



CALL for INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPANTS

Young Planning Professionals' Workshop

Merano, Italy, 1-6 March 2020

On the Edge of Urban Regeneration

BACKGROUND

The Young Planning Professionals' Programme is a crucial component of ISOCARP's dedication to promote and enhance the planning profession and commitment to facilitate knowledge for better cities with the young generations, the future leaders of our profession. It was initiated in 1991 at the 26th ISOCARP Congress in Guadalajara, Mexico. Since then, it has become tradition to organise the workshops in the week preceding the annual world congress in order to provide unique opportunities to Young Planning Professionals (YPPs) to share their experiences in an attempt to resolve complex and multi-dimensional planning problems. The Programme has facilitated a unique creative spirit within the Society, and it has become a source of new ideas, innovation and rejuvenation not only for the Society but also for our partners; and has made a huge impact on participants' professional lives, in the name of the universal vision of promoting and enhancing the planning profession. It has also contributed towards making life-long friendships beyond borders, languages, cultures and professional backgrounds. According to this tradition, the Merano YPP workshop on 'On the Edge of Urban Regeneration' will be offered between 1 and 6 March. The workshop will be organised in collaboration with the Municipality of Merano, EURAC Research, AUDIS (Association of Disused Urban Area Requalification) and the ISOCARP Institute, Centre for Urban Excellence.



VENUE: MERANO

Merano is a city and commune in South Tyrol, northern Italy at the border with Austria. The town lies in the heart of the region of South Tyrol on the southern side of the Alps. Generally best known for its spa resorts, it is located within a basin, surrounded by mountains standing up to 3,335 metres above sea level, at the entrance to the Passeier Valley and the Vinschgau. Due to its location, this multicultural city is considered as the gateway to the south of Europe, as well as a meeting place between different cultures.

In the past, the city has been a popular place of residence for several scientists, literary people, and artists, including Franz Kafka, Ezra Pound, Paul Lazarsfeld, and also Empress Elisabeth of Austria, who appreciated its mild climate. Merano and its surrounding towns and valleys benefit in many ways from their favorable location. The Merano basin offers a mild climate year round, creating a unique atmosphere where Mediterranean gardens in full bloom sit beneath snow-covered Alpine peaks. This mixture of Germanic and Italian culture has also led to a specific local cuisine characterized by both Mediterranean and Alpine traditions. For these reasons Merano has a flourish touristic economy that counts about 450.000 overnight stays per year.



By Noclador



THEME OF THE WORKSHOP

The Merano YPP Workshop, 'On the Edge of Urban Regeneration' is a call for young planning professionals to rethink urban regeneration that transcends the key fundamentals of sustainable mobility, biodiversity, smart city and energy and heritage integrity based on the request of the Municipality of Merano.

Heritage integrity

Merano is located at the border with Austria and has been annexed to Italy after the 1st World War. The concept of heritage and identity of the workshop area, former agricultural land, drove around a development hosting Military Barracks since the 1920s. During the last century the area acquired a new identity related to Military functions but also related to shared urban services present in the area also accessible by the citizens like Cinemas and Restaurants. The area it is currently recognized by the citizens as an inaccessible and abandoned area. From the architectural point of view, the area hosts mainly military buildings from the fascist age. The participants are expected to suggest solutions that take into account the history, the heritage and the identity of the area as well different perceptions and memories brought by different stakeholders, while considering the interaction with current real-estate interests for the area.





Biodiversity and ecosystem

The area is 80% covered by green. This is not only because of the low built density but also because of the area's abandonment for several years, leaving nature to recolonize the territory. From the biodiversity point of view it is an undisturbed area, thus we can expect a high number of species (flora and fauna) and habitats ecologically connected with the surrounding agricultural and mountain areas. The participants are expected to suggest solutions to preserve the richness in biodiversity and ecosystems and suggests how to integrate them with current and future urban functions.

Sustainable mobility

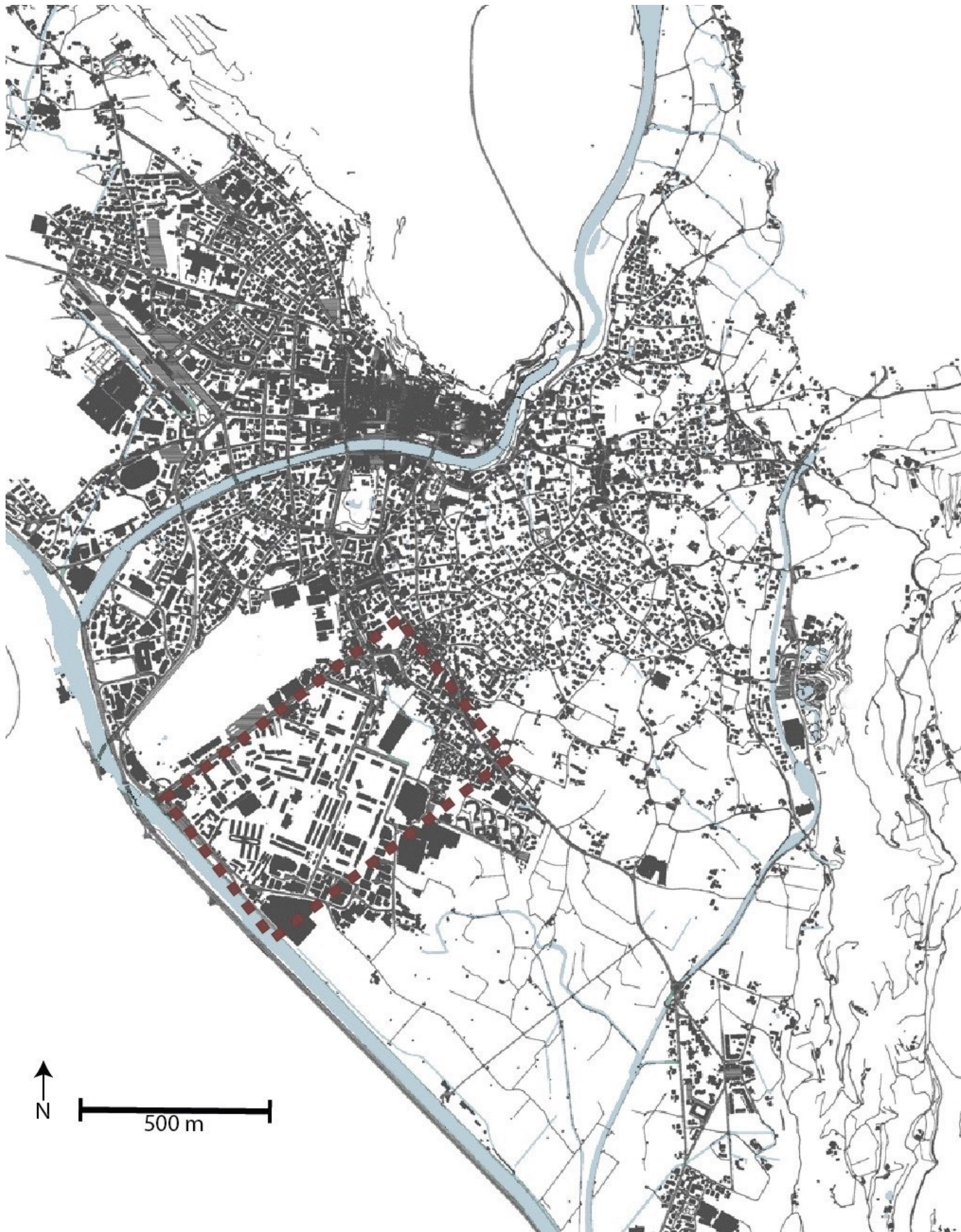
The case study area is strategically located nearby the main connection road and railway line, the MEBO, that connects Merano to Bolzano, the capital of the Province, and to the inner valleys. The MEBO also connects to Austria and Germany. The current situation of the area related to mobility sees the presence of a small network of secondary streets serving mainly the former Military Barracks. At the moment, the area and its streets are not accessible by the citizens. The participants are expected to suggest the possibility to develop a 100% car-free zone or an area accessible by autonomous/electric vehicles and to find out ways to connect this area to the rest of the city and to the main intercity connections at Provincial and National level.

Smart City and Energy

As suggested by the current revision of the Provincial Climate and Energy Plan, Merano should aim to become carbon free by 2030. For this reason the area must be redeveloped taking into consideration the possibilities given by local renewable energy resources and by the state of the art in the sustainable energy production and consumption. In particular, the concept of PROSUMER (producers and consumers) should be used in the scenario development. The participants are expected to suggest how to interconnect ICT, Energy and Mobility to obtain an integrated system able to rely on self-production and consumption of energy but also other ecosystem services like food production, air and water purification, wellbeing etc.

In addition the workshop's expected outputs target specific Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that should be quantified by the workshop scenario development, including:

- **Urban spaces for ageing society and children.** To address the current trend of ageing society and eldery tourist groups, as well as the current demand of spaces for families and children (both citizens and tourists)





- **Tourism, health and wellbeing.** To connect the proposed solutions to one of the main economic sector of the city, the tourism. The request is to provide solutions able to grant high level of health and wellbeing (i.e. high level of air quality, green and calm spaces, etc.) and to take into consideration the international recognized SPA character of the city of Merano but also to provide different and innovative ideas. Green areas and high level of air quality can call for services for sport.
- **Job creation, Co- working and Co-development.** One of the big issues that Merano faces is to avoid to become a satellite city of Bolzano. The Municipality believes that the redevelopment of this area should also provide jobs for citizens in order to keep them far from daily commuting to other cities and, possibly to avoid big flows of workers to come to Merano daily. The request is to consider innovative ways to create working spaces including different activities and groups of stakeholders. The process to redevelop this area must consider the complexity of the stakeholders map, as well as different interests coming from different groups of stakeholders (i.e. the Municipality, the citizens, the tourists, the real estate developers, the Province of Bolzano etc.). The workshop should consider solution to co-develop the area engaging the highest number of stakeholders.

The workshops must answer to the question: how the four topics can contribute to the achievement of the KPIs? For each KPIs the proposed scenarios should estimate some quantitative results.

CASE STUDY AREA: DEMANIO MILITARE

The area subject of the intervention is located in the south-eastern part of Merano and measures about 0.65 km² for a perimeter of about 3300m. The area is currently owned by the Demanio Militare (Military Barracks), but there are disposal procedures in favour of the Autonomous Province of Bolzano and subsequently the Municipality of Merano. The area has been developed in the 1920s to host Military Barracks after the World War I, when Meran (former Austria) became part of Italy. The study area is particularly important for several reasons:

- Currently the area is abandoned, inaccessible and enclosed by a 2.5 meter high wall.
- Inside the area there are several built volumes, former barracks that can be retrofitted or designated to urban destinations.
- The identity of this area is controversial, as it was former agricultural land afterward 'occupied' by military functions.



- Its counts for about 1/10 of the total urbanized area of the Municipality.
- It is strategically located along the main road connection and the railway line.
- It is flat, green and abandoned. It host a high level of biodiversity.
- The Municipality wants to develop this area in line with sustainability criteria, and
- Considers the destiny of this area of absolute importance for the future development of the city.

REQUIRED TASKS AND EXPECTED RESULTS

Each participant (YPPs) will spend 5 full days working with the YPP group between 1-6 March. Within these dates, there may be a necessity of conducting meetings with local hosts and press. It is intended that the workshop will gather 10 International YPPs (together with 5 Italian young planners), who are not older than 35 years and who offer a keen interest in the workshop and upcoming congress theme. The selected YPPs will have a chance to work with ISOCARP experts and local coordinators from Merano and Italy.





The required tasks of the workshop participants are as follows:

- public hearing/presentation to local officials and other interested parties
- programme exhibition
- final publication 'BUZZ ©YPP'

The workshop results will be presented again during the 56th ISOCARP World Planning Congress (November 2020). The presentation will take place during one of the congress special sessions (date to be announced soon).

YOUNG PLANNING PROFESSIONALS' WORKSHOP PUBLIC HEARING

All YPP Workshops end with a Public Hearing followed by a Certificate Ceremony. All YPPs are obliged to publish the results of the work of their specific group in an ISOCARP YPP Presentation format (i.e. Power Point, Documentaries, etc.) and to defend their ideas in front of a critical jury via Public Hearing that catches the special attention of the planning authorities. The workshop results will serve the host city and country in defining possible solutions of the given planning problem with fresh and innovative ideas; and they may be of potential interest to other key stakeholders, including universities and other public and private infrastructure providers.

YOUNG PLANNING PROFESSIONALS' WORKSHOP EXHIBITION

All results of YPP Workshops are exhibited after the workshop during the Public Hearing and upon request of the Host, during the annual ISOCARP World Planning Congress for the effective and interactive dissemination of knowledge. All YPPs are obliged to publish the results of the work of their specific group in an ISOCARP YPP Poster format before the hearing. The final lay-out will be done by YPP participants under the supervision of the Workshop Coordinators. The printing of the posters will be done by local organisers.

YOUNG PLANNING PROFESSIONALS' WORKSHOP PUBLICATION 'BUZZ ©YPP'

As a tribute to the ISOCARP's 50th Anniversary and all young planning professionals who has taken role in reinventing planning in the 51st Congress, it is decided to publish the YPP Reports under the heading of BUZZ ©YPP since 2018. After the workshop, results are published in BUZZ ©YPP, Young Planning Professionals Programme Publication, and made available in various formats including E-Book. All YPPs are obliged to participate under the



supervision of workshop coordinators (For examples of past years have a look at the [ISOCARP website](#)).

All the results and efforts will be disseminated on the official websites and publications of ISOCARP.

CONTRIBUTION AND EXPENSES

The cost of modest accommodation (shared twin rooms) in [Youth Hostel Merano](#) for the entire duration of the workshop (from 1st to 7th March), as well as full-board (breakfast, lunches, dinners) for the entire duration of the workshop will be covered by the local organizers (Municipality of Merano) within the agreed dates.

ISOCARP will grant travel allowance up to €300 to all international participants from inside Europe and €600 from outside Europe. Travel expenses (economic, return, visa, etc.) will be reimbursed upon submitted original receipts, tickets, boarding passes, etc. Transportation from train/bus station to hotel and vice versa will be arranged by participants themselves.

Participants are welcome to stay in Merano longer than 6th March. However, their expenses for additional time spent in Italy beyond the time required for the workshop have to be borne by themselves.

Please discuss your travel plans in advance with VP YPP Zeynep Gunay. All participants have to take care of their own health and travel insurance.

CALENDAR

Issue of Call	15 January 2020
Deadline - Reception of applications (Coordinators)	30 January 2020
Deadline - Reception of applications (YPPs)	30 January 2020
Communication of selection results (Coordinators)	1 February 2020
Selection of YPPs and Announcement of Results	5 February 2020
Travel arrangements/procedures	15 February 2020
Arrival to Merano	1 March 2020
Departure	7 March 2020



ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION

The call for WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS is open to YOUNG PLANNING PROFESSIONALS OUTSIDE ITALY - professionals or Masters/Doctorate students in Planning, Urban Design, Policy Development, Geography, Architecture, Social and Political Sciences, or another related discipline. It is intended that the workshop will gather 10 International YPPs (together with 5 Italian young professionals), who are not older than 35 years and who offer a keen interest in the workshop. Young Planning Professionals with experience in urban design and planning, urban regeneration, as well as social, economic and environmental sustainability, transportation and mobility, smart city are especially encouraged to apply. The most effective composition of the team will be taken into account for the final selection.

Candidates complying with the above criteria have to submit the [Online Application Form](#) compiling the set of documents below:

- Clear statement of intent explaining why you want to apply (maximum 1 page)
- Curriculum Vitae pointing out the relevant experience (please use the [ISOCARP Template](#))
- A portrait photograph (5x5 cm, in 300 dpi)
- A clear scan of your passport (photo page) and information whether you need a visa to Italy, and – in the positive case – which country/city/consulate you will be applying for it.

Please upload the documents as follows:

Family Name_Statement / Family Name_CV / Family Name_Recommendation / Family Name_Photo / Family Name_Passport /Family Name_Abstract



ANNEX

PROVISIONAL TIMELINE FOR WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

Day 1
March 1, Monday

Arrival + Official Welcome + Welcome Reception

Day 2
March 2, Monday

Introduction to workshop, short introductory lecture(s) by local and invited international experts (in the afternoon)

Site visit (by bus and/or on foot) allowing the participants to understand the character and issues associated with the selected site

Day 3
March 3, Monday

Studio work in teams – defining the strategic priorities, objectives at the macro scale and developing strategies and key projects of intervention

Group presentations and discussions

Day 4
March 4, Monday

Studio work in teams – refinement of the strategic solutions and design proposals, while exploring different means of visual representation and presentations

Group presentations and discussions

Day 5
March 5, Monday

Studio work in teams – Presentation preparation, finalizing poster and presentation, and rehearsal

Day 6
March 6, Monday

Public hearing and exhibition - Certificate ceremony

*November 2020

56th ISOCARP World Planning Congress

Presentation of workshop results during one of the congress special session (date to be announced soon)



ISOCARP INSTITUTE
Centre for Urban Excellence

QUESTIONS

Any questions during these procedures and regarding the topic, on-site logistics and travel arrangement should be sent to ISOCARP Board, Director YPP, Zeynep Gunay: gunay@isocarp.org.

ISOCARP - AIU - IGSRP

Knowledge for Better Cities

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