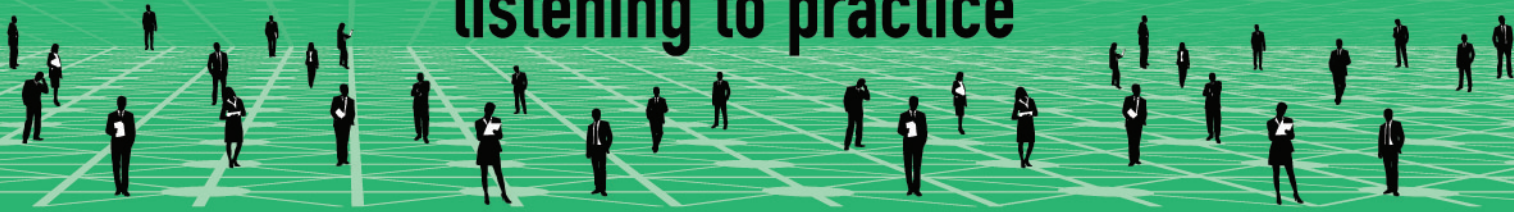


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# Current context of integrated territorial development strategic planning in Bulgaria



EUROPEAN UNION  
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Planning of Regional Development and Spatial Planning in Bulgaria are 2 separate systems not entirely and sufficiently integrated in all of NUTS levels.

## PLANNING OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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The National Strategic Planning of regional development comprises establishment and update of a system of documents for the purpose of sustainable integrated regional and local development, including the development of cross-border, transnational and interregional cooperation.

The territorial breakdown of Bulgaria is defined in article 4 of the Law on Regional Development /enforced since 31.08.2008/.

- NUTS 1:
  - Northern and Eastern Bulgaria;
  - South-Western and South Central Bulgaria.
  
- At NUTS 2 are defined 6 regions:
  1. North-Western;
  2. North-Central;
  3. North-Eastern;
  4. South-Eastern;
  5. South-Western;
  6. South-Central.
  
- NUTS 3 – 28 administrative districts.
  - LAU level 1 – 265 municipalities.

The system of documents for strategic planning and programming of regional development includes:

1. National development plan;
2. National strategic reference framework;
3. operational programmes, co-financed by the European Union funds;
4. National regional development strategy;
5. 6 regional development plans;
6. 28 district development strategies;
7. 265 municipal development plans.

# SPATIAL PLANNING

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The Spatial Planning in Bulgaria is based on the Law of the spatial planning (promulgated in State Gazette 1 of 2 January 2001) and is connected with the structure of the territory, the investment designing and the construction. Unlike other laws, the Law of the spatial planning does not arrange public relations directly, but through its subject, i.e. the physical environments' spatial planning. The guiding principles of spatial planning policy are determined by the Council of Ministers.

## TYPES OF SPATIAL PLANNING TOOLS – SCHEMES AND PLANS

### *Spatial planning schemes*

The Spatial planning schemes ensure spatial structure of the territories corresponding to the social - economic development guaranteeing the preservation of environment. Spatial planning schemes can be worked out for the territory of the whole country of one or more regions or of a group of neighboring municipalities.

The schemes according to their content shall be complex and specialized.

### *The Spatial planning plans are:*

1. general development plans;
2. detailed development plans.

## IDENTIFYING PRIORITY MESSAGES AND MECHANISMS FOR ENGAGEMENT

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The Bulgarian engagement strategies will identify priority messages and mechanisms, which aims to foster the development of ITDS stakeholders and to disseminate effectively ESPON findings. We plan – through suitable communication tools – to translate into accessible language the available ESPON results and findings.

Using communication methods like summary reports, seminars and workshops, leaflets, flyers, demonstration materials, website we plan to:

- Reach practitioners, looking to learn more about ESPON;
- Collect feedback about stakeholder's expectations, experiences and aspirations in regard of ESPON programme;
- Ensure permanent information flow about ESPON;
- Access new strategic knowledge, information and concepts for planning practice;
- Provide practitioners with more detailed information about ESPON projects of the relevance with the Bulgarian contexts;
- Using the ESPON results and methodologies in the context of ITDS in Bulgaria;
- Transfer good practices among the countries, participating in INTERSTRAT .



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