

**Governance and Spatial  
Planning  
at the beginning of the 21st  
Century**

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# Key issues on Governance:

## 1. From Government to Governance Concepts of Government

The organization or agency through which a political unit exercises authority and performs functions and which is usually classified according to the distribution of power within it

**The complex of political institutions, laws and customs** through which the function of governing is carried out in specific political unit;

**The political function** of policy making, as distinguished from administration of policy decisions.

## Concepts of Governance

Governance as an essential component of spatial planning and sustainable development;  
The need to provide long-term visions, medium-term policies and short-term actions – **strategic thinking**;  
The **underpinnings of governance** in political science and in management science;

## 2. Scopes of Governance

**Political** power and support to decision makers;

True **public involvement**; The spatial scopes for public involvement and for decision making;

Inclusive societies

**Empowerment** of planners;

The **limits of rationality** and multi-cultural richness - emergence of new 'global' cultures and/or the consolidation of emerging fundamentalisms and regionalisms ? – the spaces for shared beliefs and the rights to difference;

**Management** of the public interest.

### 3. The changing operational environment of Governance

The consequences of **globalization** and **de-regulation**;

Space-time compression and the **new city concepts** (the ‘connected city’);

**E-government**;

The ‘**legitimation crisis**’ at the different political and administrative levels;

**Stakeholders and partnerships;**

**Private versus public** in managing sustainable development;

Grading **public interest;**



The right of access to **information** and to **communication** (and E-literacy);

Citizenship and community **participation** from the local to a global scale;

**Timescales** for decision making and for public involvement.

## 4. The commitments and roles of planners

A planner as a **political advisor** and **mediator**

Respect the principles of solidarity, subsidiarity and equity in decision-making, in planned solutions and in their implementation.

**Support civic authorities** acquainting them with proposals, objectives, targets, impacts, problems, and provide them with plans and solutions aiming at enhancing public welfare.

## 4. The commitments and roles of planners

**Suggest and elaborate operational legislative tools to ensure efficiency and social justice in spatial policies.**

**Facilitate true public participation and involvement between local authorities, decision-makers, economic stakeholders and individual citizens in order to co-ordinate developments and ensure spatial continuity and cohesion.**

## 4. The commitments and roles of planners

**Collaborate with and co-ordinate all involved parties** in order to find consensus or solve conflicts by clear decisions prepared for the appropriate authorities.

**Strive for a high level of communication** to ensure knowledge and understanding among the future users

**Governance cannot really be taught,  
but has to be achieved through  
improving citizenship**