

Spatial Planning in Belarus: Towards Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 2030

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SUMMARY

By the year 2017 in Belarus 78% of population have been living in urban settlements. Cities in Belarus are main drivers of economic development, innovations and attractions of investments and high qualified human capital.

System of spatial and urban planning in Belarus was developed within the planning system of the Soviet Union and existed in its central form until 1991. During the last two decades human settlements in Belarus have seen a major transformation as the country moved from planned to market economy. It has been accompanied by both opportunities and challenges. Trends of global urbanization affect the country. Territories and human settlements are witnessing changes in patterns of growth, production and consumption, land use, mobility and physical structure.

Spatial planning in new economic conditions aims at providing of market sustainability of the territories and determines different strategies for regions, cities and functional urban areas depending on existing potential and certain conditions for further social and economic development. It is important to protect public interests, to provide safe and sustainable living environment for the population, especially for vulnerable groups, to preserve and provide efficient use of natural resources, historical and cultural heritage.

SDG can be achieved through integrated policy formulation and implementation which provides planning of compact and connected cities and regions, suggests transformative renewal strategies and improvement of infrastructures (social, engineering and transport), supports environment planning and management, and enhance inclusive and participatory planning.

National Urban Development Policy of Belarus for 2016-2020 responds to global challenges and

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benefit to SDG accomplishment.

Strategic goal of the policy is development and improvement of living environment through integrated and efficient use of the potential of regions, cities and rural settlements.

Four main directions of the urban development policy:

- Balanced development of regions and human settlements by enhancing the sustainable settlement pattern.
- Comprehensive development and achievement of high standards of living environment, provision of ecological security.
- Improvement of regional and urban transport communications system and modernization of engineering infrastructure.
- Harmonious development of physical structure of human settlements, protection and rational use of historical-cultural heritage.

The implementation of state policy on sustainable development and urban planning plays important role as this activity enables to appreciate natural, economic, social conditions and develop different options for the most efficient territorial development, social and economic progress, preservation and protection of historical and cultural values.