Abstracts

from the Hebrew University. Ettinger previously worked at the environmental NGO 'Adam Teva V'din - The Israeli Union for Environmental Defense" as the director of the organization's Legal Aid Center. oriettinger@tauex.tau.ac.il

Sebastian Wallerstein is the director of the Israel Affordable Housing Center at the Faculty of Law, Tel-Aviv University. He has a BA in Economics and Political Science from Tel Aviv University and a M.Sc. in Urban and Regional Planning from the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology. Wallerstein has been working in research and policy promotion in the field of affordable housing and social aspects of urban development for more than a decade. In the past, he worked at the City of Bat Yam's Department of Urban Planning, where he was responsible for promoting urban-renewal plans and housing policies. seba@tauex.tau.ac.il

National Outline Plan One: Plan, Law, Language

Moti Kaplan

National Outline Plan One was prepared following a Government Decision in 2012: "Due to the proliferation of national outline plans..." accordingly "To bring about one plan, which will unite all the outline plans...simple and clearly". The plan's opening chapter presents general principles, definitions and planning arrangements that are common to all national planning chapters. The plan combines national outline plans on two topics: open areas (forests, nature reserves, streams, coasts) and infrastructure: water, energy, roads. Its language is simple, accessible, avoids details and sets rules that can be applied to specific cases. NOP One lays the golden path in national planning, combining development and conservation needs. Its approval marks maturity in planning discourse, mutual respect, and mediation between tensions. The plan added more than 70,000 hectares of protected open space, endorsed by the Ministries of Housing, Energy and Transport, and delineated national infrastructures supported by the "greens". Everyone put the country's needs before their own, not necessarily in the area of their remit. NOP One is not only on paper, but also in awareness. Over the years of preparation dozens of planners participated and were exposed to its language and process. Plans being made today in planning institutions adopt its language. Its clarity and conciseness may give the Israeli planning system a new face and spirit. The government approved NOP One on January 12, 2020. NOP One is done but not over. Many others are expected to follow. Hopefully, the process will continue, and all national outline plans will use its format and language.

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