



International Society of City and Regional Planners

**ISOCARP**

Knowledge for Better Cities

# **Progress, achievements and challenges**

**Report  
from the ISOCARP Board  
to Members  
for the year 2018-2019**

July 2019

Image:  
Portland, Oregon, US, host city of the 53<sup>th</sup> ISOCARP World Planning Congress  
Source: [fluglife.co](http://fluglife.co)

# 2018-2019: A big year for our Society!



*Martin Dubbeling*  
*President*

Our World Planning Congress in Bodø – a wonderful progressive city above the arctic circle in Norway (the northern lights made an appearance during the Congress dinner) – set the scene for the rest of our financial year.

A brief visit to our website, [isocarp.org](http://isocarp.org), will show you what has been happening. By the way, the website now has a name, Planetary, and you will be hearing much more of it.

You will also find the new Constitution for an association of, by and for the world's city and regional planning practitioners.

On Planetary, you will find the news of our many activities, and will read about the preparation for the 2019 World Planning Congress in Jakarta. This will be the first Congress in South East Asia. Our partners, the Indonesian Association of Planners, supported by the Ministry of Planning and Land, the Ministry of Public Works and Public Housing, the City of Jakarta and Bogor and the Governor of West Java, will make sure that this is a Congress with a difference!

ISOCARP members have a wonderful time at the Congress, and this is an opportunity for our current and future members in South and East Asia and Oceania to experience the Congress for themselves.

You will also find on Planetary the draft policies for individual membership and institutional membership. The Board has introduced simpler procedures for joining, a standard qualification for membership, and a single flat fee of €54, which covers the following twelve months of individual membership. We are encouraging new and existing members to take out a three year or five year membership.

While the Board has felt it essential to introduce these policies without delay, we also need to put them to the membership for ratification. We will ask you to vote to approve the policies, and we encourage you to do so.

There is an even more important vote coming up. At the next Annual General Meeting, to be held during the Jakarta Congress, elections will be held to fill a number of vacancies on the Board.

Didier Vancutsem completes his second and final term as Secretary General, and Sławomir Ledwoń completes his second and final term as Board Member. Ana Perić and Dhiru Thadani complete their first term on the Board and may seek election for a second term. Accordingly, elections will be held:

- to fill the vacancy in the office of Secretary General;
- to fill three vacancies as Board Members.

All members are encouraged to consider nominating someone they think would contribute to the management of the Society, and also to consider standing for election to serve on the Board.

All city and regional planners – members and non-members – are encouraged to contact us and to find out more about our Society: just visit [www.isocarp.org](http://www.isocarp.org).

# 2018-2019: Report to ISOCARP Members

ISOCARP is in the middle of a very intensive phase of reform, restructuring and renovation. Last October, we adopted in Bodø a new and modern constitution: the old constitution was from the 1960s and 1970s with outdated structures and regulations. Since then, we have made the many changes outlined in this report, and developed significant plans for the future.

The 2018 World Planning Congress in Bodø was a great success, scientifically, socially and financially – thanks to wonderful partners at the City of Bodø, brilliant technical support, outstanding leadership by Dushko Bogunovich and his Congress Team, enthusiastic participation by all the speakers and delegates, and excellent organisational oversight by Board Member Sławomir Ledwoń. Board Member Malgorzata Hanzl did an immense job in producing the Proceedings and another edition of the impressive ISOCARP Review.

The Congress was preceded by a very successful Urban Planning Advisory Team (UPAT) project, and the Young Planning Professionals (YPP) projects were once again a vehicle for learning, changing the world, making friends and bringing fun to the Congress – thanks to Board Members Milena Ivković and Zeynep Gunay, respectively.

The adoption of the constitution was itself a innovative milestone, since the Annual General Meeting saw a lively and positive debate on our future with 90 members participating, many of them listening, observing and texting online. This was followed by decisions on motions and amendments conducted through an internet voting platform that allowed members in the room and online to vote in real time – an achievement (along with the actual constitutional reforms) that Board Member Jeremy Dawkins has worked towards for a long time.

Full online participation in this manner illustrates our hopes for the ISOCARP of the future. As city and regional planners, we are fortunate that over fifty years ago the founders created an association based on the individual membership of planners everywhere. Now, every week, planners are joining ISOCARP from all corners of the globe. The new constitution and the new, simpler, online membership processes will hopefully accelerate our transformation into a truly global interactive network of planners, and strengthen our mission of *Knowledge for Better Cities*.

A major challenge in this regard is to find ways in which members all around the world can actively contribute to the development of the Society. We are thinking of more activities, regional structures and improved internet systems. There are many potential projects – scientific, organisational, promotional, publishing, networking, social media, digital – where the skills and energies of our members would produce great results. We want ideas from members about how to make the most of this potential.

Under the new constitution, the Society as we have known is the binding factor that equally, inclusively and autonomously brings and binds our members from all parts and countries of the world together. We are currently implementing new policies for both individual and institutional members, introducing new software to improve interactions with and between members, building new communication channels, increasing ISOCARP Institute's tasks, developing a new governance model, preparing the 2019 and 2020 Congresses with new staff members in the office in The Hague, and drafting capacity building programmes.

At the same time, the ISOCARP Institute is growing into an important new body. Originally

conceived ten years ago as an academic vehicle mainly for teaching, the ISOCARP Institute has become a key component of our operations. The ISOCARP Institute, as we see it now, focuses on three core activities: Research, Workshops and Capacity Building. Research projects are undertaken for the European Union, for instance, and for institutions such as Strelka KB in Moscow. Workshops include the regular and well-known UPAT and YPP activities, together with Technical Assistance.

Our new initiative is to offer capacity building programmes that provide training and planning education for the middle and higher management of cities and regions. Presently, we are developing a three-day training programme for 20-30 city and regional planners with 5-10 years of experience that will take place immediately prior to our Congress in Jakarta.

In order to make operations clearer, more transparent and more in line with Dutch Law and Dutch Tax Regulations, we have transferred all such projects from the ISOCARP Society to the ISOCARP Institute. The ISOCARP Institute, Centre for Urban Excellence, is a foundation under Dutch Law with a small Board of Directors, operating as a daughter organisation of the ISOCARP Society. The ISOCARP Institute financially supports the ISOCARP Society (the parent organisation) with regular donations.

This allows the ISOCARP Society to focus on membership activities and interactions, specifically our annual World Planning Congress and important publications focused on planning practice, such as the annual ISOCARP Review. The ISOCARP Society is open for exchange, support and cooperation with other planning associations and organisations in the world.

We are determined to make the transformation of the ISOCARP Society and the development of the ISOCARP Institute into a success and we are convinced that first the Board has to focus on and finish these ambitious tasks before starting with new initiatives.

At the same time, as mentioned above, we must do more to enable members everywhere to actively contribute to the development of the Society. Please send us your ideas about how we can effectively harness the skills and energies of our members to strengthen the global community of city and regional planners and to create *Knowledge for Better Cities*.

## ***ISOCARP Board***

# Board: 2018-2019

## **Martin Dubbeling | The Netherlands**

Martin Dubbeling is a senior consultant active in the fields of urban planning and design, landscape architecture, and the environment in the Netherlands and abroad. Founder of the Connecting Cities, an office for consultancy in sustainable urban and regional planning.



## **Didier Vancutsem | Germany/Belgium**

Didier Vancutsem is Associate Professor, researcher and consultant with worldwide experience in urban and regional planning, landscape planning, infrastructure, environmental management and integrated strategies.



## **Dhiru Thadani | USA**

Based in Washington D.C., Dhiru Thadani has been engaged as principal designer in a number of international projects on new towns and cities, new urbanism, urban regeneration, neighborhood revitalisation, and infill densification.



## **Jeremy Dawkins | Australia**

Jeremy Dawkins has held senior leadership roles in urban and regional planning practice, government and academy, in Australia and internationally. In Sydney, he practices planning, teaches, researches and writes on urban issues.



## **Sebastien Goethals | Belgium/China**

As an urban planner, designer and architect from Brussels, Sebastien Goethals works globally in a contextualized approach of strategic planning, urban and regional planning, urban design, mobility issues, infrastructure and governance.



## **Zeynep Gunay | Turkey**

A Professor of urbanism at Istanbul Technical University, Zeynep Gunay is also active as a visiting scholar in various international and national platforms. Her major interests are urban conversation and urban renewal theories and policies.



## **Malgorzata Hanzl | Poland**

Malgorzata Hanzl is Adjunct Professor at the Institute of Architecture and Town Planning in Lodz. A former Fulbright Visiting Scholar at MIT, her research focuses on public participation, GIS, urban rehabilitation, and morphology.



## **Milena Ivković | The Netherlands**

After receiving MSc degree in architecture in Belgrade, Milena Ivković worked for several renowned Dutch offices. Through her own Rotterdam-based practice Blok74, she develops new formats of pop-up participation in urban planning.



## **Śławomir Ledwoń | Poland/Qatar**

After obtaining PhD, Śławomir Ledwoń has been involved in both urban research and planning practice. Currently appointed to the Qatar government, he works as a senior urban planner at the Ministry of Municipality and Environment.



## **Ana Perić | Switzerland**

Educated and trained in Belgrade as architect and urban planner, Ana Perić is currently engaged as lecturer and senior researcher at ETH Zurich, with the main interests in the domain of transnational planning and development.



## **Daniele Vettorato | Italy**

Daniele Vettorato leads a research team on urban and regional energy transition at EURAC, Bolzano. He has been invited as lecturer and speaker in more than 50 events, trainings, workshops and university courses all over the globe.

