



2-3 April 2026

Economic Foundations of Spatial and Master Planning

POLICY ANALYTICS LAB

United Nations Development Program | Ministry of Economy and Finance of Uzbekistan

Program Outline

Day 1

Session 1

Economic Analysis for Spatial Development

- Why cities matter: agglomeration, density, and productivity
- How master plans connect to economic outcomes — the framework
- What planning shapes: jobs, investment, competitiveness, decarbonisation
- The Uzbekistan context: urbanisation without productivity gains

Session 2

Data and Evidence for Spatial Economic Analysis

- Basic skills: pattern-seeking and use of evidence
- Building a strong narrative from data
- Quantitative and qualitative data sources
- Economic drivers: identifying what leads a local economy
- Stakeholder engagement: surveys, interviews, and participatory tools
- Principles of data visualisation for planners

Session 3

Economic Thinking in Urban Planning — Order without Design

- Planners vs economists: why the two professions see the same city differently
- Three economic concepts every planner must understand: cities as labour markets, land prices as signals, density as market outcome
- What markets determine vs. what planners can shape
- Core tensions between economic logic and planning practice
- Case studies from seven cities: regulations, housing, and infrastructure

Day 2

Session 4

Industrial Urbanism – Integrating Industry into Urban Development

- The role of industry in urban economic development
- How master plans can shape industrial development
- Industrial districts as drivers of employment, productivity, and innovation

Session 5

From Climate Plans to Climate Investment Making Climate Action Work in Cities

- Why climate action plans often sit outside the planning instruments that govern land use and investment
- Three conditions for integration: institutional home, fiscal connection to capital budgets, and project preparation capacity

Session 6

Governance and Implementation of Spatial Development Plans

- Why governance is what turns a plan into action
- Coordination, financing, and enforcement: the three pillars
- Special vehicles and implementation planning

Session 7

Skills for Planners and Closing Remarks

- Reading an economy before designing for it
- Connecting data and evidence to spatial decisions
- What good master planning looks like in practice