

Fact sheet for planning levels

Planning level

Type of plan

Regional

Planning system of Spain						
Planning level	Planning instrument	Content of plan	Legal basis	Policy maker	Legal impact	Scale
Municipalities	„Instrumentos de desarrollo“ Planes Parciales Planes Especiales Planes de Detalle	Develop with the necessary level of detail what is established by the urban general plan. They allow urban expansion (planes parciales), studies de detail), and urban transformation (planes especiales, estudio de detalle)	Land Act of the State Land Act of each Autonomous Community	Municipalities	Binding	Covers a part of the municipality
Municipalities	Urban General Plan	Sets the urban development model and structure of the city. It classifies the whole land within the municipality, looking to balance the general interest and the economic uses. Establishes the areas for urban expansion, for urban transformation and regeneration, and the areas to be protected (urban and nature)	Land Act of the state Land Act of each Autonomous Community	Municipalities	Binding	Covers the whole municipality
Autonomous Communities (Regional Level)	Plans for Environmental Protection	Protection of specific areas because of their valuable natural, ecological, landscape, archaeological or forestry values.)	Constitution of 1978 and sentences of the Constitutional Court. Statute of each Autonomous Community	Government of the Autonomous Community	This planning action has mainly a strategic nature rather than normative	Subregional
Autonomous Communities (Regional Level)	Territorial Sectoral Plan	Coordination of sectoral policies in the territory of the region or in a part of it	Constitution of 1978 and sentences of the Constitutional Court. Statute of each Autonomous Community	Government of the Autonomous Community	This planning action has mainly a strategic nature rather than normative	Regional or Sub-regional
Autonomous Communities (Regional Level)	Subregional Territorial Plan	Further development of what is established by the territorial plan (when it exists) for a specific area of the region	Constitution of 1978 and sentences of the Constitutional Court. Statute of each Autonomous Community	Government of the Autonomous Community	This planning action has mainly a strategic nature rather than normative	Subregional
Autonomous Communities (Regional Level)	Regional Territorial Plan	Integral approach to the territory, establishing the basic elements for the organization and structure of the territory of the region, coordinating public and private socio-economic action on it	Constitution of 1978 and sentences of the Constitutional Court. Statute of each Autonomous Community	Government of the Autonomous Community	This planning action has mainly a strategic nature rather than normative	Regional
Spatial and Urban planning by the Government	No specific planning instrument	N/A	Constitution of 1978 and sentences of the Constitutional Court. Statute of each Autonomous Community	Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda	Binding in the case of the Land Act, but not direct competences on spatial and urban planning	National

Sub-regional Territorial Plan (*Plan territorial parcial*)

Area covered by the Sub-regional Territorial Plan of the metropolitan area of Bilbao.
Source: Diputación Foral de Vizcaya.

Facts: Guiding principle for spatial planning: “Securing public service provision”**Legal basis**

- Law 4/1990 of 31 May 1990 on Spatial Planning in the Basque Country (*Ley 4/1990, de 31 de mayo, de Ordenación del Territorio del País Vasco*).
- Decree 28/1997 of 11 February 1997 on the definitive approval of the Territorial Planning Guidelines (*Decreto 28/1997, de 11 de febrero, de aprobación definitiva de las Directrices de Ordenación Territorial*).

Competences

- The Basque Country has full competences in spatial planning in its territory.

Binding force

- The Sub-regional Territorial Plan has a strategic rather than a normative nature.

Tasks and content

- The main objective of the plan is to establish a framework for the integral spatial planning of the metropolitan area of Bilbao (Bilbao Metropolitano). This means that the plan establishes a framework for coordination for the matters that require cooperation among the municipalities, while also preserving local autonomy.
- The main contents of the plan are: 1) physical spatial planning, 2) criteria and policies relating to land, 3) housing needs and quantification of the residential land available, 4) economic activities and strategic rebalancing, 5) supramunicipal facilities, 6) green territorial infrastructure, 7) transport infrastructure, 8) infrastructure for services, 9) alignment of the plans of the different municipalities.
- The plan also defines the strategic initiatives (strategic areas) envisaged and the structural actions (axes and networks for the structure of the territory) for the Bilbao Metropolitan area.

Process, duration, participation

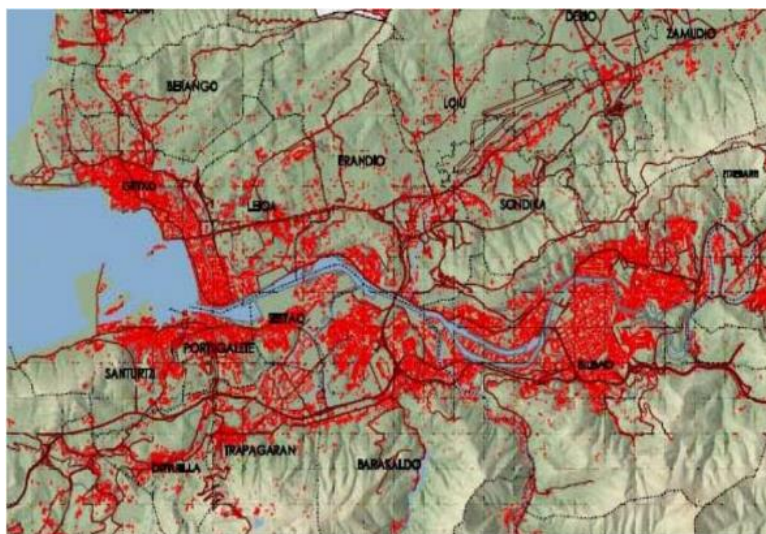
- The development of this kind of plan (*plan territorial parcial*) is envisaged by the Regional Spatial Planning Act of the Basque Country of 1990. The Territorial Plan (*Directrices de Ordenación del Territorio or DOT*) highlights the relevance of developing and approving these plans as soon as possible in order to provide public and private actors with relevant criteria for urban and territorial matters in addition to those laid out in the Territorial Plan. The *plan territorial parcial* is considered an important basis for the development of general urban plans and the sectoral territorial plans in the region.
- Because of the institutional architecture of the Basque Country, in which the *diputaciones provinciales* (equivalent to the territorial level of the province) have competences in territorial and urban matters (an exception in the Spanish situation), the plan was approved by the *Diputación Foral de Bizkaia* as the result of a long process of preparation and management based on the phases set out by the Territorial Planning Law of 1990 (draft, initial approval, provisional approval, and final approval). This administrative and participative tier contributes alongside the pertinent regional and provincial departments, as well as the municipalities integrated in the functional area of Bilbao.

There is no specific duration established for the plan (see following bullet point).

Duration of validity

- The plan is valid until it is modified. In fact, the *Plan territorial parcial del Área Funcional de Bilbao Metropolitano* was approved in 2006 and modified in 2009 (definitive approval in 2010).

Details of the plan



Area covered by the Sub-regional Territorial Plan of the metropolitan area of Bilbao. Source: Diputación Foral de Vizcaya
Source: https://www.bizkaia.eus/hirigintza/lurraldekozatiegitasmoa/ptp_definitivo/planos_pdf/01-INFORMACION.pdf.

Characteristics

Location of the area

This plan establishes the integral territorial planning for the functional area of Bilbao, as defined in the *Directrices de Ordenación del Territorio del País Vasco* (2019), composed of the municipalities of Abanto y Ciérvana-Abanto Zierbena, Alonsotegi, Arrankudiaga, Arrigorriaga, Barakaldo, Barrika, Basauri, Berango, Bilbao, Derio, Erandio, Etxebarria, Galdakao, Getxo, Gorliz, Larrabetzu, Leioa, Lemoxi, Lezama, Loiu, Muskiz, Ortuella, Plentzia, Portugalete, Atnturtzi, Sestao, Sondika, Sopelana, Ugao-Miraballes, Urduliz, Valle de Trápaga-Trapagaran, Zamudio, Zaratamo, Zeberio y Zierbena.

Initial situation

The metropolitan area of Bilbao is the most urbanised area of the Basque Country. Taking into account the urbanisation pressure on the natural environment owing to the traditional industrial activity in this area and urban expansion in the Basque Country, the plan establishes the protection of many areas of vacant land in order to prevent them from being urbanised. It also takes into account the necessity of achieving a territorial balance in the functional area from a complex perspective (demographic, housing, mobility, facilities, economic activities, etc.). To this end, it adopts a number of axes for action: 1) regeneration of the existing city, 2) reuse of brownfield sites, 3) action on existing buildings, 4) redensification of residential and industrial areas, 5) development of new areas for urban expansion, 6) improvement of the physical environment.

Particularities of the process

As mentioned, the plan was modified in 2010 to allow the creation of a new industrial area, which was not provided for in the original plan, in the municipality of Alonsotegi.

Notes and links

Link to the map provided and other relevant documents of the Plan:

Gobierno Vasco (2006): *Plan Territorial Parcial del Área Funcional de Bilbao Metropolitano*. Available at:

https://www.euskadi.eus/web01-a2lurral/es/contenidos/informacion/ptp_bilbao_metropolitano/es_ptp/indice.html

(Accessed: 28 November 2020).