Smart and Sustainable Planning for Cities and Regions

Strategic Planning and Long Term Visioning between Theory & Practice

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Do we need planning?
We need planning for supporting wished-for developments aiming at the optimal functioning of a territory.
Planning is still anchored on strict normative basis although circumstances differ severely from the assumptions on which regulatory planning is organised.
Key concept 1: “Strategic planning” concerns long-term structural developments. It is about establishing a global direction of the development of a territory.
Key concept 2: “Base-placed approach”
Territorial cohesion, taking local specificities and potentials into account, is the basis for sound development.
Key concept 3: “Integrative planning”
Spatial planning deals with different aspects of a complex society and with sector policies. Planning should aim at balancing them.
Key concept 4: “Co-planning”

The co-production of a strategy requires organising a process in which decision-making focuses on converging to a common view.
Key concept 5: “Interactive participation” aiming at sharing ownership, helps relevant stakeholders to assume awareness of the issues at stake.
Tool 1: “Scenarios” are plausible descriptions of how the future might develop, based on a coherent and internally consistent set of assumptions about the key relationships and driving forces.
Tool 1: “Scenarios” translate complexity comparing different alternatives, consider megatrends, encourage creativity, illustrate dis/advantages of policy decisions.
Tool 2: “Visions” define a desirable picture of the future based on a core set of ideas, values and principles without much explanation of how to actually achieve it.
Tool 2: “Visions” help finding common understanding and agreement among potential players on how the future should look like.
Both scenarios and visions outlining territorial future, enrich policy processes and help them to become more effective and efficient by reflecting the territorial diversity of future developments.
Today’s visions are tomorrow’s realities

Thanks for your attention!