



ISOCARP
Knowledge for better Cities

ANNOUNCING

The 2014 Congress of the International Society of City and Regional Planners

50th ISOCARP

**International Planning Congress
Urban Transformations - Cities and Water**

GDYNIA, POLAND, 23-26 SEPTEMBER 2014





Invitation from the President of the International Society of City and Regional Planners

For the fiftieth time in ISOCARP's history, planners, policy makers, architects and all those who are involved in "place making" from all over the world, will get together to exchange their ideas, thoughts and visions, and share their experience and knowledge about the challenging issues of urban development and growth. This year's conference, focusing on the relationship of cities and water, opens the opportunity to explore different aspects of the newly arising issues of urban development, and the inherent relationship between urban design, economic development, infrastructure development, social and environmental sustainability, and governance. The themes are timely chosen as many cities around the world are challenged with these issues in a different and previously not experienced way, or with newly emerging questions which were not present in earlier times.

This 50th Congress is about a changing world and about changing planning practice. ISOCARP will welcome cutting edge presentations from international experts, papers from planners from all around the world, contributions from different disciplines, and will open the floor to all in a unique atmosphere of collegiality and friendship. The participants will enjoy sessions especially designed for this occasion, like "The Waterfront Planning Marathon", "Educational Planning Forum", Young Planning Professionals Workshop, and other professional meetings and events.

The 50th ISOCARP Congress will mark the beginning of the 50th ISOCARP Anniversary Celebrations. It was in Amsterdam in 1965 when ISOCARP was founded by a group of international planners who recognized the significance of the changes going on at the time, and an emerging need for international exchange, knowledge creation and sharing. We will start celebrating the Anniversary on the occasion of the 50th ISOCARP Congress in Gdynia by inviting our past presidents to join us and share their memories about the past of the Society, as well as their visions and ideas about the future of cities and our profession.

In 2014 the Congress is being hosted in the City of Gdynia, a city which is recognized for its contribution to the planning discipline and for their strive for innovation, change and making their city sustainable and liveable. Gdynia is located in the spectacular and breathtaking environment of the Baltic Sea and is among the leading cities in the northern region of Poland. This Congress will also provide a unique opportunity to learn more about Poland, and visit the UNESCO heritage sites on the post congress tours.

Milica Bajic-Brkovic
President of ISOCARP



Welcome from the Deputy Mayor of Gdynia

Called a city made of the sea and dreams, Gdynia was founded in the 1920s shortly after Poland regained its independence. The Polish territory was only a small stretch of the Baltic coastline. There was no seaport. With the decision of the Polish authorities to build the port, the original small fishing village with a history of several hundred years and a summer destination as well, was quickly turned into a major city with a thriving maritime industry. It became home to one of the Baltic's biggest commercial seaports, sea fisheries, shipbuilding and a military port. All

this was made possible thanks to the efforts of people coming from the far ends of Poland pursuing their dream of a home of their own. To make this dream a reality they worked hard, putting in long hours, learning new trades and taking root in new surroundings so different from the ones they left behind. That is how Gdynia was made.

Today 88 years after Gdynia was granted city rights it is still a magnet for people from all parts of Poland pursuing their dreams here. While still supportive of their plans, the city is offering a much broader range of opportunities, going beyond the maritime industries. Gdynia boasts a thriving knowledge-based economy with IT, electronics, electrotechnology, biotechnology, industrial design and optics. It is also home to the traditional industries such as steel construction, including off-shore wind farms, the production of highly specialised vessels, ship repairs and food processing. With a dense business support network, the city offers financial services, insurance and advice. As well as offering jobs and business opportunities, the best in the country, the city attracts new inhabitants thanks to its other advantages. It has the best primary and secondary schools, universities and a dazzling culture, recreation and sports offer for the whole family.

Being a coastal city, Gdynia's offer comes complete with a commercial seaport, military port, small fishing marinas, a marina, managed and lifeguarded beaches, wild beaches, seaside promenade and a coastal nature reserve. The biggest challenge the town planners are facing are areas near the city centre phasing out their port functions.





We are looking for ways to develop them and incorporate in the urban tissue. We hope that the discussions at the congress on the mutual relations between cities and the waters around them will inspire new solutions in addressing the challenges we are facing. We also hope and promise to do our best to ensure that the time our visitors will be spending in Gdynia will be enjoyable, interesting and first of all worthwhile.

Marek Stępa, Ph.D., Eng., Arch.
Deputy Mayor of Gdynia
Chairman, Local Organizing Committee of the Congress

Join us at the International Planning Congress - Urban Transformations: Cities and Water

Planners who want to be updated, have the opportunity to present their work or research, and are eager to establish new cooperations, will not miss this congress.

Once a year, somewhere around the globe, leading professionals from the private, public and academic sectors from many countries over all continents meet at the annual ISOCARP congress, to discuss the most recent and challenging planning issues faced these days. This year we will all meet in Gdynia to discuss the theme "Urban Transformations - Cities and Water". Water is everywhere. Water related issues are significant in planning of any type and scale. All cities around the world were built along waterways, or along a coast of an ocean, sea or lake. The multifaceted relationships between urban planning and water has structured and influenced the development of metropolitan areas, cities, towns, rural areas, villages, and even neighborhoods throughout history and will always do so. The congress opens the opportunity to touch all aspects of urbanity and the inherent relationships between the urban planning and water issues, from all angles, in all disciplines, and various scales.



Urban planners, environmentalists, sociologists, infrastructure planners, economists, river restoration planners and managers, decision makers, researchers and other professionals will enlighten their aspects and views. Speakers will present and discuss plans, projects, case studies, researches, evaluations, theories and methodologies. These will blend across different topics and will demonstrate how comprehensive, complex and fascinating planning is as a bridge between theory and practice. This congress is expected to prove again how interventions involve multilevel, collaborative, cross-border and trans-disciplinary approaches.

We are all expected to be amazed how global, wide, comprehensive and acute the relationships between cities and water are, both in areas which are blessed with sustainable water resources, and in areas which suffer from severe water shortage or floods. The broad picture, drawn by the individuals during the conference, will hopefully provide every one of us with awareness, knowledge, knowhow, tools, sensitivity, and passion to face these challenges in our daily professional life.

The program will include plenary sessions, concurrent sessions with more than 100 papers, workshops, special sessions, social and cultural events and of course a tour of Gdynia and its vicinity. The concurrent sessions will be divided into 6 "open margins" tracks, with some overlaps between them, due to the interdisciplinary nature of planning: Urban Design, Landscape and Livable Cities; Social Aspects, Collaborations and Governance; Economic, Leisure and Tourism Aspects; Water Management; Environment, Ecosystem and Climate Change; Ports, Transportation and Infrastructures. Details on the possible topics of each track can be found on the conference's website.

Don't miss this opportunity. Please submit a paper and join us, or come as a participant.

Amos Brandeis
Architecture, Urban & Regional Planning Ltd, Israel
General Rapporteur, ISOCARP Congress 2014

The 50th ISOCARP Congress in Gdynia in September 2014

The last ISOCARP Congress was held in Brisbane, Australia. It was a very successful event that gathered international delegates from all over the world and was a unique opportunity to discuss the theme of Frontiers of Planning. Previous congresses took place in Russia, China and Kenya.

Now, the 50th International Planning Congress is coming back to Europe and will be held in Gdynia, Poland. It will also open the Anniversary Celebrations of 50 years of ISOCARP, which will conclude during the 2015 Congress, when ISOCARP will return to its roots – the Netherlands.



The General Rapporteur – Amos Brandeis – and the Congress Team will ensure that there will be the best possible selection of papers presented by the authors. Together with keynote speakers, invited guests and special sessions participants will explore various areas and scales of the congress theme.

This congress will address the issues of urban transformation. Gdynia developed as a port city and its relation to water is deeply rooted in its history. And being developed rapidly over the last century, undergoing the transformation of the political change in Poland, the congress topic could not have found a better venue to be discussed.

The 2014 ISOCARP Congress in Gdynia will definitely be one not to miss – and one to remember.

Slawomir Ledwon
Vice President Congresses and Events
ISOCARP

Present a paper at the 2014 ISOCARP Congress
Information and deadlines will be posted on the Congress website:
2014.isocarp.org

50 th ISOCARP International Planning Congress Gdynia Preliminary Program						
	22.9.14 Monday	23.9.14 Tuesday	24.9.14 Wednesday	25.9.14 Thursday	26.9.14 Friday	27.9.14- 1.10.14
09:00-11:00	Registration all day	Opening Plenary Welcomes Introduction YPP presentation	Plenary The Big Waterfronts Planning Marathon	Plenary Winners of ISOCARP Awards for Excellence Presentations	Plenary Keynote speeches	Post Congress Tours
11:00-11:30		Coffee	Coffee	Coffee	Coffee	
11:30-13:30	Tour of Gdynia	Plenary Keynote speeches	Parallel	Parallel	Closing plenary Conclusions Congress Team Congress 2015	
13:30-14:30		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
14:30-16:30		Plenary Presentation of Gdynia: Port & Waterfront	Parallel	Parallel	ISOCARP Annual General Meeting	
16:30-17:00		Coffee	Coffee	Coffee		
17:00-19:00	ISOCARP Bureau meeting	Educational Planning Forum special session	ISOCARP Activities Happy Hour (YPPs, UPATs, Projects)	Launch of the 50 th Anniversary Celebrations Acknowledgement of ISOCARP founders & former Presidents		
19:00-		Welcome reception	FREE / Special session	FREE / Special session	Conference Gala Dinner and Awards	

Plenary Sessions Parallel Sessions Tours Other activities

General structure of 2014 ISOCARP Congress

ABOUT ISOCARP

The International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) is a global association of experienced professional planners. It was founded in 1965 in a bid to bring together recognised and highly-qualified planners in an international network. The ISOCARP network brings together individual and institutional members from more than 80 countries worldwide.

As a non-governmental organisation ISOCARP is recognised by the UN, UNHCS and the Council of Europe. The Society also has a formal consultative status with UNESCO.

The objectives of ISOCARP include the improvement of planning practice through the creation of a global and active network of practitioners. ISOCARP encourages the exchange of professional knowledge between planners, promotes the planning profession in all its forms, stimulates and improves planning research,

training and education and enhances public awareness and understanding of major planning issues at a global level.

The association's main event is the annual World Congress which focuses on a globally-significant planning theme and which takes place in a different country each year.

Prior to the congress Young Planning Professional workshops are organised. This YPP programme seeks to bring together emerging young planning professionals from all over the world to tackle 'real-world' planning projects.

ISOCARP Urban Planning Advisory teams (UPATs) assist partner organisations by offering the extensive experience and expertise of ISOCARP members to work on important local or international planning projects, programs and policy initiatives.

ABOUT GDYNIA

Gdynia is a city and an important seaport on the Baltic Sea in Northern Poland. Together with Gdansk, Sopot and the neighboring communities it forms a metropolitan area which is called a Tri-City, with a population of one million people. Gdynia was founded in the 1920s as a result of a particular political situation after the First World War. At that time Gdynia was a small, picturesque, fishing village with about 1,000 inhabitants. During the 1920s and 1930s the largest seaport of interwar Poland came into being and in 1939, just before WW II, Gdynia port became the most modern and one of the biggest harbours on the Baltic Sea. In the vicinity of the port the small village of Gdynia quickly transformed into a dynamically developing city, the population increased to 120,000. Today Gdynia is a modern and vibrant city, beautifully situated within a scenic coastal landscape, with a population of a quarter of a million.

The oldest part of the city, planned and built in the interwar period, is a listed monument of urban and architectural ideas of those times. The port as well as the maritime industries have remained fundamental for the city economy. Gdynia port is still busy, provides regular ferry connections with the Baltic countries. The city is known as Poland's sailing capital, hosting numerous international races. Gdynia is also a place where the Headquarter of the Polish Navy is located. The Representative Navy Band is a popular and loud element of city life.

Gdynia is a young and vibrant city, well-known for having museums, theatres, and numerous cultural events in its offer.

Considered the best of the major European festivals by both fans and experts, the Heineken Open'er Festival, is the biggest music event held in the city. More than one hundred thousand people from all over the continent come to that four-day event each year. Other important events include: Ladies' Jazz Festival and Globaltica World Cultures Festival or the Polish Film Festival - the most important annual event in Polish cinematography.

As a result of the advancement in port technology, several dozen hectares of land was set free for new development, attractively located in close vicinity of the existing city centre and the waterfront. The planned expansion to the post-harbour areas will double the current potential of the city centre, enlarge the scope of representative, public spaces and change the panorama seen from the historic city center and from the sea.

Both, history and the present redevelopment processes of the city make it an ideal place for discussing urban transformations and celebrating urbanity. The unique location of the city directly on the Gdansk bay, its attractiveness, the changes in the city center and waterfront, the port, and its vibrant character, makes the theme of the congress most appropriate for Gdynia, as water has always played the key role in its development.

Highlights of the 2014 ISOCARP Congress

- Listen to world leading keynote speakers, concentrating mainly on "Urban Transformations," and choose from over 100 presentations in parallel sessions.
- Meet high profile planners from over 50 countries worldwide, and establish new collaborations and friendships.
- Present your paper to a huge variety of professionals from the private, public and academic sectors, and have a chance to be chosen as a "Track Keynote Speaker".
- Discuss, learn and be updated about the most recent and challenging planning issues faced these days.
- Join special plenary sessions as "The Waterfront Planning Marathon", "Educational Planning Forum", "Launch of the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of ISOCARP", "Winners of ISOCARP Awards for Excellence Presentations".
- Enjoy a rich cultural and entertainment program, including receptions, gala dinner, and a partners program.
- Enjoy the wonderful hospitality of the unique Port and Waterfront city Gdynia.
- Use the opportunity to explore Poland, experience urban transformations and vibrant cities, and visit UNESCO world heritage sites, on the post congress tours.

SEE YOU IN GDYNIA!

For information visit the Congress website:

2014.isocarp.org