
CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

CREATING A FUTURE VISION FOR ALMERÍA

ISOCARP YOUNG PROFESSIONALS WORKSHOP
ALMERÍA, SPAIN, 23 – 27 OCTOBER 2023

BACKGROUND

The Young Planning Professionals' Programme was initiated in 1991 by one of the most appreciated members of our society – Estefanía Chavez de Ortega, at the 26th ISOCARP Congress in Guadalajara, Mexico. Since then, ISOCARP has been organising International YPP Workshops, which provide young planning professionals with an opportunity to work in a multi-cultural setting as a source of meaningful debate, new ideas and rejuvenation for the Society, to share their experiences on real-life planning problems, to transfer knowledge and skills in an attempt to resolve complex and multi-dimensional planning issues, exchange ideas and learn from each other as well as from seniors, in the name of the universal vision of promoting and enhancing planning profession.

Up to today, around 50 YPP workshops have been organised worldwide; including 31 congress workshops in USA, South Africa, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Australia, Japan, Russia, China, Kenya, Portugal, Belgium, Turkey, Spain, Switzerland, Egypt, Greece, Mexico, Germany, Japan, Israel, Czech Republic, the United Kingdom and Indonesia since 1991; 17 national and regional workshops in the United Kingdom, Russia, Poland and China; and 4 Intensive Training Programmes have been organised in the United Arab Emirates since 2011.

All Young Planning Professionals Programmes are designed to build up a lifelong partnership between ISOCARP and partners.

1. ALMERÍA AND THE SITE

Almería is a city and municipality in the province of Almería, in the autonomous community of Andalusia, Spain. It is geographically located in the extreme southeast of the Iberian Peninsula and in the tourist region of Almería-Cabo de Gata-Níjar.

The city was founded in 955 AD. and it was at its peak a commercial and cultural emporium, during the taifa in the 11th century and later as part of the Kingdom of Granada. After being incorporated into the Kingdom of Castile in 1489, it suffered many attacks from earthquakes, plagues, and pirate attacks. Since 1960 it has benefited from the development of intensive agriculture, tourism, construction sector and the marble industry.

The city has a very valuable cultural heritage, of which the Muslim Alcazaba (10th to 15th centuries), the Encarnación cathedral-fortress (16th century), the mineral loading area or English Cable (19th century) and the recently inaugurated Museum of Almería can be mentioned.

Its current population is just over 200,000 inhabitants and the city is currently undergoing new urban plans that include works to connect it to the high-speed train network.

Almería bases its economy on agriculture, industry (metallurgical and manufacturing), commerce, services and tourism. Being a university centre, the city intends to become a centre of research and innovation.

The Almería 2030 Strategic Plan, the Spanish Urban Agenda and the current vision for the future of the city

Since 2010, the European Commission has been requesting its members to place the element of innovation as a strategic pillar of development. Likewise, the topic "smart city" has been called the engine of the new European industrial policy. That is why Almería has considered innovation and entrepreneurship as an essential factor in strengthening its competitiveness. As mentioned before, the city has based its innovation policy on intensive agriculture and marble manufacturing in recent decades. Additionally, today the city undertakes public-private collaborations in the green economy, reflected in the Almería Solar Platform and the Solar Energy Research Centre.

The proposal for the Almería 2030 Strategic Plan (PEAL), which is a fundamental document for the development of this workshop, has been prepared based on four axes:

1. **Productive:** Innovative, productive, intelligent and territorially connected Almería.
2. **Sustainable:** sustainable Almería, efficient in resource management and active in the face of climate change
3. **With talent:** Mediterranean, cultural, renewed, attractive and talented Almería
4. **Inclusive:** inclusive Almería, with a modern administration and a committed citizenry

In summary, Almería aspires to be considered as "The City of Science and Innovation". In its **vision**, it defines turning the city into a "world productive benchmark with efficient and highly innovative management of land, water, and energy. A cultural, Mediterranean, talented, and inclusive metropolis, which attracts knowledge, companies and visitors from all over the world".

The **mission** that the city proposes is to "Position Almería in Spain and in the world as an example of a city that is committed to innovation, capable of undertaking and making the most of the talent and opportunities offered by its resources, its history and its people."

2. TOPIC, OBJECTIVE OF THE WORKSHOP AND MOTIVATION OF THE HOST

The general objective of the workshop is the design of a vision of the Almería of the Future, based on the aforementioned Local Agenda 2030 (PEAL) and the New Urban Agenda, complemented by the combination of ideas of the participants.

MOTIVATION OF THE HOST

Complying with current legislation, the Almería city council has approved the "Local Action Plan" to "achieve the specific objectives for the Urban Agenda of Almería 2030" in September 2022. This plan includes at least 55 actions and initiatives that have as the objective is to improve the sustainability of the city, implement innovation and seek strategies to achieve the sustainable development objectives of the Spanish Urban Agenda.

The YPP workshop will be an opportunity to request to the participants to carry out an analysis of the current proposal with the "Local Action Plan", aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the Spanish Urban Agenda, and invite them to add complementary actions that include current methods and innovations, such as nature-based solutions, Smart City elements, renaturation actions, clean mobility, and others. The combination of these proposals supposes an update of the plan that incorporates these and other elements that the participants propose.

A. PROCESS: WORK PREVIOUS TO THE WORKSHOP

In the days prior to arrival in Almería, local urban planners will present the current strategic plan and Urban Agenda for Almería to the participants through videoconference sessions, creating a cartography specially designed for the work in the workshop. By analysing these data, the participants will become familiar with the city, with the actions underway, the initiatives planned for the medium and long term, and the way in which they are impacting the sustainable development of the city and its functional area. At the same time, this exercise may help to detect current shortcomings and will serve as inspiration to launch complementary proposals. In the same way, the participants can propose the areas of the city that could incorporate projects not yet defined, but that are considered necessary.

B. WORK ON SITE

The interdisciplinary nature of the participants will be of great value to achieve comprehensive, attractive, and innovative proposals.

Following the introduction to the workshop by the local experts, the whole group will brainstorm ideas, creating a rough overview, albeit less concrete. Next, the participants will work in groups previously organized according to the individual profile and their experience. Each group will identify and elaborate its own topic, different from the rest of the groups, but complementary and compatible with the general vision. Once the groups have come to define their strong and coherent 'concept', they should prepare a sequence of slides and summarize their creative vision in an interesting and inspiring story. Each group will present their vision on the last day of the workshop, before the urban actors of Almería and the local community. The vision will also be reflected by each group in one or two A1 size posters, which will serve to be displayed after the final presentation..

C. FINAL PRODUCT

Participants must prepare a summary of their proposal based on a scheme designed by the coordinators and the director of the program, which will be presented to the host four weeks after the end of the workshop. The coordinators will complement this first report with a summary of the general vision. The host will be able to respond and issue their criteria so that they can be considered in the preparation of the final and more detailed version.

A final and comprehensive report, based on a template, including descriptions, illustrations, and visualizations, collated by the workshop coordinators into a consistent and comprehensive document, should be finalized by the end of January 2024. This product should be of the highest professional quality, graphic and topical that characterizes the YPP program. It will be delivered in digital format to the host.

5. EXPECTATIONS OF PARTICIPANTS

- They must arrive on the indicated date and not leave the workshop until the final presentation
- Participate actively and consciously in the elaboration of the products
- Participate in the public presentation on the closing day

6. ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION

- Being an active professional in urban planning, landscaping, spatial design, urban design, architecture, urban sociology, and related fields
- To be not older than 35 years (exceptions may apply in coordination with the host)
- The workshop will be open to 20 participants in total, 4 locals (residents in Spain) and 16 internationals (ideally eight from Europe (outside Spain) and eight from the rest of the world)
- The official language of the workshop will be English. For practical reasons for communication with the local community, it will be appreciated to receive applications from professionals who have knowledge of Spanish.
- Applicants must present all the required documentation specially prepared for applying to the workshop, including a letter of motivation, an updated curriculum vitae (LINK: ISOCARP TEMPLATE) relevant to the workshop; and fill out the online form prepared for applications (LINK to form). Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Deadline for applications **September 3, 2023**

7. CONTRIBUTION AND EXPENSES

A stipend will be provided for participants to cover the cost of modest accommodation in double rooms, as well as food (breakfast, lunch) for the duration of the workshop plus two previous nights and one night after (Saturday 21 Oct to Saturday 28 Oct). Available hotels will be announced shortly.

A scholarship of up to max. EUR 1,000 for participants from outside Europe and up to EUR 500 for participants from within Europe to cover the cost of economy class tickets (train, bus, plane) and (if possible) visa and local transportation costs will also be provided. Each participant must take care of covering their health insurance and travel insurance costs, in accordance with consular requirements.

8. IMPORTANT DATES

TUESDAY 1 AUGUST FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT IN NEWSLETTER
FRIDAY 4 AUGUST AND SUBSEQUENT DAYS: CALL VIA WEB, EMAIL, SOCIAL NETWORKS
SUN 3 SEPTEMBER CLOSING OF APPLICATIONS
MON 11 SEPTEMBER IF NECESSARY: INTERVIEWS WITH CANDIDATES (ZOOM) UNTIL THIS DATE
MON 11 SEPTEMBER FINAL SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS, NOTIFICATION
FRI 22 SEPTEMBER FINAL CONFIRMATION OF PARTICIPANTS
FRI 29 SEPTEMBER LAST DAY OF CONFIRMATION OF ARRIVAL DATES OF PARTICIPANTS
SAT 21 OCTOBER ARRIVAL OF PARTICIPANTS TO ALMERÍA
MON 23 OCTOBER FIRST DAY OF WORKSHOP
FRI 27 OCTOBER PUBLIC PRESENTATION
SAT 28 OCTOBER DEPARTURE OF PARTICIPANTS
NOVEMBER 30 FINAL DELIVERY OF SUMMARY REPORT (COORDINATORS)
JANUARY 31, 2024, FINAL DELIVERY OF THE COMPLETE REPORT

9. ADITIONAL REMARKS

- Participants who need a visa to enter the European Union are strongly recommended to make an appointment at the nearest consulate right away, in order to have the option of an interview and the issuance of an entry visa on time. Do not wait for acceptance, you can cancel the interview in case you have not been accepted.
- Participants who do not reside within the European Union or the Schengen area must have a valid passport with an expiration date no earlier than May 1, 2024, to obtain a visa. In case of doubt, consult the nearest consular representation.
- We encourage applicants who have already participated in ISOCARP YPP workshops before (recent or not) to apply. Experience of applicants in this type of activity will be valued.