

**Creativity and spatial planning** – *Klaus R. Kunzmann (Spatial Planning), School of Planning, University of Dortmund (Germany)*

Creativity has become a buzzword in the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, in business development as well as in urban development and spatial planning. No wonder, that books on creative cities respectively on creative industries, such as the ones written by Charles Landry and Richard Florida, have been very successful. While corporations and firms build on creativity to maintain their position in a globalising market, cities and regions are desperate to learn, how they could efficiently manage their urban or regional problems in times of market led economic development, deregulation and vanishing spatial justice. The challenges of the beginning 21<sup>st</sup> century are adding additional burden to local and regional governments. It seems that existing approaches and processes to urban spatial and economic development, to urban regeneration and rural development have become inadequate to cope with the manifold spatial implications of globalisation and technological changes. Do we need more creativity in spatial planning to address such challenges? When is spatial planning creative, when not? What are the structural obstacles and forces, which hamper creativity in planning, and who could, or should remove these obstacles? How can creativity in planning be enhanced and promoted at the various tiers of planning and decision-making in Europe? When is a city, a region creative? Who are the pioneers, the explorers and the moderators of creative action in cities and regions? Such questions will be explored in the paper.