

RESULTS AND DECISIONS OF THE ISOCARP BOARD MEETING MARCH 2023

First point approved by the Board is that of regionalisation: **the Board approved the start of the regionalisation process of ISOCARP.** This means that, provided certain eligibility criteria are met, it will be possible in the near future to open local ISOCARP offices in close contact with the headquarters, but at the same time with their own functional autonomy. The impact of this choice will be an increase in the number of ISOCARP members, an increase in demand for our core services (e.g. UPAT, IRE, YPP) and consequently a strengthening of our financial and cultural sustainability. Beyond these structural aspects, which are clearly relevant, the regionalisation process will allow ISOCARP to be closer to the local realities in which its members operate on a daily basis and to enter even more effectively and efficiently into the definition of the tools and ideas that can support a coherent and sustainable development of those territories interested in investing in the support of our Community of planners with international experience. The regionalisation process, therefore, opens up an interesting and innovative short-circuit between global and local.

A second item approved by the Board concerns the final launch of the ISOCARP Ecosystem. A few years ago, when it became apparent that the cultural activities of our Community could not continue to be sustained by the annual Congress alone, it was decided to launch new instruments to support ISOCARP. It was in this context that **ISOCARP Institute** was founded, a non-improvised genesis that came about after years of discussion and debate among our members. The Institute was conceived as a tool to support the cultural activities of our Community. A proper governance to regulate the relationship between Institute and Society (the former a foundation, the latter an NGO) has never been put in place, and this has led to unacceptable deviations on the part of Institute from what is permissible, the permissible being determined by the Board of Society as the only body elected by the members and the General Assembly. This reform that was approved and initiated in Bucharest regulates this gap in ISOCARP's governance, which includes the establishment of a Pact of Cooperation between the Institute and the Society, provides for changing of the founding document of Institute and establishing that the management of Institute is determined by the Board of Society. With these two new documents, it is definitively established that the strategic direction of Institute is determined in cooperation between the Board of Society and the governing body of Institute, but more importantly, that the appointment of Institute directors is the responsibility of the Board of Society, as an elected assembly and, therefore, with a decision-making mandate from the membership. Common strategy, sharing of resources, fair and agreed

sharing of the benefits of actions taken: the ultimate goal is the strengthening of our membership Community and the creation of new and continuing opportunities for all.

I will not go into the many further details discussed at this time, and which will be made known in the official documents, available for download soon from the members area, and which will be presented at the AGM, but I would like to draw your attention to one point:

The regionalisation process and the creation of an Ecosystem for ISOCARP are two sides of the same coin.

There is no Ecosystem without regionalisation, and vice versa. Finally, the point emerged clearly to open our Community strongly to the global dimension – while respecting its European roots, which are a relevant and essential driver of this transformation process, at the centre must obviously be a management that values diversity, pluralism and multiculturalism.

I agree, together with a solid majority of the Board, that this meeting laid the foundation for a more open, more transparent and better organised ISOCARP. Adjustments are also being made to working methods, roles in the secretariat, and the definition of continuous monitoring processes inherent to the management and strategic paths being followed.

Ad hoc working groups have been set up that report to Board Members, depending on the action.

These working groups are open to those members who are willing to contribute; without your help for the Board, things are more difficult to accomplish. In fact, Board Members work on a voluntary basis and can devote hours to our Community outside their professional tasks. Therefore, if you are interested in helping one of these groups, contact the relevant Board Member and offer your availability: we must learn to work as an extended Community, as a city based on an agora, open, and not as a temple city, the privilege of a few administrators.

- **The ISOCARP regionalisation working** group is coordinated by Shi Nan;
- The working group on the creation of the **ISOCARP Ecosystem** is coordinated by Daniele Vettorato.

Finally, these considerable changes initiated at this Board Meeting need a revision of our Constitution, in which case the starting working group is the

entire Board under the coordination of the President.
Other working groups have been activated:

- **The working group on UPAT** is coordinated by Eric Huybrechts;
- **The working group on publications and awards** is managed by Ali Alraouf.

With regard to the critical activities that ensure the good management of our Community, **membership management** is headed by Rolf Schuett, **financial management** by Dara Golubovic-Matic, and **communication** by Sabina Dimitriu. A working group will also have to be set up soon on YPP, as it was not possible to address this at this Board Meeting. As far as congress activities are concerned, the helm is in the hands of our Congress Director, Elisabeth Belpaire with the constant and continuous support of the Secretary General.

Dear members, dear friends, this communication is very important for the Board and for me. We are facing a change of course, but the key point is that this change is enthusiastically shared by the majority of the current Board. We are all very motivated to soon complete the activities necessary to bring our Community to be even more cohesive, to have a greater impact, but above all to position ourselves as the global network of reference for urban and regional/territorial planning.

I take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a wonderful spring (to those in the northern hemisphere) and a pleasant autumn (to those in the southern hemisphere).

Pietro Elisei, ISOCARP President