial problems of cities. Therefore, it is necessary to address a number of targeted objectives that affect the sustainable development of urban structures and settlements:

- curtailment of the process of urban expansion and development of compact urban construction with provision of transport infrastructure;
- conservation and rational use of non-renewable resources;
- taking measures to prevent the depletion of renewable resources;
- disposal and recycling of production waste using technologies that do not harm the environment;
- taking measures to reduce energy consumption and waste production per unit of production and consumption.



The above objectives can be achieved only if urbanization issues are addressed within the context of urban planning and policy implementation at the regional, national, and international levels [5, 6, 7]. An important priority on the path to sustainable development is sustainable economic development for both small and large cities. This includes ensuring the material conditions necessary for the effective functioning of manufacturing enterprises at various levels. The material level system includes:

- reliable infrastructure and service delivery system, including energy supply and communications, water supply, transport links, waste disposal organization;
- availability of land and housing, as well as security of tenure;
- qualified and efficient labor reserves;
- a legal system that guarantees competition, responsibility and property rights;
- a legislative framework that provides for the necessary standards for compliance with safety at work sites, waste processing technologies, and work with harmful emissions;
- credit and financial institutions capable of mobilizing investment funds.

Social aspects of urbanization and economic development must be considered strictly in conjunction with sustainable urban development.

#### Strategic direction of urban development

This interpretation refers to the selection of a scope of urban planning activity, with public engagement and participation, to create and develop an action plan for the development of urban structures. The scope, format, and priorities of the strategy may vary. The goal of the strategy is to ensure stakeholder participation in identifying and defining problems and objectives, as well as priority areas for urban development planning and future prospects.

Participatory and public engagement methods are aimed at achieving agreed-upon objectives, namely: implementing a set of measures and impact plans, identifying the city's priority areas, creating organizational levers for project implementation, and organizing monitoring and evaluation.

This urban development strategy has received widespread support from local authorities, planning professionals, and international organizations. It should be noted that the application of this strategy has yielded positive results in areas such as: developing and strengthening levers of influence for joint activities of public and government agencies; increasing knowledge of local priorities and population needs;



analyzing a wide range of technical solutions; and improving the coordination and coherence of joint efforts between local and international organizations.

A key issue in effective urban planning is the alignment of sustainable development strategies with realistic resource allocations that will enable the achievement of urban development objectives. For a long time, governments in developed countries have introduced financial measures into planning systems that simultaneously stimulated and curbed construction growth in various urban areas.

Financial measures applied to developers can benefit local residents in the development area. For example, when construction is carried out by private developers, negotiations are used to reach specific agreements, particularly regarding the distribution of specific construction costs.

Therefore, the use of financial measures is highly relevant given the potential for backroom deals between developers and builders regarding the use of public spaces. These measures could include the creation of an alternative mechanism in the form of a specific fee, levied based on the area and scale of construction projects [4, 5]. Such a fee is levied as a tax, guaranteeing the distribution of funds to state or municipal funds.

Implementing measures to coordinate and integrate activities is a complex task; such measures must be the focus of effective urban planning, and this work requires extensive experience [3, 5]. For example, in many countries, the lack of professional and qualified personnel serves as a serious constraint to the effective development of urban planning systems. Cambodia, for example, where a lack of professional knowledge and manpower following the cessation of international funding in the late 1990s led to the suspension of urban spatial planning efforts. In many other developing countries, the shortage of locally qualified personnel and their brain drain are a major obstacle to the development of effective urban planning.

Therefore, it's crucial that planning measures be based on a sound understanding of local conditions. Therefore, when developing an effective urban planning system and implementing it in a specific urban context, it's crucial to pay attention to three key aspects:

Communities and local organizations that work on specific areas of urban development and address existing urban development issues.

Stakeholders whose activities, interests, needs and values directly depend on the resolution of urban development issues.



Platforms for interaction between stakeholders and partner organizations [1, 2, 5].

New methods in the urban planning system

Over the past decades, new principles and methods for addressing urban planning issues have emerged that can significantly impact the development of a stable, sustainable, and ecologically healthy urban environment. Among these principles, we highlight seven of the most significant areas for creating a new planning system:

Method 1. Strategic territorial planning - is aimed not at all parts of urban areas, but mainly at aspects of the highest priority and strategic significance, which are most important for achieving the goals of the unified general plan of the city territory.

Method 2. Integrating territorial planning into the functions of state and public structures—which implies an interconnected system of three directions, in which the public sector is the locomotive, and the public sector provides the most powerful support for public initiatives regarding urban planning.

Method 3. New methods of land use regulation and organization—includes working with developers to organize a unified system for public space use and service provision. This method also involves applying and incorporating legal norms into the urban planning system to collect information on land value changes in various areas of the city.

Method 4. Developing collaboration with the public and partner organizations. This methodology includes such areas of activity as "participatory assessment of the urban environment," "participatory training and action," "participatory strategy planning," and "participatory budgeting."

Method 5: Developing methods supported by international organizations that focus on specific areas of activity: the environment, crime and natural disasters, as well as partnerships and cooperation with civil society organizations.

Method 6. New forms of master planning, where the development and formulation of new project proposals occurs with public participation. This method also aims to ensure social justice by discouraging land speculation.

Method 7. Planning aimed at creating new forms of territorial development, such as compact urban development and new urbanism, which is a response to spontaneous construction and sustainable urbanization [2, 5, 7].

The idea of sustainable development largely implies ensuring a high quality of life for people. The concept contains three fundamental components: 1. Economic; 2. Environmental; 3. Social.



The economic direction implies the optimization of limited resources and the use of environmentally friendly , i.e. nature-saving , energy-saving and material-saving technologies, including the extraction and processing of raw materials, and waste disposal.

The social dimension is primarily human-centered and aims to preserve and support the stability of social and cultural systems, as well as reduce destructive conflicts between people. This dimension entails a fair distribution of wealth among the population and the preservation of cultural diversity on a global scale.

From an ecological perspective, sustainable development aims to ensure the integrity of biological and physical natural systems. The primary focus is on preserving the capacity of natural systems to self-heal and adapt to changes in ecosystem conditions, such as excessive emissions, depletion of natural resources, and environmental pollution. Natural systems can also include human-created environments, such as cities.

This trinity of concepts is a powerful tool for achieving sustainable urban development. All three areas must be considered in a balanced manner, which is an extremely challenging task.

Having considered the interaction between the economic and social directions, such tasks as achieving justice emerge, for example, in relation to income distribution and the provision of targeted assistance to low-income groups of the population.

The interaction of economic and environmental approaches creates ideas regarding the cost assessment of external impacts of enterprises on the environment.

Social and environmental nexus raises interest in issues such as equality, including respect for rights and public participation in decision-making.

The 20th century was marked by unprecedented urban and settlement growth, highlighting the need for the development and implementation of sustainable development principles in urban planning and spatial planning, which later became known as "sustainable territorial development." This urban development concept has adopted key features of the concept of "sustainable development." Thus, "sustainable territorial development" implies ensuring, through urban development, the following: safety and favorable living conditions for people, the reduction of the negative impact of economic and other activities on the environment, and the rational use of natural resources. In this form, the term was incorporated into the 2004 Urban Development Code of Russia [8, 9].



Principles of sustainable development of the territory:

The creation of a "humane" number of storeys (no more than 5 storeys), the implementation of planning solutions that take into account the creation of a convenient transport infrastructure that will ensure easy access to administrative, business and shopping centres and social institutions.

Development is carried out according to the cell principle, i.e., green courtyards and playgrounds are created; administrative and business districts with high-rise buildings are separated from residential green areas/cells.

The creation of transport infrastructure is aimed at developing environmentally friendly modes of transport (trolleybuses, trams, funiculars, electric trains, etc.). Much attention is paid to the development of public transport; the use of bicycles is encouraged and supported [8, 10].

Calculation of parking spaces near residential areas and administrative and business centers based on the economic and demographic situation of a given region.

Much attention is paid to the improvement of the territory, i.e. the creation and development of parks, alleys, squares, embankments, etc.

Calculation of the functional purpose of neighborhoods, taking into account demographics, regional specifics, etc.

When creating engineering infrastructure, the possibility of using local sources of renewable energy/resources for each quarter is taken into account.

The possibility of using in-house energy-saving technologies, such as natural ventilation and lighting systems, in accordance with the capabilities of the regional energy system.

An efficient water supply and sanitation system, i.e. a sewerage system with maximum primary treatment before discharge into water bodies, in conjunction with wastewater recirculation systems.

Creation of a system for the separate collection of solid municipal waste, recycling of secondary materials, and the creation of convenient schemes for the composting of non-solid municipal waste.

The architectural appearance of the buildings is consistent with the features of the local landscape and with local national architectural traditions.

The creation of social infrastructure facilities that ensure the development of an educational, cultural, creatively active, and spiritually developed society, taking into account various age groups and stimulating society to active interaction.



A comprehensive solution to the problem of rationalizing waste sorting and recycling.

Stimulating the relationships that drive social life:

- business relations, barter relations;
- joint events;
- public meetings aimed at jointly developing a strategy for future development;
- local government system.

Development of a full-fledged local economy in the form of small communities and small businesses.

To realize the concept of sustainable development, modern society needs to develop a more effective decision-making system that takes into account historical experience and the diversity of existing areas and forms of knowledge, modes of existence, human behavioral styles, etc.

Thus, the concept of sustainable development is based on the expansion of human choice options, which presupposes direct human participation in the processes that shape the sphere of human activity, while facilitating the adoption and implementation of human decisions and control over their execution.

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