

The Role of Geography in Planning Education

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The Market for Geography Graduates

- In the educational system
 - Depending on the historical/traditional role given the discipline (UK, USA, Finland, Norway)
- In regional planning, environmental monitoring, foreign services, industries ?
 - Depending on status and individual dooropeners



Milestones in geographical contributions to planning

- Environmental monitoring /Landscape geography (Granö, Troll, Schlüter, East European and German tradition)
- Spatial Science School (Christaller, Edgar Kant, Hägerstrand, Morrill, Berry)
- Applied Geography (Stamp, Haggett, Bunge, Axel Sömme)
- Place analyses (Robert D. Sack: 'Homo Geographicus')



Building Curricula in Applied Geography and Planning, Personal Experiences

- Look at public market: 1980s municipal jobs for 'environmentalists':
 - Took the initiative to establish 'crossdisciplinary' university courses in 'environmental monitoring and protection', administered by Geography Dept. 1983 ---
- 1985: New planning law demanding integrated physical, social and economic planning:



Establishing integrated planning education (BA study)

- 1988: University committee: Disciplinary fight. We managed to give geography a leading role and get Dept. of Economy OUT! Curriculum administered by GEO.
 - Planning Theory (open selection of guest lecturers and crossdisciplinary texts)
 - Environmental/ physical planning role
 - Regional development / location theory
 - Social planning focusing on urban problems
 - Field course to monitor relation theory/practice in municipality



The development of the new curricula : Other organisations than IGU in our focus:

- Association of European Schools of Planning (established 1988. Bergen organised the AESOP congress for 350 delegates in 1999.
- European Network of Housing Researchers (congress in Cambridge 2-7 July 2004)



The Challenge of Urban Social planning in 'new' Europe

- The 'Craigmillar-Niedrie schock' – council housing estate in Edinburg
- NEHOM funding from EU on 3rd application 2000-2004 (1 million EURO)
- 11 partners in 8 countries: UK (2), France, Italy, Hungary (2), Estonia (2), Germany, Sweden, Norway (Coordinator).
- 29 case studies of 'positive' initiatives and their results 2000- 2002.



Neighbourhood Housing Models

- 2002-2004: 4 Postdocs working to summarise results and analyse 'transferability' of initiatives across Europe
- Rev 8 (urban developers) in Jozsefvaros (Budapest) and EKHHL (Tallinn) trying out in transfeability in practice of NEHOM ideas.
- CD-ROM and HANDBOOK published.



CONCLUSIONS

- NEHOM project results to be disseminated in textbooks and further educational efforts (New funding for Nordic –Baltic exchange of students and teachers, MA/PhD projects of comparative case study analyses)
- Geography is in a unique position to mediate crossdisciplinary approaches to place analyses/ physical-social-economic local planning

