INTERNATIONAL KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

- ANALYSIS OF PLANNING CULTURES

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Change for Stability: Lifecycles of Cities and Regions
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Introduction
Introduction

- Consequences of globalisation/Europeanisation
  - Planning activities and the planning profession itself become more and more international
  - Increasing competition → need to be up-to-date → knowledge exchange beyond national borders

- BUT planning systems are different!

Planning systems in comparison

Source: http://9ipt63.blogspot.com/2010/08/european-union-flag-brussels-has-placed.html
### Different terms used for planning in selected countries of the EU

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Term used for planning</th>
<th>Literal translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>Fysisk planlægning</td>
<td>Physical planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>Town and country planning</td>
<td>Town and country planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Aménagement du territoire</td>
<td>Territorial arrangement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>Raumordnung</td>
<td>Spatial order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Netherlands</td>
<td>Ruimtelijke ordening</td>
<td>Spatial order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Fysisk planering</td>
<td>Physical planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>Urbanismo</td>
<td>Urbanism</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Steinhauer, 2010; based on Williams, 1996a, 58*

→ **Euro-English, Eurojargon**
Planning systems in comparison

- “The meanings of words are not cast in stone, but depend on who is using them, when and why.” (Faludi, 2010, 1)

- “Language awareness is important.” (Williams, 1996b, 56)

- “Planning language and terminology is very culture specific, and can pose particular problems for the unwary.” (Williams, 1996b, 56)
Planning systems in comparison

http://commin.org/
Planning systems in comparison

- Handbooks on spatial planning systems (and planning vocabulary) for various countries available

http://www.arl-net.de/
Planning systems in comparison

→ Change of the official EU-language
Planning systems in comparison

- Political styles in Europe

Source: Steinhauer, 2010; based on Altrock, 2007, 8
Planning systems in comparison

- Legal and administrative families in Europe

Source: Steinhauer, 2010; based on Newman and Thornley, 1996, 29
Planning systems in comparison

Planning families in Europe

as identified by Newman and Thornley in 1996

Planning systems in comparison

Planning traditions in Europe

as identified by the EU compendium in 1999

Source: Steinhauer, 2010; based on Knieling and Othengrafen, 2009, 47 (map: mygeo, n.d.)
Planning systems in comparison

- Broad variety of categorisations and typologies of planning systems
- BUT they all lead to different findings...

- The greatest danger is to base “the division on a single factor or dimension because the reality is more complex” (Newman and Thornley, 1996, 28)

- Need to extent the research approach

→ Planning cultures
Planning cultures

- Planning cultures
  - Macro level: institutional and social context
  - Micro level: experiences of planners

- Case studies
  - Sweden
  - Germany

Analysis of Planning Cultures
- The Examples of Sweden and Germany
Planning cultures – definition

“The ways, both formal and informal, that spatial planning in a given multi-national region, country or city is conceived, institutionalized, and enacted.“

(Friedmann, 2005, 184)

- Formal and informal processes
- Importance of (invisible) cultural values (traditions, norms, etc.)
Planning cultures - analysis

- “Planning culture is the neglected dimension in comparative studies on planning systems“
  (Fürst, 2009, 27)

- Some analyses do exist but they are “geographically scattered and exist mainly in the form of ad hoc or piecemeal innovations”
  (Young, 2008, 6)

→ Need for (self-) development of an analytical framework
Based on the culturised planning model (Knieling and Othengrafen, 2009)

- National background information
  (NON-PLANNING)
- Formally institutionalised aspects of the planning system
  (PLANNING)
- Daily planning activities (emphasis of the model)
  (PLANNING)
- Need for flexibility!
Planning cultures - analysis

- **Methodology**
  - Macro level: literature and policy research
  - Micro level: no literature available

  → Empirical research essential

- **Conduction of expert interviews**
  - Focus on the performed and routinised (typical) ways of working during planning processes
    (organising, deciding, communicating, etc.)
Planning cultures - examples

- **Sweden**
  - Strongly consensus-oriented, hardly no radical changes

- **Germany**
  - Bureaucratic, rather negative reputation of planning in media and among the citizens (prohibitive planning)

- **Switzerland**
  - Positive reputation of planning in media, in policy and among the citizens (planning as a chance)

- **The Netherlands**
  - Very conceptual, visionary planning approach
Conclusion

- Many challenges to overcome
  - Fuzzy terms, need for flexibility, loose borders, overlapping dimensions
  - How to conduct systematic empirical research? A common analytical framework is still lacking

- But also many chances
  - Better use of international knowledge
  - Deeper analyses of other cultures / own culture
  - Enhancement of comparative research
CEC (European Commission) (1999), The EU compendium of spatial planning systems and policies. Luxembourg, Office for official publications of the European Commissions.


Knieling, J. and Othengrafen, F. (eds.) (2009), Planning cultures in Europe. Decoding cultural phenomena in urban and regional planning, Aldershot, Ashgate.


Young, G. (2009), Reshaping planning with culture, Aldershot, England, Ashgate.
Thank you for your attention!

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