Planning for Better Cities & Regions

with

The International Society of City and Regional Planners

ISOCARP
Knowledge for Better Cities
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 90 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.

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 do 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 the 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 (1965-2021)**

**Young Planning Professionals Programme (1991-2021)**
Doha, Jakarta, Bogor, Ningbo, Bode, Kristiansand, Portland, Gdynia, Glasgow, Dalian, Moscow, Guangzhou, Xi'An, Wroclaw, Shenzhen, Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, Brisbane, Ulyanovsk, Lisbon, Pushkin, Perm,

**Urban Planning Advisory Team (2005-2020)**
Wuhan, Suzhou, Guangzhou, Porto, Dalian, Antwerp, Istanbul, Bilbao, Geneva, Cairo, Athens, Enschede, Cancun, Gelsenkirchen, Azores, Ogaki, Jerusalem, Sydney, Prague, Cordoba, Guadalajara

Data courtesy: Marc Imhoff of NASA GSFC and Christopher Elvidge of NOAA NGDC.

Image by: Craig Mayhew and Robert Simmon, NASA GSFC.
**ISOCARP World Planning Congress**

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

"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 2013-2019

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.
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.

**Placemaking Week**
Wuhan - CHINA

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

**Financial cooperation models for urban transformation**
Durban - SOUTH AFRICA

**PRACTICE AND RESEARCH:**
Design Charrettes, Consultancy Projects, Studio Workshops

**CAPACITY BUILDING:**
Training, Field Workshops

**RESEARCH AND CAPACITY BUILDING:**
Makeathon Workshops

**REPORTS AND MAGAZINES:**
Publications and visibility
Young Planning Professionals Programme

- Workshop to share knowledge, skills, and experience in a multi-disciplinary approach
- Training to apply theory in practice to a complex planning challenge
- Network to meet leading professionals and grow a career

A particular focus and commitment of ISOCARP is on young generations through facilitating knowledge for better cities with the youth. Since 1991 the Young Planning Professionals’ Programme has been a crucial component of ISOCARP’s dedication to promote and enhance the planning profession. The objective is to contribute to the knowledge base and improve the skills of young professionals, the future leaders of our profession.

Award to motivate and encourage future planners
Legacy to mentor and sponsor young professionals
Publication to disseminate knowledge in an effective and creative ways
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’ Publications**

- **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 the best publications by ISOCARP members, including books, chapters, journal articles and project reports.
Worldwide Projects

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

EU H2020 Project

CityXChange is a smart city project funded by the EU Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme. It brings the two pioneering 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.

EU H2020 Project

CityXChange

JUSTNature is an EU-funded project under Horizon 2020. Its overall objective is the activation of nature-based solutions (NbS) to ensure a just transition towards low-carbon cities based on principles such as the right to ecological space, the right to clean air, thermal comfort, and a thriving biodiversity. The project will support seven European City Practice Labs in the co-design and co-creation of local low carbon and high air quality NbS.

EU Project | Horizon 2020

CityXChange

JUSTNature

Water Areas Vision for Europe (WAVE) aims to create integrated knowledge and visions for sustainable water landscapes in Europe. WAVE Living Labs Constanta (RO), Bucharest (RO), Naples (IT), Tartu (EE), Brussels (BE), Freising (GE), and Nürtingen (GE) will bring educational institutions and communities together to collaborate. During the WAVE project the universities will partner with local NGOs, schools, stakeholders, and other beneficiary groups to initiate the resolution of water-related landscape challenges specific to their local contexts.

EU Project | Horizon 2020

CityXChange

VARCITIES

In an increasingly urbanised world, cities face several challenges and threats and struggle to propose credible urban futures and new opportunities for their citizens. VARCITIES is an ambitious project that puts the citizens and the “human communities” at the centre of future cities’ vision. The project officially started in September 2020 and will last until February 2025. Eight Pilot Cities will test and implement a series of innovative nature-based actions that support creativity, inclusivity, health, and happiness.

EU Project | Horizon 2020

CityXChange

VARCITIES

Representations & Partnerships

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Centre for Urban Excellence

ISOCARP is accredited as an NGO by the United Nations

UNESCO

Formal consultative status as a recognised Non-Governmental organisation with UNESCO

UNEP

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Membership

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

Membership: €60 annual fee
3-year Membership: €155
5-year Membership: €250
Life Membership: €850
- 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; a session at the World Planning Congress; and a reduced fee for Awards for Excellence.

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

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

Become a Member!

Apply via www.isocarp.org/join

Join ISOCARP’s global association of 700+ members.

Active members

Strong association

Global community

Regional cooperation
Our Profile

- **Sectors**
  - Education/Research
  - Governmental/Multilateral agency
  - Non-Governmental/Community organisation

- **Planning interests**
  - City and Regional Planning and Management
  - Urban and Landscape Design
  - Development and Social Planning
  - Environmental Planning and Management
  - Architecture and Property Development

- **Regional representation**
  - AFRICA: 15%
  - AMERICAS: 9%
  - ASIA: 52%
  - AUSTRALIA: 4%
  - EUROPE: 40%

Our activities

- **49 YPPs since 1991 / 25 countries**
  - 2015-2021
  - 2015 total: 51
  - 2016 total: 142
  - 2017 total: 119
  - 2018 total: 18
  - 2019 total: 30

- **31 UPATs since 2004 / 15 countries**
  - 2017-2019
  - 2017 total: 19
  - 2018 total: 55
  - 2019 total: 14

Executive Committee
- Pietro Elisei President, 2021-2023 (Italy/Romania)
- Frank D'hondt Secretary-General, 2019-2022 (Greece/Belgium)
- Daniele Vettorato ExCom Member, 2020-2023 (Italy)
- Ana Perić Treasurer, ExCom Member, 2019-2022 (Switzerland/Serbia)
- Elisabeth Belpaire ExCom Member, 2020-2023 (Belgium/Switzerland)
- Pietro Elisei President, 2021-2023 (Italy/Romania)

Board Members
- Ali Alraouf, 2019-2022 (Qatar)
- Dushko Bogunovich, 2019-2022 (New Zealand)
- Eric Huybrechts, 2020-2023 (France)
- Juaneel Cilliers, 2021-2024 (Australia)
- Shi Nan, 2020-2023 (China)
- Zeynep Gunay, 2020-2023 (Turkey)

Secretariat
- Kate Holmquist Secretariat Office Director/Congress Director
- Maryte Litvinaite Graphic and Web Officer/Congress Coordinator
- Monica Overtoom Office Manager
- Johnathan Subendran Institute Graphic Designer
- Yirang Lim Institute Research and Policy Analyst

Board of Directors
- Didier Vancutsem (Germany/Belgium)
- Daniele Vettorato ExCom Member, 2020-2023 (Italy)
- Pietro Elisei President, 2021-2023 (Italy/Romania)
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