



Being the last UPAT of the year and taking place in mid-October, the Limmat Valley area was the witness of a very different way of using this consultancy tool established by ISOCARP.

As an initiative of ISOCARP member Bernd Scholl, a team of experts was selected to work on a master plan for the Limmat Valley area, near Zurich. The main difference of this exercise from previous UPATs is that the "local planning team" that gave the UPAT members the general vision and received their feedback was a group of five doctoral students at ETH Zurich. This group is working under the guidance of Dr. Scholl as Chair of Spatial Planning and Development and, since late 2007, has been dealing with urban planning aspects using the Limmat Valley as case study or area of experiment.

For this UPAT, Peter Jonquiere was selected as a team leader for his experience in the programme and his knowledge of regional development. The rest of the team as usual was an international selection of experts, in this case focused on urban planning and design, transportation planning and development, regional and spatial development, landscape and

environmental planning and regional economy.

The first glimpse of the Limmat Valley to the ISOCARP experts was given through the PhD students, who presented the area in an integral way, with both their challenges and highlights. After one day of intense work at the University, the team was taken to get to know the region through a field trip, which allowed getting familiar with the differences that can be seen in the area.

The Limmat Valley has been faced with powerful development pressure from Zurich, transforming it into an increasingly urbanized part of the Zurich Metropolitan Region in the last decades. This development, however, poses growing threats to the valley's functional and ecological capacities and to the local quality of life.

In addition to what the student team could present, a group of regional stakeholders was also invited to help the UPAT team to get a general idea of what the local inhabitants would like to make of a region that has not yet been given a definitive mission, but is constantly changing through exterior pressure.

After the meetings and in-field experiences, the team was divided to start working on a Master Plan that included the views of all the ISOCARP experts summoned to the activity. The results were a series of recommendations that also included an evaluation of the hypothesis that the

PhD students have been working on related to the area.

At the end of the week, the members of the UPAT presented a general vision of a Master Plan to the PhD students and the local stakeholders, to incorporate both strengths and weaknesses of the Limmat Valley and generate in the long run a better perspective for the inhabitants and those that might come in the future.

The results especially concentrated on the idea of giving the Limmat Valley a strong sense of identity: being divided between two cantons and with no political body that represents the interest of a geographically clear space, it is necessary to identify a common vision to ensure a coherent growth in the following years.

The experience of reuniting PhD students with experts from all over the world had great results for everybody involved in this UPAT – it mixed the usual rigid structure and discipline of student life and research with the healthy vision of reality that the ISOCARP members brought in, each one of them with different geographical experience.

Moreover, this UPAT was observed by Ms. Janine Marin, representative of ISOCARP at UNESCO, to give a full report on how with this kind of initiatives the Society gets involved in the possibility of making a better life – more respectful of Human Rights – by understanding cities and regions as integral spaces for development. ❖



#### Team Leader

- Peter Jonquiere (Netherlands)

#### Team Members

- Brigitte Schmelzer (Germany)  
- Dirk Engelke (Germany)  
- Khalid El Adli (Egypt)  
- Dhiru Thadani (India/USA)  
- Parysatis Papadopoulou (Greece)  
- Tom de Wit (Netherlands)

#### Corresponding Expert

- Max Van der Berg (Netherlands)

#### UNESCO observer for ISOCARP

- Janine Marin (France)

#### Local Planning Team – PhD Team

- Felix Günter (Switzerland)  
- Yose Kadrin (Indonesia)

- Markus Nollert (Germany)

- Florian Stellmacher (Germany)

- Ilaria Tossoni (Italy)

#### Young Planning Professionals

- Reto Nebel (Switzerland)  
- Matthias Loepfe (Switzerland)  
- David Rubinstein (Israel)  
- Tobias Winiger (Switzerland)

#### Local Coordinator

Dr. Bernd Scholl – ETH Zurich  
(Germany/Switzerland)

#### UPAT Programme Manager

Cinthya Uribe-Sandoval (Mexico/Spain)

#### UPAT Programme VP

Ismael Fernández (Mexico)