



# ISOCARP

Knowledge for better Cities

## International Society of City and Regional Planners

### Congress Policy 01: **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST** 2017 and beyond



#### **ISOCARP Congress Policy 01 Expression of Interest** **Issue 01.4, March 2015**

To be updated to maintain currency.

Comments and questions are welcome: [ISOCARP@isocarp.org](mailto:ISOCARP@isocarp.org).

Please check for the latest version.

The International Society of City and Regional Planners  
invites national, regional and city governments, planning  
agencies, universities and research institutions to submit an

## Expression of Interest

to host a future ISOCARP Congress

### Contacts

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### ISOCARP: Knowledge for better cities

The International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) is a global network of city and regional planners, creating and sharing knowledge for better cities, promoting education and planning practice, and supporting city and regional planners in all places and all fields of activity – professional practice, administration, policy making, teaching and research.

Founded in 1965, ISOCARP is structured through national delegations in more than 80 countries, with the Head Office in The Hague and liaison offices in key locations such as Beijing, Nairobi and Brussels. ISOCARP's governing body, the Executive Committee, is elected by the members. The current committee includes leading practitioners, policy makers and academics from East and West Europe, North Africa, East Asia and South Asia, North America and Latin America, and Australia.

ISOCARP is recognised by the UN, UNHCS and the Council of Europe and has a formal consultative status with UNESCO. ISOCARP was one of the founding members of the Habitat Professionals Forum at Habitat II in Istanbul in 1996. ISOCARP is represented at major international events related to sustainable urban planning. ISOCARP is member of the Steering Committee of UN HABITAT's World Urban Campaign and is a frequent organizer of networking events at the World Urban Forum. ISOCARP is a partner organisation of key events such as the World Bank, IADB, ICLEI, the Global City Forum in Abu Dhabi and the World Cities Summit in Singapore, amongst others.

ISOCARP is well known for its Young Planning Professionals (**YPP**) program, enabling international teams of Young Planning Professionals to work intensively and creatively on real-world planning projects, in partnership with leading universities. Also gaining recognition is ISOCARP's Urban Planning Advisory Team (**UPAT**) program, in which international Urban Planning Advisory Teams

work with city governments and other partners to provide rapid high-level advice on complex urban problems. Both programs can provide unique benefits to ISOCARP's local partners.

ISOCARP conducts an Awards program recognising excellence in planning and each year, together with other planning organisations, celebrates World Planning Day on 8 November. Steadily gaining a high reputation for its international and grounded perspective on urban issues is the annual publication *ISOCARP Review*.

ISOCARP's main event is the annual World Congress, which focuses on a planning theme of foremost international interest. The Congress takes place in a different city every year, preferably on a different continent. ISOCARP has held congresses on vital topics in the field of city and regional planning since 1965. Combining a unique, triple perspective in theory, policy and practice, ISOCARP has pioneered the focus of the planning profession on issues such as regional urban planning (1966), urban regeneration (1981), planning for land and water (1998), the creative economy (2005), low carbon cities (2009) and frontiers of planning (2013). Congresses have been held around the world, from Istanbul to Dalian, from the Azores to Sydney, from Guadalajara to Jerusalem. The common language for communication used by ISOCARP's worldwide membership and Congress participants is English, with simultaneous translation being provided by the Congress host organisation as appropriate.

### 50 YEARS OF THE ANNUAL ISOCARP WORLD CONGRESS

1965	Amsterdam, Holland	The Position of The Netherlands in a Uniting Europe	1991	Guadalajara, Mexico	Planning for Leisure: The Challenge of Tourism
1966	Coimbra, Portugal	Urban Development in the Region	1992	Cordoba, Spain	Cultural Identities
1967	Lyon, France	Text Programme of ISOCARP	1993	Glasgow, Scotland	Cities, Regions and Well-Being
1969	Dusseldorf, Germany	Integration of Public Transport in Town Planning Policy	1994	Prague, Czech Republic	Expanding Demands on Planning
1970	Aix-en-Provence, France	Education of the Planner	1995	Sydney, Australia	Adaptation and Mediation in Urban Planning
1971	Antwerp, Belgium	Physical and Economic Planning	1996	Jerusalem, Israel	Migration and the Global Economy
1972	Gothenburg, Sweden	Visual Qualities of the Built-Up Environment	1997	Ogaki, Japan	Risk Assessment and Management
1973	Zurich, Switzerland	Integration and Segregation in Urban Land Activities	1998	Azores, Portugal	Planning for Land and Water
1974	Munich, Germany	Urban Planning and Political Decisions	1999	Gelsenkirchen, Germany	The Future of Industrial Regions
1975	Edinburgh, Scotland	Planning for Our Inheritance	2000	Cancun, Mexico	People's Empowerment in Planning
1976	Helsinki, Finland	Demands on Land	2001	Utrecht, Holland	Planning in the Information Age
1977	Athens, Greece	Change and Urban Structure	2002	Athens, Greece	The Pulsar Effect in Urban Planning
1978	Montreal, Canada	Evolution of Urban and Regional Planning	2003	Cairo, Egypt	Planning in a More Globalised and Competitive World
1979	Strasbourg, France	France Planning and Energy	2004	Geneva, Switzerland	Management of Urban Regions
1980	Tunis, Tunisia	Planning and Education	2005	Bilbao, Spain	Making Spaces for the Creative Economy
1981	Stockholm, Sweden	Renaissance of the City. How?	2006	Istanbul, Turkey	Cities between Integration and Disintegration
1982	Istanbul, Turkey	Habitat for All: What is the Solution?	2007	Antwerp, Belgium	Urban Dialogues
1983	Amsterdam, Holland	Implementation of Planning: The Partners	2008	Dalian, China	Urban Growth without Sprawl
1984	Braga, Portugal	Implementation of Planning: Agents of Action	2009	Porto, Portugal	Low Carbon Cities
1985	Berlin, Germany	Implementation of Planning: Non Governmental Actions	2010	Nairobi, Kenya	Sustainable City / Development World
1986	Paris, France	Research for Urban Planning Practice	2011	Wuhan, China	Liveable Cities: Urbanising World, Meeting the Challenge
1987	New Delhi, India	Shelter for the Homeless	2012	Perm, Russia	Fast Forward: Planning in a (Hyper) Dynamic Urban Context
1988	Taormina, Italy	Urban and Metropolitan Peripheries	2013	Brisbane, Australia	New Frontiers of Planning
1989	Basel, Switzerland	Communication Technology and Mobility	2014	Gdynia, Poland	Urban Transformations - Cities and Water
1990	Warsaw, Poland	The Environment and the City	2015	Netherlands, Belgium, Germany	Cities Save the World – Let's Reinvent Planning

**High quality scientific content**

Each year, ISOCARP’s Scientific Committee scans the horizon for the issues that will challenge governments, international agencies and planners. The Committee’s annual ISOCARP Statement reflects leading thinking on these issues, and identifies governments, universities, institutions and planners making significant contributions to addressing these challenges.

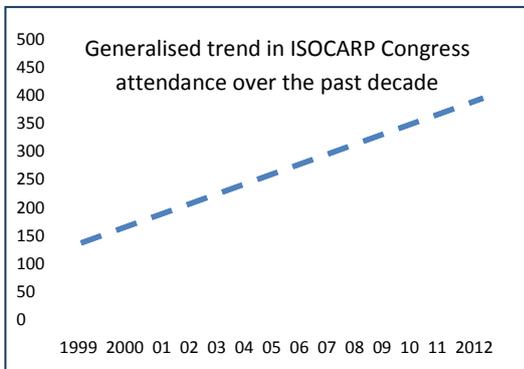
The Statement provides ISOCARP, in partnership with the host cities, with the starting point for planning a Congress around these challenges, for inviting leading thinkers to speak at the Congress, and for inviting planners working on, or interested in, these issues to present a paper and/or come and enjoy both the intellectual and social rewards of the Congress. Host cities are encouraged to apply the core themes of the Congress to their local circumstances, and to make their own unique contribution to the topics.

In delivering the annual Congress, ISOCARP’s Executive Committee is represented by the Vice President who holds the Congress and Events portfolio. The latter is responsible for working closely with the local partner to ensure that the professional content of the Congress is of the highest standard, and the experience enjoyed by delegates to the Congress is as rewarding as possible. In this task Vice President Congresses and Events, also accompanied (but not limited to) by the following ExCo members: Secretary General (sponsorship), Treasurer (budget and expenditures) and VP Young Planning Professionals.

ISOCARP appoints a Congress Team led by the General Rapporteur, to prepare, develop and deliver the intellectual, scientific and technical content of the Congress in close collaboration with the Vice President (Congress), the Local Organising Committee (LOC), and the Scientific Committee. The most important element in the content of the Congress is the line-up of invited speakers, drawn from the researchers, thinkers, agencies and planning practices that are doing the most interesting and significant work on the Congress topics.



“The ISOCARP Congress in Perm was an important event for the community of city planners in Russia...”  
 – Professor Mark Meerovich, Irkutsk State Technical University, Russia



The Congress Team comprises two Co-Chairs for each of the tracks to which submitted papers are allocated – generally, a team of ten people. Individuals representing the skills, diversity and geographical distribution of the ISOCARP membership, and reflecting gender equality, are nominated to join the Congress Team by the General Rapporteur, approved by the Local Organising Committee, and recommended to the Executive Committee by VP Congress. This ensures that submitted papers are selected on merit, organised into coherent parallel sessions, and delivered in sessions that run to time and generate lively discussion amongst those present. Recent ISOCARP Congresses have offered delegates a choice of over 100 submitted papers on Congress topics and on current planning theory, research and practice, organised into five parallel sessions across three mornings and/or afternoons.

The authors of these papers are practising planners who wish to share their experience with fellow planners from around the world, policy makers with innovations to discuss with a wider audience, researchers with findings relevant to planning and academic practice, and those with something important to say on the topics of the Congress. For all of these, and particularly for junior practitioners, policy makers and researchers, the ISOCARP Congress is a stimulating and productive

setting in which to explore ideas and experiences. In such a setting, new collaborations develop and lasting friendships are formed.

ISOCARP Congresses have historically been held in the months of September and October. Attendance has doubled in the past decade, to around an average of about 350 registrations. Typically, about two thirds are international delegates and one third come from the host country.

The nature of the delegates varies with every Congress, but at recent Congresses planning practitioners have made up about 35% of the total audience; academics, about 25%; public sector and planning administrations, about 20%; and representatives of planning associations and of industry, about 8% each. It is this diversity of interests representing the breadth of the planning world, together with the broadest international participation, that makes the ISOCARP Congress such a distinctive and stimulating event.

### The Congress Exhibition

An exhibition is held in conjunction with the Congress, offering a unique and commercially valuable opportunity for the promotion of current planning achievements to an international audience. The exhibition is one of many ways in which partner organisations, sponsoring agencies, and sponsors from planning practice and industry can interact with an international and local community of planners and interest groups – and in the process enrich the content and activities of the Congress.

At previous Congresses, the following types of organisations have participated in the exhibition:

- Public sector, including national, regional and local authorities, municipal urban planning departments, NGOs, and international organizations;
- Private sector, including planning consultancies, infrastructure solution suppliers, construction, software, other industry;
- Academic institutions, including universities, research centres, publishing houses;
- ISOCARP activities, including the ISOCARP Awards for Excellence Winners, YPPs, and ND activities.

Apart from commercial exhibitions there a display of ISOCARP projects and achievements, YPP programme results as well as authors’ posters.

### Rich experience for delegates – and organisers

The Congress program includes plenary sessions with keynote speakers; YPP and UPAT presentations; semi-plenary technical seminars, partners’ and special sessions; parallel scientific sessions for submitted papers; an exhibition; an education forum; workshops and side events; technical tours, post congress tours and social events such as receptions and dinners. Before the Congress the YPP Workshop takes place. There are also the ISOCARP Annual General Meeting and Bureau Meeting. Apart from that there should be room in the programme for partner and sponsor presentations (to be decided depending on the actual conditions).

	Day One	Day Two	Day Three	Day Four	
Young Planning Professionals (YPP) team arrives five days prior for YPP Project	Technical tours Registration Pre-Congress meetings and events	Five parallel sessions 9:00-10:30; 11:00-12:30	Five parallel sessions 9:00-10:30; 11:00-12:30	Five parallel sessions 9:00-10:30; 11:00-12:30	
		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
Pre-Congress tours	Coffee in the foyer <b>Opening plenary</b>	<b>Tuesday Plenary</b> 1:30-3:00; 3:30-5:00	<b>Wednesday Plenary</b> 1:30-3:00; 3:30-5:00	<b>ISOCARP General Meeting</b>	Post-Congress tours begin
Registration	Keynotes on major theme YPP* presentation	Seminars, meetings, delegates’ events	Seminars, meetings, delegates’ events	<b>Final plenary</b> Closing ceremonies	
ISOCARP ExCo meeting	6:00 <b>Welcome reception</b>	Evening cultural event	Free	6:30 Awards ceremony <b>Congress dinner</b>	
<b>Simplified general structure of the Congress in 2012</b>					

Although each Congress may arrive at a specific program to provide the best environment for the scientific sessions and the best experience for delegates, the above outline of the Congress schedule in 2012 (at which over 100 authors presented papers in five tracks) provides an indication of the diversity and interest in the Congress program. Delegates at the Congress came from over forty countries. For each congress a detailed programme is proposed, which may vary from the abovementioned outline.



Three further elements enrich the Congress and are essentially unique to ISOCARP:

- In partnership with a local university and/or planning agency, a young planning professional (YPP) team from around the world carry out a real-world YPP project in the days before the Congress, and collectively present the outcomes to a plenary session of the Congress.
- If possible, in partnership with a city government or planning agency in the host country, an Urban Planning Advisory Team (UPAT) is commissioned prior to the Congress, and presents its report to a plenary session.
- The annual *ISOCARP Review* is published to coincide with the Congress, carrying invited articles on the Congress theme and related issues.

ISOCARP's key partner for a Congress is the **Local Organising Committee**. The Local Organising Committee engages with the local and national planning community, government and industry. It mobilises resources, and gives the Congress a unique style and character. In doing so, the host organisation brings local and international attention to city and regional planning in their country.

#### Funding the Congress

The Congress is entirely self-funded. The costs of ISOCARP's extensive planning, content coordination, event management, delegate relations and promotional expenditure, and all local costs of venues and events, are fully funded from registration fees, exhibition fees, charges, grants and sponsorships. In principle, most of this is provided in-kind by partners and sponsors.

#### Expressions of interest in hosting the ISOCARP Congress

The ISOCARP Congress has been held in forty-six cities, large and small, at the invitation of a Local Organising Committee representing the ISOCARP National Delegation of that country and the city's planning community. The Congress brings to the city impressive keynote speakers, an international list of authors of cutting-edge scientific and practical papers, and members of the ISOCARP 'family'.

Host cities have found that it not only brings attention to their region and their planning work, but it creates and strengthens networks, and generates new levels of collaboration between members of the local planning community.

National, regional and city governments, planning agencies, universities, planning institutes and combinations of organisations, in collaboration with the National Delegation and possibly supported by major sponsors, are invited to submit an expression of interest in hosting the ISOCARP Congress in their city, in 2017 and beyond.



In **2015**, ISOCARP has decided to mark the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Society by returning to its roots, and holding the Congress in The Netherlands. It will be organised in a different format than usual, starting with workshops in 12 cities.

Those considering hosting a future ISOCARP Congress are very welcome to participate in this year's Congress, and to hold discussions with the hosts of recent and upcoming Congresses to gain insights into the challenges and rewards of welcoming the world's planners to their city.

There will be Congresses in **2017** and **2018** – organisations interested in hosting one of these should advise Head Office at [isocarp@isocarp.org](mailto:isocarp@isocarp.org) and discuss it with Slawomir Ledwon, VP Congress, at [ledwon@isocarp.org](mailto:ledwon@isocarp.org).

Expressions of interest will be received at any time for Congresses in more distant years. The most recent call for expressions of interest was issued on March 2015. It will remain open until formal bids are invited from selected cities.

#### **Bidding for selection as host city**

In accordance with an adopted bidding procedure, ISOCARP will invite formal bids from qualified organisations and consortia. ISOCARP has prepared a comprehensive bid manual for the guidance of the bidding and selection processes for future Congresses. The bid manual (*Congress Policy 03: Congress Bid Manual*) will be given to the selected bidders. Bids will be based on the bid manual, which contains operational details about venues, logistics and materials for the Congress.

The bids will be systematically evaluated, during which time bidding cities will have an opportunity to provide more information on request and to amplify and clarify aspects of their proposal. ISOCARP will select the host city against the criteria listed in the bid manual, and work closely with the local organising committee in the planning and promotion of the Congress. These arrangements will ultimately be confirmed in a formal agreement between ISOCARP and the host organisation.

Institutions interested in hosting a future ISOCARP Congress are invited to contact ISOCARP at any time so that we can enter into a conversation about aims, opportunities and possible timing. A guide for submitting an Expression of Interest is attached as Appendix 1.

## Appendix 1

### General guideline to matters that may be raised, in brief, in an Expression of Interest to host a future ISOCARP Congress

Organisations wishing to express their interest in hosting a future ISOCARP Congress are not asked to prepare a major document, but rather to send ISOCARP a detailed letter, or a covering letter and attachment(s), responding to ISOCARP's policy documents, Congress Policy 01: *Expression of Interest: 2017 and beyond* and Congress Policy 02: *Congress Finance*. Potential host organisations may wish to use this guideline as a template for their expression of interest.

#### Province/City/University/Ministry/Institute/..... of .....

#### Expression of Interest in hosting a future ISOCARP Congress

About the Host Organisation

Proposed year(s), location(s) and venue(s)

Advantages of this timing and location of the Congress

Benefits of holding the ISOCARP Congress in the Host City:

- benefits to ISOCARP
- benefits to local communities and local institutions
- benefits to city and regional planning generally

Brief outline of city and regional planning in the city, and the state of the planning profession:

- support for local planning profession and institutions through the Congress
- local support and involvement in the Congress
- bringing a special character to the ISOCARP Congress

Capacity to deliver an international conference of this kind:

- past experience
- financial backing
- facilities and technical resources
- language considerations
- support from partners and sponsors
- likely composition of the Local Organising Committee

Initial thoughts about technical, pre-Congress and post-Congress tours

Any other proposals:

- content of the Congress
- activities to enhance the experience of the international delegates

Proposals (if any) for possible themes or topics for the Congress

Responses (if any) to ISOCARP Congress Policy 01: *Expression of Interest: 2017 and beyond*

Responses (if any) to ISOCARP Congress Policy 02: *Financial Responsibilities*

Any other matters in support of the Expression of Interest