

RUSSIA

PLANNING SYSTEM

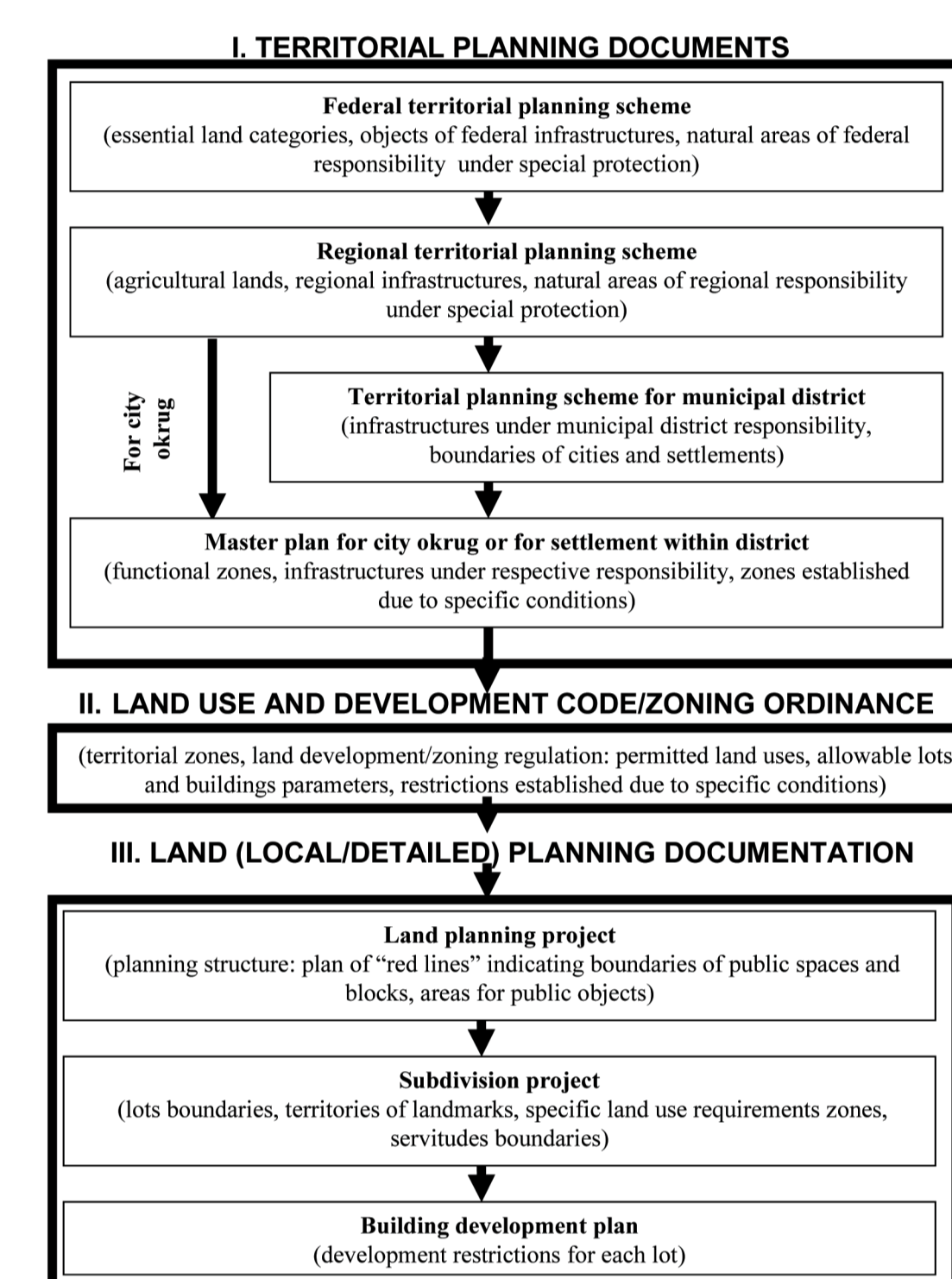
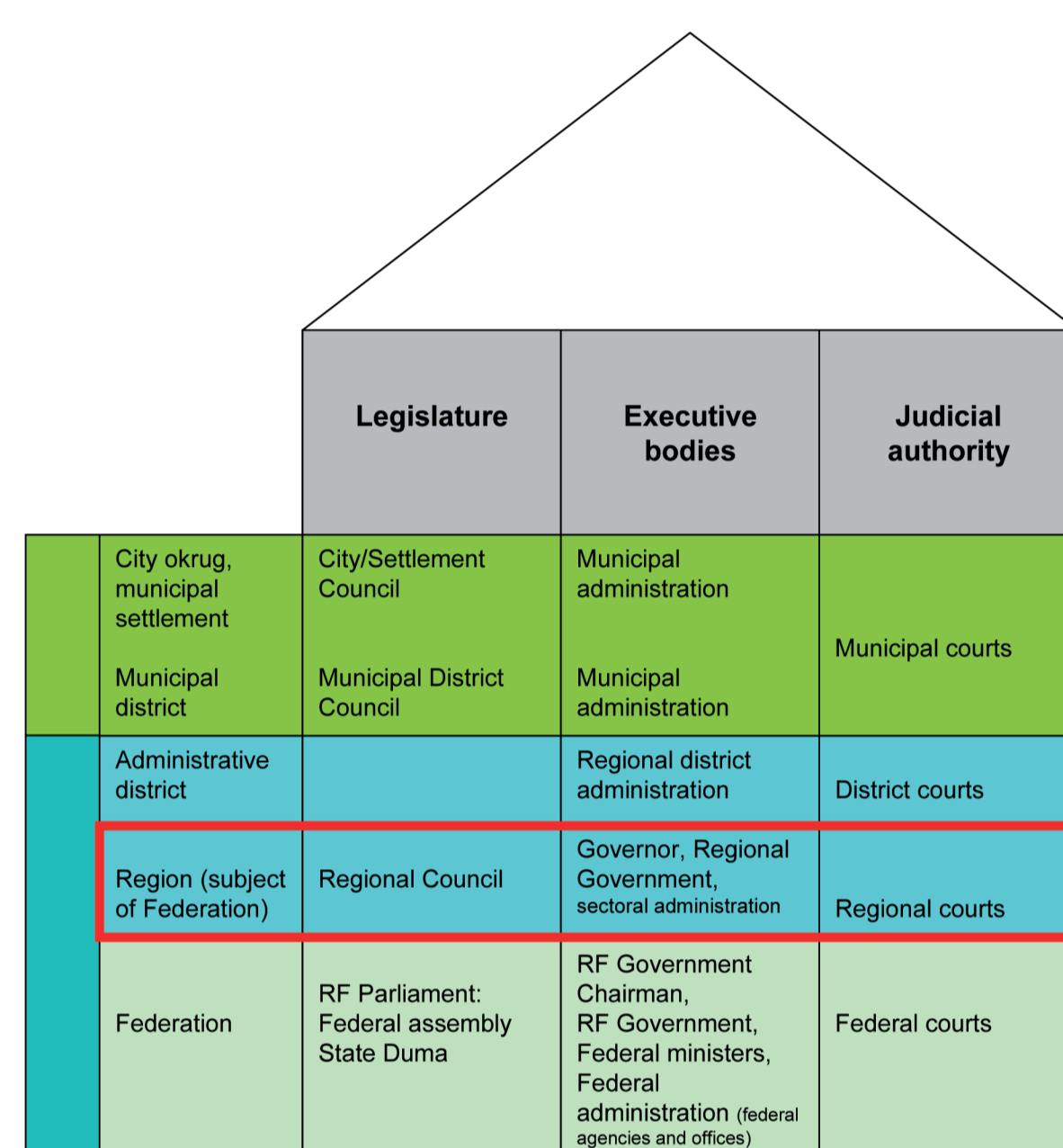


Figure: Territorial planning, urban development zoning and land (local) planning in the Russian Federation

PLANNING LEGISLATION

- Currently active Russian legislation on territorial planning is relatively new and is not yet properly tested in practice.
- Until now there is not performed a federal territorial planning scheme, applicable to contemporary socio-economic reality.
- Regional planning schemes corresponding to the last Urban Development Code (2004) do not exist.
- Fairly new are some others laws important for urban planning and development:
 - Land Code (2001)
 - Law on Cultural Heritage of Russia (2002)
- The legal base at regional and local levels is in transition.

The URBAN DEVELOPMENT CODE in practice

- According to the Urban Development Code the impact of Federal territorial planning documents on regional and local planning decisions is limited.
- Federal schemes have to designate land categories (agriculture, settlements, industry, preserved natural landscapes, some special uses and land reserve) as well as others objects of federal responsibility, first of all covering federal infrastructure provisions.
- The analogue instrument is established by the Urban Development Code for regions and municipal districts (large territories) to have an effect on master plans of cities and settlements.
- Meantime the execution of urban development tasks for regional and particularly for local bodies is not provided by their budget receipts, and as a result there exist financial dependence of decisions on regional and local infrastructures development from decisions taken above.

TERRITORIAL PLANNING today

- Maximal activity in producing territorial planning documents (master plans) is revealed by large cities, as Moscow, St. Petersburg, Kazan, Kaliningrad and many others.
- Difficulties of territorial planning tasks in many respects are determined by evident demographic decline during last years (reduction of able-bodied citizens) and marked deterioration of infrastructures and stock. Need of investment in urban renewal is not less, than in new construction.
- Minimal attention to urban development issues in 1990s caused the decline of professional potential in the area of territorial planning, to the lessening of skilled planners. The overcoming of this difficulty may take some years.

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES of Russian legislation on urban planning and development

- Only municipal territorial planning documents are to be adopted by the respective representative bodies.
- Territorial planning schemes of the federal and regional level are adopted by the respective executive bodies.
- As the key instrument of urban development regulation serves the land use and development code (zoning ordinance), similar to patterns prevalent in the USA.