About

Founded in 1965, the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) is a global association of professional urban and regional planners. Our network brings together individual and institutional members from more than 85 countries, who work in the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

With over five decades of accumulated knowledge and expertise manifested in both our members and within the Society, we initiated “ISOCARP Institute” as a research spin-off for generating and disseminating knowledge for better cities. ISOCARP has successfully organised annual World Planning Congresses with thousands of papers, articles and contributions, accruing a wealth of knowledge for cities and territories.


IMPROVE the planning practice through creating a global network of practitioners

DEVELOP and MAINTAIN altruistic relations between members

ENCOURAGE the professional exchange of knowledge

PROMOTE the planning profession and excellence in practice in all its forms

FOSTER planning research, training, and education

ENHANCE public awareness and understanding of major planning issues at the global level

SUPPORT and PROTECT planning interests and professional planners

Constitution

SOCIETY OF MEMBERS

Individuals and Institutional

Annual General Meeting

Executive Committee

Board

Head Office

Board of Directors

Practice Research Academy

INSTITUTE

Awards

World Planning Congresses

Publications

Planetary & Social Media

UPATs YPPs Consultancy

EU & Global Projects

Summer Schools, Trainings, Webinars
VISION
Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable through integrative participatory urban and territorial planning.

MISSION
Mobilise professional urban and regional planners to co-implement the vision enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda by:

- promoting the planning profession, education and research, accessible for all
- representing and providing networks and communication channels for its members and partners
- developing urban and regional planning services and resources
- creating and sharing knowledge through meetings, projects and publications

How we contribute to the Global Agenda?

- ISOCARP promotes good health and well-being in policies, plans and designs (SDG 13)
- ISOCARP contributes to quality education and gender equality through training programmes and young planners’ workshops in both Global South and Global North (SDGs 4 and 5)
- ISOCARP promotes clean water, renewable energy, sustainable innovation and infrastructure, reduced inequalities, responsible consumption, climate action and protection of life on land and below water in city and regional planning, through its planning services, projects, publications, and World Planning Congresses (SDGs 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14 and 15)
- ISOCARP invests in partnerships for the goals, e.g. by joining UN-Habitat’s Planners for Climate Action and co-implementing European projects, e.g. +CityxChange, ThinkNature (SDG 17)
- ISOCARP’s main focus, however, is the implementation of SDG 11 on creating ‘Sustainable Cities and Communities’, through the application of the United Nations New Urban Agenda (NUA) and UN-Habitat’s International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning (IG-UTP), by providing a unique platform to turn inspiring planning practices into science and put theories into practice.
Activities

World Planning Congresses (1965-2020)


Young Planning Professionals Programme (1991-2020)

Doha, Jakarta, Ningbo, Bode, Kristiansand, Portland, Gdynia, Glasgow, Durban, Moscow, Guangzhou, Gdynia, Wroclaw, Shenzhen, Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, Brisbane, Ulyanovsk, Lisbon, Puschino, Perm, Wuhan, Nairobi, Porto, Dalian, Antwerp, Istanbul, Bilbao, Geneva, Cairo, Athens, Enschede, Cancun, Gelsenkirchen, Azores, Ogaki, Jerusalem, Sydney, Prague, Cordoba, Guadalajara

Urban Planning Advisory Team (2005-2020)

Wuhan, Suzhou, Guangzhou, Durban, Ningbo, Bode, Wuhan, Gaza, West Bank, Nanjing, Tlalnepantla, Shantou, Perm, Sitges, Singapore, Szczecin, Zürich Limmat Valley, Guadalajara, Lincoln City, Cuenca, Schwechat, Rijswijk, Schiphol Region, Cancun, La Rioja
ISOCARP World Planning Congress

A unique yearly global forum where planning theory meets planning practice around a central theme

“The Society’s main event is the annual ISOCARP World Planning Congress, which focuses on a globally significant planning theme each year.

Since 1965, the Congress has always promoted the creation and sharing of knowledge in the planning profession, combining a unique, triple perspective on theory, policy and practice. Held in a different city each year, the Congress is attended by some 500-700 local and international delegates for an action-packed programme from plenary sessions to technical tours, to networking events, to mentoring and focused seminars. 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), climate change planning (2018), megacities (2019), and post-oil city (2020). The Congress is open to both members and non-members.

“ISOCARP World Planning Congress has more than half a century of tradition in bringing together the top international experts in the planning field. Hosted every year in a different part of the world, we discuss the most current issues that cities and regions are facing, and we look beyond. A global event not to be missed.”

- Sławomir Ledwoń, ISOCARP Congress Director 20013-2019
The goal of UPATs is to mobilise the extensive planning expertise of ISOCARP members in order to assist cities and regions with their projects, programmes, and policies on spatial planning, urban design and placemaking. UPATs are organised on demand, comprising both senior and junior planners, and they present their advice in a dedicated report and/or Plan Magazine.

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### PRACTICE AND RESEARCH:
- Design Charrettes,
- Consultancy Projects,
- Studio Workshops

### CAPACITY BUILDING:
- Trainings, Field Workshops

### RESEARCH AND CAPACITY BUILDING:
- Makeathon Workshops

### REPORTS AND MAGAZINES:
- Publications and visibility

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**Placemaking Week**
Wuhan - CHINA

**Revitalisation of the heritage area**
Guangzhou - CHINA

**Financial cooperation models for urban transformation**
Durban - SOUTH AFRICA
Established in 1991 through a partnership with UNESCO, the YPP is an educational planning programme which aims at providing young and ambitious planners, under the age of 35, with an opportunity to learn new professional skills, to gain valuable work experiences in a multicultural and multistakeholder environment, and to network.

- Brief, intensive group exercises on urban planning and design
- Tackling real-life planning challenges in the host city
- Led by experienced ISOCARP members and local tutors
- Meeting peers from ISOCARP’s global network
Publications

ISOCARP thematic publications support the Society’s goal to create and disseminate knowledge for better cities and territories. The ISOCARP Review, prepared for the annual World Planning Congress, and the International Manual of Planning Practice are the flagship publications. Other publications include:

- Young Planning Professionals’ Reports
- Project and Partnership-related Reports
- PLAN Magazine, Urban Planning Advisory Team Reports
- International Manual of Planning Practice
- Annual World Planning Congress Review
Awards

- **Awards for Excellence**
The Awards for Excellence are conferred in recognition of exceptionally innovative urban and regional plans in the design, project or implementation phase.

- **Student Award**
The Student Award is addressed to a student or student-group with outstanding results in urban and regional planning, or in a related field.

- **ISOCARP Poster Prize**
The ISOCARP Poster Prize is given for the best poster design by a YPP participant during the annual Congress.

- **Gerd Albers Award**
The Gerd Albers Award is given for outstanding results in urban and regional planning, or in a related field.
Worldwide Projects

Jointly with the ISOCARP Institute, the Society participates in a wide variety of collaborations, partnerships and consortia worldwide, e.g. with the European Union, UN-Habitat, UNICEF, Planners for Climate Action and others.

CityChange is a smart city project funded by the EU Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme. It brings the two aspiring Lighthouse Cities Trondheim (NO) and Limerick (IE) together with their distinguished Follower Cities Alba Iulia (RO), Pisek (CZ), Võru (EST), Smolyan (BG) and Sestao (ES), to underline their ambition to achieve sustainable urban ecosystems that have zero emissions and establish a 100% renewable energy city-region by 2050.

In order to achieve more sustainable and resilient societies, Nature-Based Solutions are an important topic on the EU Research and Innovation policy agenda. The objective of the ThinkNature project is the development of a platform that supports the understanding and the promotion of Nature-Based Solutions.
Membership

Individual Membership:
for everyone professionally involved in city and regional planning

Membership: €54 annual fee
- Global networking, career development and knowledge exchange
- Strengthen professional expertise by members-only opportunities and activities
- Access high-quality publications and receive exclusive discounts
- Actively participate and shape the professional planning community

Institutional Membership:
for planning and housing agencies and associations, cities, universities, and planning consultancies

Platinum: €1,500 annual fee
Including ten individual memberships; three delegates to the annual World Planning Congress; session at the World Planning Congress; and reduced fee for Awards for Excellence.

Gold: €1,000 annual fee
Including six individual memberships; two delegates to the annual World Planning Congress; reduced fee for Awards for Excellence.

Silver: €500 annual fee
Including six individual memberships; one delegate to the annual World Planning Congress; and reduced fee for Awards for Excellence.

Become a Member!
Apply via www.isocarp.org/join
Join ISOCARP’s global association of 850+ members.
**Our Profile**

- **Sectors**
  - Education/Research: 22%
  - Governmental/Multilateral agency: 18%
  - NGO/Community organisation: 25%
  - Private Practice: 25%

**Planning interests**
- CITY AND REGIONAL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT
- URBAN AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN
- DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL PLANNING
- ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT
- ARCHITECTURE AND PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

**Our activities**
- **48 YPPs since 1991 / 25 countries**
  - 2015-2019
- **31 UPATs since 2004 / 15 countries**
  - 2017-2019

**Board of Directors**
- Martin Dubbeling (President, Netherlands)
- Daniele Vettorato (Italy)
- Frank D’hondt (Secretary General, Greece/Belgium)
- Didier Vancutsem (Germany/Belgium)

**Head Office**
- Anna Klimczak
- Balint Horvath
- David Struijk
- Federico Aili
- Monica Overtoom
- Neeanne Balamiento
- Sindi Haxhija
- Tjark Gall

**International Society of City and Regional Planners**

**Knowledge for Better Cities**

**Board**

**ISOCARP Institute**
Centre for Urban Excellence

**Planning interests**
- Planning Education, Capacity Building
- Planning History, Theory, Philosophy and Law
- Transport Reliability and Accessibility Planning
- Governance, Finance and Regulation
- Heritage and Conservation Planning
- Infrastructure and Energy Planning
- Smart City, ICT and GIS
- Disaster Planning and Management

**Regional representation**
- Africa: 15%
- Americas: 9%
- Asia: 52%
- Australia: 4%
- Europe: 40%

**15% Africa**
- 2015
- 51 total
- 2016
- 67 total
- 2017
- 55 total
- 2018
- 53 total
- 2019
- 51 total

**32% Asia**
- 2015
- 119 total
- 2016
- 142 total
- 2017
- 116 total
- 2018
- 19 total
- 2019
- 14 total

**4% Australia**
- 2017
- 4 total
- 2018
- 1 total

**4% Americas**
- 2015
- 1 total

**40% Europe**
- 2016
- 62 total
- 2017
- 53 total
- 2018
- 53 total
- 2019
- 51 total

**9% Americas**
- 2017
- 19 total
- 2018
- 20 total
- 2019
- 30 total

**4% Asia**
- 2017
- 4 total
- 2018
- 5 total
- 2019
- 7 total

**4% Australia**
- 2017
- 4 total
- 2018
- 2 total
- 2019
- 3 total

**Private practice**
- Governmental/multilateral agency
- Education/Research
- NGO/Community organisation
- Private Practice

**Regions**
- Australia: 29%
- Europe: 40%
- Americas: 9%
- Asia: 32%
- Africa: 15%

**Sectors**
- Planning, Education, Capacity Building
- Planning History, Theory, Philosophy and Law
- Transport Reliability and Accessibility Planning
- Governance, Finance and Regulation
- Heritage and Conservation Planning
- Infrastructure and Energy Planning
- Smart City, ICT and GIS
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