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.

Society and Institute are the pillars of the ISOCARP ECOSYSTEM: An interactive global platform for design, research and networking. Get more at: https://isocarp.org/ https://www.isocarp-institute.org/

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
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
- Investing and contributing in high level applied research on spatial and territorial planning

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, Boda, Kristiansand, Portland, Gdynia, Glasgow, Durban, Moscow, Guangzhou, Xi’an, Wroclaw, Shenzhen, Al Ain, Abu Dhabi, Brisbane, Ulyanovsk, Lisbon, Puschino, Perm, Yekaterinburg, 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, Boda, Wuhan, Gaza, West Bank, Nanjing, Tlalnepantla, Shantou, Perm, Singapore, Szczecin, Zurich, Limmat Valley, Guadalajara, Lincoln City, Cuenca, Schwechat, Rijswijk, Schiphol Region, Cancun, La Rioja

**ISOCARP Regional Events (2021)**
Vienna

Data courtesy: Marc Imhoff of NASA GSFC and Christopher Elvidge of NOAA NGDC.
Image by: Craig Mayhew and Robert Simmon, NASA GSFC.
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, 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.

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**
Building urban resilience takes on multiple forms, but in its essence must seek the betterment of people. There is no magic formula. Developing countries must be not only recipient of top-down best-practices or solutions modeled for developed world problems, but also hold the potential to better understand rapidly changing dynamics of urbanisation and weather. Also, they should find innovative solutions that promote a long-term vision of vulnerability reduction and sustainability. Developing countries need to look at new models, focusing on open government, open data and transparency. The possibility of creating a smart city that is knowledge-intensive (McFarlane and Soderstrom, 2017) in a scenario of scarce educational, technical and financial resources. It stresses open 5-step approach.

Agenda Teresina 2030 is a low cost local government approach for monitoring and achieving a more sustainable development. It consists in a *methodology we use*. *Instructions*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average global warming, according to</th>
<th>+2º degrees rate twice as high as the preheated oven</th>
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<tr>
<td>Teresina's population (IBGE, 2018)</td>
<td>861,442 inhabitants</td>
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| *The resources (and challenges) we have* | *
| *The methodology we use* | *
| *Preparation time* | ~ 12 years |
| *Ultimate smart city strategy with a fresh open government frosting* | *

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

**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.

**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.
Worldwide Projects

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.

CityxChange is a smart city project funded by the EU Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme. It brings together two aspiring Lighthouse Cities, Trondheim (NO) and Limerick (IE) 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.

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 it 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.

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), Toruń (PL), Brussels (BE), Freising (DE), and Nürtingen (DE) 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.
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!
Join ISOCARP’s global association of 750+ members.

Apply via www.isocarp.org/join

Active members
Strong association
Global community
Regional cooperation
Our Profile

- **Sectors**
  - Education/Research: 22%
  - Governmental/Multilateral agency: 21%
  - NGO/Community organization: 8%

- **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%

- **Planning interests**
  - Planning, Education, Capacity Building
  - Planning History, Theory, Philosophy and Law
  - Transport, Mobility and Accessibility Planning
  - Heritage and Conservation Planning
  - Infrastructure and Energy Planning
  - Disaster Planning and Management

- **Our activities**
  - 49 YPPs since 1991 / 25 countries 2015-2021
  - 31 UPATs since 2004 / 15 countries 2017-2019

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

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- Dushko Bogunovich, 2019-2022 (New Zealand)
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- Maryte Litvinaitė, Graphic and Web Officer/Congress Coordinator
- Peggy Stevens, Office Administrator
- Methi Laithavewat, Communications Officer
- Taliah Dommerholt, Project Officer
- Yirang Lim, Institute Research and Policy Analyst
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