

Fact sheet for planning levels

Planning level	Type of plan																																								
National	National Plan for the Spatial Development of the Republic of Belarus until 2015 (NPSD)																																								
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Planning level</th> <th>Planning instrument</th> <th>Content of plan</th> <th>Legal basis</th> <th>Policy maker</th> <th>Legal impact</th> <th>Scale</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>National level (national)</td> <td>National Development Policy (2015), National Development Strategy (2015), National Development Programme (2015)</td> <td>Basic policy and programme for the development of the country, including the main directions of development of the administrative system</td> <td>Constitution of the Republic of Belarus (1994), Law on Administrative System (2002)</td> <td>Ministry of Architecture and Construction (Ministry of Urban Planning)</td> <td>Binding effect for all planning activities</td> <td>National</td> </tr> <tr> <td>National level (national)</td> <td>National Plan of Spatial Development (2015), National Development Programme (2015), National Development Strategy (2015)</td> <td>Basic policy and programme for the development of the 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<p>National planning map of Belarus</p> <p>Plan creator: Institute for Regional and Urban Planning of Belarus</p>																																									

Facts: National Plan for the Spatial Development of the Republic of Belarus

Legal basis

- Council of Ministers Resolutions on NPSD elaboration (N733, 1998 and N585, 1999)
- Law on the Principles of Architectural and Urban Planning Activities in the Republic of Belarus (1998)*

*replaced by the Law on Architectural, Urban Planning and Building Activities in the Republic of Belarus in 2004

Competences

- According to the Law on the Principles of Architectural and Urban Planning Activities in the Republic of Belarus (1998), the Ministry of Architecture and Construction as the national state administrative body for architectural and urban planning was responsible for developing the NPSD. The Council of Ministers took a decision to elaborate the NPSD and adopted it by resolution.

Binding force

- The NPSD is a legally-binding document that sets out the overarching spatial planning strategy and guidelines for the entire country. It is obligatory for governmental institutions and local authorities in taking decisions on the national, regional, and local levels about land use, management, and protection, and in formulating regional policies, lower-level comprehensive and specialised plans, etc.

Tasks and content

- The NPSD is one of the central integrated spatial planning documents at the national level and establishes mandatory provisions and requirements for land use as well as the principles for its protection, taking into account the geopolitical conditions, natural resources, and socio-economic potential.
- The NPSD laid out the current situation and forecasted demographical, socio-economic, and ecological trends up to 2015. It defined strategies for spatial development and set key indicators.

- The NPSD aimed to improve the spatial structure of the country and to ensure the sustainable, competitive functioning of settlements and other areas. It also introduced the concept of ‘harmonised spatial development’ to minimise planning conflicts between urban and natural landscapes. It proposed a strategy for concentrating and intensifying economic development in the best prepared and most stable areas of the republic – the ‘points of growth’.

Process, duration, participation

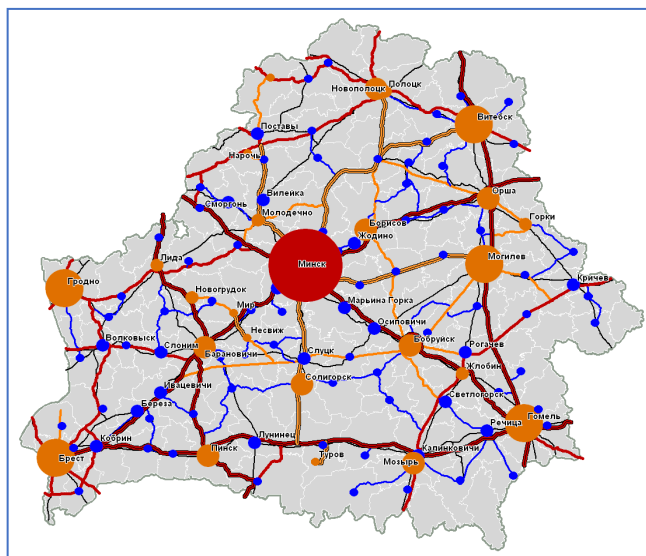
- The elaboration of the NPSD was financed from the national budget. The process took two years: from 1998 to 2000.
- The main elaborator of the NPSD was the Institute for Regional and Urban Planning of Belarus, which worked under the guidance of the Ministry of Architecture and Construction. The NPSD was developed in collaboration with a range of stakeholders, including other government ministries and institutions/organisations, as well as regional and local authorities. It was ultimately endorsed by all relevant stakeholders and adopted by the government in 2000, making it the principal spatial planning document for the country.
- In 2007, the NPSD was revised, since certain urban settlements had their status changed and a new classification of rural settlements was introduced, along with an updated ecological network for the country. The general direction of improvement was determined, with a focus on the development of new types of rural centres – agrotowns and small towns. Additionally, the data on the development of the ecological network of the country was updated.
- In 2011, the updated version of the NPSD, with a validity period until 2030, was completed, however, it was not officially adopted. The work is still ongoing.

Duration of validity

- The NPSD covers the period up to 2015.

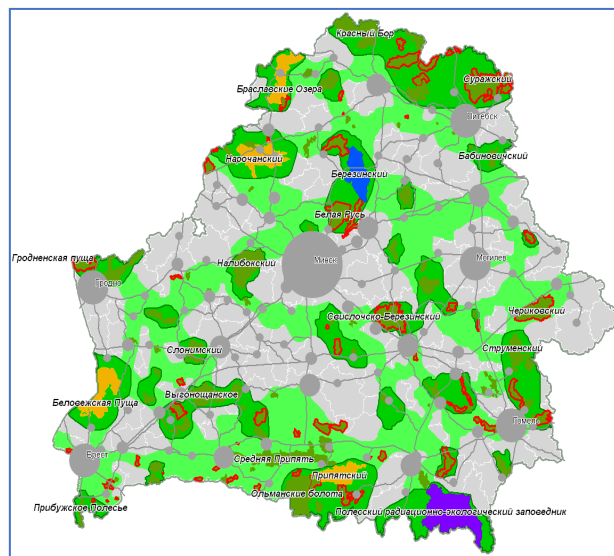
Details of the plan

NPSD: National settlement system



Plan creator: Institute for Regional and Urban Planning of Belarus

NPSD: Ecological network



Characteristics

Location of the area

- The Republic of Belarus is a landlocked country in Eastern Europe. It is bordered by Russia to the east and northeast, Ukraine to the south, Poland to the west, and Lithuania and Latvia to the northwest. It has a strategic location within Europe. It is crossed by the major transit routes of the entire continent, including one of Eurasia’s main transport corridors from southwest to northeast. Covering an area of 207,600 km², Belarus had a population of 10.2 million inhabitants in 1998.

Initial situation

- Belarus is divided into six regions, 118 administrative districts, 212 urban settlements and more than 24,500 rural settlements. One particularity of the settlement system in Belarus is the quantitative prevalence of medium and small towns, which comprise more than 90% of the settlements. However, about 65% of the urban population lives in large cities. The rural settlements retain a small, dispersed structure by virtue of historical and natural features. Two-thirds of the villages have fewer than 100 inhabitants and the trend towards rural depopulation is increasing. Belarus is an important part of the European ecological system. The country had a significant portion of forests and natural protected areas that comprise 36% of its area. However, about 23% of the country's territory was contaminated as the result of Chernobyl disaster in 1986 that negatively influenced the socio-economic and spatial development of the country.

Particularities of the process and/or contents

- The NPSD plays regulatory, directive, and informative roles. It is an important framework that encompasses several key provisions that serve as the basis for developing sectoral and intersectoral programmes and schemes at both the regional and local levels. It is the basis for the development of urban planning documents at the regional and local level, including the spatial development plans of regional and administrative districts, the master plans of cities, and other urban development projects.

Notes and links

- Государственная схема комплексной территориальной организации Республики Беларусь. Основные положения. – Мн.: РУП «БЕЛНИИПГРАДОСТРОИТЕЛЬСТВА», 2001
- Государственная схема комплексной территориальной организации Республики Беларусь. Основные положения. – Мн.: РУП «БЕЛНИИПГРАДОСТРОИТЕЛЬСТВА», 2011
- <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/279999714.pdf>