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# **Planning as a Regulated Profession in Turkey**

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# Structure:

- the evolution of measures that regulate the planning field as a professional activity.
- how competences are defined and regulated by laws.
- attempts and initiatives to enhance the quality of education, establishment of a system of national accreditation and the recent debates about regulation of the planning profession.

# Regulation of spatial planning in Turkey

## 1938 – Law # 3458 on **Engineering and Architecture**

defines the degrees necessary to be qualified as an engineer and architect.

## 1954 - Law # 6235 The Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects (Chamber of Architects founded in 1954)

## 1961 - Foundation of first planning school (METU) in Ankara

## 1969 -Foundation of the Chamber of Planners. (now 3600 members in 8 branches)

## 1969 & 1985 - Regulations: authorized people with a bachelors in city planning, regional planning, urban design and **architecture** or those who have a **masters or a PhD degree** in one of these fields.

# Regulation of spatial planning in Turkey

**2005** – “Regulation on the Professional Qualification of Those Who Make Plans”

- stated that only those professionals who graduated from City and Regional Planning Schools are authorized to make plans

# Regulation of spatial planning in Turkey

- Registering with the Chamber of City Planners is required in order to work as a practitioner and to have a private practice.
- **the code of Chamber of City Planners** was also amended: **bachelor's degree in planning** is now a “must” to be a member of the Chamber. (e.g. architects cannot be a member of the Chamber of City Planners.)

# Regulation of spatial planning in Turkey

- Another important legislation is the **Conservation Law. (2004)**
- “...only City Planners or City and Regional Planners are authorized to make a Conservation Plan.”

# Defining Competences and Specialisms:

- To be able to practice their profession, planners need have a **certificate** showing that they are qualified to make a plan. (issued by the Ministry of Public Works and Settlements)
- The certificate defines the authority to plan different groups of settlements defined according to their **population size and area**, which can be considered as corresponding to different levels of competences.

# **GROUPS of Planning Area**

- A GROUP:** Planning Area 10.001 Ha or more; projected population 1.000.001 or more
- B GROUP :** Planning Area 5001-10.001 Ha; projected population 500.001-1.000.000
- C GROUP :** Planning Area 2001-5.000 Ha; projected population 200.001-500.000
- D GROUP:** Planning Area 801-2.000 Ha; projected population 50.001-200.000
- E GROUP:** Planning Area 301-800 Ha; projected population 10.001-50.000
- F GROUP:** Planning Area 25-300 Ha; projected population 10.000 or less



# **Assessment criteria for obtaining or upgrading certificates**

1. The number of plans completed for specified number of settlement groups or,
2. Specified number of years in academia teaching in planning or a related field or,
3. Specified number of years they worked in a public planning body or,
4. Specified number of years in private planning offices doing planning studies for A, B, C, or D groups of settlements or,
5. Being awarded the 1st price for a planning competition or the 2nd price twice or the special mentions 4 times.

# Competency GROUPs

A GROUP	B GROUP	C GROUP	D GROUP	E GROUP	F GROUP
2B	2C	2D	3E	3F	
1B +2C	1C +2D	1D +2E	2E +3F	3F + 10-24ha. area	
1B+1B+2D	1C+1D+2E	1D+1E+2F			
<p>Prof., Assoc. Prof or Exec. Position in a public agency for 2 years</p> <p>At least 15 yrs of exp. In a public plng agency</p>	<p>PhD + 4yrs of academic experience</p> <p>if no PhD, then 12 yrs academic exp.</p> <p>12 yrs of plng exp. in public plng agency</p>	<p>Min. 9 yrs of exp. in public plng agency</p>	<p>Min. 6 yrs of exp. in private practice doing plans in A, B, C, GROUPs</p> <p>min 6 yrs of plng exp. in public plng agency</p>	<p>Min. 3 yrs of exp. in private practice doing plans in A, B, C, GROUPs</p> <p>min 3 yrs of plng exp. in public plng agency</p>	BCP

# Shortcomings

- Qualification based only on quantitative measures
- not enough to assure the quality of the work, esp. when there is a need for more specialized knowledge and skills...  
e.g. conservation plans.
- does not assure to keep the knowledge and skills updated.
- No specialism

# TUPOB :

## The Association of Planning Schools of Turkey

- Founded in 10.02.2004 by 8 Heads of Schools & Chamber of City Planners
- System of quality assurance and accreditation at the national level
- Harmonization of planning education
- Regular meetings – twice a year: at the World Town Planning Day and interim



# **TUPOB :**

## **The Association of Planning Schools of Turkey**

### ***Working Groups***

- 1. Quality Assurance**
- 2. Professional Qualification and Competence**
- 3. Criteria for Academic Promotions**
- 4. Criteria for the foundation of new Schools of Planning**
- 5. Foundation of a new graduate school**
- 6. Communicaiton and coordination among Schools and the Chamber as well as Public and Private Institutions**