



POLAND

PLANNING SYSTEM

Planning house Republic of Poland								
Level of territorial division and public administration	Name and number of units as of 31.12.2004	Planning body	Approving body	Name and (activity) of the planning document	Original in Polish	English	The main function and leading items of the planning document	Number of planning documents as of 31.12.2009
Central (NUTS II)	Country (1)	Governmental Centre of Strategic Planning of the Republic of Poland	Council of Ministers, President of the Republic of Poland	Knowledge appraisals and development plans (KAPD)	National Spatial Management Concept (NSMC)	A guideline for national spatial policy - is not a legal act, but is binding for the voivodship Spatial Management Plans	1	
Regional (NUTS III)	Voivodship (16)	Voivodship and government	Voivodship Parliament	Plan appraisals and development plans (PADP)	Voivodship Spatial Management Plan (VSMMP)	A guideline for regional spatial policy - is not a legal act, but is binding for public administration and for the communes	16	
Local (NUTS IV)	Commune (2473)	Commune	Commune Council	Study of the Conditions and Directions of the Spatial Management of the Commune (SKZP)	Local Spatial Management Plan (LSMP)	A guideline for local spatial policy - is not a legal act, but is binding for the preparation of the local spatial management plan - is not a legal act, but is binding for the commune, other authorities and all citizens	2473	

¹ The units NUTS II (16 regions) and NUTS III (168 subregions) were introduced in Poland only for statistical purposes.
² Of urban 03 urban communes with county status.
³ According to the Spatial Planning and Management Act, at the moment this office does not exist.
⁴ To include the planning body in the voivodship Board.
⁵ In small communes "sołtys" or "starosta" and residents in urban communes "burmistrz" - the town mayor, in big urban communes "prezydent miasta" - the city mayor.

- 1) The units NUTS 1 (6 regions) and NUTS 3 (45 subregions) were introduced in Poland only for statistical purposes
- 2) Of which 65 urban communes with county status
- 3) According to the Spatial Planning and Management Act, at the moment this office does not exist
- 4) In practice the planning body is the Voivodship Board
- 5) In rural communes iwójtł, in small- and medium-size urban communes iburmistrzł ñ the town mayor, in big urban communes iprezydent miastał ñ the city mayor

BASIC FACTS

- There is one comprehensive legal act regulating the spatial planning and management issues in the country: The Spatial Planning and Management Act (of 27th March 2003).
- There are three levels of spatial planning: national, regional and local.
- Spatial planning at the central level is a governmental issue; at the regional and local level ñ the self-governmental one.
- At all planning levels the spatial planning and management documents shall be connected with the development strategies of the respective area.
- Public participation at every level of spatial planning is guaranteed.

PLANNING PROCEDURE

- The spatial planning procedure and negotiations in Poland are very complicated, bureaucratic, time-consuming, and expensive, especially at the local level.
- Preparing of projects of all spatial plans is practically privatized. Even the last version of the National Spatial Management Concept was prepared by an ad-hoc appointed team of external experts. Most of the 16 Voivodshipis Spatial Management Plans were prepared by private planning bureaus.
- There is a different planning procedure for the investments with public purpose.
- Spatial and management plans might be prepared by the State Maritime Offices also for the areas of internal waters, territorial sea, and exclusive economic zone of Poland.
- The local plans ñ Study of the Conditions and Directions of the Spatial Management of a Commune, and Local Spatial Management Plan ñ have to be authorised by registered State specialists, licensed by the Chamber of Town Planners.

Binding character

- The spatial planning and management documents at the central, regional, and partially (The Study) local level are only guidelines for the spatial policy without strong binding force for the subordinate plans.
- The spatial planning documents from the higher level are binding for the planning bodies at the lower level.
- Only the Local Spatial Management Plans are legal acts binding for the State and citizens.

Building permission

- The Local Spatial Management Plan is the main legal base for building permission.
- On the areas (plots) without a legally valid Local Spatial Management Plan an individual development order and a building permission might be issued as a kind of administrative decision