



The ‘Systems Planner’ document series^a

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Abstract

‘Systems Planner’ is a ‘practice lab’ with methodological notes and commented examples, complementing the existing Systems Planning books and articles, and preparing for new ones. The document series maintains the quality standard of conventional publications, but makes an advance with new technology and media.

1 Personal Note

WORK My whole work on planning, as organised and displayed at my website, is characterised by the special ‘SF2’ approach, concerned with the structure, function, and form of the objects of interest: systems, processes, and plans (or policies, or strategy).

OBLIGATION The related methodological developments, applications in practice, and a number of academic publications, create an obligation for me to continue catering to the ‘SF2’ approach to planning: not only for those who are reading about it, or those who have used it, but also for those who see potential in it.

FORMALITY While the website is a succinct and flexible way to present the ‘SF2’ planning work, at this point a need has arisen for a more formal medium to organise and share related knowledge — in a way, close to the conventional academic publishing.

THE SERIES Hence, ‘Systems Planner’ was created in 2011 as the ‘guardian of the SF2’ in the form of a ‘practice lab’, and I feel as much responsibility for it as for the website. Both media — and, more generally, my personal effort — are dedicated to making contributions for the advancement of planning, such as increasing the efficiency of processes and outcomes.

TUTELAGE AND AUTHORSHIP In this situation, I place myself as (a) the tutelary of the ‘Systems Planner’ document series, and (b) the author of at least the first documents, to give a practical example and actually make some contributions.

^aThis foundation document contains the guidelines for the series.

2 Features of the Series

COMMERCIAL INDEPENDENCE The series does not represent a commercial enterprise. Also, it is not associated with commercial publishers, nor with bibliometric services. Thus, the series is solely dedicated to making contributions for the advancement of planning, free of commercial concerns.

FREE CIRCULATION The documents of the series are made available free of charge. Money should not stand in the way of dissemination. Documents may circulate freely in their original form, but without modifications. Selected documents may be adapted for conventional publications, after an agreement between the parties involved.

SPECIAL INTEREST The series is 'specialised information channel' about the methodology and applications of the 'SF2' approach to planning.

NICHE Through its special interest, the series establishes a new niche in planning, and at the same time sets out to satisfy the publication needs of that niche.

RELATIONS Catering to its niche, the series is not in competition with commercial academic publishers. Also, the series does not constitute an 'escape' from the traditional academic publishing system, which at present does not cover the needs of the niche.

REGISTRATION To mark its presence, identity, and niche, the series may be registered with online directories — although recognition by peers may be sufficient.

R&D SUPPORT The content of the series can be classified as 'applied research' and/ or 'experimental development', but not as basic research (OECD, 2002, pp.77–79).

NON-PERIODICITY Documents are produced and released only when suitable material is available. This relieves stress, as well as actual delays or haste — for instance, to meet deadlines.

DIGITAL FORMAT Documents are released in the latest available version of PDF, digitally signed and formatted for the A4 page size (in case readers wish to print them).

ONLINE ADDRESS The series resides within the tutelary's website: <http://www.tasso.utad.pt>; <http://www.fe.up.pt/~tasso>. The local search facility of the website should permit easy localisation of documents by keyword or author.

UPDATABILITY Documents are updated in the fashion of websites or software, or as the 'editions' of printed volumes.

DOCUMENT IDENTIFICATION Documents are identified by (a) their order of appearance (which is a unique number, even if articles are re-edited at a later date), (b) the year of the release (which is to be included in the reference of the document), and (c) for finer detail, by the date of the latest edition.

UNCOMPLICATED FUNCTIONS Editing and publishing are carried out by the tutelary of the series — as part of his academic duties —, assisted by selected volunteers with suitable profile.

OBJECTIVITY AND VALIDITY Bias is avoided by providing facts whenever possible. Value judgments always mention their references. Errata are corrected in subsequent editions.

QUALITY The series should meet or exceed the standards of conventional publications — for instance, regarding structured arguments, rigorous expression, and impartial views.

3 People and Functions

TUTELARY OF THE SERIES Since the foundation of the series (2011): Anastássios Perdicoulis. The functions of the tutelary are a combination of conventional editing and publishing:

1. selection of themes
2. design of document layout and distinctive marks (e.g. logo)
3. distribution (online)
4. scoping and quality screening of contributed documents
5. examination (and modification) of text and graphics for consistency and accuracy
6. typesetting and compilation (or 'digital printing') of the documents in the defined layout

VOLUNTEER SPECIALISTS The tutelary of the series may be assisted by volunteer academics and/or practitioners whose speciality is within or close to the interest of the series.

READERSHIP Students, researchers, instructors, and practitioners in fields such as spatial planning, strategic planning, and public policy making.

PARTICIPATION AS AUTHORS Readers may also participate as authors, with suitable material. Contributions should be within the scope of the 'SF2' systems approach to planning, and are subject to editorial examination.

4 Reminders to the Users

RELEASE AND USE Documents in the series are intended only for *bona fide* academic and/or professional applications.

UNDERSTANDING Correct understanding and application of the document contents are the responsibility of the readers — in case of doubt, readers should inquire with the author(s) or the tutelary of the series.

CIRCULATION AND MODIFICATIONS Documents may circulate freely in their original form, but without modifications.

FEEDBACK Users are encouraged to provide feedback to the author(s) and/or the tutelary of the series regarding the content of the document and/or their experience with it.

References

OECD (2002) *Frascati Manual — Proposed standard practice for surveys on research and experimental development*. Paris: OECD.

