



# ISOCARP

Knowledge for Better Cities

## International Society of City and Regional Planners



### Congress Policy 01: EXPRESSION OF INTEREST 2023 and beyond

**ISOCARP Congress Policy 01 Expression of Interest  
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To be updated to maintain currency.

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

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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 85 countries, with the Secretariat in The Hague. ISOCARP's governing body, the Executive Committee, is elected by the members.

Recognised by the United Nations, UN-Habitat and the Council of Europe, the Society has a formal consultative status with UNESCO. It also served as one of the founding members of the Habitat Professionals Forum at Habitat II in Istanbul in 1996 and is represented at major international events related to sustainable urban planning. As member of the Steering Committee of UN HABITAT's World Urban Campaign, ISOCARP is a frequent organiser of networking events at the World Urban Forum and is a partner organisation of key events at 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) programme, enabling international teams of Young Planning Professionals to work intensively and creatively on real-world planning projects. Also gaining recognition is ISOCARP's Urban Planning Advisory Team (UPAT) programme, whose objective is to mobilise the extensive planning expertise of the Society's members to assist city governments and other partners with their projects, programmes, and policies on spatial planning and urban design. Both programmes can provide unique benefits to ISOCARP's local partners.

A special ISOCARP activity is the Awards for Excellence programme. It is the conferral of awards in recognition and celebration of excellence in planning and network experience. These awards include, amongst others: ISOCARP Awards for Excellence, Gerd Albers Award, ISOCARP Student Award, Routledge Poster Prize, and Young Planning Professionals' Award. Steadily gaining a reputation for its international and grounded perspective on urban issues is the Society's flagship publication, the ISOCARP Review. Published since 2004, the Review consists of leading articles about noteworthy real-world planning projects, with the theme generally in consonance with that of the annual World Planning Congress.

ISOCARP's main event is the annual World Planning Congress, which focuses on a globally significant planning theme. The Congress takes place in a different country each 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) frontiers of planning (2013), planning beyond the metropolis (2019), and very recently the post-pandemic planning (2021). 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.

## 58 Years of ISOCARP World Planning Congresses

YEAR	CITY, COUNTRY	THEME
1965	Amsterdam, Netherlands	The Position of The Netherlands in a Uniting Europe
1966	Coimbra, Portugal	Urban Development in the Region
1967	Lyon, France	Text Programme of ISOCARP
1968	Torino, Italy	Preservation and Life of Historic Sites in Urban Planning
1969	Dusseldorf, Germany	Integration of Public Transport in Town Planning Policy
1970	Aix-en-Provence, France	Education of the Planner
1971	Antwerp, Belgium	Physical and Economic Planning
1972	Göteborg, Sweden	Visual Qualities of the Built-Up Environment
1973	Zurich, Switzerland	Integration and Segregation in Urban Land Activities
1974	Munich, Germany	Urban Planning and Political Decisions
1975	Edinburgh, Scotland	Planning for Our Inheritance
1976	Helsinki, Finland	Demands on Land
1977	Athens, Greece	Change and Urban Structure
1978	Montreal, Canada	Evolution of Urban and Regional Planning
1979	Strasbourg, France	France Planning and Energy
1980	Tunis, Tunisia	Planning and Education
1981	Stockholm, Sweden	Renaissance of the City. How?
1982	Istanbul, Turkey	Habitat for All: What is the Solution?
1983	Amsterdam, Netherlands	Implementation of Planning: The Partners
1984	Braga, Portugal	Implementation of Planning: Agents of Action
1985	Berlin, Germany	Implementation of Planning: Non-Governmental Actions
1986	Paris, France	Research for Urban Planning Practice
1987	New Delhi, India	Shelter for the Homeless
1988	Taormina, Italy	Urban and Metropolitan Peripheries

1989	Basel Switzerland	Communication Technology and Mobility
1990	Warsaw, Poland	The Environment and the City
1991	Guadalajara, Mexico	Planning for Leisure: The Challenge of Tourism
1992	Cordoba, Spain	Cultural Identities
1993	Glasgow, Scotland	Cities, Regions and Well-Being
1994	Prague, Czech Republic	Expanding Demands on Planning
1995	Sydney, Australia	Adaptation and Mediation in Urban Planning
1996	Jerusalem, Israel	Migration and the Global Economy
1997	Ogaki, Japan	Risk Assessment and Management
1998	Azores, Portugal	Planning for Land and Water
1999	Gelsenkirchen, Germany	The Future of Industrial Regions
2000	Cancun, Mexico	People's Empowerment in Planning
2001	Utrecht, Netherlands	Planning in the Information Age
2002	Athens, Greece	The Pulsar Effect in Urban Planning
2003	Cairo, Egypt	Planning in a More Globalised and Competitive World
2004	Geneva, Switzerland	Management of Urban Regions
2005	Bilbao, Spain	Making Spaces for the Creative Economy
2006	Istanbul, Turkey	Cities between Integration and Disintegration
2007	Antwerp, Belgium	Urban Dialogues
2008	Dalian, China	Urban Growth without Sprawl
2009	Porto, Portugal	Low Carbon Cities
2010	Nairobi, Kenya	Sustainable City / Development World
2011	Wuhan, China	Liveable Cities: Urbanising World, Meeting the Challenge
2012	Perm, Russia	Fast Forward: Planning in a (Hyper) Dynamic Urban Context
2013	Brisbane, Australia	New Frontiers of Planning

<b>2014</b>	Gdynia, Poland	Urban Transformations - Cities and Water
<b>2015</b>	Netherlands, Belgium, Germany	Cities Save the World – Let's Reinvent Planning
<b>2016</b>	Durban, South Africa	Cities We Have vs Cities We Need
<b>2017</b>	Portland, Oregon, USA	Smart Communities
<b>2018</b>	Bodø, Norway	Cool Planning: Changing Climate and

		our Urban Future
<b>2019</b>	Jakarta-Bogor, Indonesia	Beyond the Metropolis
<b>2020</b>	Virtual Only	Post-Oil City: Planning for Urban Green Deals
<b>2021</b>	Doha, Qatar	Planning Unlocked: New Times, Better Places, Stronger Communities
<b>2022</b>	Brussels, Belgium	From Wealthy to Healthy Cities

### High quality scientific content

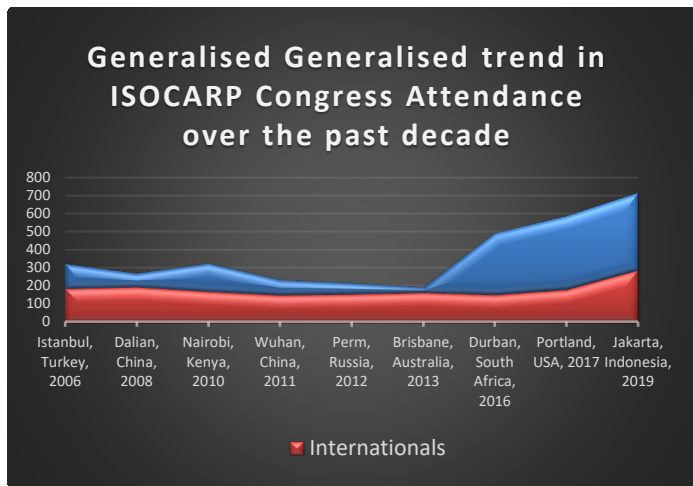
Each year ISOCARP’s Scientific Committee scans the horizon for the issues that will challenge governments, international agencies and planners. The Committee’s annual ISOCARP Statement / Declaration reflects leading thinking on these issues, and identifies governments, universities, institutions and 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 President and the Secretary General, or by a third person from the Executive Committee thereby delegated by the former. They are 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, the Executive Committee works together with the Congress Director from the ISOCARP Secretariat, who serves as the main coordinator of all stakeholders, and who takes care of the budgeting of the Congress from ISOCARP’s side. The Congress Director and the Executive Committee representatives also work together with the Board member in charge of the Young Planning Professionals (YPP) Programme.

ISOCARP appoints the General Rapporteur, who then issues a call for Congress Team members who will prepare, develop and deliver the intellectual, scientific and technical content of the Congress in close collaboration with the Congress Director, 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 working on the most interesting and significant work on the Congress topics.





The Congress Team comprises two co-rapporteurs for each of the tracks to which submitted papers and session proposals are allocated – more or less, a team of 10-14 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, endorsed by the Local Organising Committee, and recommended to the Executive Committee by the Congress Director. This ensures that submitted papers and session proposals 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 more than 150 submitted papers and case studies on Congress topics and on current planning theory, research and practice, organised into parallel sessions within five to seven tracks across three to four days.

The presenting authors and/or session proposers comprise urban planning professionals, academics, civil servants, and students who wish to share their experience with fellow planners from around the world; policymakers 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. Throughout the years ISOCARP Congresses have strived to be a stimulating and productive setting to explore and exchange knowledge, best practices, and experiences on the most pressing planning challenges confronting the future of cities. In such a setting, new collaborations develop, and lasting friendships are formed.

ISOCARP Congresses are usually organised in the months of September and October, with attendance steadily increasing in the past six years, to about an average of 400 registrations. Typically, about two thirds are international delegates and one third come from the host country. The Congress in Jakarta (2019) garnered the largest crowd ever with over 700 international and local delegates. Due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in international travel, ISOCARP has also integrated the virtual modality of participation in its recently concluded hybrid Congress in Doha (2021), which was attended by a total of 650 online and in-person delegates. Similarly, ISOCARP has held a fully virtual Congress for the first time in 2020.

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 40%; public sector and planning administrations, about 10%; and representatives of planning associations and of industry, about 7% 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 organisations;
- 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 the displays include ISOCARP projects and achievements, YPP programme results as well as authors’ posters.

**Rich experience for delegates – and organisers**

The Congress programme 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; location-based workshops and side events; technical tours, post congress tours and social events such as receptions and dinners. The ISOCARP Annual General Meeting (AGM) also takes place during the Congress. Prior to the congress, the YPP Workshops are organised. Apart from these there should be room in the programme for partner and sponsor presentations (to be decided depending on the actual conditions and agreements).

	Day One	Day Two	Day Three	Day Four	
<b>Young Planning Professionals</b> (YPP) team arrives five days prior to the congress for the YPP Project  Registration  ISOCARP ExCom meeting	<b>Technical Tours</b>	<b>Parallel sessions</b>	<b>Plenary Session</b> YPP Presentations	<b>Plenary Session</b> Awards for Excellence	<b>Side events</b>
		<b>Parallel sessions</b>	<b>Parallel sessions</b>	<b>Parallel sessions</b>	
	<b>Welcome Ceremony</b>	<b>Parallel sessions</b>	<b>Parallel sessions</b>	<b>Parallel sessions</b>	
	<b>Plenary Session</b>	<b>Parallel sessions</b>	<b>Parallel sessions</b>	<b>Closing plenary</b> Conclusions of the Congress	
	<b>Welcome reception</b>	<b>Socials</b>	<b>ISOCARP General Meeting</b>	<b>Congress dinner</b> Awards ceremony	
<b>Simplified general structure of the 2019 Congress</b>					

Although each Congress may arrive at a specific programme to provide the best environment for the scientific sessions and the best experience for delegates, the above outline of the Congress schedule in 2019 (at which over 220 papers were presented in seven tracks) provides an indication of the diversity and interest in the Congress programme. Delegates at the Congress came from 49 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 during one of the plenary sessions at 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 in one of the plenary sessions.
- The annual *ISOCARP Review* is published to coincide with the Congress, including 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 the Local Organising Committee's approved budget, 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 54 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, from 2023 and beyond.



In 2015, ISOCARP 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 was 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 the 58<sup>th</sup> World Planning Congress in 2022 in Brussels, Belgium, 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.

Expressions of interest will be received at any time for Congresses in more distant years. The call for bids for 2023+ ISOCARP Annual Congress will open soon to invite formal bids 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: 2021 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: 2023 and beyond

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

Any other matters in support of the Expression of Interest