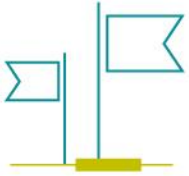# Grasping planning cultures - inter-cultural learning across borders

TOM BECKER (UNIVERSITÉ DU LUXEMBOURG) & BEATE CAESAR (TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT KAISERSLAUTERN)

WORKING GROUP 'SPATIAL PLANNING' UNIGR-CBS

EUropean planning systems

comprehensive integrated

mature hierarchical system of plans on all levels
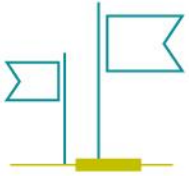coordination of sectoral policies

regional economic

targeted national investments in infrastructures to minimize regional disparities

land-use management

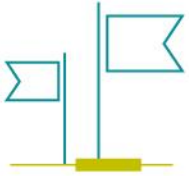regulation of land-use with strategic and municipal plans

urbanism

local planning
strong architectural and design component
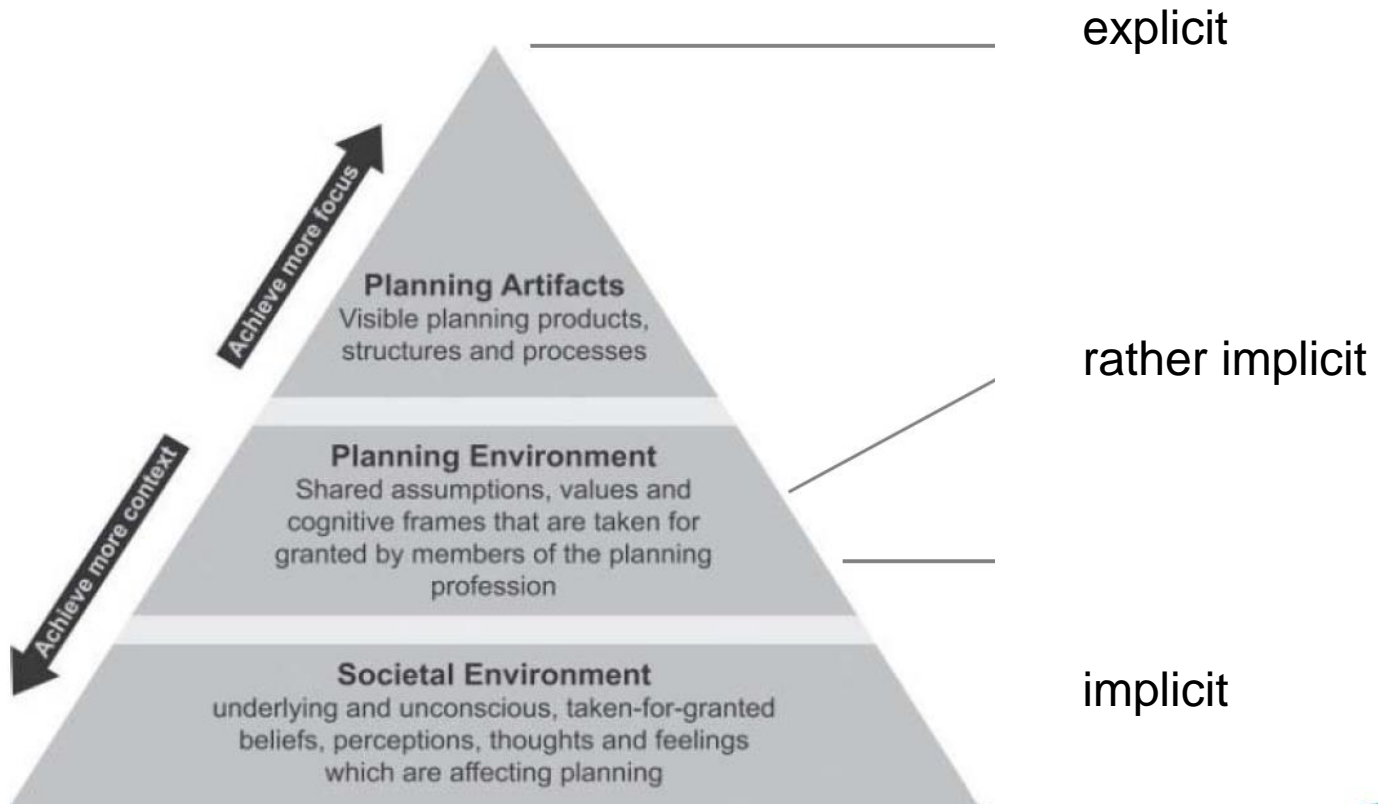
EUropean planning systems

"planning systems are historically rooted in place and language. [Therefore] variation must be explained with reference to national and regional social models [...] that can be important factors explaining performance and change" (Nadin et al 2018, 6).

„It is not sufficient to record the formal structure and instruments of spatial planning systems and territorial governance, but also their operation in practice" (Nadin et al 2018, 6).
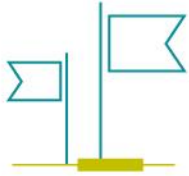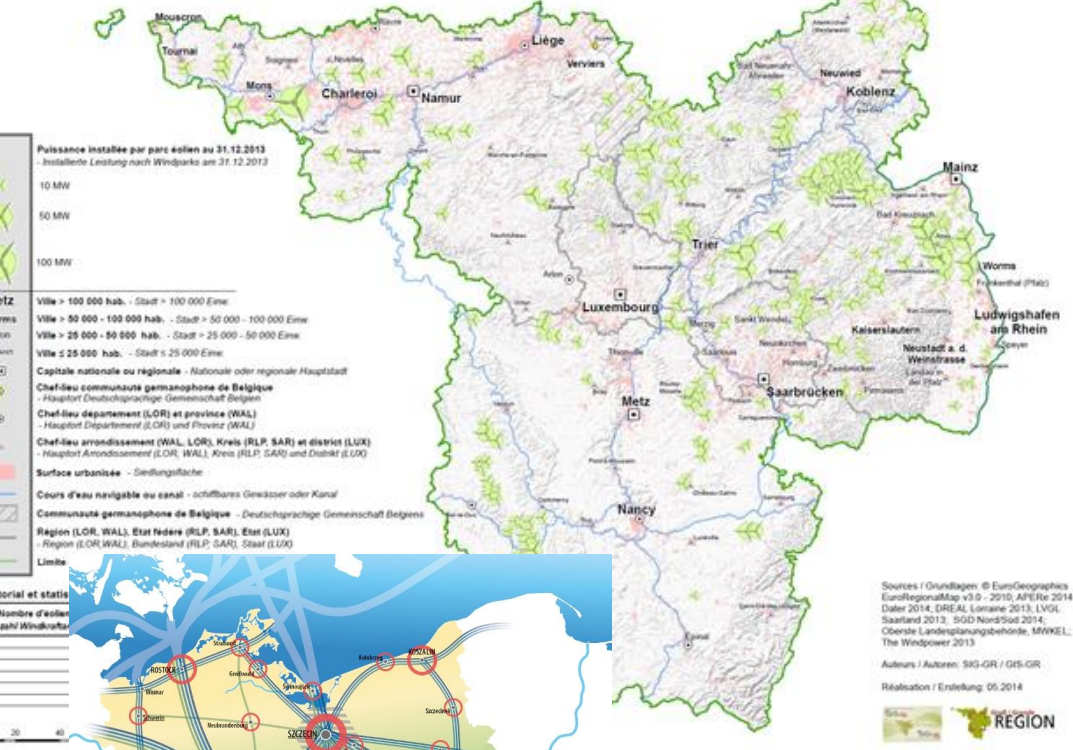
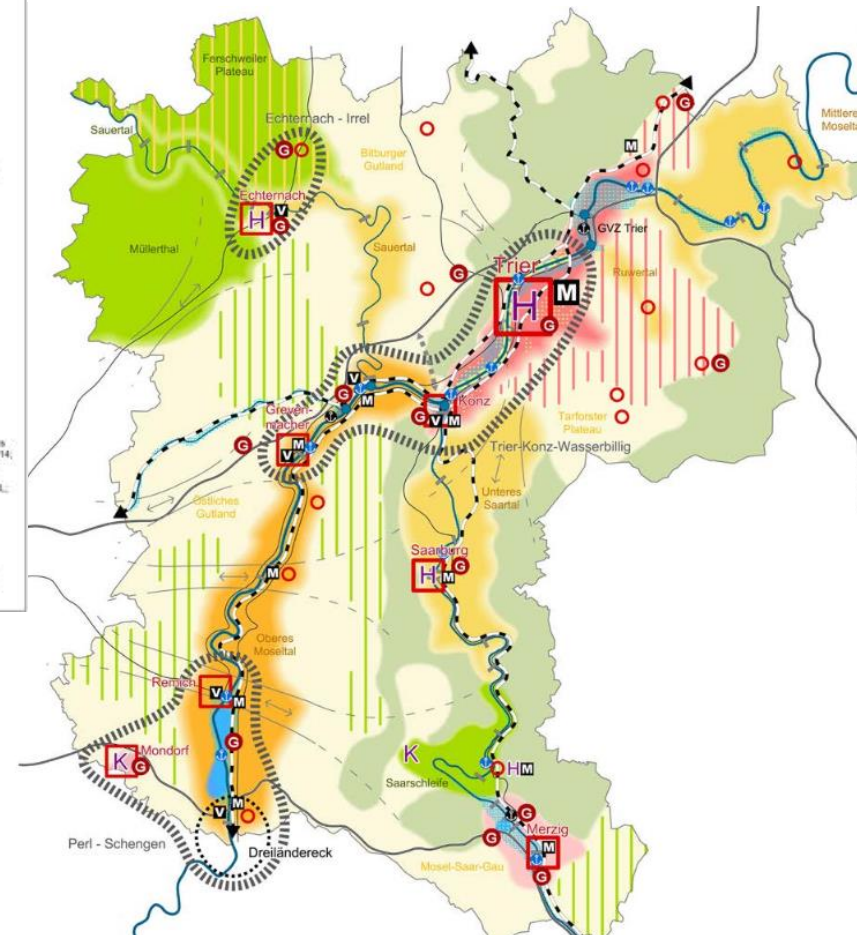# Planning culture

the context matters!

explicit

rather implicit

implicit

Planning Artifacts
Visible planning products, structures and processes

Planning Environment
Shared assumptions, values and cognitive frames that are taken for granted by members of the planning profession

Societal Environment
underlying and unconscious, taken-for-granted beliefs, perceptions, thoughts and feelings which are affecting planning

Achieve more focus

Achieve more context

Knieling & Othengrafen 2009

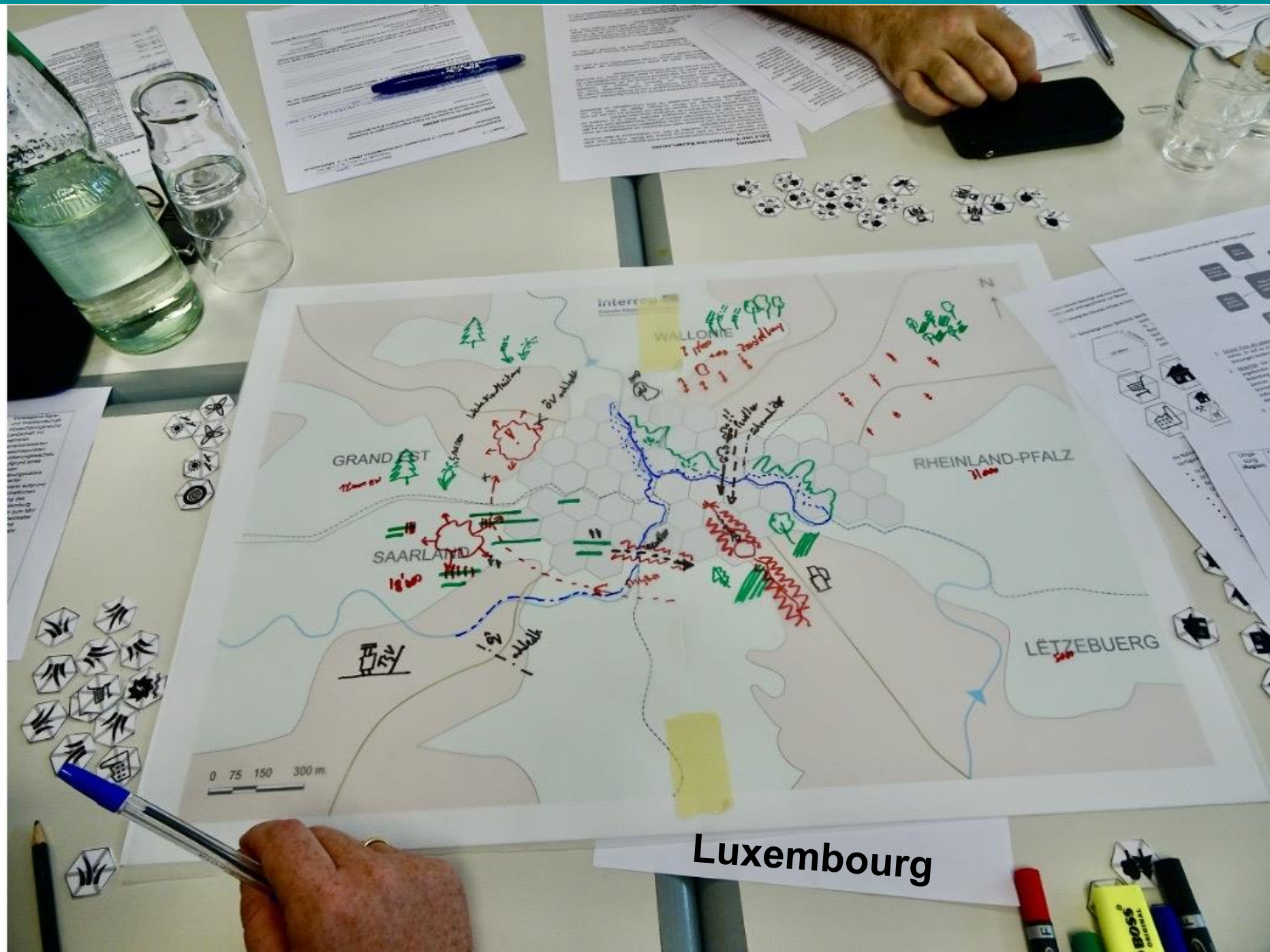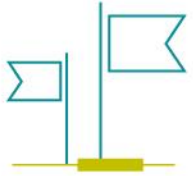# Cross-border spatial planning

Planning games
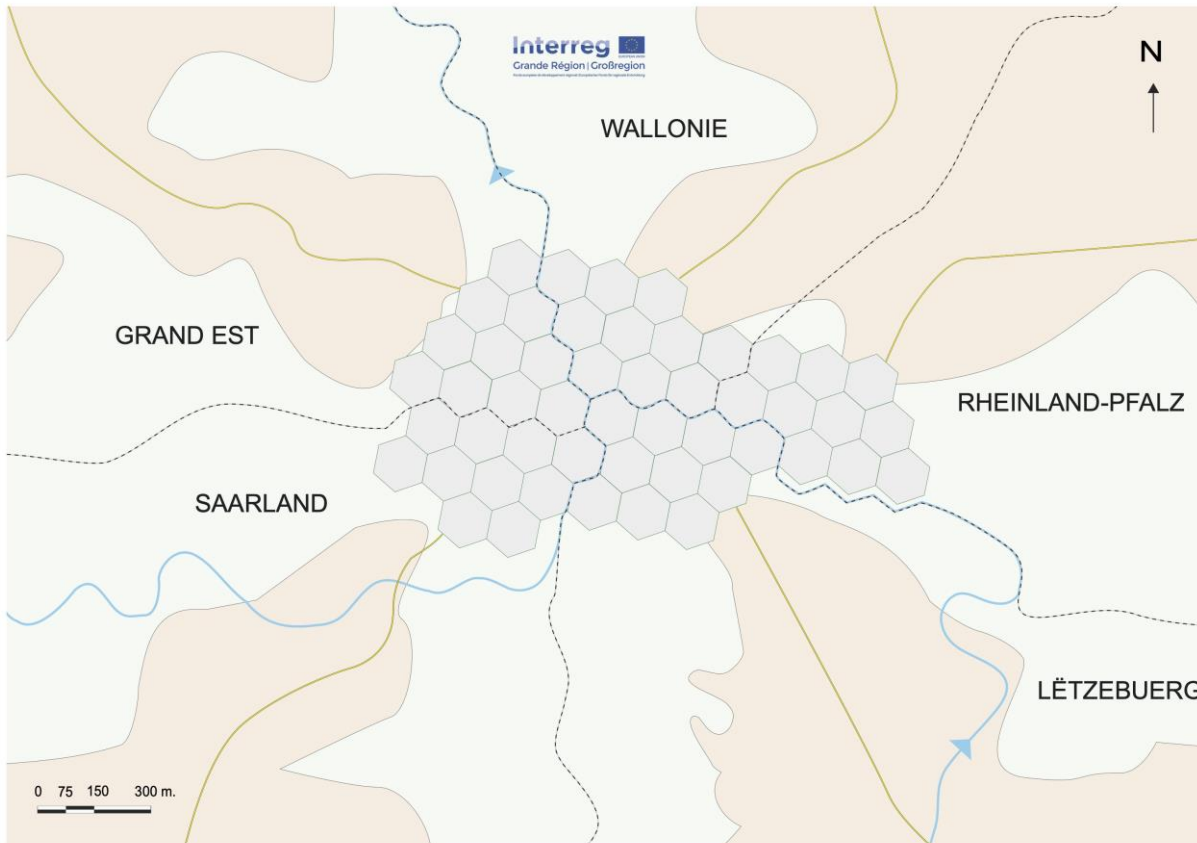
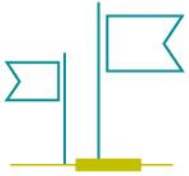Source: UniGR-CBS AG Raumplanung, Sept. 2019

Luxembourg

Empirical evidence

Empirical evidence

- "You can imagine [the centre] as being just a large square where events can take place. It can of course also be a building, it can be ..." (LU, internal discussion, day 1)

| Built space |

- "Why don't we make the centre where the rivers meet... as an identity."   (DE, negotiations LU-DE, day 2)

| meeting spot, Symbol |

- "In our centre, people do not live. That is obviously the big difference. Possibly also a mistake." (DE, negotiations LU-DE, day 2).

| Economic hub |

- "We had in mind to make a central station (but we weren't allowed to) to do something at the crossroads.... The idea is to do something unifying ..." (FR, negotiations LU-FR, day 2)

| Transport hub |

- "A centre at the confluence of rivers, where the centre is not really a built centre, but rather a centre of cultures, open spaces, meeting spaces around which housing and different functions develop and which is away from the employment and craft centre." (LU, negotiations LU-FR, day 2)
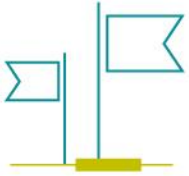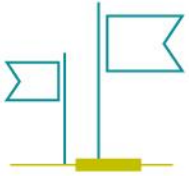
| Balance between functions |

Education & planning culture

- non standardized curricula in spatial planning

➢ diverse understandings of spatial planning

- theoretical courses on international planning for reflection

Inter-cultural skills needed for (cross-border) spatial planning!

Education ideas

- Inter-cultural training for students
  - cross-border planning game
  - cross-border game-based course on spatial planning and planning cultures with international teams, research-based learning

- Cross-border exchange and advanced training course
  - Creation of an interface between spatial planning practice and research to support cross-border evidence-based policy-making
  - Proceed in 3 steps:
    - study knowledge and skills needs and offers in the Greater Region
    - organise one-day inter-cultural learning events
    - develop a structured cross-border training course for planning practitioners