

- The strongly export-orientated economy has long since switched from land-intensive and polluting industry to service industries.

All these characteristics lead to much pressure on land use making spatial planning a necessity. The two photos at the beginning of this chapter (p. 35) illustrate the sprawl of settlements.

### 3.2.2 Levels of spatial planning

In 1969 a new article on spatial planning was incorporated into the Federal Constitution transferring the responsibility for a framework on spatial planning to the confederation. However, practical planning implementation remained essentially a matter of the cantons, which in turn delegate a number of tasks to the communes. Figure 3-5, p. 40 shows the levels of spatial planning in Switzerland and their instruments. Further down we will look at these instruments in detail.

[Fig. 3-5] Instruments of spatial planning in Switzerland

Level	Most important planning instruments
Confederation	Sectorial strategies and sectorial plans
Canton	Cantonal structure plan
Commune	Communal structure plan / land use plan


#### Confederation

In the matter of legislation, the confederation must limit itself to laying down principles. Federal law principles relate in particular to

- the aims and planning principles which must be considered for any spatial planning
- the planning instruments and related rules of procedure
- those individual questions which are central for the whole functioning of spatial planning, such as the permit obligation for all buildings and installations, the size of building zones, exceptional permission for building outside building zones and ensuring the infrastructure provision of building land.

Cooperation of the confederation with the cantons is a central postulate of cooperative federalism. The Confederation promotes and coordinates the spatial planning of the cantons first and foremost through the before mentioned framework legislation and through the approval of cantonal structure plans. However, it also has a duty to coordinate its own tasks with the spatial planning of the cantons. Important instruments for this are the basic studies drawn up by the confederation and the actual planning instruments of the confederation, the **sectoral strategies** and **sectoral plans** (Fig. 3-6, p. 40).

[Fig. 3-6] Spatial planning on the level of the confederation

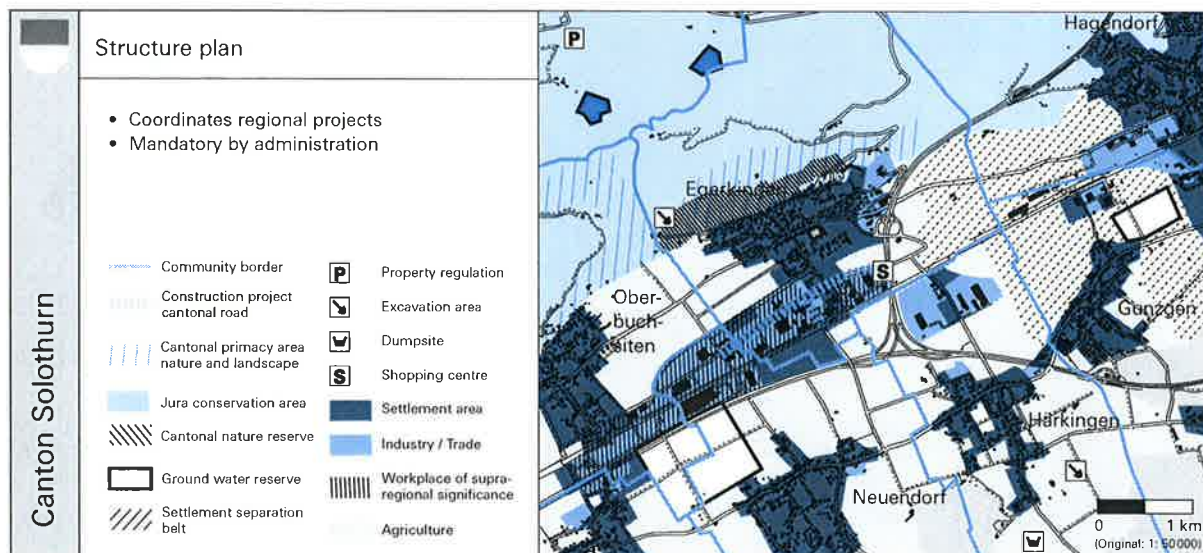
 Confederation	Sectorial strategies and sectorial plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sectoral plan roads</li> <li>• Sectoral plan public transport</li> <li>• Sectoral plan infrastructure of aviation</li> <li>• Sectoral plan areas for crop rotation</li> <li>• Sectoral plan transmission lines</li> <li>• ...</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trend-setting policy statements</li> </ul>	

## Cantons

When enacting their spatial planning regulations, the cantons are bound by the aims and principles as well as the instruments of the federal law. This together with the related case-law of the Federal Court allows a certain standardization of planning law. However the spatial planning and building regulations of the cantons differ markedly from each other in the extent of regulation and the terminology.

The main planning instrument of the cantons is the **structure plan**, which is subject to approval by the Federal Council. The structure plan shows how the many activities of the Confederation, the canton and the communes (local authorities) which have spatial impact are to be harmonized in the area. The cantonal structure plan is therefore not an outline of a 'desirable final state' of the cantonal territory, but a process plan for coordinating and managing the next stages of spatial development already underway. A map serves to clarify and define the content of the structure plan (Fig. 3-7, p. 41). Structure plans are constantly adjusted in line with developments and are revised at least every ten years.

[Fig. 3-7] Spatial planning on the level of the canton



This is part of the structure plan of the canton of Solothurn.

## Communes

While the cantons are accountable for structure plans they transfer responsibility to the communes where land use is concerned. These communal land use plans then are binding for all landowners. This applies particularly to the delimitation of the development area and determination of the type and extent of specific building in the permitted zones. The **land use plan** must meet the provisions of the federal law on spatial planning. The rules are more detailed (Fig. 3-8, p. 42) here than in the case of cantonal structure plans, because land use planning has the important task of laying down the boundary between building zones and non-building zones.