# GPR Urban Planning - English version

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Authors:      Harry Hoiting, W/E Consultants
               Esther Roth, W/E Consultants
               Erik Alsema, W/E Consultants


Reviewer:     Patxi Hernandez, Tecnalia


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# Contents

# 1    Introduction

The SUSREG project aims at improving the knowledge, attitudes and skills of professional planners through a 3-stage capacity building programme including on-the-job training of planners on real case examples. While working on their case studies, the regional planners will test the theoretical concepts and tools collected and pilot the didactical method applied. The results from the work performed on the case studies and from the practical experiences of the regional planners will then be used to train additional 800 professional planners and associations on how to better integrate sustainable energy aspects into spatial planning activities.

As part of this project an English version was prepared of GPR Urban Planning - a decision support tool for urban planners. This software tool is a translated and adapted version of the tool GPR Stedebouw, which was developed by W/E Consultants in collaboration with the municipalities of Tilburg (NL) and Groningen (NL).

The adaptations comprised:

1) Translation of user manual and software text parts from Dutch into English;
2) Multiple language support: all text parts of the software are now contained in single worksheet. Presently the Dutch and English languages are available but it is easy to incorporate other languages, like Spanish or Italian.
3) Adaptation of energy standards to national regulations:  energy standards for new or existing buildings are different between countries. Due to climatic differences within the larger countries the building energy standards can also depend on the specific region. Based on input from SUSREG partners we have made it possible to select the energy regulations for the following countries/regions:
   - Netherlands
   - Denmark
   - Czech Republic
   - Cyprus
   - Spain - Madrid area
   - Spain - Burgos area
   - Spain - San Sebastian area
   - Italy – Climatic zones A – F

   N.B. : These energy data and related assumptions will probably need some further fine-tuning before they match sufficiently with the national standards.

# 2    Description of GPR Urban Planning

### Short description of the tool

Municipalities and planners face the question how to incorporate sustainability targets into urban developments. The GPR Urban Planning software facilitates this by evaluating the sustainability of urban developments. It is helpful in formulating ambitions, monitoring the progress and keeping an overview on the sustainability aspects. GPR Urban Planning brings together different specialisms and makes it clear that sustainable urban development is a shared responsibility. The user gets a well-structured insight into the aspects of sustainability as well as the sustainability performance of a new urban plan or the restructuring of an existing area.

### Who can use the tool

GPR Urban Planning is suitable for municipalities, developers, planners and others who want to investigate the sustainability of an urban development. Several universities in the Netherlands use it in their curriculum.

### Form

GPR Urban Planning is an Excel-based tool, which is available in both Dutch and in English. Other languages may be added.

### In- and Output

The user has to specify the characteristics of the urban area and the planning choices that are made with regard to certain themes.

Based on these selections an urban development is rated on five indicators on a scale of 1 to 10 (very good). The key performance indicators are: Energy, Spatial planning, Health, Quality of use and Future Value. Each indicator is divided into several sub-indicators. When assessed, the performance of the urban plan is rated per indicator. Policy makers and urban planners can determine ambitions for each of the five indicators and thus focus on the topics which are most relevant to a specific situation: in rural areas the spatial planning might be more relevant, whereas in densely populated areas the health aspects may need more attention.
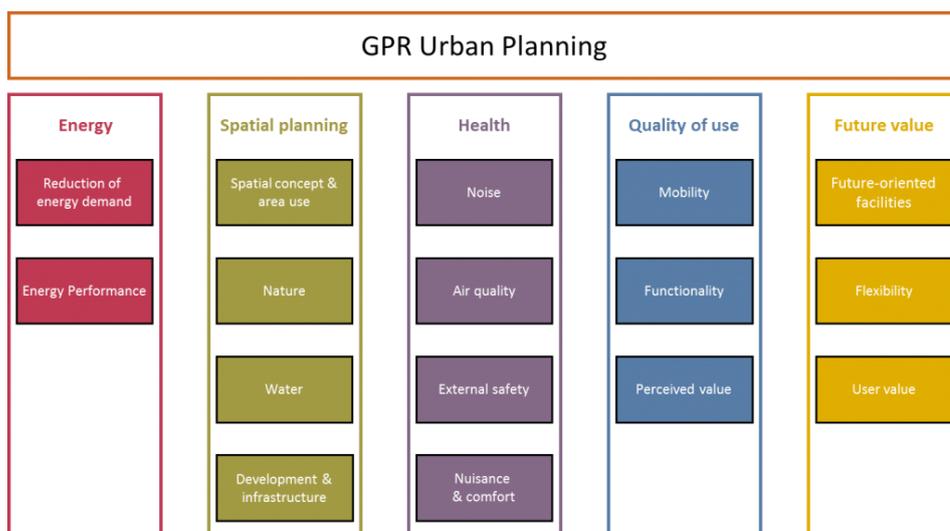


The indicators and sub-indicators are calculated on the basis of a multi-criteria analysis. Each sub-indicator consists of several criteria, giving the user a choice between different design options. Each

option is awarded a number of points. The points are first aggregated to the level of a sub-indicator (score of 1 to 10) and then aggregated to an indicator score. When a choice is made, the score changes visibly and immediately, thus stimulating the choice for a better alternative.