



NL Ministry VROM Workshop

Netherlands Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment (VROM) Workshop

13th to 15th October (arrival 12th October), Venue Bilbao Arte

The topic of this three-day workshop is "The Increase of International Competitiveness of the South Wing of the Randstad, The Netherlands". VROM invites Candidate Planners (10 places available) from around the world to join this hands-on Workshop (see further below for in-depth information)

PROGRAM

- This Candidate Planners' Workshop is held 3 days prior to the Congress in the Congress City.
- Comprises of a group of maximum 10 Candidate Planners from around the World.
- Congress participants are invited to attend a 45 minutes presentation of the findings of this VROM workshop.

Wednesday, [12th October](#) (Place: Albergue Bilbao Aterpetxea)
Arrival to Bilbao
Welcome Dinner

Thursday, [13th October](#) (Place, Bilbao Arte)
Morning
Introduction
Afternoon
Workshop

Friday, [14th October](#) (Place: Bilbao Arte)
All Day
Workshop

Saturday, [15th October](#) (Place: Bilbao Arte)
All Day
Workshop

Sunday, [16th October](#), Arrival Day Participants, (Place: Congress Venue Palacio Euskalduna)
Morning
Free
Afternoon
Walking Tour (with congress participants)
Pre-Congress Workshop (VROM & V&W) Presentations to Congress Participants
Evening
Pre-Congress UNESCO-ISoCaRP Workshop and Presentation to Congress Participants (15th Anniversary)
40th Anniversary ISoCaRP
Welcome Reception

Monday, [17 to Thursday, 20 October](#)
Main Congress, compulsory participation

Friday, [21st October](#): Departures
OR

Sunday, [23rd October](#): Departures (if registered to the Post Congress Mobile workshops, optional)

PROJECT THEME

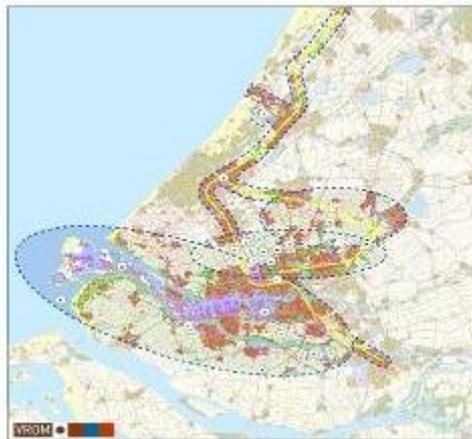
Increase the international economic competitiveness of the South Wing of the Randstad Holland, The Netherlands

Introduction

With its rich cultural history, its scenery and its strong mercantile tradition, Randstad Holland, in the western part of the Netherlands, has long defined the face of the nation. Nowadays this region is also the hub of the Netherlands' principal economic activities and international connections. This European region, with its variety of urban settings for business and commerce, is the engine of the Dutch economy. Today, economic processes are increasingly global in character, and networks and connections to other partners and participants are very important. New elements are introduced into worldwide competition. Cultural, social and environmental elements now stand alongside basic economic aspects as being relevant contributors to a strong and attractive climate for investment and location of business in the Netherlands. Transformation and adaptation are needed to anticipate these global changes.

Today, evidence suggests that in comparison with other competing regions, the economy of Randstad Holland is falling behind. Therefore, the economic infrastructure of the region must be strengthened. The Netherlands government wants to encourage the early development of large and complex spatial projects in four selected program-regions (South Wing; North Wing; the Green Heart; and the region Southeast of Brabant/North of Limburg). Selected themes and projects should fit into a broad governmental approach, and be capable of rapid realization.

The Ministry of Spatial Planning in the Netherlands has special responsibility for the further development of the southern part of Randstad Holland (the South Wing - see map below). Therefore, the workshop will focus on this sector. Two important questions face the South Wing...: how to achieve economic change; and how to create a more attractive living and social climate. We are therefore looking for innovative economic, social, cultural and environmental responses to current issues and problems in order to enhance the international economic competitiveness of the South Wing of the Randstad Holland.



Map: South Wing of Randstad Holland

South Wing of Randstad Holland

This area contains the Port of Rotterdam, Greenport Westland (glass horticulture) and the important international jurisdictional centre of The Hague. The region has more than a million inhabitants and can be regarded as one of the key economic centres of the Dutch economy. At the same time, the area faces a number of internal problems and challenges. Traffic is heavily congested. Internal and external accessibility is poor. Space is in short supply, hindering the achievement of many desired activities. Conservation of the green character of the surrounding area, and achieving the right balance between urbanization and landscape, are becoming increasingly difficult. Competition from other parts of the Netherlands seems to hinder further development, and weakens the area's position in the world market.

Additionally, there are external factors to be considered. The central economic heart of Europe is shifting eastwards due to the enlargement of the European Union. Further, the Netherlands is an exporting country, vulnerable to economic recession; and the strong currency makes our produce more expensive on world markets.

The Workshop

The main issue to be discussed in the workshop is how to overcome some of the above problems, and to

strengthen the overall position of the South Wing? The central question is: how to increase the international competitiveness of the South Wing of the Randstad Holland, and broaden its economic profile? There are other closely related questions to be examined. For example:

- How can the South Wing achieve the right balance between urbanization and landscape; and how can the South Wing be developed into an attractive cosmopolitan urban network?
- How can we make the most of the opportunities that the Randstad Holland offers? such as the strong global position of the Port of Rotterdam, the Green Heart (nature within a ring of conurbations); the Greenport's quality architecture and urban design (Rotterdam); the rich accumulation of knowledge in the universities of Rotterdam and Delft, and in the institutions within the great knowledge corridor of Leiden-The Hague-Delft-Rotterdam); and finally, the benefits of water and coastline.
- What actions are needed – and at which level of government (European/ national/ regional/ provincial/ local)? Is it sufficient to stimulate and facilitate economic activity, accessibility and create attractive living areas? Is the building of more facilities and attractions for higher income groups a priority? Should we abandon further harbour and port investment and switch to the pursuit of strong alliances with neighbouring harbours port cities like Amsterdam, Antwerp and Hamburg? How can we build stronger connections between firms based on knowledge and innovative techniques, universities and cultural activities?

There is a link between the Candidate Planners Workshop and the ISOCARP 2005 congress theme 'Spaces for the Creative Economy'. The Randstad South Wing enjoys a high reputation in terms of its performance in the "creative economy". It is likely, therefore, that strategies linking culture, economy and technology, knowledge and innovation may be successful.

Currently, a departmental project is running on this subject. Input from Candidate Planners with knowledge of and experience with conurbation issues would be helpful at this stage and may inspire us to think about new ways of strengthening the international competitiveness of the (South Wing of) the Randstad Holland with an emphasis on the role of creativity in the economy and urbanized areas.

What does VROM expect from the workshop participants?

The NL Ministry VROM expects candidates to bring enthusiasm to the task of dealing with the subject matter, and a willingness to devise strategies in a group of candidate planners from around the world. In preparing for the workshop itself, VROM requests that the chosen candidates invest in finding out what their country is doing in order to improve its position in world markets.

- What is their government doing to counteract negative environmental effects?
- What are the key success factors in the international competitive position of your country or an important city in your surrounding area that is a strong driving force in the national economy in your country?
- In the case of candidates coming from a country that is geographically large, VROM suggests a focus on the nearest major economic centre.

What can workshop participants expect?

After selection, candidates will receive more information about the Case of the South Wing of Randstad Holland for reading in advance of the workshop, and have to prepare information (in photo, film or text) on a similar case in their own country. During the workshop itself, they will be asked to present this information.

From those presentations, we will try to draw up some general conclusions on the way to proceed, and then turn our minds to the particular case of the Netherlands.

In groups of three or four people, workshop participants will develop a strategy to be presented to the Congress participants of the ISOCARP Congress 2005. The results of their work will also be collected for presentation in a booklet, CD ROM or other format for the use of the Dutch research group in the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment.

DEFINITION CANDIDATE

In order to qualify for participation in the Candidate Planners workshop you have to meet the following criteria:

- Age below 35 years
- Professional background:
 - 5 years of professional experience
 - or 3 years of professional experience + master student
 - or 3 years of professional experience + PhD student
 - or 2 years of professional experience + Master or PhD degree
- A background in planning, design, regional economics or geography, or architectural studies is desirable
- Personal experience and education focusing on the special theme of the workshop will also be considered in the selection process of Candidate Planners.

Definition Complete Application (Criteria for Admission):

(1) Application Form*

(2) Curriculum Vitae

(3) Recommendation (by an ISoCaRP member or employer or University's Professor) Letter

(4) Abstract according to the congress theme related to the Congress Theme to be submitted on the Case Study Platform* (see Call for Papers and Authors' Platform)

SELECTION of CANDIDATES

- The Programme is coordinated by a representative of the VROM Ministry, an ISoCaRP Vice President and by an ISoCaRP Member.
- All three co-ordinators are responsible for the selection of the candidates.
- In relation to the above-mentioned criteria: candidate's education (2) and the recommendation (3), the coordinators will also take into consideration the submitted abstract (4) showing the candidate's expertise in planning and his/her abilities of expression.
- VROM and ISoCaRP further strive at a selection with a view to:
 - An equal participation per continent
 - an equal representation of males and females
 - a representation of different planning related disciplines

DEFINITION PARTICIPATION (Various options of participation)

Because ISoCaRP handles a.o. the criterion that a candidate has to submit an abstract related to the congress theme, three options for participation are possible:

1. The Congress General Rapporteur and his Team might choose a candidate, only. In which case:
 - Participation to this Candidate Planners Workshop is NOT invited
 - Participation to the main congress is invited at a reduced fee (see Registrations, Candidate Planners)Sponsoring cannot be considered
 2. A Candidate might be chosen by the Coordinators, only. In which case:
 - Participation at a special reduced fee to both this VROM workshop and to the main congress is invitedSponsoring can be considered (see support)
 3. A Candidate might be chosen and invited by the Coordinators, the Congress General Rapporteur and his Team.
 - In which case:
 - Participation at a special reduced fee to both this VROM workshop and to the main congress is invitedPresentation of the full invited paper in one of the main Congress Parallel Sessions* is compulsory
- Sponsoring is considered (see support)

*Considering the link between the VROM Workshop theme and the main Congress theme, applicants are advised to submit their abstract in view to combining the required above-mentioned pre-study for this VROM workshop and the possible invitation for a full paper for presentation in one of the main congress workshops.

DEFINITION AGREEMENT

Acceptance of invitation to this VROM workshop implies:

- A signed Agreement - stipulating the candidates' rights and responsibilities - between VROM-ISoCaRP and the invited candidate.
- Compulsory participation to both this VROM workshop and the main congress event.
- Compulsory contribution with a poster to the Congress Exhibition

The Agreement takes effect after acceptance of the candidate (signature)

The agreement requires the candidate's submission of additional documents such as: earmarked flight costs by travel agent and flight schedule.

VROM SUPPORT

ISoCaRP is grateful to VROM that it has granted a subvention that enables ISoCaRP to fund candidates from developing countries* in:

a) 20-50% of air travel according to the country of residence. The other part should be borne by the selected/invited candidate him/herself. According to NL Ministry's VROM policy, candidates are kindly requested to find the most environmental way of travelling (distances <800 km between home/congress country)

b) Full accommodation costs for 9 nights in a double-shared room.

d) 100% congress fee if selection option 3) applies (see definition participation)

Candidates wanting to apply to this financial support, have to comply with our definitions for should fill in the special request on the application form.

INVITED CANDIDATES (NOT ELIGIBLE FOR SUPPORT)

- Coming from Europe (see exceptions*) are NOT eligible for sponsoring.
- Have to pay all travel and accommodation and the reduced fee themselves.

* (see Registrations/Developing countries)

AFTER SELECTION/INVITATION

- All Candidates receive the outcome of the selection according to the time framework.
- Chosen candidates receive at the same time the agreement and further details regarding their participation.
- After receipt of all signed agreements, the Coordinators receive a final list of candidates.

CANDIDATE PLANNERS PARTICIPATION FEE

Euro 210 which includes basic inclusions under 'Registration', PLUS

- Entrance to the this VROM workshop (lunches and dinners included)
- 9 days local public transport
- 20 October '05: Farewell Cultural Evening

ACCOMMODATION - ALBERGO BILBAO ATERPETXEA

In order to create a strong international relation, selected/invited candidates are all staying in the same hotel

(University) in double rooms (compulsory)

Price per person per night in a double room: approx. Euro 15,10

Rooming list (males/females separately) will be drawn up by the ISoCaRP Secretariat; discussion on rooming is not possible.

Invited participants wishing to bring along their Partner: In order to secure the team working spirit, ISoCaRP can not allow disturbance by the presence of possible accompanying partners during the entire length of the workshop (often the working continues in the evenings)

Room-sharing: This also applies to the sharing of rooms during the length of the workshop. At the start of the main Congress, workshop participants having brought along their partners and then wanting to share their room with them from that moment must pay for their partner's accommodation as well as for any possible extra costs that his/her initial workshop roommate will have to face.

TIME FRAMEWORK 2005

Before 30 April: All documents as mentioned under 'Definition Complete Application' with ISoCaRP Secretariat.

1 June: The General Rapporteur will inform all Candidates on the choice of abstracts.

15 June: The Coordinators will inform all Candidates on their choice of candidates, which - once more emphasised – may differ from the General Rapporteur and this Team.

20 June: Chosen candidates receive their agreement.

30 June: Signed agreements must be with the ISoCaRP Secretariat including other documents, a.o. an earmarked travel agent's invoice and flight schedule.

Candidates, also invited to present their full paper in the main congress also have to comply with those deadlines (see 'Call for Papers')

30 July – 30 September: ISoCaRP will keep in touch (final list of participants and other details)

POSTER

CARFAX Publishers (UK) has made available to ISoCaRP a prize of US\$500. The Carfax Prize will be awarded to the best Poster (UNESCO* and VROM participants) in relation to the Congress Theme. The Award Ceremony takes place at the end of the Closing Session of the Congress.

Poster has to be brought along to the Congress by the invited candidates.

Poster format: follows after selection/invitation

* UNESCO = see UNESCO Young Planners Workshop

VISA

15 July – 30 September: All candidates must have completed – if needed - their Schengen Visa.

As of 1st October: ISoCaRP can no longer assist.

All chosen/invited candidates must start their visa procedures immediately after invitation (see link 'General Information' for the basic principles)

Candidates working/living/studying in other countries than their home country are advised to carefully investigate whether there are no obstacles for their return to the country where they live/work/study.

APPLICATION FORM

Download [here](#). (doc, 45 KB)

The application form should be send to: isocarp@isocarp.org

