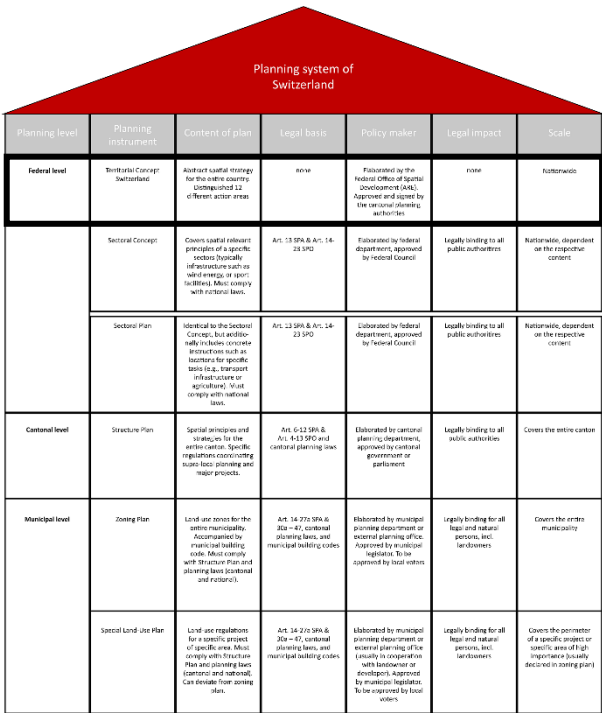



## Fact sheet for planning levels

Planning level		Type of plan																																																		
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<p>Source: Bundesrat (Ed.) 2018: Raumkonzept Schweiz, cover page</p>																																																				

**Facts: Spatial Concept Switzerland 2012 (amended in 2018)****Legal basis**

*N.B. The Spatial Concept's legal basis is not free of controversies.*

- Article 75 of the Federal Constitution of the Swiss Confederation of 18 April 1999 (status as of 7 March 2021) CC 101
- Federal Act on Spatial Planning (SPA) of 22 June 1979 (Status as of 1 January 2019) CC 700

**Competences**

- The Federal Office developed the Concept for Spatial Development on behalf of the Federal Council.
- As spatial planning falls with the cantons' field of competences according to the Swiss Constitution, they officially approved the concept. Therefore, they were involved during the process.

**Binding force**

- In legal theory, the concept has no binding force (it serves as an 'orientation framework'). However, all cantons and the federal government declared that they would comply with it as a voluntary self-commitment. Therefore, the concept is legally binding for public authorities in planning practice.

**Tasks and content**

- The top-level strategic document contains three nationwide strategies (how the authorities can improve cooperation; enhance settlements and landscapes; and coordinate spatial development, transport and energy).
- The concept outlines planning and its specific challenges within twelve action areas (three metropolitan areas, one capital area, five suburban areas, and three alpine areas).

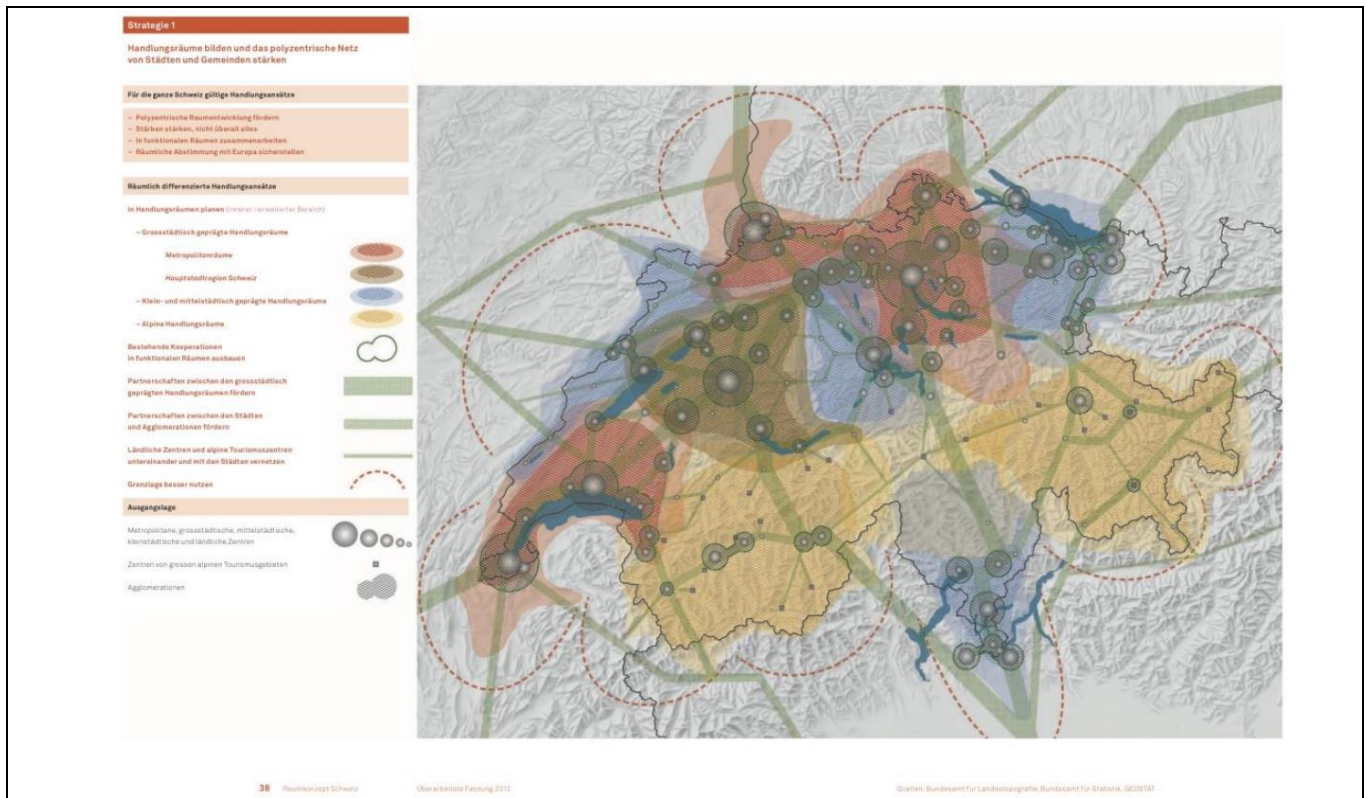
**Process, duration, participation**

- The concept was subject to broad political discussion involving political actors and essential stakeholders. Furthermore, a general public hearing was organised in the summer of 2011.

**Duration of validity**

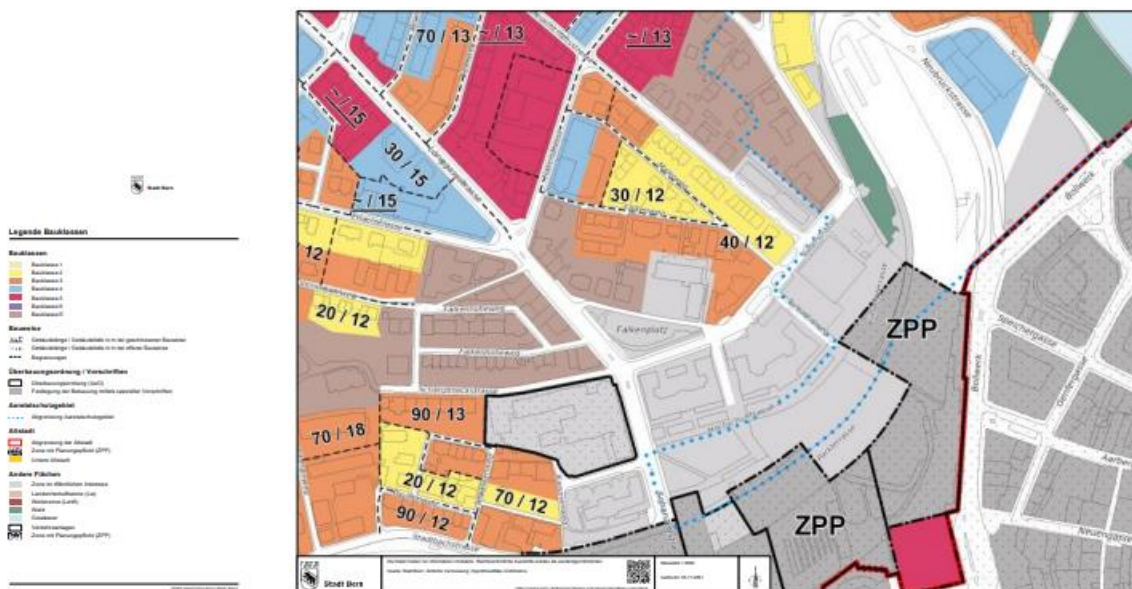
- (Unspecified) long-term planning horizon.

**Details of the plan**



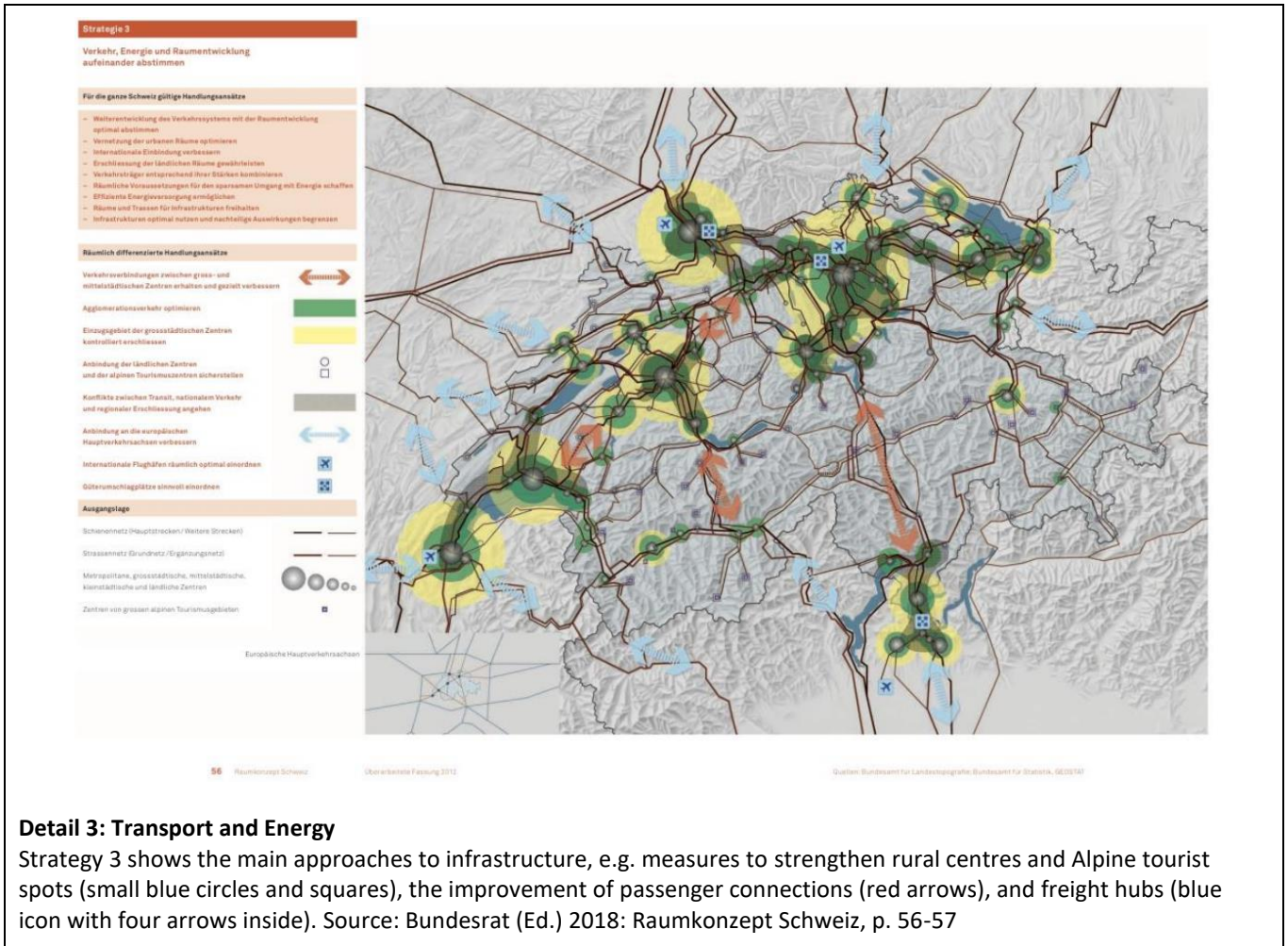
**Detail 1: Overall polycentric settlement structure in Switzerland**

Strategy 1 shows the action areas: the three metropolitan areas (red), the capital area (brown), the suburban areas (blue), and the alpine areas (yellow). Development corridors within the country (green) and across borders (red dotted) are also shown. Source: Bundesrat (Ed.) 2018: Raumkonzept Schweiz, p. 38-39 .



**Detail 2: Regional characteristics**

Strategy 3 shows the regional planning approaches. E.g. densification areas (grey), areas reserved for agricultural production (light green), protection of landscapes of outstanding importance (dark green). Source: Bundesrat (Ed.) 2018:Raumkonzept Schweiz, p. 46-47



### Detail 3: Transport and Energy

Strategy 3 shows the main approaches to infrastructure, e.g. measures to strengthen rural centres and Alpine tourist spots (small blue circles and squares), the improvement of passenger connections (red arrows), and freight hubs (blue icon with four arrows inside). Source: Bundesrat (Ed.) 2018: Raumkonzept Schweiz, p. 56-57

## Characteristics

### Location of the area

The concept covers the entire Swiss territory.

### Initial situation

The Spatial Concept is the first such concept; there has been nothing similar on the national level before. After first being published in 2012, it was amended in 2018.

### Particularities of the process

First of its kind. The procedure was unclear and subject to controversial debates.

## Notes and links

- Information on the Spatial Concept by the Federal Office for Spatial Development available in German, French and Italian at: <https://www.are.admin.ch/are/de/home/raumentwicklung-und-raumplanung/strategie-undplanung/raumkonzept-schweiz.html> (Accessed 01 December 2021)