THE IN-PLAN PRACTICE FOR INTEGRATED PLANNING: Supporting local authorities from design to implementation

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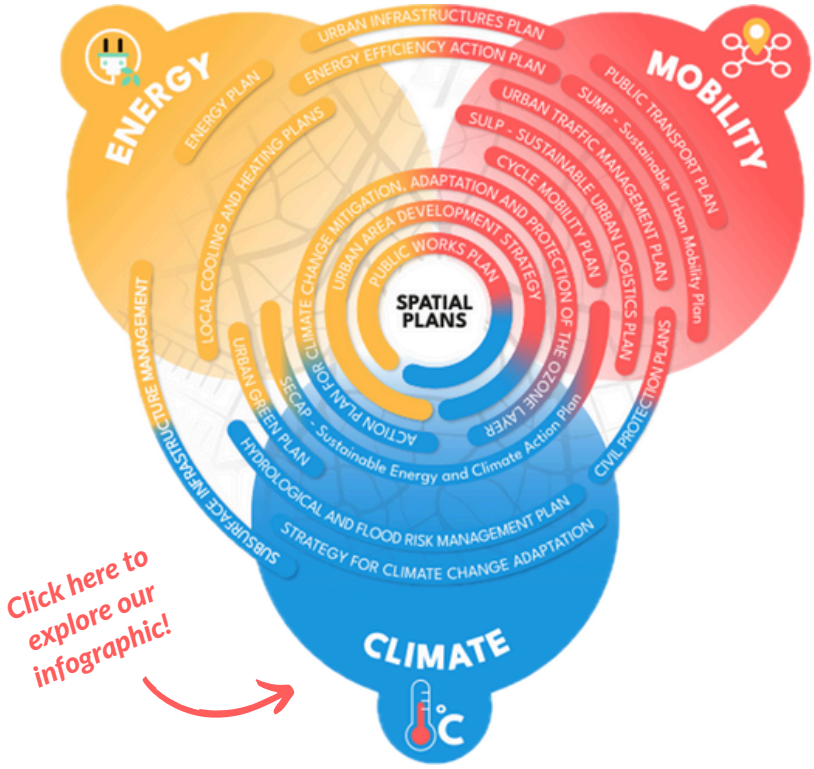
Policy brief #2

European cities and regions increasingly express their ambition to adopt a more integrated spatial planning approach, as it is both a planning and an executive system within which decisions are legally binding.

Since they seek support and guidance how to better integrate existing strategies while dealing with differing stakeholder interests, **we developed the IN-PLAN Practice**, a tool designed to not only **support local and regional authorities in their planning** but also to **take the step from planning to concrete implementation.** This second brief presents how the Practice can achieve this, through both its structure and content.

Spatial planning as a silo-breaking cornerstone



Click here to explore our infographic!

Spatial plans are at the crossroad of three intertwined fields: Renewable energy, Climate change adaptation, and Sustainable mobility, often dealt with in silos.

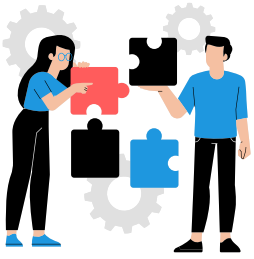
The IN-PLAN Practice is designed as a guidebook to navigate within these fields giving, for each of them, **a curated collection of *good practices and good tools***, developed from flagship EU-funded projects and/or precursor initiatives led by pioneer local authorities.

This toolbox, proofed in 21 pilot municipalities in Croatia, Ireland, Italy, Romania, and Sweden, comes along with the **IN-PLAN Checklist,** which helps to set **the integrated plan's backbone that will allow for fine-tuning to adapt to local conditions**.

Bridging the gap between local planning and EU decarbonisation strategy

From 2016's *Winter Package* to 2020's *Fit for 55 package*, both aiming at delivering the European Green Deal, European authorities have understood that achieving EU's climate goals while maintaining economic competitiveness depends on the Union's capacity to successfully integrate sectors with a common strategy. Yet, since it requires transposition in 27 Member States' national regulations, the integration process is lengthy and lacks enforcement possibilities.

Applying the integration process to spatial plans at local level gives a unique opportunity to:



Aggregate and streamline efforts to make them more impactful and cost-efficient while minimising potential works-induced disturbances in citizens' daily lives;

Facilitate local authorities' sustainable planning by providing a tool for integrated development of their SECAPs and similar plans, while contributing to the EU monitoring goals;

Provide an enforcement mechanism for SECAPs and similar plans through the spatial plans' legally-binding nature, thus remedying the lack of in-built enforcement methods; IN-PLAN advocates for the addition of mandatory implementation pathways and provisions to future SECAPs.

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Next steps - Anchoring integrated planning in EU territories

In the second half of our project, we will focus on the IN-PLAN Practice's dissemination and further promotion of the integrated planning concept, through two main actions:

Training local and regional agencies on using the IN-PLAN Practice

The *Train-the-Trainers* capacity-building programme aims at introducing energy/climate/development agencies to the IN-PLAN Practice and initiates them to its structure and tools so that, in turn, they can train and support surrounding local authorities that are interested in developing and implementing integrated plans.
More information on the dedicated Train-the-Trainers welcome page.

Scan to become an IN-PLAN Multiplier!

Exploring integrated planning's institutionalization

In parallel, we established EU and national coalition groups whose aim is to explore, at their dedicated governance level, the possibilities to further institutionalize integrated planning practices and advocate for these practices, backed by concrete feedback from our pilots and training activities.

To stay informed, you can select Spatial Planning as a topic of interest when registering for the Newsletter or follow #LifeINPLAN on every social media channel!

About IN-PLAN

The overarching objective of IN-PLAN (Integrated Energy, Climate and Spatial planning) is to develop, test and roll out the IN-PLAN practice – a long-lasting support structure enabling local and regional authorities to effectively implement their sustainable energy, climate, and spatial plans. On top of delivering this innovative and effective approach, IN-PLAN intends to empower local and regional governments and their agencies through a two-step capacity-building programme. IN-PLAN's ultimate goal is to empower local and regional authorities in developing and implementing integrated energy, climate, and spatial planning in their territories.

https://fedarene.org/project/in-plan/ **#LifeINPLAN**

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