

Lessons learned:

Best practices from the case study analysis

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Question

What best practices exist, regarding spatial planning and nature protection and what lessons can be learned from these?

What is a 'best practice'?

"A method or technique that has consistently shown results superior to those achieved with other means, and that is used as a benchmark. A "best" practice can evolve to become better as improvements are discovered"

Problem?

- Insufficient comparative studies with regard to spatial planning approaches or instruments and nature protection have been carried out to describe certain approaches or instruments as “best practice”

Our approach

- We collected case studies in which spatial planning approaches or instruments are used that **are perceived as best practices** by practitioners
- As perceptions may differ considerably among stakeholders about what works and what not, we contacted a **variety of practitioners**, representatives of:
 - public authorities, NGOs, private parties
- Emphasis on **why** practitioners perceive a certain approach or instrument as best practice and what are believed to be the key success factors

Result?

- A collection of illustrative best practices that:
 - have proven their value for some stakeholders and are recommended by them to be used elsewhere
 - help practitioners across the EU to improve their current spatial planning approaches towards implementing nature protection objectives
- Not to copy, but to inspire!

Research method

- Web-based questionnaire
- Send out to >400 practitioners
- Compiled short list of case studies
 - Preferably covers a well-balanced array of Member States, sectors and levels of planning
 - Preferably consists of both territorial and - for relevant sectors - marine case studies

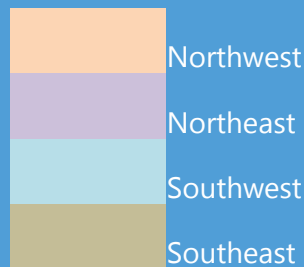
Selection criteria short-list:

- cases addressing Natura 2000 sites are preferred over case studies addressing protection of other natural areas
- cases in which the planning process has been completed are preferred over case studies that are still running
- cases addressing spatial planning issues that are relevant across the EU are preferred over case studies addressing rather rare or highly specific issues
- cases in which the achievement of biodiversity objectives has been proven empirically are preferred over case studies in which such achievements are expected but not assessed yet

Responses

- 82 responses, 15 cases shortlisted
- Some cases cover more than one cell; 29 "stories"

	Agriculture	Forestry	Transport	Energy	Tourism	Urban development	Nature Conservation
Cross-border		1	1		2	1	1
National	2	3	2	1	1	2	
Regional	3	2	1			2	2
Local						2	



Coverage

- The selection includes 6 cases in NW, 3 in NE, 4 in SW and 2 in SE
- The selection includes cases from 11 MS: BEL (2x), BUL, ESP (2x), EST, FIN (2x), FRA, IRE, NL (2x), POR, ROM, UK
- The selection includes 2 cases from local level, 6 cases from regional level, 4 cases from national level, 3 case from cross-border-level

Lessons (1)

- SPLAN requires an **interdisciplinary** planning approach, employing relevant expertise of planners, landscape and urban architects, environmental engineers, ecologists, etc.
- SPLAN needs strategic spatial planning at regional **and local** level and **political commitment**

*Ecological corridor
Switzerland-France*



*Catalan network of
protected open spaces*



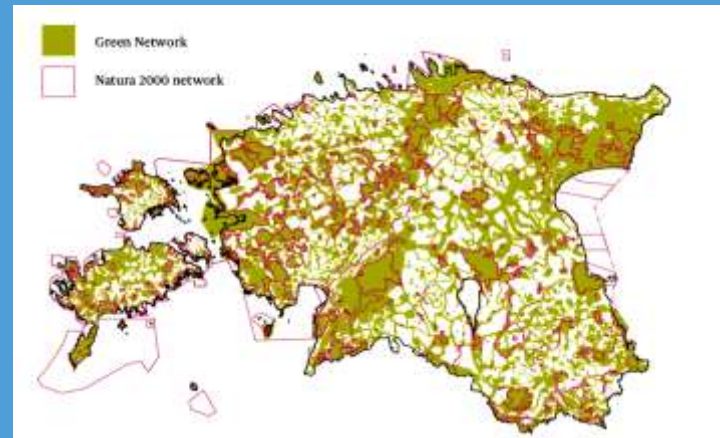
Lessons (2)

- SPLAN requires intensive **stakeholder participation** - both formal and informal - from the start of the planning process (awareness, support, knowledge, best-practices)
- SPLAN needs **flexibility** in its planning approach

Restoring forest connectivity in Flanders



Green Infrastructure Development in Estonia



Lessons (3)

- SPLAN needs that the **interests** of all parties, including the public, that may be affected by the plan need to be considered and a **joint vision** on the developments need to be build

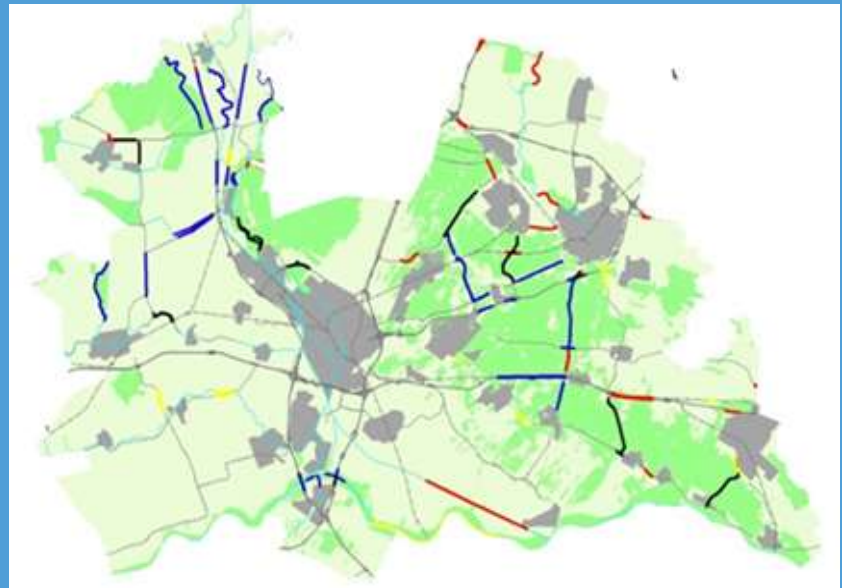
Portmarnock urban development plan



Lessons (4)

- SPLAN requires **transparent and consistent methods** to assess and prioritise needed spatial developments and to allow for more integrated planning approaches

Dutch long-term programme for defragmentation of national transport corridors



Lessons (5)

- SPLAN (including EIAs) requires availability of **reliable base-line data** on the distribution of species and their habitats to enable proper spatial analyses of both impacts and potentials

*Ropotamo River,
Bulgaria*



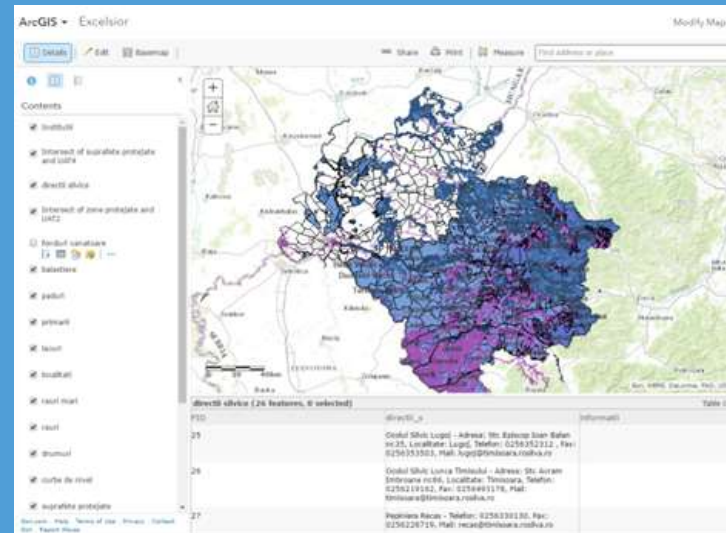
Lessons (6)

- SPLAN, within and across borders, can be eased through developing a **joint action plan** and **shared databases**, preferably web-based

Green Infrastructure Planning in Portugal



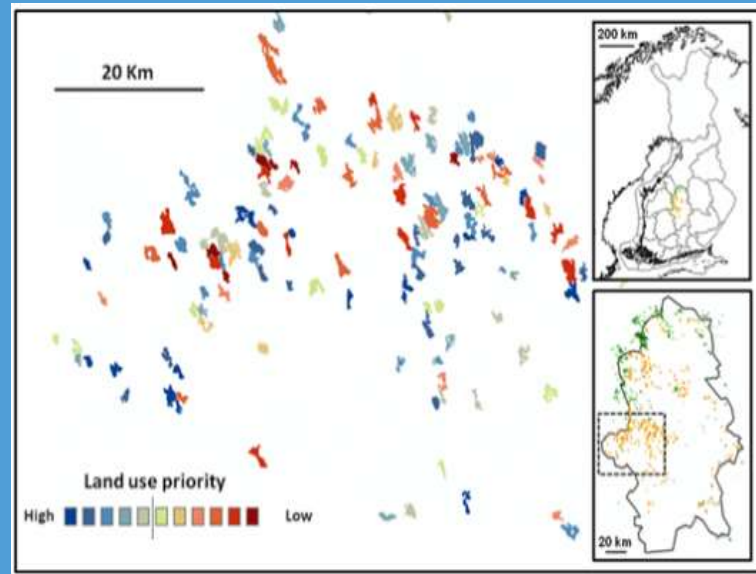
Cross-border cooperation Romania-Hungary



Lessons (7)

- SPLAN can be facilitated through using **software tools** that allow for systematic impact assessments of proposed conservation actions and better estimates of cost-effectiveness

*Zonation toolkit
Finland*



Questions?

