

# **Spatial Planning Systems in Europe – SLOVENIAN EXAMPLE**

*Evropski sistemi prostorskega načrtovanja –  
PRIMER SLOVENIJE*

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# Spatial Planning in the Republic of Slovenia

ZBORNICA ZA  
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SLOVENIJE

Slovenia is young country that has been existing since June 25th, 1991. Along with the declaration of independence, it also changed political and economic systems. Socialism was replaced with the parliamentary democracy, market economy and private property. In 2004, Slovenia became a member of the European Union.

Due to all this, the spatial planning system, previously based on the so called community planning – spatial plans were an integral part of long-term and medium-term community plans in the Socialist Republic of Slovenia – had to be changed as well.

However, the transition of the spatial planning to a new system has proved to be challenging and complex, which is also reflected in extensive regulation in this area. In the course of thirty years the planning law has been replaced three times and fourth reconstruction is just about the door.

The current Spatial Planning Act (ZUreP-2) was adopted in 2017.

# The system of spatial plans in Slovenia

**Slovenian spatial plans** are organized hierarchically and are divided into **strategic** and **implementation plans**, at the **state**, **regional** and **municipal** levels. Strategic spatial plans contain the vision and concept of future spatial development, meanwhile the executive ones serve to the implementation and represent **the basis for issuing building permits**.

Table of spatial plans in Slovenia:

	STRATEGIC PLANS	*Notes	IMPLEMENTATION PLANS	*Notes
STATE LEVEL	<b>Spatial Planning Strategy of Slovenia (SPRS)</b>	The main strategic plan in the country, contains a long-term vision and concept of spatial development of SLO	<b>National Spatial Plan (DPN)</b>	For national projects, usually infrastructural ones
REGIONAL LEVEL	<b>Regional Strategic Spatial Plan (RPP)</b>	They are mandatory, but we do not have them yet, due to difficulties in establishing regions	/	
MUNICIPAL LEVEL	<b>Municipal Strategic Spatial Plan (OPP)</b>	Until recently, the strategic part of the OPN. OPPs are no longer mandatory.	<b>Municipal Spatial Plan (OPN)</b>	<b>The main implementation spatial plan in our country</b>
			<b>Detailed Municipal Spatial Plan (OPPN)</b>	This plan is more widely used abroad than in Slovenia
			<b>Decree on the Image of the Settlement and Landscape</b>	Novelty from 2017
			<b>Location Checkup (LP)</b>	Novelty from 2017 and a detour around OPN – an administrative act

# Hierarchy of spatial documents

According to the current law, there are only 4 obligatory spatial plans in SLO:

1. **Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia** – is the hierarchically highest spatial plan, covers the entire country, contains text and schematic graphs,
2. **Regional Spatial Plan** – is a strategic plan, covering the whole region, contains text and maps at a scale of approximately 1:100 000,
3. **National Spatial Plan** – implementation plan, covering mainly areas of state infrastructure,
4. **Municipal Spatial Plan** – is an implementation plan, covers the entire municipality, contains text in the form of a decree and maps at a scale of 1:5000.

Optional plans are:

1. **Municipal Strategic Spatial Plan** – a strategic plan, covering the entire municipality, containing text and maps at an approximate scale of 1: 50 000 or 1: 30 000,
2. **Municipal Detailed Spatial Plan** – implementation plan, covers smaller spatial units, contains text in the form of a decree and maps at a scale of 1: 1000 or 1: 500, but can also be at a scale 1: 2000,
3. **Decree on the Image of the Settlement and Landscape** – implementation plan, contains only an ordinance, no graphics.

Strategic plans are not legal acts, their role is guiding, but implementation plans shall not be in conflict with them.

# Method of giving instructions and provisions in spatial plans

Instructions and provisions for construction and other spatial interventions are set in the plans with the help of:

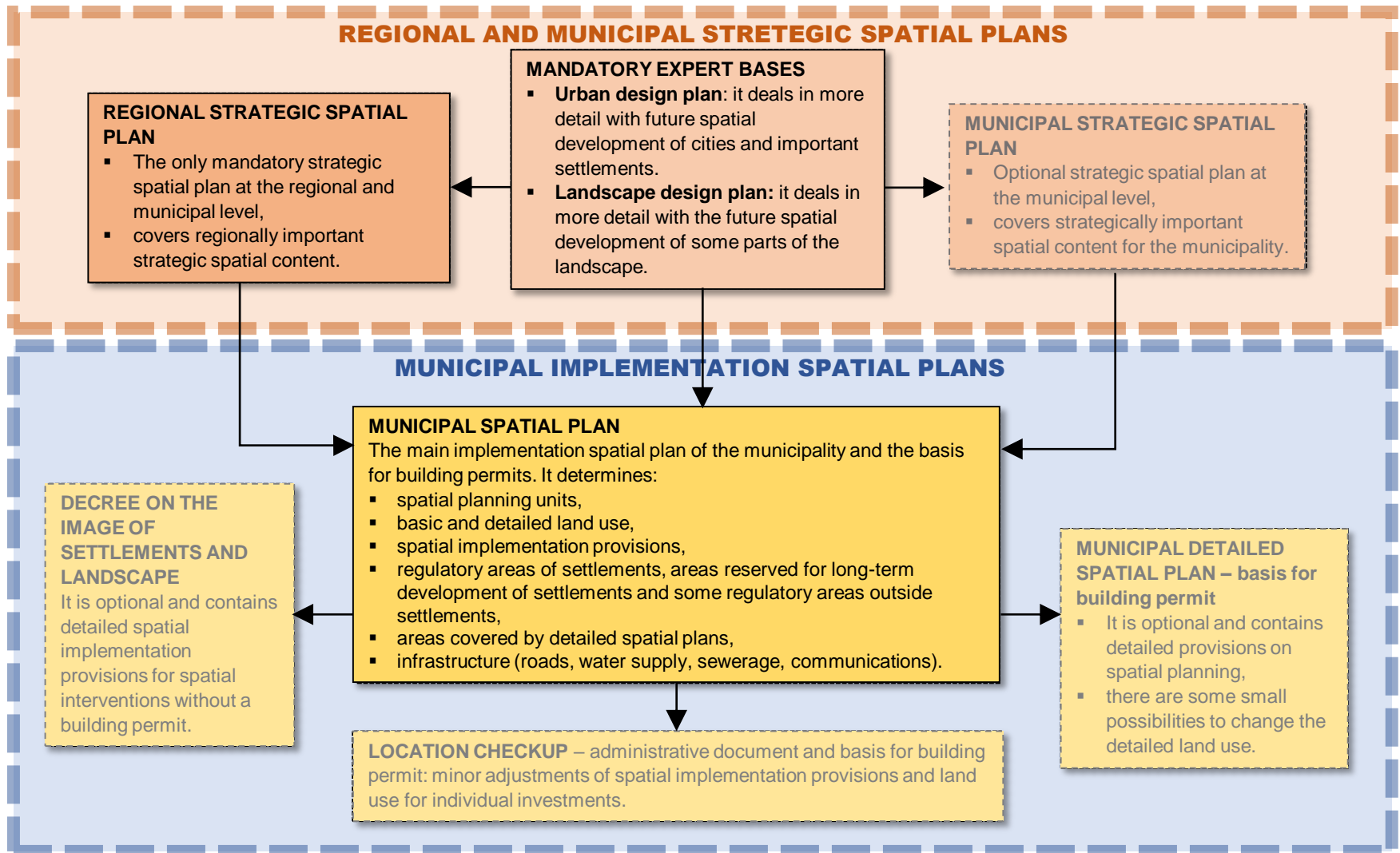
- ✓ **guidelines** – they are mainly used in strategic plans,
- ✓ **determination of land use** – land use is graphically determined by the Municipality Spatial Plan per plot, and it is applied both to basic land use and detailed land use,
- ✓ **spatial implementation provisions** – spatial implementation provisions include graphic and textual provisions for construction and other spatial interventions and are used in the implementation spatial plans.

In order to change the guidelines, land use or spatial implementation provisions, it is necessary to change the spatial plans according to the regular procedure, except in rare cases when the abbreviated procedure is used (technical errors, harmonization with the superior spatial document, etc.).

For some minor individual spatial interventions, deviations from the detailed land use for scattered settlement, as well as for individual deviations from the provisions of the ordinance in the Municipality Spatial Plan, the so-called **Location Checkup** procedure can be used.

# Municipal and regional plans content

An essential part of spatial planning in SLO is carried out with municipal and regional plans.



# Expert studies and environmental content

For all spatial plans, it is necessary to prepare **expert bases**, which include various studies, expert materials and conceptual designs, but the type and content of these expert bases in individual spatial plans are still quite vague.

So far, only 3 expert bases are defined in more detail:

1. **Urban design plan** – intended for the spatial development of cities and important settlements,
2. **Landscape design plan** – intended to address specific parts of the landscape,
3. **Economics study** – it is intended to verify the necessary investments in social and economic public infrastructure due to planned spatial interventions.

Environmental issues are covered in **environmental report**, which is not an expert basis, but is prepared in the process of **comprehensive environmental impact assessment**, which is (when necessary) an integral part of the process of preparation of spatial plans.

# The public, participating bodies, investors, planners...

The preparation of all spatial plans includes **public participation** in 2 steps:

- ✓ capturing the wishes, needs and ideas of the community, residents and landowners at the very beginning of the preparation of the plan (consultations, workshops, surveys, collection of initiatives, etc.),
- ✓ making comments and suggestions during the public presentation, which may not be shorter than 30 days, and also includes at least one public debate.

**Ministries, local community bodies, public service providers**, etc. are also involved in the process of preparing a plan, submitting their development and protection data, guidelines and opinions.

The preparation of strategic plans can be **initiated** by the state or the municipality/ies. The preparation of implementation plans (and their amendments) can be initiated by community bodies or investors.

The preparation of strategic plans **finances** the body of the community for which this plan is being prepared (state, municipalities in the region, municipality). The preparation of implementation plans can pay private individuals or public bodies (ministries, municipalities).

A strategic plan can (theoretically) be made by anyone. Implementation plans can be made only by **licensed architects and spatial planners** – members of the Chamber of Architecture and Spatial Planning of SLO. They perform their professional activities in private companies, but also as public servants.



# The process of preparing strategic plans

All strategic spatial plans are prepared in a similar way, which comprises of the following steps:

- ✓ starting points on the preparation of the plan,
- ✓ draft plan,
- ✓ public presentation (no less than 30 days),
- ✓ proposal of the plan,
- ✓ adoption of the plan,
- ✓ if needed, the process also includes a comprehensive environmental impact assessment.

The Spatial Development Strategy of Slovenia is adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, the Regional Spatial Plan is adopted by the development council of the region, and the Municipal Strategic Spatial Plan is adopted by the Municipal Council.

Prior to the preparation of a strategic plan, expert bases are made. Participating bodies are proactive and cooperate from the very beginning.

The Regional Spatial Plan has to be updated every 15 years, but there is no provision when the Spatial Development Strategy of SLO and the Municipal Strategic Spatial Plan shall be updated.

# The process of preparing implementation spatial plans

The current process of preparing implementation plans is very long and complicated. When necessary, the procedure also includes a comprehensive environmental impact assessment.

The preparation of municipal implementation spatial plans includes the following steps:

- ✓ starting points on the preparation of the plan and the decision on the preparation adopted by the mayor,
- ✓ obtaining guidelines from the participating bodies and a decision on the need to conduct a comprehensive environmental impact assessment,
- ✓ draft plan and obtaining the first opinions of the participating bodies,
- ✓ public presentation of the amended draft,
- ✓ proposal of the plan and obtaining second opinions of the participating bodies (and decisions on the acceptability of environmental impacts, if a comprehensive environmental impact assessment is carried out),
- ✓ approval of the plan by the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning,
- ✓ adoption of the plan.

The National Spatial Plan is adopted by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia, while the municipal implementation spatial plans are adopted by the municipal council.

Expert bases are needed before the preparation of different kinds of implementation spatial plans.

# Standards and quality control of the spatial plans

There are no standards and regulations for making **strategic spatial plans**. In practice, SHP and TIF formats (also PDF) are used for the cartographic content, and DOC and PDF for the text content.

The content and form of implementation spatial plans are determined in the rules, and also by the technical rules that were issued by the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning. The Ministry strictly controls the form of the graphic part of the **Municipal Spatial Plan** in the process of its preparation, as it wants to use graphic data from this plan for the emerging Spatial Information System. Graphic data must be prepared in SHP and TIF formats.

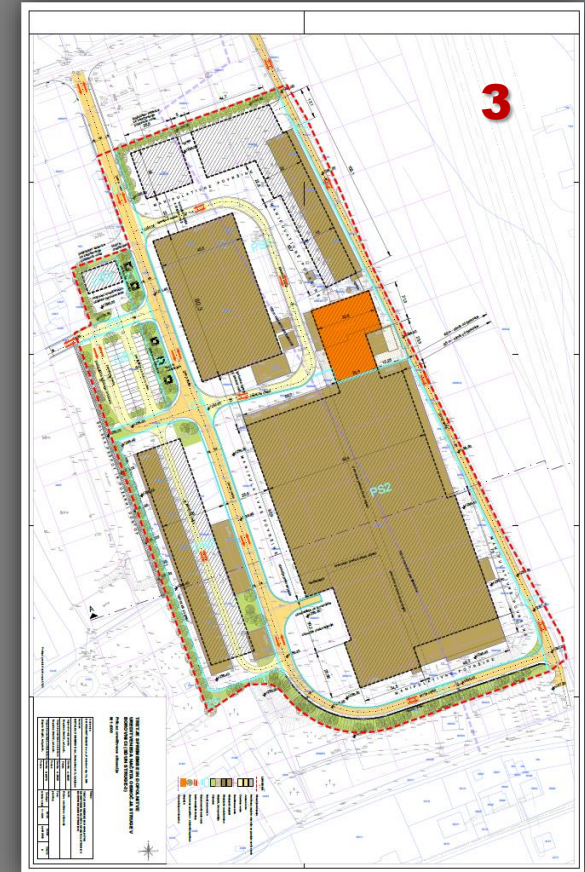
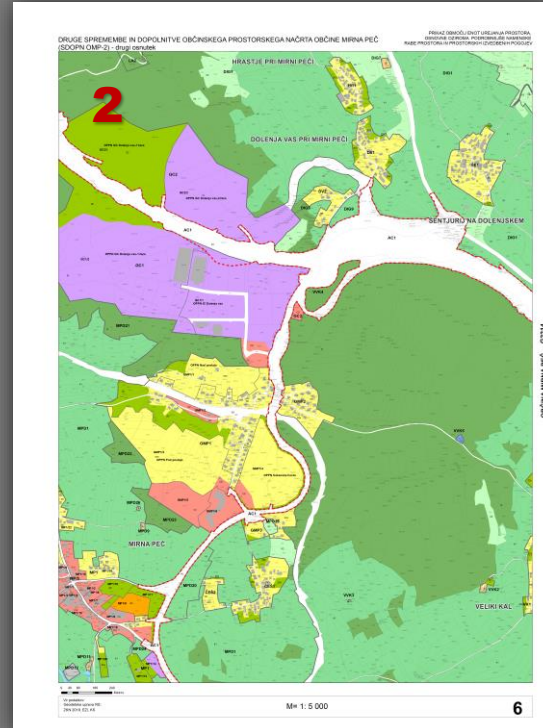
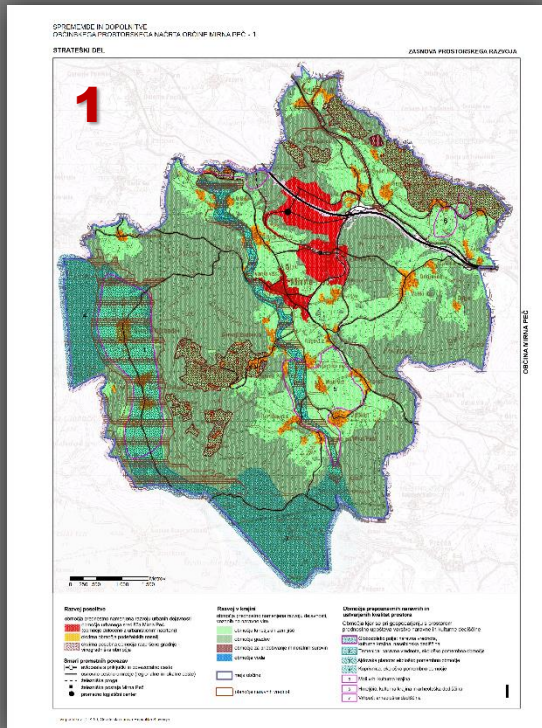
**The National Spatial Plan** and the **Municipal Detailed Spatial Plan** are prepared mainly in DWG and PDF formats, also partly in SHP format.

There are no standards for the **textual part of the implementation plans**, the framework content and form are determined by the rules. In practice, the DOC and PDF formats are used to produce the textual part of all implementation plans.

All spatial plans are currently made in **digital and analogue form**. In the future, after the establishment of the Spatial Information System, the digital form should prevail.

The Chamber of Architecture and Spatial Planning of Slovenia supervises the **content quality** of implementation plans.

# Examples of the cartographic part of municipal spatial plans



- 1 – Municipal Strategic Spatial Plan
- 2 – Municipal Spatial Plan
- 3 – Municipal Detailed Spatial Plan

~ THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION ~

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