

Project information

Integrating ecological concerns into Russia's territorial planning



Construction site in the
Altai mountains

Source: K. Grunewald
(IÖR)



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Background

In recent years, a number of political initiatives aimed to realign the spatial planning (territorial planning) system in Russia, e.g. establishing environmental risk and impact assessments for plans and infrastructure projects. On the German side, these efforts were supported under the bilateral agreement on cooperation in the field of environmental protection between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Russian Federation, signed 1992. In several regions of the Russian Federation pilot projects were conducted with German assistance (e.g. Lake Baikal and Altai region).

As a result of the method transfers that have already taken place, Russian planning institutions have developed own planning schemes and concepts for other parts of Russia. They are aiming at a better consideration of ecological concerns in the framework of territorial planning. However, there was still an absence of legal and administrative integration of these environmental planning approaches into Russia's territorial planning system.

Target country:

Russian Federation

Duration:

05/2012 - 07/2014

Beneficiary:

Russian Ministry of Regional
Development

Implementing organisations:

Leibniz Institute of Ecological

Urban and Regional

Development (IÖR),

NIIP Gradostroitelstva

St. Petersburg

Project number:

21993

Project

To resolve this deficit, German and Russian experts in the field of spatial planning developed scientifically based proposals that aim to embed ecologically oriented approaches into Russian territorial planning. The expert team focused on legal, methodical, and technical aspects of planning and conceptual ideas for implementation. By means of a comparative law analysis the experts elaborated ecological concerns in German and Russian overall planning and derived modifications in the Russian system. Furthermore, they investigated how protected commodities (e.g. soil, water, climate) and different types of land use (e.g. agriculture, settlements, infrastructure) are rooted in the planning systems. The methodical planning examination referred to the planning levels, planning tools, the process of spatial planning as well as issues regarding participation and involvement. The foundations for strategic environmental assessment and for the evaluation of major infrastructure projects were developed in another project module.

The expert team presented the results in a series of guidelines: (1) about environmental subjects of protection and the environmental impacts of land use, (2) about the handling of environmental concerns in planning processes, (3) about Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), and (4) about environmental monitoring and the provision of environmental information. All results were placed at the disposal of the Russian Ministry for Regional Development. They are serving as an impulse for a number of short-term legislative initiatives aiming at a better consideration of ecological concerns in Russia's territorial planning.

Federal Environment Ministry's Advisory Assistance Programme for Environmental Protection in Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (AAP)

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