



# CALL for PARTICIPANTS

Joint ISOCARP - ITACUS Young Professionals Workshop  
Gdansk, Poland, 16 - 21 April 2023

## **Bridging the Divide - Connecting the Young City and the Polish Hook Areas in Gdansk**

### **BACKGROUND**

ISOCARP in partnership with ITACUS (International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association's Committee on Underground Space) have recently made an agreement with the City of Gdansk – which entails a Young Planning Professionals (YPP) – Young Professionals Think Deep Program (YPTDP) Workshop. 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 Programme facilitates 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. ITACUS sees YPP programme as an ideal example of how to actively involve ITA Young Members and make them part of a cross-disciplinary cooperation with ISOCARP Young Planners. ITACUS is therefore actively setting up of a YPTDP for young members, working together with ISOCARP. The core idea is to combine the proven methodology of ISOCARP's YPP with the concept of working cross-disciplinarily on underground planning issues. According to this tradition, the Gdansk YPP//YPTDP workshop on 'Bridging the Divide - Connecting the Young City and the Polish Hook Areas in Gdansk' will be offered this year again between 16-21 April, in Gdansk, Poland. At the same time, this event is intended to become a continuation of the previously organized series of workshops, which took place in 2016 and 2017 and were focusing on the Glasgow Waterfront and Wroclaw West End.

## THEME OF THE WORKSHOP AND PROJECT AREA

The workshop is a joint initiative of the ISOCARP and ITACUS together with the City of Gdansk as the host, and is intended to become a platform for Young Professionals both from Poland and other countries, representing professions associated with both urban design and planning and civil engineering allowing joint work on a selected urban development problem. In this particular case, the topic of the workshop is associated with the redevelopment of the northern part of Gdansk City Centre – a major Polish town, located on the coast of the Baltic Sea and on the Motlawa and Vistula waterfronts. The workshop revolves around shaping the on-ground and underground public spaces, developed on the occasion of the tunneling project being part of the extension of the Popieluszki street, providing a transport connection between two parts of the area divided by the Motlawa river.

Gdansk is one of the major Polish cities, which roots are getting to the early medieval ages. The first mentions of the existence of the city come from the year 997, although recent archaeological discoveries allow that origin of the city took place even a few decades earlier. The city was divided into a number of districts, among which one should mention Old Town and Main Town which for many ages were playing the roles of centers of urban life. Until the end of the 19th century, the historic core of Gdansk was essentially growing on the medieval structure. The leveling of fortifications made possible the urban development of the so-called „western front” of the city based on the plan drafted in cooperation with Josef Stübben, a renowned urban planner of the time. The heart of the city however survived in its original form until 1945, when the siege of Gdansk resulted in the almost complete annihilation of the historic city structure. Although carefully rebuilt after World War II, it nowadays represents an interesting compilation of various types of structures. It includes both restoration of the more-or-less of the original structures originating from before the destruction and modern interpretations such as the Granary Island. The collapse of the communist system marks the beginning of a new chapter in the reconstruction of the city center. Redevelopment of the



urban fabric of the Granary Island (Wyspa Spichrzów) has become one of the most prominent projects of the process of Gdansk waterfront regeneration. This process took place within different development frameworks — the majority of urban fabric has been produced by private developers, sometimes built anew, sometimes as retrofitting projects. At the same time, empty plots in the entire historic center have been built up. Many large-scale investments changed the structure of the place, which has become a truly mixed-use area with a wide offer of services. Yet, it remains an attractive residential area too. It is estimated that the housing capacity will soon be doubled compared to that from the beginning of the transformation.

The most important development areas in the city center are located in the northern part of the district. The place has been previously used by the Gdansk Shipyard and adjacent industrial companies. But the history of the place, called Young City, can be traced back to the 14th century. The first Young City, located by the Teutonic Knights in 1380 has been wiped out in 1455-57 so carefully that even today there is no final agreement concerning its precise position. After this demolition, the territory being a foreground of the fortifications, remained empty until the mid-19th century. Then the barracks of the Prussian fleet were located there and soon they were transformed into the shipyard. On these premises, the Gdansk Shipyard, one of the biggest industries of that kind in Europe, was opened shortly after the end of WWII. This place has become the birthplace of „Solidarity” — a movement that led at the end to the destruction of the communist system. As a bitter paradox of history can be seen the fact that the political success of the Shipyard was also the reason for its economic decline. Many large industries in Central Europe were not able to adapt to the liberal economy and face global competition. Gdansk Shipyard having tried several restructuring plans, finally went into bankruptcy in 1997. Transformation of the area of the shipyard has begun as early as in 1999. Different visions for the future development have been produced and discussed. A number of new investments, especially the European Solidarity Centre completed in 2014, contributed to the new perception of the place among the residents and guests. The same applies to the World War II museum, which opened in 2016. The most significant investment, however, that truly initiated the development



processes was a new transportation link, Popieluszki Street, opening the accessibility to the southern part of the former shipyard. As a result, a number of housing projects have already been completed and many of the landowners are preparing additional investment projects. In order to spur this process and – at the same time – to extend the redevelopment process to the other side of the Motława river the Mayor of the city decided to implement the second stage of the above-mentioned transportation project and complete the already existing street with a new tram line as well as with a new part of this main street, extended – through the tunnel – to the other side of the river, towards the Polish Hook area. At the same time, as it can be derived from the recently completed participatory processes (2021 and 2022), both the local community, key stakeholders (including site owners and investors), as well as city authorities, are interested in a design solution allowing combining the efficient transportation solutions with urban character of this street and shaping vibrant public spaces associated with the area where river crossing is planned.

Thus, workshop intends to define the outlines of the city development strategy with respect to shaping public spaces associated with the planned tunneling project. The main idea is to define outlines regarding both on-ground and underground spaces that can present guiding principles for design and engineering companies, dealing with the final design of the entire complex. This approach is also embedded in the outcomes of the participatory process, which was developed for both the entire Young City area and for the extension of Popieluszki street. Aside from the local context, the workshop is intended to promote in Poland and in other countries an integrated approach to the process of delivering infrastructure projects and combining engineering solutions with urban design approaches.

## **REQUIRED TASKS AND EXPECTED RESULTS**

Each participant will spend 5 full days with the selected ISOCARP and ITACUS experts and young professionals between 16 and 21 April. It is intended that the workshop will gather 20 international and local young professionals, who are not older than 35 years and who offer a keen interest in the workshop theme. The selected ISOCARP and ITACUS experts will have a chance to work with the local coordinators. The required tasks of the workshop participants are as follows:

- public presentation to local officials and other interested parties
- workshop publication

The workshop results will be presented to city officials on 21 April; therefore, all participants should arrive on 16th of April in the early afternoon at the latest and depart not earlier than 21 April. Within these dates, there may be a necessity of conducting meetings with local hosts and press. The workshop results are encouraged to be presented during the [59th ISOCARP World Planning Congress](#), Toronto, Canada, 10-13 October 2023.

## ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION

The call for WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS is open to YOUNG PROFESSIONALS OUTSIDE POLAND - professionals or Masters/Doctorate students in Planning, Urban Design, Architecture, Engineering, Civil Engineering, Geography, Social and Political Sciences, Policy Development, or another related discipline. It is intended to gather 20 International and local young professionals, who are not older than 35 years and who offer a keen interest in the workshop theme. Young professionals with experience in urban design and planning, landscape architecture and planning, urban engineering, civil engineers, underground space specialists (such as geologists, hydrogeologists, tunnel and geotechnical engineers) 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](#))
- Recommendation Letter (drafted/signed by an ISOCARP member, employer or university professor)
- A portrait photograph (5x5 cm, in 300 dpi)
- A clear scan of your passport (photo page)

Please upload the documents as follows:

Family Name\_Statement / Family Name\_CV / Family Name\_Recommendation / Family Name\_Photo / Family Name\_Passport

## CONTRIBUTION AND EXPENSES

The cost of modest accommodation (shared twin rooms) (from 16 to 22 April), as well as full-board (breakfast, lunches, dinners) for the entire duration of the workshop (excluding transfers to and from the airport) will be covered by our local partner, City of Gdansk. Information on the hotels will be out soon. ISOCARP will not be able to provide any assistance with respect to travel expenses. Participants are welcome to stay in Gdansk longer than 21 April; expenses for additional time spent have to be borne by themselves. All participants have to take care of their own health and travel insurance.

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Issue of Call	27 February 2023
Deadline - Reception of applications (Coordinators and Participants)	10 March 2023
Communication of selection results (Coordinators)	15 March 2023
Selection and Communication of results (Participants)	15 March 2023
Travel arrangements and Procedures	1 April 2023 at the latest
Arrival to Gdansk	16 April 2023 noon the latest
Departure	22 April 2023

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## PROVISIONAL TIMELINE FOR WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

DAY	SCOPE
April 16 Sday	Arrival, Welcome and Networking (in the afternoon) Welcome Dinner (20.00, optional)
Day 1 April 17 Mday	Introductory seminars by local experts on Gdansk and its Planning context Site visit Studio work & Discussion <i>Scope of 1st day:</i> How is the city perceived? Brainstorming, discussion on observations, discussion on SWOTs, strategic priorities, formulation of the design / planning problems and spatial development strategy
Day 2 April 18 Tday	Studio work, Pin-up & Discussion <i>Scope of 2nd day:</i> How is the city envisioned? Strategic objectives, Strategic solutions [from macro to micro scale] and developing key projects of intervention
Day 3 April 19 Wday	Studio work, Pin-up & Discussion <i>Scope of 3rd day:</i> Develop a strategy and action plan - Strategic solutions & design proposals, while exploring different means of visual representation and presentations
Day 4 April 20 Tday	Studio work <i>Scope of 4th day:</i> Pilots and policy recommendation - Refinement of the proposed solutions, neighbourhood wide actions, determine strategic sites for pilots, defining the specific proposals and implementation methods, while exploring different means of visual representation and presentations
Day 5 April 21 Fday	Final preparations for public presentation Presentation of workshop results to a larger audience to be invited by City of Gdansk Closing Ceremony
April 22 Sday	Departure

## 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](mailto:gunay@isocarp.org).

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