

Planning system across Europe

(Analysis of ECTP survey)

This survey was carried out by ECTP in 2006 with representatives of ECTP member organisations in the following countries:

- Italy (Assurb)
- Italy (INU)
- Poland
- Germany
- Portugal
- Norway
- Malta
- Slovenia
- Denmark
- Czech Republic
- Ireland
- France
- UK
- Greece
- Serbia and Montenegro
- Spain
- Belgium
- The Netherlands
- Hungary
- Romania

19 out of a possible 27 countries were represented (i.e. just over 2/3 of countries). Add Luxembourg or another to give 20 countries (3/4)

Background to ECTP

- has brought together associations of planners across Europe since 1985.
- has drawn up Charters for the profession and for education and training to which members can refer.
- publishes reference documents (New Charter of Athens 1998/revsied 2003, Checklist for sustainable development).
- involved in European Conferences on territorial cohesion, ESPON etc.

1/ The term "planner" across various countries

Planners' activities in cities and regions may be designated with the terms:

Spatial planner = in English

Urbaniste = in French

In various countries, the spatial planner may be referred to as planner, town planner, city planner, regional planner or other local term.

2/ Is the profession regulated?

Yes in Italy, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Greece, Serbia and Montenegro, Belgium and Hungary i.e. about half the countries in the survey

Free movement of planners between countries is therefore now subject to appropriate regulation in these countries.

3/ Is the description "spatial planner" tied to a particular form of education/training?

Yes in Germany, Czech Republic, Ireland, France (education/training within APERAU), Greece, Serbia and Montenegro, the Netherlands and Hungary, i.e. in 8 of the 18 countries surveyed (40%).

Countries where education and training is not clearly attached to the profession may still link it to education and training of architects, engineers or lawyers.

4/ Are there any restrictions on the regulated professions relating to the EU directive on regulated professions?

Yes in Italy, the UK, Serbia and Montenegro and Hungary, i.e. in 4 countries

5/ Are there any restrictions relating to the EU General Services Directive?

Yes in Portugal, the Czech Republic, Ireland and Hungary, i.e. in 4 countries.

6/ Is there any confusion between architects and planners?

Yes in Italy, Germany, Portugal, Malta, Slovenia and the Czech Republic, i.e. in 6 countries

There is a clear distinction in the other 12 countries in the survey.

7/ Is there any requirement to be a member of an association in order to practice as a planner?

Yes in Italy, the Czech Republic and Hungary, i.e. in 3 countries.

8/ Is it advantageous (but not compulsory) to be a member of an association in order to practice as a planner?

Yes in Germany, Denmark, Greece, Serbia and Montenegro, Belgium, the Netherlands, Ireland, France and in the UK, i.e. in 9 countries.

9/ Is being a member of an association neither required not particularly useful in order to practice as a planner?

Yes in Poland, Portugal, Norway, Slovenia, Denmark and Spain, i.e. in 6 countries.

10/ Are there rules and regulations for practising as a planner?

Yes in Italy, Poland, Germany, Portugal, Slovenia, Czech Republic, Ireland, France, the UK, Malta, Serbia and Montenegro, Belgium, the Netherlands and Hungary, i.e. in 14 of the countries in the survey.

11/ Are there rules and regulations which affect competition?

Yes in Italy, Germany, Portugal, France, the UK, Serbia and Montenegro, i.e. in 7 countries in the survey.

12/ Are there compulsory fee-scales?

Yes in Italy, Germany and Serbia and Montenegro, i.e. in 3 countries surveyed

13/ Are there recommended fee-scales?

Yes in Poland, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, Spain, Belgium and Hungary i.e. in 6 countries in the survey.

14/ Is there freedom of choice vis-à-vis fee-scales for services?

Yes in Poland, Portugal, Norway, Denmark, Ireland, France, the UK, Cyprus and Belgium, i.e. in 9 countries in the survey.

15/ Do you have colleagues who work in other Member States?

Yes in Germany (on European projects, consultancy and education), Portugal, Norway, Italy, Denmark, Ireland, France, the UK, Cyprus, Belgium and the Netherlands i.e. in 11 countries

16/ Is it harder to work as a planner in other European countries?

Yes for the Germans, the Portuguese, the Norwegians, the Italians, the British, the Cypriots, the Spanish, the Belgians, the Dutch and the Hungarians, i.e. for 10 countries in the survey

17/ Is it harder to work as a planner in other European countries because of the way the profession is regulated in your home country?

Yes for the Hungarians, i.e. for 1 country in the survey

18/ Is it harder to work as a planner in other European countries because of the way the profession is regulated in the host country?

Yes for the Germans, the Norwegians, the Slovenes, the Italians, the British, the Cypriots, the Spanish, the Belgians, the Dutch and the Hungarians, i.e. for 10 countries in the survey

19/ Does free movement of planners really exist in European countries?

No for the Italians, the Poles, the Slovenes, the Norwegians, the Spanish and the Belgians, i.e. for 6 countries in the survey

Yes, but with certain restrictions for the Germans, the Danes, the British and the Belgians, i.e. for 4 countries in the survey