

Manfred Schrenk - Candidate Statement for ISOCARP board

My name is Manfred Schrenk, I hold a degree in spatial planning from technical University of Vienna (1993) and have been working as well at universities, founded a small planning consultancy and I set up and managed a non-university research institute for several years and was involved in numerous international projects (particularly EU-funded). Back until 1996 I do organize annual international planning conferences called CORP, www.corp.at

It must have been around 1995 or 1996 when I first heard (better: read) something about an International Planners Association called ISOCARP – on the World Wide Web, that for sure was completely different from what we know today– it already contained a lot of information especially about technical issues, but hardly anything about Urban and Regional Planning (and no commerce).

It was in the phase when I had the idea to organize a conference on “COmputers in Regional Planning - CORP” – first edition was held in 1996. By that time I got in contact with Ric Stephens – then in California, many years later ISOCARP-president, and I joined an APA-event co-organized by him and we became friends and stayed in contact.

It was in 2001 when I finally decided to apply for ISOCARP-membership and handed in a paper for the congress in 2002 (Athens / Glyfada). Well, my idea was just to combine the congress with a holiday and stay at the congress as short as possible – maybe just for the session in which I was presenting and then escape to the Greek islands.

Well, the result was, that I stayed at the congress the whole time, including the closing session – it was way too exciting to leave. During these extremely interesting days in Glyfada I met many, many excellent planners from all over the world, absolutely fascinating personalities and with many of them a friendship was established that is still going on.

I had felt the ISOCARP-spirit! A society of outstanding professionals but also a network of wonderful colleagues and friends!

I attended almost all the congresses since then (o.k., a few I simply could not afford) and in 2007 became VP and treasurer of ISOCARP – for 2 periods in a financially extremely difficult time. ISOCARP at that time was always very, very close to bankruptcy, but the die-hard ISOCARPIans fought and somehow we made it through the storm - and became more and more international.

Why do I tell these old stories here? Because I am convinced that it still must be possible to be a very relevant global society of professionals and still maintain the spirit, the feeling of a network of good colleagues and friends.

More than 20 years is a long time. ISOCARP has changed and of course I have changed – we all have. Still I see this society as part of my life and I have it in my heart.

I would love to contribute to the generation of knowledge for better cities and make the world a better place by means of spatial planning for as many people as possible – and especially for those who need it most!

I am used to voluntary activities.

Vienna, 30 August 2023



Manfred Schrenk – Letter of commitment for being candidate for ISOCARP board member

Vienna, 30 August 2023

To whom it may concern!

Hereby I confirm my acceptance of the nomination for the position of Board member of ISOCARP.

I confirm that I agree on the Society's Constitution and the Code of Conduct.

I am aware and acknowledge that members of the Board receive no remuneration and are financially responsible for the Society.



Manfred Schrenk