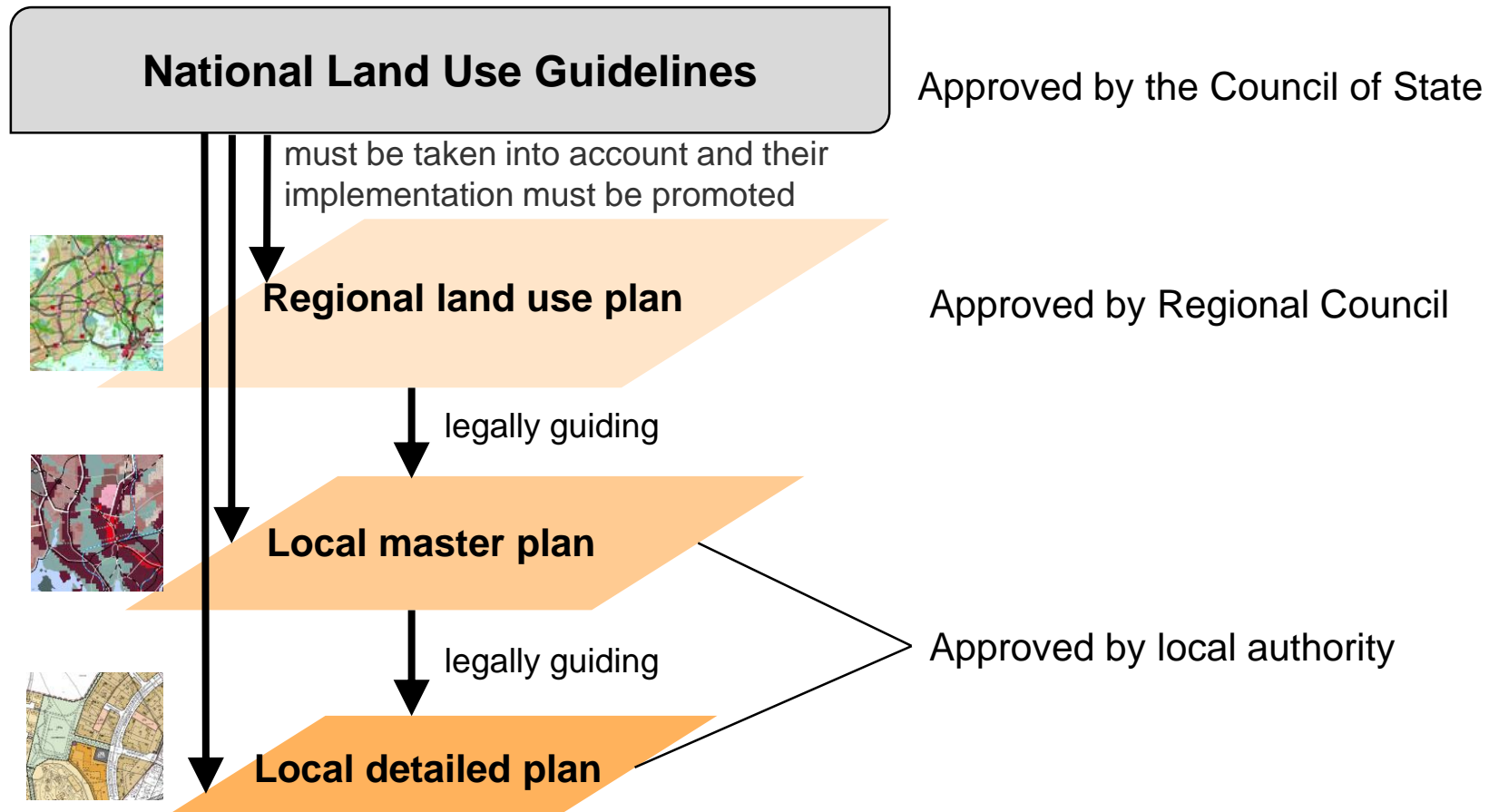


// Reform of the Land Use and Building Act in Finland

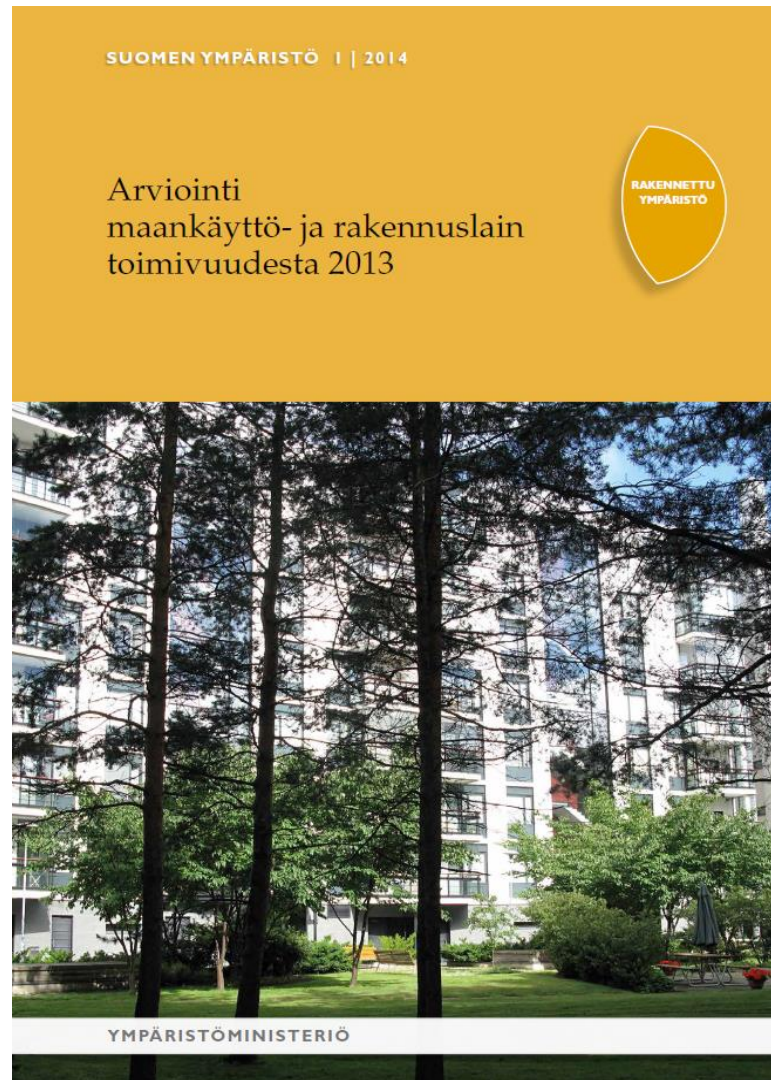
Finnish land use planning system starting from 1 January 2000



Drivers for change



The reform is based on a functionality assessment of the Land Use and Building Act



- The main problem with land use that was brought up was the **ineffectiveness of the planning of urban areas**. The planning system is not adept at recognising an urban area as a functional unit.
- The **need to develop zoning into a more strategic direction** was another factor that emerged during the assessment.
- Land use **steering must be better adapted to real planning needs**.

Objectives of the reform

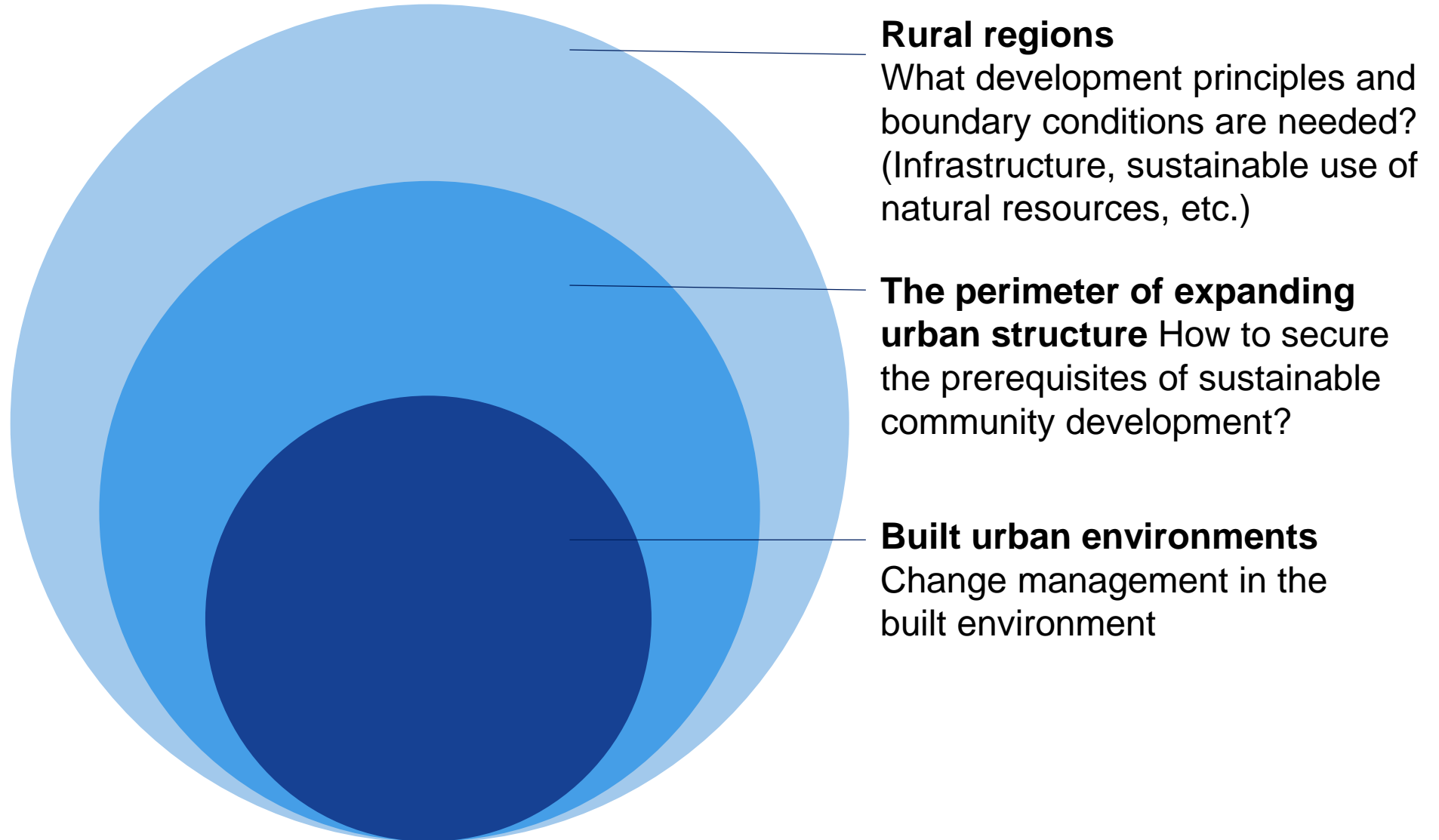
Developing the vitality of regions
and creating the conditions for
sustainable development
and a good living environment

Identifying the core
assignments of land use planning
and the
steering of building

Land use planning
and the steering of building in the
operational
environments of the
future

Interactive
operational method
and purposefulness
of operations

Core assignments of land use planning in different regions



Discussion paper on the guidelines of the reform of the land use planning system

(spring 2018 Ministry of the Environment)

- **Also in the future, national, regional and municipal needs are targeted in the steering of land use.**
- The land use planning system requires the securing of national interests.
- On a regional level, strategic principles would form the framework for the planning of urban areas and municipalities.
- There would be two actual planning levels: a strategic plan of assigned urban areas as well as a plan implementing land use on a municipal level, which would replace the current local detailed plan and the municipal local master plan.

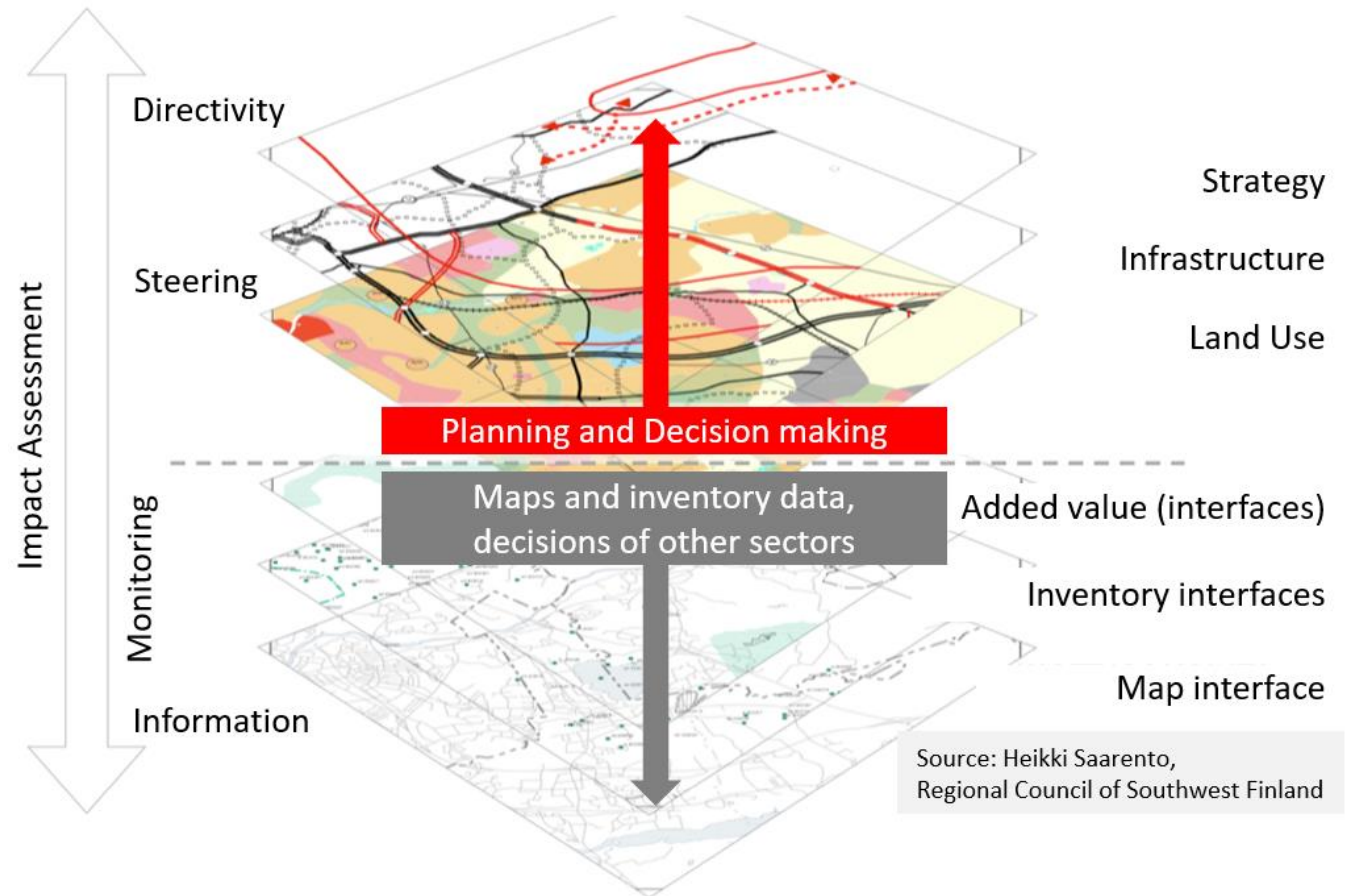
Nationally significant aspects



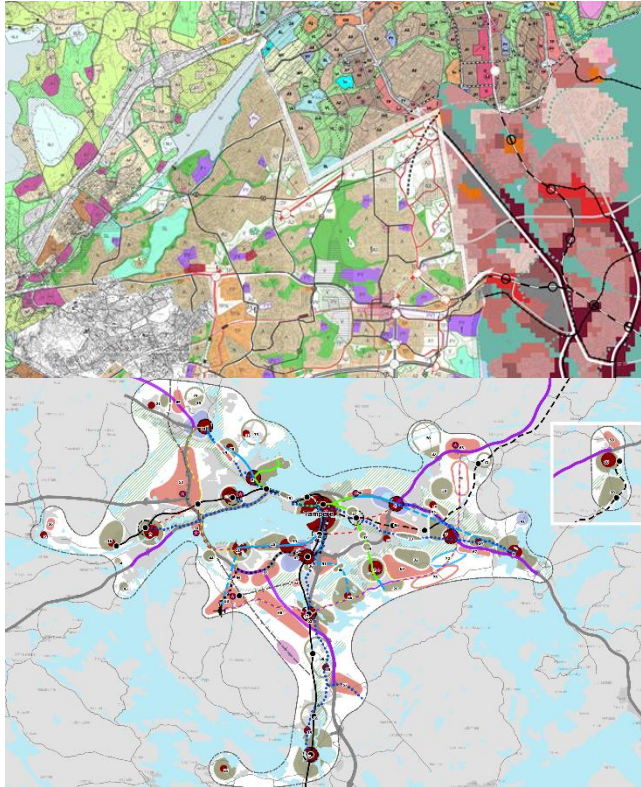
- ✓ Act as the boundary conditions and objectives through the entire planning system
- ✓ A framework for the planning of urban areas and municipalities, together with the regional principles
- ✓ Method for defining interests and their status in relation to law?
- ✓ Fixed term or updates when necessary?

Regional level

- ✓ Creating **prerequisites** for developing the region, defining the **long-term goals**
- ✓ Includes such matters as regional and service structure, connection network, transport system and green connections
- ✓ **Streamlining** the information content that burdens the planning process
- ✓ Direct legal impacts only on some of the contents (e.g. infrastructure)
- ✓ Regional government, health and social services reform: new counties will start on January 2021?



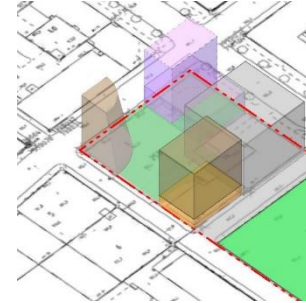
Urban regions



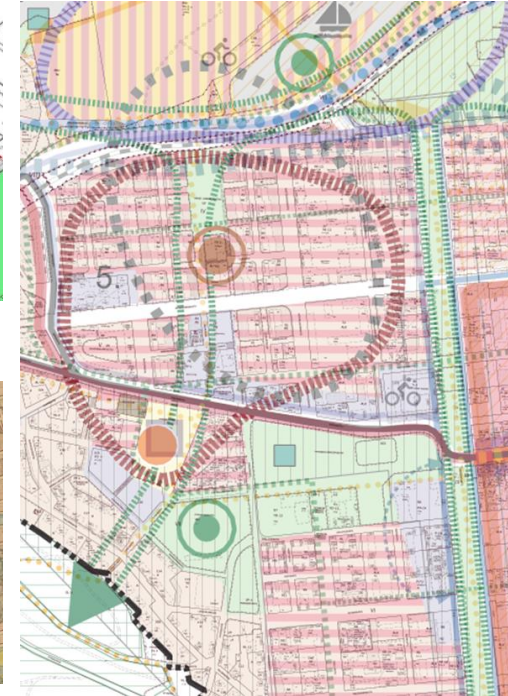
- ✓ Key land use choices in urban areas (land use, housing and transportation) as legally binding (urban local master plan)
- ✓ The principles of protecting nature and the cultural environment and developing green construction are also important
- ✓ Mandatory in the largest urban areas, possible also elsewhere
- ✓ Important to ensure the plans' implementation (including contracts between state and municipalities)

Municipal level

- ✓ Would one juridical planning level, a “municipal plan”, be enough at the municipal level, and be scalable to the planning needs?
- ✓ Could it include both the development principles of land use and the section for steering the implementation?
- ✓ Could it be completed in stages or in sections?
- ✓ It is necessary to also reform the rules on so-called **partnership planning**



Source: KAMMI project / WSP



Schedule of the reform

- The term of the working group preparing the reform of the Land Use and Building Act is 1 May 2018–31 December 2021
- A draft for a government proposal in August 2020
- Round of comments on the government proposal draft in October and November 2020.
- Processing the comment feedback, finishing the draft for a government proposal and translating it in early 2021
- The government proposal for parliament early in the autumn term of 2021



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Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence

// Thank you

Juha Nurmi, Ministry of the Environment, Finland

This presentation will be made available at: www.espon.eu