

**AESOP YEARBOOK**  
**2007 & 2008**

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## President's foreword

Dear AESOP Community,

Last year, our 21st conference was held in Naples, with about 600 participants coming from forty countries inside and outside Europe. More than 400 presentations were given in fourteen tracks subsumed under the main theme of the risk society. Overall, a very successful conference for our association.

Obviously, AESOP has grown strong over its twenty years of existence. In 2008, we have 111 full and 43 associate members coming from 25 countries - i.e. schools in which planning education follows our requirements and have therefore become a member of the association. What is more, these are schools which share our ideas and the quality criteria, which we promote for a planning education in Europe. In addition, more schools are coming now from the new European Union Member states expressing an interest in closer cooperation with AESOP.

This is a huge and growing international structure - up until now working entirely on a voluntary basis, which limited our capacities. What is very positive therefore was the decision made by the Council of Representatives in Naples to raise the membership fee from 2008 and to progress towards a professional secretariat for AESOP, strengthening a core function in our organizational structures – the Secretary General.

The basis for this needs also to be mentioned here: AESOP decided about its core objectives as a professional association and defined a strategic agenda until 2010, with a midterm review beginning 2009 (see further down).

This confirmed support is of particular importance for AESOP: In 2008 we will see a major overhaul of our web-pages with improved communication functions for our members. Our negotiations with two academic journals will open new additional communication channels for AESOP and its members, improving our representation inside and outside Europe. We are reaching out towards other associations to jointly promote the planning profession and provide for our members positive working conditions.

The year 2008 will provide many excellent opportunities for our work to continue. A new Heads of Schools meeting in March in Łódź continued the discussions about standards, qualities and professional recognition. In June, the AESOP PhD workshop on 'Doing Planning Research' will be hosted by our colleagues from the Norwegian University of Life Sciences. The forthcoming joint ACSP/ AESOP conference 'Bridging the divide – Celebrating the city', 6-11 July in Chicago will provide an excellent opportunity for scholarly debate.

This is not least also the success of all of those actively shaping and using AESOP as an organization. Special and also personal thanks go here to our Secretary General Anna Geppert. Anna Geppert is an excellent SG and has worked hard over the past year towards a more professional conduct, with results visible to the entire community. Her support is now Sébastien Piantoni, who also deserves appreciation for his job.

Many changes happened as well over the past year, with new colleagues taking over positions and other long standing officers stepping back from their often very laborious jobs. I would like to thank in particular Gert de Roo as the previous Secretary General and his support Mark Beeftink, Karel Maier who was responsible for our conferences, and also Alan Reeve, previous editor of the yearbooks. New in our ExCo and warmly welcomed are Pantoleon Skayannis (Volos, now responsible for conferences), Andrea Frank (Cardiff, GPEAN representative), and Beatrix Haselsberger (Vienna, Young Academics).

One new person coming in soon, after the Chicago conference 2008, needs to be mentioned in particular: Willem Salet (Amsterdam) will be the new President of AESOP and started already in his position as Senior Vice President. We all look forward to be closely cooperating with him over the next years.

## Objectives 2010

AESOP's agenda at current can be captured in one overarching objective: AESOP is the only representation body which brings together the Planning Schools of Europe. Given this unique position AESOP will strengthen its profile as a professional body (1). AESOP will mobilize its resources taking a leading role and entering its expertise into ongoing debates and initiatives regarding planning education and planning qualification of future professionals (2). AESOP will promote its agenda with politicians and all other key stakeholders (or actors) in place development and management across Europe (3).

According to our work results, the following has been achieved over the past year.

1. Last years decision to raise the membership fee from 2008 onwards gave us the huge opportunity to progress towards a professional secretariat, with better support for the work of the Secretary General and the President. AESOP has acted on this already with employing a part-time support for the SG. We also put out a tender for the improvement of our WWW presence and related issues like digital dissemination. The intention here is to turn our as yet one-way communication web-system into a two way system, which can actively be used by our members. The new web-pages should be operational by the end of the year with a first test version to be presented e.g. in Chicago. This overhaul of the web-pages will be linked at the same time to an improvement of our data bases and a closer coordination of information exchange between treasurer and SG.
2. AESOP clearly has a task to guarantee educational quality. This has both, an internal perspective relating to accreditation (in teaching but also research),





and the external perspective of a potential common platform for the definition of professional standards. AESOP has set up a Bologna 2 survey though the responses to that seem to be lagging. But regular up-dates of the process of the Bologna reforms will become a standard for AESOP. The process of defining core (minimum) requirements for planners is again a discussion of the Łódź Heads of School meeting. Regarding the common platform, AESOP has started a survey together with ECTP about professional issues. Last, we have been watching closely developments at partner countries and responded e.g. to the suggested abolition of diplomas in the field of urban planning in France.

3. AESOP needs to develop a strategy or a policy which helps strengthening the profile of planning and communicating the value of planning. We should attempt a better 'spatial literacy' of all actors and stakeholders to achieve a higher spatial quality. This point has still many open items. We came to an agreement (Memorandum of Understanding) with ISOCARP for closer cooperation. Together with ECTP we are running the already mentioned survey on professional issues.

As you can see, we step by step work on our agenda until 2010. Later this year, we will start working on the required review of our activities and the impact for further organizational reforms.

There have been many more initiatives, amongst others we gave out five grants for PhD-students to participate in the ACSP/AESOP Conference in Chicago this year. The five candidates are all participating in standard tracks and will have the opportunity to share views with other academics. The Chicago conference seems to fall in the range of close to one thousand participants, quite large in our terms but also demonstrating how important the profession is globally.

Future conferences will be held in 2009 in Liverpool. For 2010 an invitation for tender has been distributed, but we already have good candidates volunteering to organize the conference. 2011 will be the year for the next World Planning Conference, the host for this to be announced soon.

Exciting times ahead, for which I again would like to thank all member schools for their support – and for which I wish all of us the best of success

*Peter Ache, Helsinki*



## Organisation matters





## AESOP Membership

*With over 150 members, AESOP is the only representation body which brings together the Planning Schools of Europe. Given this unique position, AESOP will strengthen its profile as a professional body. AESOP will mobilize its resources taking a leading role and entering its expertise into ongoing debates and initiatives regarding planning education and planning qualification of future professionals. AESOP will promote its agenda with politicians and all other key stakeholders in place development and management across Europe.*

### Membership categories :

**Full members:** Schools or similar units within an institution of higher education, with permanent staff of planning-educators; full planning courses on Bachelor and/or Master degree level; planning research as well as links with other planning schools. Degrees delivered by full members meet AESOP core requirements for quality in Planning education. Full members hold voting rights and hence, through their representatives, co-determine AESOP policies and procedures.

Fee : € 600 per year / € 300 for countries with low GNP according to the World Bank criteria.

**Associate members:** Schools within Europe where teaching of planning is provided as a specialism or major within a subject (e.g. social sciences, geography, architecture...) and Planning Schools from other regions of the world. Associate members do not hold voting rights but are associated to AESOP activities and benefit from AESOP services.

Fee : € 300 per year / € 150 for countries with low GNP according to the World Bank criteria.

**Affiliate members:** Firms, organisations or agencies directly concerned with planning are appreciated as affiliate member. Affiliate members do not hold voting rights but are associated to AESOP activities and benefit from AESOP services.

Fee : € 300 per year / € 150 for countries with low GNP according to the World Bank criteria.

**Individual members :** Individuals interested in planning and planning education.

Individual members do not hold voting rights but are associated to AESOP activities and benefit from AESOP services.

Fee : € 150 per year / € 75 for countries with low GNP according to the World Bank criteria.

More about our members, how to become a member ? See p. 80



## The Council of Representatives

The Council of representatives is at the same time :

### **AESOP's main decisional body**

The main policy and decision making body in AESOP is the Council of Representatives. The full membership-schools in each country choose National Representatives to represent them as a group in the Council of Representatives. The Council has at the moment 45 members and meets twice a year. One meeting takes place during the annual congress and the other in spring. The Council of Representatives also elects the office-bearers who form the Executive Committee of AESOP.

**A vital ressource for AESOP**, where support has often been seeked – and found – for various activities

### **A main contact chanel with our members :**

Do not hesitate to contact your national representative if you have any questions.

Each country designates two representatives (or one, if there is one member school only). A representative attends the Council and holds a voting right regarding all AESOP decisions.

Some countries also designate substitutes : **a substitute** may attend the council meeting, hold the voting right in replacement of a national representative who cannot attend.

Both representatives and substitutes act as AESOP key contact persons in their countries.

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The Executive Committee operates with delegated powers on behalf of the Council and is subject to its authority. The Committee meets quarterly to secure the aims of the AESOP Charter and to implement the policies of AESOP as expressed in the General Assembly or by the Council of Representatives.

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## The Treasurer's Report for 2007

### Income

The annual income for 2007 was € 39.843. This sum was realised through membership fee payments and a pleasing income from advertisement business. Several members did not fulfil their financial obligations in due time.

### Expenses

During 2007 € 38.896 were spent. The expenses can be summarised as follows (for details please see the table attached): publishing and printing, communication team & web, general secretariat, business meetings, Young Academics, thematic groups, prizes and awards, PhD-workshop grants, unforeseen & miscellaneous (update of treasurer's database) and bank & VISA charges.

### Balance

This year's balance shows a surplus of € 947. This is primarily the result of lower than expected expenditures for some items.

### *Conclusion & remarks*

The aim of AESOP treasury policy is to achieve a balanced annual budget (annual expenditure should not exceed income). Given the spending praxis of the last few years it has proved possible to achieve this aim. Membership fees and congress contributions remain AESOP's main sources of income.

The standard of AESOP-services (e.g. organizing and co-organizing conferences, workshops and meetings, provision of reports and information via website and e-mail, job advertisements) and strategic activities (e.g. young academics, communication, thematic groups, quality assurance) has been raised continuously over the last few years, which has necessitated additional budgets. Additional costs have been claimed by the Secretary General for 2007. New strategic activities (e.g. the further integration of databases and web) need specific consideration and will incur additional costs. What is very positive therefore was the decision made by the Council of Representatives in Naples to raise the membership fee from 2008 and to provide a full secretarial support to the Secretary General.

In order to maintain the quality of current services and improve them still further additional income sources and the revision of some budget items have to be discussed.

*April 2008 / Andreas Voigt, AESOP Treasurer*



**AESOP FINANCIAL REPORT 07**

<b>INCOME</b>
Membership Fees
Congress Contribution to AESOP
Income out of Advertisement Business
<b>Total Income</b>

<b>2007 Budget (in €)</b>	<b>2007 actual (in €)</b>
41.000	38.654
6.650	0
2.000	1.189
<b>49.650</b>	<b>39.843</b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>
Publishing & Printing
Yearbook
CT & Web: Communication Team & Website
SG: Secretariate Costs
Exco Business Meetings
Exco: Additional Business Trips
StaCo: Standing Committee for Congresses
CoRep seminars
YA: Young Academic's Working Group
Thematic Groups
AESOP Joint Seminars
GPEAN
«AESOP Prize Paper» award
«AESOP Prize Paper» additional costs
«AESOP Best Conference Paper» award
«AESOP Excellence in Teaching for Practice» award
AESOP PhD Workshop Grant:
Hardship Support
Unforeseen / Miscellaneous
Bank & VISA Charges
<b>Total Expenses</b>
<i>Difference Income/Expenses</i>

<b>2007 Budget</b>	<b>2007 actual</b>
1.000	229
5.000	0
3.500	2.287
16.000	12.554
13.000	11.255
1.000	2.537
2.200	0
2.000	0
2.000	1.277
2.500	804
2.000	0
1.000	466
500	500
500	0
500	500
2.000	1.000
2.500	2.500
2.000	0
2.000	2.227
1.500	760
<b>62.700</b>	<b>38.896</b>
<b>- 13.050</b>	<b>947</b>



## Activities





# AESOP Congresses

## Naples 2007

### Planning in the Risk Society

The XXI Aesop Conference hosted in Napoli – for the second time in Italy – it was a good success in terms of results for our growth both like association and scientific community.

The conference's theme, "Planning in the risk society", it was largely discussed in 14 tracks and 11 roundtables, very well organized and graded also from our trackchairs and colleagues that proposed new discussion spaces that enriched the usual conference setting.

In all these large thematic session scholars, academics, researchers and students tried to decline the challenges of planning in the context of 'risk' both in terms of environmental concerns consequent upon climate change but also social and economic concerns linked to crime, terrorism, poverty, exclusion and marginalisation, amongst others and so on.

More than 600 participants (considering also the PhD students that will join the main Congress from the Workshop in Paestum), coming from 40 between European and not European countries, in a great numbers of presentations discussed about the (contemporary) risk society implications for planning theories and practices, territorial cooperation and cohesion policy, education and practice, global challenges to local socio-economic development, multicultural societies, participation and governance, housing, urban decline and social exclusion, law, institutions, and property rights, urban design and physical form, transport and mobility infrastructures, new technologies, culture, heritage and spatial planning and environmental one with landscape and urban areas.

Moreover the large number of roundtables were an interesting confirmation of needs to address specific issues as well as to strengthen and expand working groups engaged on a permanent basis on special issues like: "Research ethics in the context of racialised conflict and oppression" (organizer Lo Piccolo, Thomas), "The challenges of the European spatial planning to the regional planning systems in Italy" (organizer Belli, Mesolella Fabbro), "Convergence and transfer: the experience of comparing France and Britain (organizer French and British Planning Study Group), "(How) does planning theory affect practice?" (organizer Alexander), "Informality matters" (organizer Hillier), "Changing concepts of space and place in spatial planning" (organizer Davoudi, Bailey), "Climate change, cities, and urban planning" (organizer Pizarro), "Urban transport planning for the XXI century: learning from Naples and Campania?" (organizer Bertolini, Hull) "Territorial attractiveness: crossing points of view" (Ingallina), "A common European core curriculum for planning education?" (organizer Marson, Fubini), "Revolutionary urbanism: the politics of inclusion" (organizer Roy). One time

more we'd like to thank all the roundtables organizers for their attention and work also oriented to invite and involve new or unusual guest of the Association events.

A big number of Associations (internal or strictly related with Aesop) and thematic groups meetings took place during the conference. They confirmed the vitality of members and their interest to use as much as possible the conference days to exchange information, experiences, relations and also to organize every time more interesting events.

However all the information about the conference are still available on the website ([www.aeso2007napoli.it](http://www.aeso2007napoli.it)) that we'll take open for one year and half more to let people take information and contacts.

At the end we really like to thank all the Aesop members the give us help and trust that let us to do so well our work.

*Dr Daniela De Leo and Pr. Francesco Domenico Moccia (conference chair)*

## Chicago 2008 - Joint ACSP / AESOP Congress

### Bridging the Divide, Celebrating the City

The report of this event will be in our 2008/2009 yearbook



## Liverpool 2009

### Why Can't the future be more like the past?

*Hosted by the Department of Civic Design, University of Liverpool, 15<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> July 2009*

We are delighted to be able to host the 2009 AESOP Congress at the Department of Civic Design University of Liverpool.

In the autumn of 1909, the first five students joined the University of Liverpool to study Civic Design. At this time Lord Leverhulme had the highest sum in libel damages ever awarded up to that time and given his longstanding interest in architecture and planning he made a gift to the University to create the Lever Chair in Town Planning. One hundred years later we are honoured and delighted to be hosting the annual AESOP Congress and we look forward to welcoming the international planning community to the city of Liverpool to help join in the celebrations for our centenary.

The key them for the Congress helps us to reflect back on the past 100 years of planning and planning education, not in a nostalgic manner, but more importantly what, if anything, does the past teach us in response to today's or tomorrows planning issues and agendas. Planning has a chameleon like quality which responds to meet specific culture, political, socio-economic conditions both across time and space. It is a highly contested activity whereby often difficult decisions have to be made about the use of a scarce resource, namely land, often in what is described as the 'public interest'. How do various forms of planning respond to current and future challenges? Over what timescales should planners be thinking when making decisions? What type of planner do we require for the future and what implications does this have for planning education (seen as a lifelong learning experience)? These are just some of the many questions to be considered in the wide variety of tracks which characterise an AESOP congress.

Chosen as European Capital of Culture in 2008 Liverpool as a city has been experiencing a renaissance in recent years. Regeneration is continuing apace with over £3billions worth of development ongoing. For Liverpool 2008 marks the beginning of a new chapter in its revival. Whilst there are significant areas of redevelopment and enterprise it is still the most deprived city in England. This raises interesting questions in terms of social inclusion. One year on, what has Capital of Culture achieved or facilitated. A programme of mobile workshops and study tours will enable participants to explore the rapidly changing face of Liverpool and challenges for the future.

The Congress will be based in the University of Liverpool in close proximity to the city centre and a range of variably priced hotels.

#### **PhD Workshop**

Immediately prior to the main AESOP Congress our colleagues at Manchester University will be hosting the 2008 AESOP PhD workshop. This will offer research students an opportunity to participate in an intensive interactive and international course to support their PhDs, supported by senior planning academics from around the world.

*David Shaw (Conference Chair)*





## Heads of Schools meetings

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Heads of Schools Meeting in Łódź

This year the 3rd AESOP ExCo, CoRep and Head of Schools meeting took place in Lodz (Poland) from 27<sup>th</sup> till 30<sup>th</sup> March. The meeting has been hosted by Department of City and Regional Management, Faculty of Management at the University of Łódź.

First two days of the event has been devoted to discuss various matters important in AESOP activity. ExCo and CoRep members were deciding upon dealing with organisational matters regarding the Association. Also, a decision of high importance for the future of AESOP has been taken: the renovation of our website.

On Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> March the Head of Schools meeting has been combined with the international conference on 'New Challenges for European Planning Schools – how to develop and promote our curricula and their recognition'. The conference has been co-organized by AESOP, The Task Force for Education and Career Development in the field of Spatial Economy KPZK PAN at the Committee of Country Planning in the Polish Academy of Science, Polish Town Planners Association, Department of City and Regional Management, Faculty of Management, University of Lodz and under the patronage of Marshall of Lodz Voivodship.

The main aims of conference were defined as:

4. description of research activity in planning in Poland and in Europe.
5. sharing experience and plans for education activity in planning.

The scientific committee consisted of Polish and foreign experts in planning:

- Prof. Peter Ache
- Ass.Prof. Anna Geppert
- Prof. dr inż. Mykola Gabrel
- Prof. dr hab. Tadeusz Kudłacz
- Prof. dr hab. Tadeusz Markowski
- Prof. dr hab. Tadeusz Marszał
- Ass. Prof. Roelof Verhage
- Prof. dr hab. Tadeusz Zipser

The conference gathered 60 participants representing planning schools associated in AESOP and Polish participants from 10 universities and polytechnics playing leading role in planning education in the country. The conference hosted as well Prof. Mykola Gabrel from Lvov Polytechnic in Ukraine.

The event has been divided into four sessions. First one has been devoted to new challenges for planning schools in Central Europe, the second concentrated on new investment projects in Lodz and its region and the third one presented different aspect of quality assessment and accreditation issues that are crucial for planning education curricula. The fourth session has been organized in a form of workshop. Participants could join one of three groups:

- Building on AESOP 1995 core curriculum
- Defining the possible role and means of AESOP implication In quality assessment procedure of planning curricula
- Exploring cooperation possibilities with schools in Central Europe in planning education and research

In the evening participants has got the opportunity to visit Manufactura Project in Lodz. First they joined guide tour around the place, which is one of the newest investment in Lodz done by Apsys Group. Than participants visited Fabryka Museum and had farewell cocktail there.

The last day of the meeting has been devoted to a study tour on the new developments and revitalization projects in Lodz Metropolitan Area.

The conference has been a good occasion to share the knowledge and experience on planning education curricula between European planners. I was also a good opportunity to activate Central European planning schools in the issues important for planning education process, especially concerning Bologna process.

*Beata Banachowicz*

## PhD workshops

### AESOP PhD workshop 2007 in Paestum

The 2007 PhD Research Workshop has been held in a farm guest house next to the Greek temples in Paestum, 70 kms from Naples. The mentors Alessandro Balducci (Politecnico di Milano, Italy), Klaus Kunzmann (Universität Dortmund, Germany), John Forester (Cornell University, USA), Luigi Mazza (Politecnico di Milano, Italy), and Michael Neuman (Texas A&M University) have been asked to act both as



keynote speakers and “guides” for 39 participants, selected among 70 applications from all over the world. In particular, they came from U.K, U.S.A, Italy, Germany, Holland, Portugal, Israel, Australia, Norway, Slovenia, Finland, France, Japan, Turkey and Sweden. The researches submitted this year, confirming an increasing participation to the latest editions of the workshop, are characterized by a very “transversal” mark and they often touch unconventional spheres of planning: they are “bridge” works as John Forester defined them. Even if that doesn’t help the exchange of methods and experiences among different geographic and cultural contexts, it gives an unquestionable and decisive contribution to the research, in terms of not conventional and consolidated methodologies and research programs.

The PhD Research Workshop is now a mature experience and it is an integral and essential part of the Aesop congress. Since its first edition in 1993 (called “Summer School for Doctoral Students and Young Academics” at that time) the workshop has become not just a didactic tool and a means of integration among young researchers, methodologies and tutors’ “narrations” but, more generally, an observatory on planning research innovation, essential to make planning training more comparable among the different European doctoral schools.

In this perspective, Aesop on one hand the Aesop know-how, logistic support and qualified skills, on the other hand, from young researchers, it gets resources in terms of intuitions, innovative hints, broadmindedness toward a contamination with other disciplines, willingness to renew and to map out the routes of research again. All these subjects are confirmed by the contributions proposed this year. And just to make clear

the core of every contribution, the participants were asked to specify for their research a main theme, the relevance to planning literature, research methodology, as well as major obstacles in developing research, and preliminary results.

In the current scenario, Aesop workshop is an important experience where young researchers get in touch with senior interlocutors, even because occasions like this are not as frequent as they should be. This kind of experience helps also to smooth the unavoidable lonely character of the doctorate path, removing some uncertainties and strengthening its “pleasant unrepeatability”.

*Giuseppe Guida – University of Napoli “Federico II”  
2007 Aesop Local Organizing Committee Member*

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## AESOP PHD workshop 2008 in Norway

*Organised by the Norwegian University of Life Sciences  
Sunday 15th- to Wednesday 18th JUNE 2008,  
Hindsæter hotel, Jotunheimen National Park*

This AESOP PhD workshop enabled 30 PhD students to share their research ideas, findings, and concerns with each other in an informal atmosphere. Four mentors (Peter Ache, Maros Finka, Anna Geppert, Umberto Janin-Rivolin) act as facilitators to guide the presentations and critical reflection by the students and to encourage discussion on major planning themes and theory.

The themes below form part of the plenary round-table panel discussion, and were addressed by the evening plenary speakers:

- How to develop, use and apply theory in planning research ;
- Governance and planning
- Particular topics of interest raised by the participating PhD students.

The venue was in the heart of Norwegian mountains in Jotunheimen National Park (900 meters above sea level). The full report of the PhD workshop will be published in AESOP 2008 Yearbook.





## Thematic groups

### News from thematic groups

The AESOP thematic groups function as international academic forums on particular topics. Each group defines its own objectives and activities, but the overall aim is to facilitate and stimulate interaction between academics with common interests. Currently, nine thematic groups have been created under the flag of AESOP. These groups are in different stages of maturity, and have different levels of activities.

Three new groups have been established in 2007: on “resilience and risk mitigation strategies”, on “strategic planning” and on “Franco-British planning”. This last group was an existing network of researchers doing comparative studies on planning in France and the UK. The group has regular meetings and has recently published a book – in French and in English – on spatial planning in Britain and France. The group on resilience and risk mitigation strategies and the one on strategic planning are entirely new as they have started their activities at the 2007 Naples congress. In the course of the year, a lot of work has been done on defining the topics and activities of the groups and on extending the network. A first meeting of the resilience and risk mitigation group has been organised in Milan in December. Further meetings are upcoming, in particular a round table session at the ACSP-AESOP congress in Chicago. The first meeting of the strategic planning group that was planned in March 2008 has had to be delayed because its dates coincided with the AESOP Council of Representatives and Heads of Schools meeting.

The existing groups – you can find more information about them on the AESOP website – have continued to meet and to organise roundtables at the AESOP congress. In addition to this, some groups developed other activities. For example, the “complexity and planning” group has organised seminars and has almost finalised a book publication. The “planning law and property rights” group has been very active, organising in particular an important seminar in collaboration with the Dutch ministry of spatial planning in Amsterdam. The group on planning research and ethics is working on a book publication.

Some groups on important issues have experienced some difficulties to start or continue their activities. Two of them need to be mentioned in particular. At the Naples congress, a very interesting initiative for a group on “planning and energy” was launched, but did not get the attendance it had hoped for. This is regrettable because the issue of planning and energy definitely deserves special attention. We hope that there will be a follow up of the Naples initiative. The group on “transnational and cross-

border planning” also deals with a crucial issue, especially for an international organisation like AESOP. This group has been active for some time, but has run out of steam. If some persons would be interested in cranking up this group, they would be very welcome!

If you have a particular interest for one of these groups, you can find more information on the AESOP website. The creation of new groups is always possible. Again, you can find more information on the AESOP website.

*Roelof Verhage*  
*AESOP junior vice president*  
*Contact person for the working groups*

## **List of Thematic groups**

- Urban Design in Planning
- Transport Planning and Policy
- New Technologies in Planning
- Research Ethics and Planning
- Planning and Complexity
- Transnational and Cross-Border Planning
- Planning Law and Property Rights
- Franco-british planning study group
- Resilience and Risks Mitigation Strategies
- Sustainable Food Planning



## New Thematic Group in AESOP

### Sustainable Food Planning

#### 1. Introduction

Food security is one of the most compelling issues of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and planners at every spatial scale – from the smallest municipalities to the largest cities – will be expected to rise to the challenge of finding sustainable solutions. As things stand, however, this will not be easy because the food system has been largely ignored by the planning community. As two US planning academics have said, the food system has been ‘a stranger to the planning field’ because it is ‘notable by its absence from the writings of planning scholars, from the plans of planning practitioners, and from the classrooms in which planning students are taught’ (Pothukuchi and Kaufman, 2000:113).

To its credit, the American Planning Association (APA) has sought to compensate for this historical neglect. At the APA National Conference in San Francisco in 2005, a special track of sessions on food planning subjects was held for the first time in APA’s history. More significantly, in 2007 the APA published a path-breaking *Policy Guide on Community and Regional Food Planning* which outlined seven general policies that planners were urged to support:

- Support comprehensive food planning at the community and regional levels
- Strengthen the local and regional economy by promoting local and regional food systems
- Support food systems that improve the health of the region’s residents
- Support food systems that are ecologically sustainable
- Support food systems that are equitable and just
- Support food systems that preserve and sustain diverse traditional food cultures of ethnic minority communities
- Support the development of state and federal legislation to facilitate community and regional food planning in the above 6 spheres (APA, 2007)

The APA’s innovative work on food system planning, as well as our own work at Cardiff University on public food provisioning, jointly provide the stimulus for this proposal for a new thematic group on Sustainable Food Planning (SFP).

## **2. What is the group aiming to do?**

The aims of the new SFP group are essentially threefold:

- (i) to overcome the neglect of the agri-food sector in planning theory and practice;
- (ii) to connect planning with the agri-food sector and use food system planning as a prism to address health, environment, transport, energy, and social justice problems;
- (iii) to identify the scope for, and the limits to, sustainable food planning as a professional discipline or ensemble of disciplines

Although the initial focus will be urban, the emphasis on *sustainable* food planning is meant to highlight the need for better urban-rural integration by, for example, helping cities to re-connect with their regional hinterlands, reinforcing the growing interest in city-regions in the European Union.

## **3. Who can join and how could they contribute?**

The SFP group is open to all members of AESOP, but it is especially relevant to planners who have a strong interest in the links between food, health, land use, transport, energy and social justice. Food is of direct and indirect interest to planners: in a direct sense, it is a major sector of the economy, especially when it is defined properly to include production, processing, distribution, retailing, consumption and recycling; in an indirect sense, it is an important prism through which planners can help to address public health, land use, transport, energy, social justice and other climate change issues. Planners could contribute in many different ways, from simple email exchanges to international seminars and conferences.

## **4. What topics will it be discussing, and in what format?**

Depending on how the group wishes to define its remit, and how broadly it wants to frame the subject of sustainable food planning, the list of topics is almost limitless. In the first instance it may be useful for the group to focus on a limited number of topics – for example why the food system has been neglected by the planning community, what is a reasonable definition of a sustainable food system, should sustainability be equated with localization or can it incorporate socially just forms of globalization, like the promotion of fairly traded products? These ground-clearing, definitional topics could be followed by more substantive topics – for example how to forge the policy and professional linkages between planning and the other policy fields identified above. The format for the discussion would vary from basic internet discussion groups to seminars, conferences and special issues of academic and professional journals.

## **5. What type of work/debate are you expecting to generate?**

In the first instance two types of work are envisaged. Firstly, academic work to define the issues and explore the theory, policy and practice of sustainable food planning. Secondly, professional work to help professional planners to relate to and liaise with policy-makers in other policy fields, especially public health, environmental management, transport planning and social justice departments. Again, these debates

could be held in live seminars and conferences as well as in special issues of academic and professional journals.

### **6. What support do you need from AESOP?**

The main support we would be looking for initially would be advice, especially as regards information about contacts and possible interested members in Europe broadly defined, that is including Eastern Europe, where the food system is coming under intense pressure to 'modernise' in a way that simply mimics western models of modernization. We also hope to get AESOP advice about the experience of other thematic groups so that the SFP group could benefit from the collective learning curve.

### **7. Who manages and heads the group?**

The School of City and Regional Planning at Cardiff University is committed to the creation of the SFP group and Professor Kevin Morgan has agreed to coordinate the group in the first instance. Sustainable food planning grows out of Morgan's recent research, which has led to a number of relevant publications on the public provisioning of food (Morgan et al, 2006; Morgan et al, 2007; Morgan and Sonnino, 2008). Sustainable food planning is also a key research topic of many other colleagues in the School (eg Marsden, 2008). Sustainable food planning is also the main theme of an international workshop which the School is hosting later this year under the title of *Feeding the City: Urban Planning and the New Food Equation*, which focuses on urban food security strategies in Europe, North America, Latin America and Africa. The Cardiff School of City and Regional Planning is therefore a very supportive environment from which to launch a new thematic group on sustainable food planning and we warmly invite interested colleagues to contact us !

### **Contact person:**

Professor Kevin Morgan

Email: [MorganKJ@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:MorganKJ@cardiff.ac.uk)



## Prizes





## Excellence in Teaching Prize

### Winner of Excellence in Teaching Prize 2007

#### Faculty of Urban and regional planning, IUAV University of Venice

***A participative process of Urban Regeneration. Building an integrated programme aimed at improving the quality of urban and social life in a consolidated periphery of Venice***

Contact person: **Liliana Padovani**

The course has been appointed as winner because it fulfils the overall prize criteria to make a critical and constructive contribution of teaching. It will inspire and foster curiosity, rigour, creativity, critical thinking, and the building of lifelong learning.

The course examines the social dimension of sustainable development in the way that students investigate a group of settlements where good quality urban areas are found side by side with zones of urban decay and social distress. In particular, it exposes issues raised by immigration, both domestic and foreign.

The students learn how to create places and situations which promote social inclusion and the involvement of local actors in urban life and urban management; how to support the coexistence of different cultural and ethnic groups in the same urban spaces; and how to produce visions and scenarios arising from the interaction among local actors.

In a context in which top-down physical planning models are normally dominant, students learn how introducing the social practices of local actors can be a constitutive dimension of planning. Communicative and participatory planning is seen as a normal kind of planning, with its own body of technical skills to be learned. The course encourages students to reflect critically on theories of social equity to design proposals for participative processes.

Overall, the course reconstitutes a traditional physical planning process into an innovative socially rooted process which supports interaction among the full range of local actors, thus letting social processes lead to physical proposals.

It is a course that can easily be reproduced and applied.

Congratulations from the prize jury





## Winner of Excellence in Teaching Prize 2008

**Deborah Peel,**

who created the module,  
*Aspects of Effective Communication,*

at the Department of Civic Design,  
University of Liverpool

**Faculty of Urban and regional planning,  
IUAV University of Venice**

### **Bridging the Gap, Building the Bridge: The Mediating Role of Planning Theory and Practice**

The **AESOP-ACSP 2008 conference theme** “Bridging the Divide: Celebrating the City” focuses on the mediating role of cities. Many cities are, to some degree, divided or contested: differences (in age, ethnicity, gender, class, religion and culture) are evident in cities at various scales and levels of intensity.

From the perspective of a more equitable society, planning is about designing socio-spatial interventions to promote greater social equality. This is the ethical dimension of planning. Can we teach students how to think reflectively about designing socio-spatial interventions in this ethical way? What are the practical-moral and pedagogical problems which need to be addressed?

The **2008 AESOP Prize for Excellence in Teaching** asked for planning courses that had clearly and consciously integrated elements linking the spatial dimensions of planning with matters of social equity and diversity in order to promote social inclusion and cohesion amongst diverse groups. The jury was looking for courses which explicitly raise these ethical issues alongside – or as part of – developing students’ technical skills in designing socio-spatial interventions, which aim to heal social divisions and conflict and which place a particular emphasis on the ethical dimensions of social equity and inclusion which we would like to see taught within planning courses.

**The course selected for the 2008 AESOP Excellence in Teaching Prize** provides an exemplary opportunity to gain a better understanding of how the discipline of spatial planning can help to alleviate social, economic and environmental problems. Social inclusion is the underlying planning concept which, in this course, is embodied in the positive duty to promote disability equality.

The idea of the teaching project which lies at the heart of the course is to encourage an experiential understanding of social inequity, both at the level of the built environment and in terms of how disability is understood, thus encouraging students to envision

what an inclusive city might be like. Not only were students encouraged to bridge a gap in their understanding and experience, but also, through the experience of the project, students were invited to be imaginative in building a bridge to a more inclusively designed environment.

The rationale and stimulus for the innovation stems, then, from wishing to embed a more sensitive understanding of how planning practice mediates the use and experience of the built environment *at the very beginning* of the students' journey through the study of planning.

The course bridges theory and practice by working with a specific client group, Moving on With Life and Learning, a charity working with adults labelled as having learning difficulties.

The pedagogical rationale for this course is based on a commitment to making the project 'come alive' for the students. Working with a client group for whom 'learning difficulty' is such a central issue represents an important opportunity (and metaphor) to explore the feasibility of a learning partnership jointly addressing the learning needs of both groups.

The approach is innovative because, while planning engages relatively easily with visible issues of physical disability, the issue of learning difficulties is rather more invisible. This initiative is, therefore, a direct attempt to be more inclusive in communicating and understanding planning with a specific, often overlooked, community of interest. This, then, served to help the students to gain a fresh, and shared, understanding of the potentially *dis*-abling nature of the built environment.

The sensitivities developed through the co-production of learning in this environment provided a thought-provoking method for raising awareness of 'hidden' issues, for generating greater self-awareness and for questioning the potentially disabling consequences of societal action. Given the sensitivity of the problems to be addressed in this pedagogical situation, an important part of its innovative approach was that the project explicitly used the principles of action research, so that the insights for theory and practice emerged from the work itself, deepening professionally responsible reflexivity through critical reflection, self-accountability and self-evaluation. Furthermore, the course provides an evidential base on which to engage in the dissemination and sharing of practice, making a valuable contribution to teaching and learning within the wider planning academy and community.

The courage required to engage in this type of co-production of knowledge, to bridge the gaps and build the bridges, led to a deeply enriching educational experience and was deeply appreciated by all the jury members.

On behalf of the members of the jury of the **AESOP Prize for Excellence in Teaching**, I congratulate the **winner of the 2008 prize**, Deborah Peel, who created the module, ***Aspects of Effective Communication***, at the Department of Civic Design, University of Liverpool.

*Francesco Lo Piccolo*  
*Chair of the jury*



## **Best Published Paper**

### **Best Published Paper 2006**

TORE SAGER

The Logic of Critical Communicative Planning:  
Transaction Cost Alteration

*Planning Theory*

#### **Report of AESOP Prize Paper Committee**

Initiated in 1995, with the first award made in 1996, the purpose of the prize is to celebrate the work of the scholars in the planning field publishing in European planning journals. It also serves to bring to the attention of planning academics and other interested parties across Europe the range of academic work being undertaken in the spatial planning field and to exchange literature between our different national academic cultures. The reviewing and the selection of the winning articles is done by a committee which is nominated by AESOP Council of National Representatives.

In 2007 The AESOP Paper Prize Paper Committee consists of the next five members:

- Prof. Dr. Willem Salet (chair) (The Netherlands)
- Prof. Dr. Vesselina Troeva (Bulgaria).
- Prof. Dr. Petter Naess (Denmark)
- Dr. Deike Peters (Germany)
- Dr. Elisabete Silva (Portugal)

The committee invited the editorial boards of more than 50 European planning journals to nominate the two best papers in their journal over 2006, accepting papers in the English, the French and the German language. Planning journals in other languages are encouraged to enable translation of their selected papers in one of these languages. In total, 28 papers were nominated for the awarding of the Prize at the General Assemblée of AESOPs annual Conference in Naples, July 2007. The complete list of nominated papers is attached in the Appendix A. The criteria for the selection of the papers are brought to Appendix B.

## Review of the 2006 nominations

The committee operated in two rounds. Firstly, four papers were selected as 'highly qualified', and next the winning paper is selected from this category of excellent papers. The committee selected the next four papers over 2006 as "highly qualified":

- Sager, T. *Planning Theory*, Vol. 5(3): 223-254, 2006 *The Logic of Critical Communicative Planning: Transaction Cost Alteration*
- Gospodini, A. **Cities**, Vol.23, No.5, p.311-330, 2006 *Portraying, classifying and understanding the emerging landscapes in the postindustrial city*
- Hebbert, M. **Planning Perspectives**, 21 (July 2006) 233–251 *Town Planning versus Urbanismo*
- Carmona, M., S. Marshall and Q. Stevens **Progress in Planning**, 65 (2006) 209–289 *Design codes: their use and potential*

## The selected papers

All selected papers for the final round are well written with a high intellectual quality and cover relevant issues within current planning theory and practice. The variegation of papers perfectly demonstrates the range of academic work in the schools of planning. Tore Sagers paper attempts to breath new conceptual life in basic assumptions of communicative planning theory. Aspa Gospodini successfully classifies the new landscapes of the emerging cities in the twenty first century in terms of land use patterns, urban morphology and density. Michael Hebbert explores the historical genesis of urban planning by contrasting the 'Anglo Saxon' concept of town planning (based on rational methods and strategies of intervention) with the 'Latin' concept of Urbanismo which is more based on architecture and urban morphology. Finally, the Carmona, Marshall and Stevens paper highlights the operational part of planning thought and methodology by investigating the use and potential of design codes in British planning.

## AESOP Award of best published paper in 2006

AESOP Prize Paper Committee decided to award the prize of best published planning paper in 2006 to the next paper:

### TORE SAGER

### The Logic of Critical Communicative Planning: Transaction Cost Alteration

### *Planning Theory*

Sagers paper is a fascinating endeavour to deal with the biased power relations in approaches of communicative planning. Taking a critical approach of communicative planning, Sager is fully aware of the vulnerability of such assumptions as 'free dialogue'



and 'rational arguing' which easily might get overshadowed by more manipulative uses of power. For this reason he is in search of a sort of counteracting strategy on behalf of deprived groups. Sager proposes to introduce a new strategy of power management by deliberate alteration of political transaction costs. The jury considered the paper as an important contribution to the conceptual perspectives of critical communicative planning and as an interesting attempt to link planning concepts with recent approaches in institutional economics.

#### **APPENDIX A: Oversight of nominated papers over 2006 on behalf of AESOP Prize Paper Award (Alfabetical sequence)**

1. Allmendinger, P. *International Planning Studies*, Vol. 11, no. 2 (2006) Zoning by Stealth? The Diminution of Discretionary Planning
2. Bertolini, L. **Journal of Urban Design**, Vol.11, No. 3, 319–334, October 2006 Fostering Urbanity in a Mobile Society: Linking Concepts and Practices
3. Boelens, L. **disP**, 167 – 4 / 2006 p. 25-40 Beyond the Plan; Towards a New Kind of Planning
4. Bollens, S. A. **Progress in Planning**, 66 (2006) 67–139 Urban planning and peace building
5. Campbell, H. and R. Marshall **European Planning Studies**, Vol.14, No.2, February 2006 Towards Justice in Planning: A Reappraisal
6. Carmona, M., S. Marshall and Q. Stevens **Progress in Planning**, 65 (2006) 209–289 Design codes: their use and potential
7. Cochrane, A. **European Urban and Regional Studies**, 13(1): 5–24, 2006 Making Up Meanings in a Capital City: Power, Memory and Monuments in Berlin
8. Counsell, D. and G. Haughton **Geoforum**, 37 (2006) pp. 921-931 Sustainable development in regional planning: The search for new tools and renewed legitimacy
9. Davoudi, S. **disP**, 165 – 2 / 2006 p.14-24 Evidence-Based Planning: Rhetoric and Reality
10. Dövényi, Z. and Z. Kovács **European Spatial Research and Policy**, Vol. 13, No. 2 / 2006 The Post-socialist Metropolitan Periphery between 'Catching up' and Individual Development Path
11. Forester, J. **Critica della Razionalità Urbanistica**, 19, pp.55-6, Alinea Editrice, Firenze, 1° semestre 2006 Exploring Values-based Disputes (Translation of Italian article: Esplorando le dispute basate sui)
12. Gospodini, A. **Cities**, Vol.23, No.5, p.311-330, 2006 Portraying, classifying and understanding the emerging landscapes in the postindustrial city
13. Harwood, S.A., M. Zapata **International Planning Studies**, Vol. 11, No 3-4 (2006) Preparing to Plan: Collaborative Planning in Monteverde, Costa Rica
14. Hebbert, M. **Planning Perspectives**, 21 (July 2006) 233–251 Town Planning

versus Urbanismo

15. Herfert, G. **European Spatial Research and Policy**, Vol. 13 no.2 / 2006 The Metropolitan Periphery between Boom and Shrinkage
16. Hoch, Ch. **Planning Theory and Practice**, Vol. 7, No. 4, 367 -382, December 2006 Emotions and Planning
17. Jabareen, Y. **Planning Theory and Practice**, Vol.7, No. 3, 305-323, September 2006 Space of Risk: The Contribution of Planning Policies to Conflicts in Cities, Lessons from Nazareth
18. Kotus, J. **Cities**, Vol. 23, No 5, p. 364-381, 2006 Changes in the Spatial Structure of a large Polish City: The Case of Poznań
19. Larsson, A. **Town Planning Review**, Vol. 77/5, 2006, pp. 507-530 From equal opportunities to gender awareness in strategic spatial planning: reflections based on Swedish experiences
20. Loeb, C. **Planning Perspectives**, 21 (January 2006) 67–87 Planning reunification: the planning history of the fall of the Berlin Wall
21. Pincetl, S. **Geoforum**, 37 (2006) pp. 246-255 Conservation planning in the west, problems, new strategies and entrenched obstacles
22. Ratti, C., D. Frenchman, R.M. Pulselli, and S. Williams **Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design**, Vol.33 (5) p.727-748, 2006 Mobile Landscapes: using location data from cell phones for urban analysis
23. Sager, T. **Planning Theory**, Vol. 5(3): 223-254, 2006, The Logic of Critical Communicative Planning: Transaction Cost Alteration
24. Schmid, H. **European Planning Studies**, Vol.14, No.3, April 2006 Privatized Urbanity or a Politicized Society ? Reconstruction in Beirut after the Civil War
25. Spaans, M. **Town Planning Review**, Vol. 77/2, 2006, pp.127-146 Recent changes in the Dutch planning system: towards a new governance model?
26. Ulfarsson, G.F. and Carruthers, J. I. **Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design**, Vol. 33(5) p. 767-788, 2006 The cycle of fragmentation and sprawl: a conceptual framework and empirical model
27. Watson, V. **Planning Theory**, Vol. 5 (1): 31-50, 2006 Deep Difference: Diversity, Planning and Ethics
28. Zuindeau, B. **Regional Studies**, Vol. 40.5, pp. 459–470, July 2006 Spatial Approach to Sustainable Development: Challenges of Equity and Efficacy

## APPENDIX B: Selection Criteria

Both the nomination of the papers by the editorial boards and the further selection by AESOP prize paper committee is based on the next selection criteria.

### ***Criterion 1 : Related to planning theories***

Planning is understood as a set of coordinated public policies aiming to improve the use of space by a human community (/society). It may :



- be applied to any spatial scale (from neighbourhood to global)
- concern different sectors of human activity (housing, transportation, environment, economics...)
- use different tools of intervention (construction, legislation, project-making...)

Therefore this relevance may be understood as :

- theory on planning : considering planning as a societal process, addressing planning procedures, outcomes and the social function of planning;
- theory in planning : substantive issues about which planners need to have knowledge when making spatial plans;
- theory for planning : planners toolbox of methods.

#### ***Criterion 2 : Conceptual quality***

The selected papers shall prove conceptual quality through rising a question and leading a demonstration in its field. The jury will pay special attention to the width and depth of the subject (for instance, study cases are not likely to be prized, unless they are used as an illustration to a wider matter).

#### ***Criterion 3 : Methods***

The jury expects papers of high quality in the methodological approaches in both planning practice and planning research. Though not strongly required, the use of interdisciplinary and/or comparative approaches, especially at the European level, is considered as a positive quality.

#### ***Criterion 4 : References***

The authors are expected to be updated on the state of knowledge and on current debates within the topic of the paper.

#### ***Criterion 5 : Findings***

To be rewarded, a paper shall bring an improvement into the comprehension / practice in the field of planning. Nevertheless, it is obvious that all submitted papers cannot be expected to give revolutionary innovations in their outcomes. The findings may be understood as :

- making a new step, giving a new light in, on or for planning theory ;
- and / or bringing proposals for public action.

#### ***Criterion 6 : Overall quality***

In addition to the five listed criterias, the jury will use a holistic evaluation where each juror shall express his overall appreciation of the paper and its qualities.





## Best published Paper 2007

BENT FLYVBJERG

Policy and planning for large-infrastructure projects: problems, causes, cures  
*Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design*

&

OLE B. JENSEN

Culture stories: understanding cultural urban branding  
*Planning Theory*

Initiated in 1995, with the first award made in 1996, the purpose of the prize is to celebrate the work of the scholars and professionals in the planning field publishing in European planning journals. It also serves to bring to the attention of planning academics and other interested parties across Europe the range of academic work being undertaken in the spatial planning field and to exchange literature between our different national academic cultures. Annually, the Editorial Boards of more than 50 European planning journals are invited to nominate the best published papers of their journal for the prize.

### Selection criteria

The criteria against which the nominated papers were evaluated were the following six:

1. The paper relates to spatial planning in some way
2. High conceptual quality
3. High methodological quality
4. Strong relation to the literature and debates on spatial planning issues
5. High significance of findings, for academic and/or policy debate
6. High overall intellectual quality

A more detailed specification of these criteria is available in the attached document "Best paper prize selection criteria".

### Evaluation procedure

The evaluation of the papers was carried out in two steps. In the first step, the committee selected the best 5 papers after a quantitative ranking procedure where points were given for each selection criterion according to a five-graded scale, with all

criteria having equal weight. The scores given by a juror to a particular paper would thus be the sum of the scores for the six criteria. In the second step, the committee re-read and re-evaluated the five top-selected papers closely, and in addition to the scores, the jurors also provided verbal explanations for their evaluations.

### **Measures to avoid favoritism**

In order to avoid any bias due to favoritism, each paper was evaluated only by those committee members who are not colleagues of the author(s) in question (i.e. they have not collaborated with the author in previous work and/or they are not their direct departmental colleagues). The ranking of the 21 nominated papers was based on average scores among those jurors participating in the evaluation of the respective papers. Similarly, in the final decision-making on whether to award the prize to two papers instead of only one paper, a committee member who is a colleague of the two authors of the top-nominated papers abstained from voting.

### **Results of the evaluation**

The editorial boards nominated 21 papers published in 2007. Among these papers, the AESOP Prize Paper Committee selected the following five as “highly qualified”:

- Flyvbjerg, B., ‘Policy and planning for large-infrastructure projects: problems, causes, cures’, *Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design*, Vol. 34, pp. 578–597.
- Jensen, O. B., ‘Culture stories: understanding cultural urban branding’, *Planning Theory*, Vol.6, pp. 211–236.
- Gualini, E. & Majoor, S., ‘Innovative practices in large urban development projects: conflicting frames in the quest for “new urbanity”’, *Planning Theory & Practice*, Vol. 8, pp 297–318.
- Tiesdell, S. & MacFarlane, G., ‘The part and the whole: implementing masterplans in Glasgow’s New Gorbals’, *Journal of Urban Design*, Vol. 12, pp. 407–433.
- Turok, I. & Mykhnenko, V., ‘The trajectories of European cities 1960–2005’, *Cities*, Vol. 24, pp. 165–182.

Among these papers, there was such a close race between the two top-ranked papers (which showed only a 0.1 difference in the final quantitative averages) that the committee decided to award the prize to both these papers. The prize for the best paper published in 2007 has thus been awarded to:

## BENT FLYVBJERG

Policy and planning for large-infrastructure projects: problems, causes, cures  
*Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design*

&

## OLE B. JENSEN

Culture stories: understanding cultural urban branding  
*Planning Theory*

The jury heralds *Flyvbjerg's* paper for addressing core issues in the field of planning, with great insights and implications for both theory and practice. Rhetorically very well written, the paper suggests that the frequently observed cost overruns and benefit shortfalls of large infrastructure projects can be better explained by psychological and political-economic factors than by lack of technical forecasting skills. While focusing on 'the dark side of planning' where political accountability and the normative rationality of planning are expelled through manipulative use of power, Flyvbjerg at the same time suggest way out of this culture of malpractice. The paper highlights the innovative potential and possible implications of the "reference class forecasting" methodology, but also suggest organizational and institutional measures aiming to prevent planners from being squeezed into producing 'strategic misrepresentations'.

The committee considers *Jensen's* paper as very elegant and conceptually rich. The paper addresses the role of culture and flagship projects in urban development and regeneration, focusing on the social meaning of symbolic communication. An in-depth case study is very appropriately used to illustrate a larger urban studies phenomenon. In this case study, Jensen distinguishes the opinions of proponents and opponents, showing how the stories differ radically according to people's allegiances. Interpreting brands as articulations within discourses, Jensen's paper highlights how different narratives about which elements of a city should be emphasized in branding may be rooted in hegemonic and counter-hegemonic discourses, each representing the interests of more or less privileged groups.

## The other nominated papers

Apart from the five above-mentioned papers selected from the final step of the evaluation, the following sixteen papers were nominated by editors as the best papers published in their journals in 2007:

1. Ibert, O., 'Megaprojekte und Partizipation. Konflikte zwischen handlungsorientierter und diskursiver Rationalität in der Stadtentwicklungsplanung'. *disP*, 171.4, pp. 50–63
2. Hoch, C., 'Making plans: representation and intention', *Planning Theory*, Vol.6, pp. 16–35.
3. Benneworth, P. & Hospers, G.-J., 'Urban competitiveness in the knowledge economy: universities as new planning animateurs', *Progress in Planning*, Vol. 67, pp. 105–197
4. Brimicombe, A. J., 'Ethnicity, religion and residential segregation in London: evidence from a computational typology of minority communities', *Environment and Planning B: Planning and Design*, Vol. 34, pp. 884–904
5. Akkar Ercan, Z. M., 'Public spaces of post-industrial cities and their changing roles', *METU JFA*, Vol. 24:1, pp. 115–137
6. Boonstra, W. J. & v d Brink, A., 'Controlled decontrolling: Involution and democratisation in Dutch rural planning', *Planning Theory & Practice*, Vol. 8, pp. 473–488
7. van Melik, R., van Alst, I. & van Weesep, J., 'Fear and fantasy in the public domain: the development of secured and themed urban space', *Journal of Urban Design*, Vol. 12, pp. 25–42.
8. van Assche, K., 'Planning as/and/in context: towards a new analysis of context in interactive planning', *METU JFA*, Vol. 24:2, pp. 105–117
9. Pike, A.; Rodriguez-Pose, A. & Tomaney, J., 'What kind of local and regional development and for whom?', *Regional Studies*, Vol. 41, pp. 1253–1269
10. Peel, D. & Lloyd, G., 'Civic formation and a new vocabulary for national planning', *International Planning Studies*, Vol. 12, pp. 391–411
11. Medina, A. J. S.; Gonzalez, A. M. & Falcon, J. M. G., 'Intellectual capital and sustainable development on islands: an application to the case of Gran Canaria', *Regional Studies*, Vol. 41, pp. 473–487
12. Adair, A.; Berry, J.; Hutchison, N. & McGreal, S., 'Attracting institutional investment into regeneration: necessary conditions for effective funding', *Journal of Property Research*, Vol. 24, pp. 221–240
13. Orueta, F. D., 'Madrid: urban regeneration projects and social mobilization', *Cities*, Vol. 24, pp. 183–193
14. Ellison, L.; Sayce, S. & Smith, J., 'Socially responsible property investments: quantifying the relationship between sustainability and investment property worth', *Journal of Property Research*, Vol. 24, pp. 191–219
15. Hudalah, D. & Woltjer J., 'Spatial planning system in the transitional Indonesia',

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*International Planning Studies*, Vol. 12, pp. 291–303

16. Selle, K., 'Neustart. Vom Wandel der *shared mental models* in der Diskussion über räumliche Planung, Steuerung und Entwicklung', *disP*, 169.2, pp. 17–30

### **Composition of the Committee**

The selection of the winning articles is carried out by a committee nominated by AESOP's Council of National Representatives. During the evaluation of papers published in 2007, the AESOP Paper Prize Committee has consisted of the following five members:

- Prof. Dr. Petter Naess (chair) (Denmark)
- Prof. Dr. Vesselina Troeva (Bulgaria)
- Prof. Dr. Willem Salet (The Netherlands)
- Dr. Deike Peters (Germany)
- Dr. Elisabete Silva (United Kingdom)

The full report of the jury, including the complete list of nominated papers and the selection criteria, will be published on the website of AESOP: [www.aesop-planning.com](http://www.aesop-planning.com)



## **Best AESOP Congress Paper**

### **Winner of the best AESOP Congress Paper 2007**

The Best AESOP Congress Paper competition has been running as part of the AESOP Congresses since 2005. Authors can join the competition by self-nomination after complying with certain requirements aimed at promoting the objective of the competition to disseminate high-quality congress papers. In the 2007 Congress in Naples, there were seventeen entries from authors from all over the world, many of them from overseas.

On the basis of the Track Chairs' pre-selection, the Best Congress Paper Committee selected the paper titled :

#### **“Strategic Planning for Long-Term Flood Risk Management”**

by

**Gérard Hutter**

**from the Leibnitz Institute for Ecological and Regional  
Development in Dresden.**

The winning paper discusses flood risk management and the experience of the big floods that hit Central Europe in August 2002. It refers to spatial planning as one of the most promising policy instruments in this respect and offers normative conclusions for long-term flood risk management based on a solid theoretical background of spatial planning and risk management.

According to the competition rules, all entries will be published by the Congress organisers on the Congress website, for the benefit of the congress participants and the AESOP members. This publicity also serves as an opportunity for those seeking fast feedback on their papers prior to journal submission. Discussion of the papers in detail or coverage of all the important points of the full paper to the level required prior to journal submission is occasionally not feasible during congress tracks. Publishing on the internet does not interfere in any other way with any further publishing activities on the part of the authors.





## Best AESOP Congress Paper 2007: Strategic Planning for Long-Term Flood Risk Management

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**Keywords:** Strategic Planning, Strategy, Long-Term Planning, Uncertainty, Forum, Flood Risk Management, Flood Disaster, Low-probability / high-consequence events

**Abstract:** Discussions about improving long-term Flood Risk Management (FRM), especially after flood disasters like in Dresden in August 2002, often refer to spatial planning as one of the most promising policy instruments (non-structural measures). However, up to now, evidence is limited that spatial planning is used intensively and systematically for long-term FRM (e.g., to reduce vulnerability in flood-prone areas through controlling development on floodplains and providing development possibilities in non-hazardous areas). Based on the literature on strategic spatial planning (e.g. Albrechts, Bryson, Healey) and risk management (Klinke & Renn), the paper presents normative conclusions from case studies conducted in Dresden and London how to use strategic planning for improving long-term FRM.

“The twin hazards of uncertainty and disagreement form an essential context for planning’s ambitions of shaping the future. In practice, planners may retreat to shorter-range decisions with more limited consequences. Or they may resort to public relations devices that may gain agreement in superficial ways. Still another response is to hide behind technical analyses that are not fully shared with the public, neither revealing the true level of uncertainty nor exposing judgements to potential disagreements. Better methods are clearly desired for professional leadership regarding the future.” (Myers 2001, p. 365)

## Introduction

Strategic planning is one of the methods “for professional leadership regarding the future” to improve long-term Flood Risk Management (FRM). This is an important contribution to current debates in FRM research about using spatial planning because this res

earch often narrows planning down to regulatory practices (e.g., regulation of development projects on floodplains, e.g., Penning-Rowsell 2001, Hooijer et al. 2004). In contrast, referring to “strategic (spatial) planning” (Albrechts 2004) leads to a broader understanding of how planning improves long-term FRM.

Strategic planning is no uniform concept with a narrow range of possibilities. This holds true especially in the public sector where organizations prevail that follow multiple logics and multiple stakeholders. However, describing strategic planning as flexible concept implies showing its core features and genuine benefits. Otherwise one is reminded of the well-known saying of Aaron Wildavsky that has haunted planners for decades: *If (strategic) planning is everything, maybe it's nothing*. Hence, the task of this paper is to show that strategic planning has something to offer for long-term FRM.

Key message of this paper is that strategic planning for long-term FRM is not only about looking at distant futures of flood risks. It is also about a continuous effort to balance multiple forces within a complex social process which is prone to manifold interruptions and limitations. Up to now, FRM research has focused on the former, but the latter gains currency, especially if one takes strategic spatial planning research into account. In line with this, we make some suggestions to long-term planners to increase the odds of “good” process management. One of these is the suggestion that we should carefully deploy the idea that inclusive (all relevant actors) and open (without restrictions in content) dialog is the “one best way” to effective long-term FRM under uncertainty (see, for instance, Merz & Emmermann 2006). Uncertainty is certainly a top scientific topic. However, people (researchers included) strive for certainty in daily-life practices and when it comes to recovering from a flood disaster. This has some implications for long-term planners how to make strategy when power to implement plans is limited and resources are scarce.

The paper is based on evidence referring to strategic planning generated within Task 13 of the Integrated Project (IP) FLOODsite (contract GOCE-CT2004-505420) funded by the European Commission (EC). Task 13 analysed strategic planning for long-term FRM in cities and regions as different as Dresden and London. Data referring to strategy making at regional level was also gathered within the IOER project “Weißeritz-Regio” on broad stakeholder involvement at catchment level of the Weißeritz river, a tributary of the Elbe river in the region of Dresden. Please note that this paper does not report the evidence in detail (see Hutter & Schanze 2004, Hutter et al. 2007). This evidence serves as background information to formulate mainly normative conclusions to deploy strategic planning for long-term FRM at regional and local level. The paper is targeted at long-term planners broadly understood as people, often officials, in organisations responsible for preparing long-term plans for pre-flood risk management at different spatial levels. Organisations include organisations of the public sector such as local administration and regional bodies as well as state authorities and agencies.

The structure of the paper is as follows: To avoid misunderstandings about the merits of planning in an uncertain world, Section 2 defines strategic planning in a way that is suitable for long-term FRM from a social science viewpoint. Ideas about strategic planning can be found in the vast literature on strategy and management (Hutter 2006) and strategic spatial planning (e.g., Albrechts 2004, Bryson 2004, Healey 2006). This paper is based more on the latter than the former. Section 3 adopts this understanding to strategy making at regional and local level. It shows that strategic planning facilitates “travelling” across spatial levels – a crucial characteristic of FRM as “holistic and continuous societal analysis, assessment and reduction of flood risk” (Schanze 2006, p. 4) in river catchments and coastal cells. Section 4 draws three main conclusions. The first one depicts strategic planning as an umbrella concept for content- and process-oriented approaches to long-term FRM. The second conclusion makes a claim about the benefit of strategic planning for building full blown strategies for river catchments. The third one points out how planning and FRM research can foster cross-fertilization.

### **Defining strategic planning**

Strategic planning has as many critics as proponents. For instance, in management science, Henry Mintzberg (1994) argues that strategic planning cannot generate synthesizing ideas that are necessary for developing new strategies. He defines strategic planning as analysis-centred process for programming existing strategic content to gain detailed action programmes and budgets. In contrast, others see strategic planning more as a co-ordination device in large organizations that fosters alignment between different organizational sub-units (Hutter 2006). Planning researchers describe strategic spatial planning as a social, power-based process through which people with diverse institutional relations come together in forums for discussion, arenas for decision making, and courts for dealing with residual conflict to design plan-making processes and develop new contents for the management of spatial change (e.g., Albrechts 2004, Bryson & Crosby 1993, Healey 2006). These authors differ on what they mean by speaking of “strategic planning”. Hence, defining the concept is important.

### **Strategic planning as disciplined effort**

In this paper, for pragmatic reasons, we seek to find an understanding of strategic planning that is not as narrow as the approach of Mintzberg (1994) and more focused than the comprehensive perspective put forth by Albrechts (2004). In line with this, strategic planning is defined as “a disciplined effort to produce fundamental decisions and actions that shape and guide what an organisation (or other entity) is, what it does, and why it does it. At its best, strategic planning requires broad-scale yet effective information gathering, clarification of the mission to be pursued and issues to be addressed along the way, development and exploration of strategic alternatives, and an emphasis on the future implications of present decisions.” (Bryson 2004, p. 6, italics not added)

To avoid misunderstandings and endless debates over the net benefits of planning, it is important to make clear wherein the discipline lies. To be disciplined does not necessarily mean to follow a detailed recipe for conducting a strategic planning episode in organizations or regional networks. Empirical research showed that strategic

planning can “degenerate” to a mindless bureaucratic ritual that drives out strategic thinking because decision makers follow a prescribed course of action without questioning its appropriateness based on an analysis of current context conditions and future challenges.

To be disciplined means to reflect on the appropriate process for dealing with strategic issues of long-term relevance within specific societal context conditions. Therefore, discipline shows up through (among others)

- Recurrent cognitive processes of aligning content with context,
- Through creating new categories for catching emerging and uncertain context features,
- Through actively searching and welcoming new information, and
- Paying as much attention to the quality of process as to contents and outcomes.

Thus, strategic planning as disciplined effort is a stable cognitive process, whereas collective action and formal organizational structures can vary because of changing circumstances. Research on High-Reliability Organizations (HRO) tells us that this is a good recipe for dealing with high complexity and uncertainty (Weick & Sutcliffe 2001).

## Strategic planning and strategies

Obviously, speaking of strategic planning implies some notion about what strategy is. Based on an extensive review of the literature (Hutter 2006), strategy is defined as a consistent combination of long-term goals, aims and measures as well as process patterns that is continuously aligned with societal context conditions (Figure I).

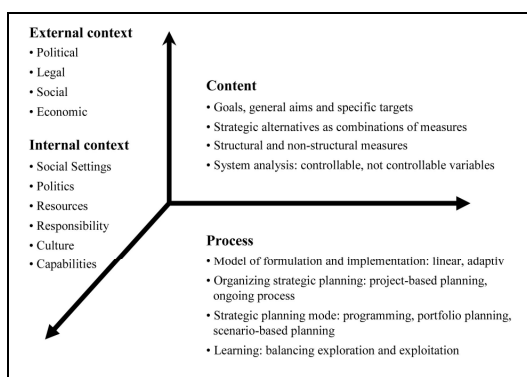


Figure I: Dimensions of Strategies for Flood Risk Management (Source: Adapted from Hutter 2006)

Figure 1 makes clear that planning and plans are components of a strategy. They have to be complemented by implementation, organizing and learning processes at various levels of societal development. Learning is about how to deal with diverse political interests, resource scarcity, existing responsibility of actors, diverse “world views” (Hooijer et al. 2004, p. 353), and limited capabilities to act and interpret the often complex processes of strategy and especially strategic change (Hutter 2006).

Consequently, planning should not be interpreted as silver bullet against any problem that can crop up during strategy development. For instance, external context conditions like tight legal requirements can make planning ineffective and unattractive for planners. Internal conditions can decrease the probability of plan implementation near to zero (e.g., because of expected disagreement between actors of equal power). Because of this it is of utmost importance that planners continuously seek to align context conditions with process patterns and contents. To illustrate this very abstract claim (for more see Mintzberg 1994), I recommend the following to planners: *Think of strategic planning as a social process prone to interruptions, irrelevance for ongoing decision making and politics.*

The rationale for this recommendation goes like this: Strategic planning for dealing with issues of long-term relevance is prone to be interrupted because of stakeholders shifting their attention to pressing problems of the day. This is so especially in the case when politicians, for-profit organizations, and citizens are included into the planning process (Bryson 2004). Usually, elected politicians, for-profits, and citizens have much more on their agenda than one or two specific issue of long-term relevance for urban development. This underlines that strategy making is a “technical” and political process (Bryson 2004, Healey 2006). I expect that planners who acknowledge this and decide accordingly will be better at strategy making than planners that perceive strategy mainly as analytical endeavour that has to deal, first and foremost, with questions of content (e.g., formulating aims and targets, deciding about the “right” measures to realize these aims). The following section shows that this expectation holds when it comes to making strategy to deal with low-probability / high-consequence events like rare flood events with the potential to become disasters.

### **Strategic planning for long-term FRM at regional and local level**

Recently, Samuels and colleagues have provided a synthesis of current practices of policies on river flood risk management in different countries (2006). They state that no “longer are the natural world or social systems viewed as static, and flood risk management has evolved in response to the change of context in which it is set. In particular, one can identify a change in approach and policy from “controlling the flood hazard to safety standards and flood management” to “understanding and managing the flood risk.” (Samuels et al. 2006). Within this general shift of current practices of policies on river flood risk management, there is great leeway in how and why long-term FRM is being adopted at different spatial levels of strategy making (local, regional, state, federal, European) and in different policy fields (management of water quantity and quality, environmental protection, spatial planning, and so forth). Hence, to understand how planning for long-term FRM could work in practice, one has to take a close look at specific cases (Hutter et al. 2007).

This paper focuses on two planning options out of the wide range of possible ones. Strategic planning as disciplined cognitive effort (see Section 2) can be deployed at regional level for formulating new ideas for long-term flood risk management through scenario analysis. At local level, strategic planning can be deployed for political decision making that exploits the results of regional scenario analysis. These two distinct options facilitate coherent communication about long-term flood risk management at regional and local level within the physical context of small- to medium-sized river catchments (Table 1).

Table 1: Deploying strategic planning at different spatial levels of FRM – An example of multi-level strategy making in small- and medium-sized river catchments (Source: Adapted from Hutter 2007)

Strategic planning at...	Regional level	Local level
<b>Focus and overall thrust</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- External context and content</li> <li>- Formulating new ideas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Internal context and process</li> <li>- Adopting new and good ideas</li> </ul>
<b>Content</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Knowledge problems</li> <li>- Strategic issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complexity, uncertainty</li> <li>- Testing existing protection concepts</li> <li>- Wide range of strategic alternatives</li> <li>- Low-probability flood events</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ambiguity, uncertainty</li> <li>- Priorities of urban development</li> <li>- Local planning culture</li> </ul>
<b>Process</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Decision mode</li> <li>- Change mode</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organizing a "study group"</li> <li>- Scenario analysis: Multiple futures</li> <li>- Episodic change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintaining the process</li> <li>- Pluralistic leadership</li> <li>- Continuous change</li> </ul>
<b>Context</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Actors</li> <li>- Social setting(s)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Officials from different levels and with different institutional positions</li> <li>- External experts (content / process)</li> <li>- Building a new forum</li> <li>- Loose coupling of forums / arenas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local politicians</li> <li>- Local officials</li> <li>- External experts (content / process)</li> <li>- Using existing forums and arenas</li> <li>- Building new forums and arenas</li> </ul>

Both options claim to supplement rather than to supplant existing formal concepts and measures for long-term FRM at Länder and state level. Furthermore, they complement formal spatial planning. They are based heavily on the motivation of (some) officials and politicians to search new solutions for long-term FRM. Thus, strategic planning in this paper presumes some recent experience of politicians and officials with flood events as disasters (e.g., the disastrous flood events of August 2002 in Dresden) or a good memory of historic floods.

#### ***Planning to formulate new ideas for long-term FRM at regional level***

The overall thrust of this option is to develop new ideas for long-term FRM. External context (e.g., climate change, economic development in flood-prone areas) and content are in the foreground of strategic planning which focuses on identifying new strategic issues of long-term relevance for FRM. The term "new" has a subjective meaning here. "New" means "new" for the people with responsibility for FRM in a specific case. Hence, deploying strategic planning requires careful analysis of existing flood risk management concepts as well as important structural measures and non-structural measures (e.g., spatial planning) to determine possible innovations. This is a content-driven approach that has to deal with high uncertainty of distant futures.

*Content:* In contrast to managing running flood events, long-term FRM focuses on future flood risks. Thereby, long-term FRM encompasses decision for the mid term (10 up to 20 years) and, in a more explorative mode, for the long term (up to 50-100 years). Of course, given such long planning horizons this raises the question how to deal with the fact that some factors of the flood risk system of river catchments are subject to significant uncertainties of external and internal drivers. For instance, flood hazards are sensitive to climate change (e.g., Milly et al. 2002); flood vulnerability evolves according to land-use change with its societal drivers. Long-term planners need to explore these system's dynamics and their impacts on future risks. They need to be able to judge how strategic alternatives perform under highly uncertain futures. Furthermore, societal context of FRM is uncertain too, for instance, because of changes in policy agendas. Following Bryson (2004), we recommend that, under high uncertainty, planners focus on strategic issues instead of complex systems to define means-ends relationships. Strategic issues are fundamental policy questions planners can do something about (Bryson 2004). Based on an analysis of examples from cities and regions as different as Dresden and London (Hutter et al. 2007), the following suggests three issues to use strategic planning for long-term FRM:

- *Testing existing long-term flood protection concepts based on scenario-analysis* to consider a wide range of future external context conditions and to assess the robustness of existing concepts,
- *Defining and assessing strategic alternatives for long-term FRM*, thereby considering strategic alternatives that range from pure flood protection alternatives to alternatives that emphasize spatial planning as non-structural measures (= policy instrument) to reduce vulnerability in flood-prone areas (for more details with a slightly different terminology see Klijn et al. 2007),
- *Discussing existing capabilities of long-term FRM to deal with disruptive external events* (see Lonsdale et al. 2005 for a good example with regard to rapid sea-level rise for the Thames Estuary). Officials and external experts are attempting to "expect the unexpected" (Weick & Sutcliffe 2001).

*Process:* To legitimize regional strategic planning for long-term FRM, it should have one content focus from the beginning. The recommendation is that a "study group" is organized within an "off-line project" to provide a list of thematic options and a proposal which issue is most important for context-specific strategy making. Case studies on long-term planning in form of scenario-based strategy games show (Lonsdale et al. 2005) that representatives from different institutions (e.g., water management, spatial planning, emergency services) and different spatial levels (e.g., national, regional) think differently about the future dependent on whether they are engaged in ongoing decision processes within their focal organisations ("on-line") or whether they are involved in activities "outside" their daily work ("off-line", Gavetti & Levinthal 2000). Organizing long-term planning as an off-line project broadly covers all resources and activities to plan for the future in a team with representatives from different institutions, fixed schedule and time horizon for project realisation, and limited resources, but leeway to think differently (compared to business as usual) and to adopt a fresh perspective on current planning practice.

*Context:* Innovation research shows (e.g., Van de Ven et al. 1999) that people need to balance homogeneity and heterogeneity, especially in the invention and development period of innovations. In contrast, implementation can be a more narrow process of collective action “to make it happen”. This paper claims that regional strategic planning for long-term FRM should try to combine *homogeneity in cognitive orientation* with *heterogeneity in institutional affiliation* (e.g., water management, spatial planning at local and regional level, economic development). The former ensures that discussion can focus on difficult content questions that require a minimum in technical understanding. The latter ensures that results of the scenario planning episode can be communicated within different institutional contexts. Hence, content-driven selection of participants (Klinke & Renn 2002) should focus on officials (broadly covering agency staff and officials in a narrow sense) and external experts (e.g., consultants) for content and process (e.g., moderation of meetings). In this regional case, strategic planning aims at creating a new forum for long-term FRM. The rationale for this claim is as follows: in a context where open communication about fundamental uncertainty of flood risk is less than welcome among a majority of local politicians and citizens (see next sub-section), this paper proposes that long-term planners should seek project-based discussion with like-minded people from different organizations (e.g., local administration, water management at state level, scientific organizations) and not with all relevant stakeholders right from the start (Morss et al. 2005, p. 1599). This is a forum with open discussion among selected people that are willing to learn how to deal with high uncertainty of flood risk even after a disaster. Results of discussion can spread step-by-step into ongoing decision making processes at local, regional, and state level. Only in the long run we can tell if this leads towards a risk culture that supports open communication about the whole range of uncertainty issues within long-term planning. In the short run, this new forum is detached from existing social settings not by mistake, but to give significance to strategic issues that are forgotten or in the background of current FRM practices at local level. The danger of a new regional forum is that it is too detached from existing settings to have a significant effect on local strategy making. Hence, it is crucial how strategic planning at regional level (as described above) can be *loosely* attached to local strategy making.

***Planning to adopt new and good ideas for long-term FRM at local level***

Unfortunately, new ideas are often seen as bad ideas when their implications are detailed in existing forums and arenas for political decision making. Therefore, local strategic planning for long-term FRM can opt for focusing on internal context and process, not to guarantee strategy making success, but to increase its odds.

*Context:* Nowadays, it is common to call for broad stakeholder involvement to develop comprehensive long-term strategies for FRM. However, caution is in place when it comes to strategy making between actors with different cultural backgrounds, experiences, knowledge, responsibility, and interests (to mention only a few features that “draw lines” between people). Klinke and Renn (2002) suggest that knowledge and information problems of complexity and uncertainty should be handled differently in stakeholder involvement. Complexity calls for a more technical treatment and for the inclusion of agency staff and external experts (e.g., consultants, scientists). Uncertainty calls for the inclusion of all those organized stakeholders that are directly affected by decisions with cost implications of “underprotection” or “overprotection” (Klinke & Renn



2002, p. 1087). Thus, this points to the need to analyse boundary conditions for stakeholder involvement in which case the guiding question is not if, but when (under which circumstances) and how stakeholders should be included into strategic planning. I expect that planners who acknowledge this question will be able to make strategy more effectively than those who see broad stakeholder involvement as a “one-fits-all” solution to increase commitment to and the effectiveness of long-term planning in the context of FRM (for a similar argument see Healey 2006). The rationale for this expectation is as follows: Existing arenas for decision making and forums for discussion deeply reflect historical context of FRM. Case studies in London and Dresden show that considering historical context is a nontrivial task (Hutter et al. 2007). The Dresden example illustrates how people can make strategy in the context of a not-yet-forgotten flood disaster. Disasters disrupt daily life. People experience high uncertainty. Through disasters, the “crisis-reform thesis” tells us (Boin & t’ Hart 2003), decision makers can learn about changed implications for dealing with uncertain futures rather than only about “how to predict or control similar occurrences in the future” (March et al. 1991/1999, p. 140). However, in Dresden in the short term after the Weisseritz flash-flood disaster 2002, this kind of deep learning for dealing with uncertain futures did not materialize among the majority of local politicians. Elected politicians focus on protecting against similar occurrences in the future (the 500-year flood) through structural measures (e.g., building new flood walls, rebuilding bridges, deepening the river channel). Politicians and citizens that suffered from the flood disaster focus their attention on avoiding in the future what they encountered as a deeply disturbing outside influence in the past.

In contrast, some local politicians and officials that experienced the “same” flash-flood disaster of the Weisseritz River in Dresden in August 2002 are willing to search for fundamentally new ways to understand flood risk in its full variability. This new understanding comprises the assumptions (1) that flood risk is uncertain due to inherent as well as epistemic uncertainties and (2) that focusing on one specific event in long-term planning, the disaster of the past, is not enough to reduce future flood risk effectively. In line with recommendations to “manage the unexpected” (Weick & Sutcliffe 2001), they are interested in establishing a management process to consider the full range of possible measures for dealing with uncertain futures (prevention, preparation, event management, and so forth). For instance, planners are willing to focus on reducing flood risk through lowering vulnerability in terms of decreasing the rate of new economic development in flood-prone areas. Therefore, they try to consider spatial planning to reduce vulnerability. You can find these people within local government and administration (e.g., the officials responsible for environmental protection, some spatial planners), but they are only a minority. At present, because of this majority-minority relationship it is difficult to tell whether the Weisseritz flood disaster 2002 triggered strategic change towards FRM.

*Content:* Against this background of post-disaster politics, this raises the question how long-term planners can sustain commitment to comprehensive long-term FRM in times when political discussions about highly uncertain futures are less than welcome (e.g., in form of a worst-case scenario of the flood hazard with consequences even worse than in the case of the not-yet-forgotten flood disaster).

*Process:* To consider such contexts as boundary conditions for addressing important content questions for strategy making, long-term planners should be capable of doing two things: (1) they should avoid interpreting open dialog with all potentially relevant actors as the “one best way” to intelligent decision making. (2) They should deploy a wide range of process options to use and design forums for discussion about long-term FRM (e.g., choosing a context- or content-driven approach, organizing long-term planning as off-line project or ongoing process). Pluralistic leadership is of special importance here (Van de Ven et al. 1999, pp. 112-124). It balances the contributions of idea champions of long-term FRM and the arguments of sceptics through strong institutional leadership (e.g., accomplished by the mayor). Thereby, it is difficult, but crucial to include sceptics at an early stage of discussion and decision making at local level (see Hooijer et al. 2004), but not necessarily at regional level within the study group that follows the content-driven approach to strategic planning for long-term FRM (described in the previous sub-section).

## Conclusions

Planning discourses often point to the origins of long-term planning in the 1960s. At that time, so the story goes, long-term planning was not forced to pay ample attention to uncertainty and disagreement. These days are over and this holds true for the days that followed traditional long-term planning from the 1970s to 1990s: a) Focusing on choices with limited consequences (e.g., through a project-based planning approach), b) fashioning public relations, and c) conducting technical studies are all important, but not sufficient for successful strategies that are able to deal with uncertainty and disagreement. Consequently, from the 1990s on we can see a revival of strategic planning in different policy fields and at different spatial scales. This is the historical background of the claim that “Better methods are clearly desired for professional leadership regarding the future” (Myers 2001, p. 365) cited at the beginning of this paper. In the context of long-term FRM, this paper argues that strategic planning is one of these desired methods because it facilitates communication in three different ways:

*(1) Strategic planning is an umbrella concept for content- and process-oriented approaches to long-term FRM:* Long-term FRM is based partly on disciplined imagination about distant futures. Such imagination is possible, for instance, through defining and assessing strategic alternatives with regard to a wide range of criteria (sustainability, robustness, flexibility, see Klijn et al. 2007). Effective scenario analysis is simple, coherent, maximizes differences between scenarios and strategic alternatives and can have visionary power. This design-oriented and scenario-based approach to exploring strategic alternatives is an effective way to formulate new ideas for long-term FRM. However, often the relevance of new ideas for local decision making is in question. Strategic planning at regional level helps to initiate and conduct a scenario planning episode (e.g., a “strategy game”, see Lonsdale et al. 2005) that has the chance to be of significance for local officials and indirectly for politicians too (e.g., through mobilizing officials that are sufficiently homogenous in their understanding of FRM and related to different institutional positions). Thus, strategic planning is an

umbrella concept that encompasses content-oriented (exploring strategic alternatives and distant futures) and process-oriented approaches (mobilizing a limited range of actors, legitimizing the planning episode, and so forth).

*(2) Strategic planning facilitates travelling across spatial levels. Therefore, it contributes to FRM as holistic and continuous process:* Strategic planning can be applied to FRM at different spatial levels. This is the main reason why FRM can benefit from using strategic planning. The rationale for this claim is as follows: FRM as “holistic and continuous societal analysis, assessment and reduction of flood risk “ (Schanze 2006, p. 4) is the overall challenge of integrating – among others – technical expertise and political decision making in various policy fields and at different spatial scales (site, local, regional, state, and so forth). European Member States are moving in this direction – with different starting points and speed (Hutter et al. 2007). However, it is evident that integration should be combined with “division of labour” between, among others, policy fields and spatial levels. Strategic planning is one way of focusing on a specific spatial level, a limited range of actors, selected issues and strategic alternatives and important forums as well as arenas for decision making without forgetting that planning results have to be embedded in an overall strategy for FRM at catchment level. Because the term “strategic planning” can be used flexibly without losing its meaning it serves as a bridge between different spatial levels and policy fields. Hopefully, in the long run, this will contribute to develop full blown strategies for long-term FRM.

*(3) Strategic planning facilitates cross-fertilization between spatial planning and FRM research:* In comparison to many other policy fields (e.g., economic development policy), strategic spatial planning has a special concern about the “where” of things and activities, about urban structure, and the quality of places in an ever more dynamic society. Space and places serve as (possible) reference points for integrating diverse perspectives, logics, and interests of various actors. No wonder, then, that spatial planning research has a comparative advantage in dealing with diversity in society (compared with FRM research). Long-term FRM is concerned about the “where” of things too, but focuses on precisely delineated areas which are defined as flood plains and on associated physical and social processes (e.g., development on flood plains). Specialization and systematic integration of different knowledge assets in natural, engineering, and social science is perhaps easier in FRM research than in spatial planning, but it is certainly still difficult enough (see the IP FLOODsite of the EC). This paper addressed the question what long-term FRM can learn from strategic spatial planning. Future research could pay more attention to the reverse learning relationship what planning research can learn from FRM in particular and risk management in general. My guess is that this will be most fruitful when it comes to questions how to relate specific strategic issues (e.g., conducting a worst-case scenario analysis for a specific risk problem), different knowledge and information problems (complexity, uncertainty, ambiguity), and social settings (forums, arenas), as well as specific local and regional socioeconomic and political context conditions. General planning ideas and concepts can be “tested” through using narrow problem statements in FRM

research. Results of these exercises feed back into debates about strategic spatial planning.

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## Young Academics







## AESOP Young Academics Network

*A creative and open-minded network of and for young researchers, academics and students from all over the world, developing and disseminating their ideas and research results, supported by AESOP.*

The AESOP Young Academics Network was established in 2003 as a small Working Group of AESOP to serve as an intermediate-level body helping young planning scholars to step into the 'scientific world of planning' more easily. This was a milestone in the history of AESOP, recognising that today's encouraged and determined young planning scholars have the ability to integrate new optimistic thinking into planning and that the future of the 'scientific world of planning' lies in the hand of the young planning scholar of today – the professors and researchers of tomorrow!

### OBJECTIVES OF THE AESOP YOUNG ACADEMICS NETWORK

*The main goal of the AESOP YA Network is to foster creative interaction among young planning scholars and to support them in their early stage of career in getting their voices heard within the scientific community as well as to prepare them for their important role (professors and researchers) in the future.*

The AESOP YA Network aims to provide activities which directly train and indirectly support the Young Academics in active participation in mainstream AESOP activities.

The AESOP YA Network has two core aims:

- Firstly, to make AESOP a productive environment for Young Academics;
- Secondly, to create a point of access to AESOP structures (such as the annual conference and publication in scientific journals and association book series, such as the European Planning Studies) to facilitate the participation of Young Academics.

### COORDINATION TEAM 2007

In 2007, the YA Network Coordination Team (CT) consisted of six members:



- Laura Basco (Università di Napoli "Federico II", Italy);
- Giancarlo Cotella (Politecnico e Università di Torino, Italy);
- Oliver Frey (Vienna University of Technology, Austria);
- Giuseppe Guida (Università di Napoli "Federico II", Italy);
- Beatrix Haselsberger (Vienna University of Technology, Austria);
- Richard Nunes (UCL Bartlett School of Planning, GB);

## THE AESOP YA MEETING

The idea of the AESOP YA Meeting was born in 2006, when the AESOP YA CT recognised that some young planning scholars find it difficult to position themselves at big scientific conferences. The AESOP YA Meeting follows the rules and guidelines of big conferences, but in a much smaller and more familiar scale, limited to around 30 participants. The YA Meetings are free of charge to participants, and only able to operate through strong support from the host university.

The 1<sup>st</sup> YA Meeting was held in February 2007 at the Slovak University of Technology, Central European Research and Training Centre in Spatial Planning, Bratislava, Slovakia (co-organised with Prof. Maros Finka). The topic '*CE3 - Central and Eastern European Engagement*' attracted those well versed in Central and Eastern European issues as well as for those seeking to engage and learn from scholars in the region. Participants attended from across Central and Eastern Europe, Turkey, Russia, Western Europe and the United States, within five separate tracks.

This event was a great success and confirmed to the AESOP YA CT that there is an appetite for further YA Meetings. A 2008 YA Meeting in St. Petersburg has successfully been delivered. Moreover a third event is now in planning for 2009 at the Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria (co-organised with Petra Hirschler and Prof. Gerhard Schimak, February 9-12). The title for this YA Meeting is "*Planning as Rear View Mirror or Crystal Ball? Diversities of Planning Cultures, Traditions, Identities*".

Please check the AESOP YA Website (<http://aesop-youngacademics.net>) for further information.

## AESOP YA Special Session

The AESOP YA Special Session within the annual AESOP Conference is dedicated to the needs of young planning scholars, a "show and tell" session, where established academics and researchers present their personal experiences and provide advice for young planning scholars.

The AESOP YA Special Session for 2007 took place on 13<sup>th</sup> July during the AESOP Naples Conference on the topic of Topic: "*How to Publish a PhD Thesis*". Guest speakers included Prof. Patsy Healey (University of Newcastle upon Tyne), Ginny Smith (Editor: Taylor & Francis), Dymphna Evans (Editor: Ashgate), Chris Pringle (Elsevier Publisher), Bruce Stiftel (former Editor: *Journal of Planning Education and Research*) and Jean Hillier (University of Newcastle upon Tyne and Editor: *Planning Theory*). The session, was attended by more than 50 people, and generated a highly interesting discussion.

## AESOP YA Drinks

This informal event, organised in a convivial atmosphere, promotes social interactions between young planning scholars. The idea is to provide an occasion at a wider event such as a conference for young people to meet, offering them some drinks, informing them about the YA Network and get them communicating.



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In 2007 the AESOP YA Drinks have been organised twice, during the YA Meeting in Bratislava (February 2007) and at the 2007 AESOP Conference in Naples.

### **AESOP YA Website Revision**

Throughout 2007, significant effort has been placed into revising the AESOP YA Website to make it more user-friendly and to ensure it supports the work of the network. It is anticipated this work will be completed by the end of 2008.

### **Collaborations with other AESOP Activities**

The YA Network and AESOP collaborate on a number of shared activities. As well as ensuring that AESOP is meeting the needs of the young academics at its member institutions, these collaborations also allow for an ongoing dialogue and discussion between the various membership strata.

The YA Network helped AESOP in organising their Ph.D. workshop in 2007 in Naples, and also made some concrete suggestions about improving the 2008 Norway Ph.D. Workshop.

The YA Network also provide a representative for the AESOP Teaching Excellence Prize Committee to help with the selection of the winners.

### **Networks are what you make out of them!**

The AESOP Young Academics Coordination Team prepares the platforms, you however are warmly invited to inform your Ph.D students, junior researchers and academic staff about the AESOP YA Network and to encourage them to become a Young Academic!

*Further information is available via the AESOP YA Website  
<http://www.aesop-youngacademics.net>*

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19<sup>th</sup> May 2008*



## Members



## Membership

AESOP is a network of universities and university departments that teach and conduct research within the field of urban and regional planning. The network exists to promote the development of the teaching curricula and research within the Member Schools through regular dialogue, exchange visits and the dissemination of research and best practice.

All of the prominent planning schools in Europe are members, and more and more schools and individuals in the world of planning are deciding to join. Also wishing to associate themselves with our aims and activities are a number of enlightened organisations concerned with planning aspects of government, property and development. AESOP has over 175 members including 100 full members and 40 associate members.

As a member of AESOP you will be informed by e-mail on several planning-related activities.

### How to become a member?

There are four categories of membership in AESOP: full membership, associate membership, affiliate membership and individual membership.

To become a member of AESOP, see on the page “membership” of our website <http://www.aesop-planning.com/> and complete the application form (see p. 7)

Based upon the information which you will have to provide, AESOP will seek independent opinions as to your school's suitability for admission as a member in the category full or associate membership. Your application will then be considered, along with the responses from referees, at the next meeting of the Executive Committee (the Executive Committee has meetings approximately every third month).

## New members

### **Delft University of Technology, Faculty of Architecture, Department of Urbanism**

Delft University of Technology is the oldest, largest, most prestigious and most international of the three technical universities in the Netherlands. The Faculty of Architecture was established in 1905 as one of the eight faculties of the TU Delft. It is also the largest and most international of the faculties of the TU Delft. Delft is a historical and town of 95 thousand inhabitants, located at 15 minutes by train from the port of Rotterdam and the city of The Hague, seat of the Dutch government.

The key strengths of the Faculty are design, research, management, technology and research-by-design. Education and research programmes are organised in four different departments: architecture, urbanism, building technology and real estate and housing, which lead to the four different professional specializations that the faculty offers.

Each year, the faculty has approximately 3,200 students, from which 40% are female. There are 200 international students and 180 exchange students. The faculty offers a three-year bachelor programme, several two-year Master of Science (MSc) programmes and a four-year PhD programme. The first is focused on Dutch students and conducted in Dutch language. Masters and PhD programmes are more internationally oriented and conducted in English.

The staff of the department of Urbanism consists of 8 professors, 30 associate and assistant professors, 44 support staff, 22 PhD candidates and many guest teachers and researchers.

#### **Research in Urbanism**

The central issue of the research of the Department of Urbanism concerns the ways in which urban planning and design mediate between physical spatial contexts and socio-cultural processes. Research covers several closely related disciplines like urban architecture, urban design, urban planning, spatial planning, environmental planning and landscape architecture. A distinctive feature of Delft's research in urbanism is a focus on the spatial and material construction of the urban environment from two points of view:

- Spatial developments – societal consequences: We address new approaches, methods and instruments to meet the requirements of urban assignments from the perspective of the 21st century. In the Netherlands, special attention is being given to the transformation of the Randstad region into an integrated metropolis, the so-

called 'Delta Metropolis'. The focus is on the influence of the different spatial systems, i.e. water patterns, urban fabric, network patterns and landscape patterns.

- Societal developments – spatial consequences: We conduct research on the overall transformations of the urban society and their spatial consequences. This involves consideration of the effects of globalisation and urbanisation processes, and the influence of new urban technologies on urban structures. Research also explores the effects of the new structures and scales of physical urban networks on public space, the urban experience and the making of functionally adaptable sustainable environments.

Urbanism research programme is divided into four sub-programmes: (a) The Making of Urban Form; (b) Cultural Landscape Design; (c) Connective Cities: from local to global; and (d) Sustainable Solutions for the Built Environment. Each sub-programme has different research teams. The table indicates the organization of teams and programmes. PhD candidates are directly linked to these chairs, teams and programmes.

Research Programme	Research Team	Chair
The Making of Urban Form	Urban Compositions	Urban Compositions
	Urban Design	Urban Design
	Delta Design	Metropolitan and Regional Design
		Technological Ecology and Methodology
Cultural Landscape Design	Landscape Architecture	Landscape Architecture
		Belvedere
Connective Cities: from local to global	Network City	Spatial Planning
	Spacelab	Urban Management and Renewal
	Globalisation, Urban Form and Governance	
Sustainable Solutions for the Built Environment	Environmental Design	Environmental Design

## Education programmes in Urbanism

The Master in Science specialisation in Urbanism offers two different programmes (of 120 ECTS credits). They both are semester-based and consist of compulsory and elective courses, studios, seminars, and excursions culminating in a final project. The graduation project involves a research and design thesis. Graduates of Master in Science in urbanism are eligible for enrolment in the Dutch national architects' register.

### 1. MSc specialisation in Urbanism

This programme centres on urban and regional studies and development, including landscape architecture and ecological planning in relation to social issues. In the first two semesters, a core programme addresses technical aspects in Design and Technology, and societal, political and strategic aspects in Design and Strategy. In the second year, the choice of studios for the graduation project puts students in close



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contact with topics linked to Landscape architecture, Environmental Design, Urban design, Urban regeneration or Urban planning and strategy.

## **2. European Postgraduate Master in Urbanism (EMU)**

This programme is a joint initiative with Universidad Politecnica de Catalunya (UPC), Royal University Leuven (KU Leuven) and Università IUAV di Venezia. The consortium offers a full-time postgraduate masters programme consisting of three core semesters (30 ECT credits/semester) and one final semester for a written or design thesis (30 ECTS). The joint programme is a collaborative effort, bringing together the best components of existing curricula, creating new courses and offering a top-ranking professional degree by combining the research and educational strengths of each of the participating schools. The students should initiate and finish the studies in one of these four schools (which provides the diploma) and may attend the two other semesters in one (or two) of the other faculties.



## Polis University International School Of Architecture And Urban Development Policies

Polis University was found in 2006. It is a private institution licensed by the Council of Ministers and consists in two faculties: Architecture and Urban Planning. Indeed the origin of university dates back in 1995 with *Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development* ([www.co-plan.org](http://www.co-plan.org)) a non-government pioneering planning institute in Albania and South East Europe, that became a driving force for new planning attitudes in Albania, including experimenting planning under the conditions of rapid urbanization, and/or formalization of informal settlements, enforcing it up to policy-making level, etc.

Nowadays Co-PLAN is a well-known non-governmental NGO actively involved in urban development field through participating in initiatives that promote sustainable development through a new vision for the civic society in Albania. The initiative was founded in 1995 as a growing program in the fields of social developments and infrastructure improvement in the low income areas in Tirana region. Co-PLAN experience was selected for one of the best practise prices of UNCHS Habitat 1998, reconfirmed by World Bank in 1999. Nowadays, Co-PLAN is a professional NGO with national and international experience, active mainly in Albania and Kosova and with a very good reputation among its Albanian and international partners. Co-PLAN has also established intensive curriculums in national and international conferences and seminars and has published several research and professional publications. Co-PLAN aims to improve economic, social and environmental conditions of the Albanian inhabited centres, by promoting local resources mobilisation and civic society development. Co-PLAN undertakes project drawing and implementation, develops sector and policy studies, supports institution building activities and lobbies decision-making instances, organizes events that influence the public opinion and disseminate knowledge and innovative conception of community planning, management and development. Co-PLAN was the driving force in establishment of Polis University, and actually functions as research and practice institute of Polis. Co-PLAN and Polis, both are members of ENHR, European Network of Housing Research, and AAA, Albanian association of Architects and Planners.

At U-Polis we are developing a qualitative academic environment and true nuclei for scientific and practical research. We intend to introduce a new way of thinking to the society and new standards in the field of education. We strongly believe that success stands at that type of education that foresees the future. Inspiration, exploration, positive thinking and challenging the reality – are some of the key principles where we rely in the education process. The scientific research, professional and civic expression, academism and practice are the core of a university, closely related to everyday activities that a university carries. U-Polis aims to introduce this kind of mentality in the thoughts and concepts of the university education system in our country. U-Polis thinks that a university, above all, must produce something that serves to the reality and the society. The Albanian universities through their work should offer



to the authorities and decision-makers, ideas for their policies. It is through this way of thinking that U-Polis intends to have an impact on the Albanian society.

After opening the Faculty of Architecture in the academic year 2006-2007, Polis University starts the academic year 2007-2008 with a novelty, with a new profession in Albania – the Faculty of Urban Planning. So far in Albania has existed only the concept of the architect and the urban designer. Thus, the approach of the urban problems in the country has been mainly visual /graphical. U-Polis brings a novelty in Albania, by shifting this profession from Latin/Mediterranean concepts towards the models developed by Anglo-Saxon schools, where space and territory planning and administration is done by combining points of view not merely physical and artistic, but also economical, social, political, engineering, environmental, demographical, legal, etc. Polis has paid special attention top research and practice. We do not believe in mere academic teaching disrupted from reality. Therefore Polis University has its own Design Studio Metro\_POLIS and its research institute: Co-PLAN, Institute for Habitat Development.

Four are the main building blocks of the academic program in the Faculty of Urban Planning (5 years studies of integrated diploma based on Bologna System):

1. exploring and understanding the change of society and human settlements;
2. finding ways towards solutions for territorial/resource management;
3. experiment and develop knowledge via Urban Laboratory;
4. deepening knowledge and specialization.

U-Polis since the first year achieved significant results regarding the partnerships with international academic institutions:

Polis University has undersigned Partnership and Cooperation Agreements with two EU universities (Darmstadt University Germany, and Trieste University of Studies, Italy). There are in process of elaboration 3 other memorandums for cooperation and joint projects, such as with Universities of Bari Italy, Bilgi University Istanbul Turkey, and NTUA Athens Greece.

Polis University has a good network of partners in the country and holds two national agreements, including *Ministry of Environment* and *Ministry of EU Integration* of Albania, to share efforts and staff adopting new planning and environmental legislations and strategies that meets EU standards and directives, towards Albanians process of stabilization and association, as well as reforms taking place in the country.

Vision of POLIS aims to provide a new generation with the tools, techniques and strategies to build the best professional leadership, able to make “liveable space”, more equal cities, more sustainable in time and more closely related to the environment. At POLIS we also believe that the education process is a joint effort. The openness to the students’ ideas and student-teacher collaboration is the foundation of a new communication at POLIS. The enormous energy accumulated as a result of the suppression in the last years should be managed in a way that it leaves a positive track in our cities’ history. The actual Albanian environment offers a contrast between realism

and surrealism, between the wild capitalism and the communism that still survives, between standard architecture and the attempts for an extreme expression of creativity.

While for many this is only a "chaos", POLIS believes in the positive energy that the city and the entire society are generating. In this evolving scenario, and "vibrant image" of a society trying to cope with the deficiencies of the past, POLIS strives to be at the forefront of contemporary thought and practice. We try to formalize a new way of thinking about architecture and to establish the "new profession" of urban planner, so much needed in the Albanian reality.





## King Saud University

Knowing the leading role of the urban planner in the development of cities and regions and in organizing the urbanization process, the Urban Planning Department at KSU aims to meet the needs of the society by providing highly qualified planners. Those young planners are trained to lead the urban planning processes to insure proper and balanced development in rural and urban areas.

### **Vision**

Our Vision in the Urban Planning Department is to achieve the leading position and excellence in teaching and in scientific research during the next five years in addition to expand the intake capacity and the programs of the department, and to succeed in implementing the criteria of total quality in the department's management and in the various academic activities.

### **Mission**

Our mission is to provide the highest level of urban planning and design education, supply distinguished services to society, and actively participate in developing the profession of urban planning and design, by attracting excellent students, developing the academic programs, adopting modern techniques, and expanding the scope of scientific research and consultation.

### **Objectives**

To provide and teach the students essential scientific principles , analytical abilities , and technical skills needed in the study of national, regional and local planning issues to upgrade the performance and efficiency of the built environment.

To qualify the student to practice the profession of urban planning and design in a very efficient way with both governmental and private sectors.

To Train the student to formulate planning policies and programs that fulfill the process of establishing good urban environment that respects the character of desert environments, respect local values of the Arab and Islamic society, and meet international standards in this regard.

To develop the various professional skills that are needed for the urban planning and design projects such as the use of computer and techniques of information systems, and for coping with the continuous evolution in urban planning and urban design in both theory and practice.

Participate in supplying the specialized market with necessary expertise in urban planning and design fields.

The Urban Planning Department is the oldest department in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It was established by a royal decree (No. 2061/7/m on 30/2/1404 H.) within the faculty of architecture and planning in 1404 H. It's one of only four such departments in the whole of the kingdom.

The department has a diverse knowledge base, which includes several disciplines. This is represented by the diverse educational and cultural background of its teaching staff. The department's has been able to attract a highly qualified group of professors with international educational background particularly from Europe and North America.

Professors and graduates of the department have been influential in society through providing consultation in both the private and public sector, where this have opened up opportunities for some teaching staff that have reached higher civil ranks in the society.

The department, through its teaching staff and students, is embarking on the development and updating of its curricula to match market requirements as well as to achieve international standards. Currently the Urban Planning Department offers bachelor degree and master degree in urban planning and design and a master degree in Real Estate Development.

Both degrees allow students to actively participate in the Urban Planning in the kingdom and graduates have proven to be efficient professionals in practice, both in public and private sector. Below is a brief description of the Urban Planning Programs.

### **A) Bachelor Program**

Students should fulfill the requirements of the Bachelor Degree in Urban Planning and have to successfully complete courses with a total of 170 credit/hours. This can be achieved in 10 semesters (5 years). The undergraduate degree has two separate courses in urban planning and urban design.

### **B) Graduate Programs (Master)**

The Urban Planning Department developed its graduate program as part of its attempt to play a key role in response to the needs of a comprehensive urban boom in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, with its urban as well as population growth in all cities. The following programs are currently available:

Master of Science<sup>1</sup> in:

- Urban Planning
- Urban Design
- Master of Real Estate Development

Finally, the urban planning department is very diverse in its teaching staff. It has full Professors, Asc. Professors, and Assistant professors who have been educated in North America, Europe, and the Middle East.

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<sup>1</sup> Work in progress to finalize two independent master programs : one in urban planning and the other in urban design



## **Cemagreff**

### **Agriculture and environmental engineering research**

Created in 1981, Cemagref is a public research institute that targets results directly useable in land and water management. The goal is to produce new knowledge and technical innovations to be used by managers, decision-makers and companies in order to address resource management, land use and development issues. Work focuses on surface-water resources, land and aquatic ecosystems, predominantly rural areas, water technologies, agrosystems and food safety.

In 2007, key figures include a budget of 89 M€ (20 % of which coming from contract work) and 950 full-time workers, half of whom are researchers and engineers. Their expertise lies in the fields of the engineering sciences, natural and life sciences, earth sciences, and social sciences. Though not a teaching institution *per se*, Cemagref is a host institution for over 200 graduate candidates, 40 graduate students and foreign researchers, plus 250 high-level interns.

Cemagref research produces an array of outcomes, including publications, participation at conferences, advice and expert knowledge provided to public entities, tests and analyses, patents and software, as well as training and standardisation efforts.

Though Cemagref's chief activity relates to agricultural and environmental engineering research, its interest in planning-related issues has grown. Today, it is mainly embodied in one of the 27 themes currently researched at Cemagref: "Amenities and new ruralities" (TR Amande). The research theme concept corresponds to a formal, multi-year programme and, by extension, to the group in charge of its implementation.

An outgrowth of the 2003-07 strategic plan, TR Amande was created in response to scientific and public decision-making issues related to: 1) city-country changing relationships, 2) blurring boundaries between urban and rural areas, and 3) arising questions about the relationship between amenities and (the attraction of) firms and population.

Indeed, against the backdrop of changes in urban-rural relationships, the quality of rural land influences interaction between various stakeholders and represents a factor of rural attractiveness in the dynamics of land development. The issue of amenities has become a factor both for development projects and rural communities in general.

Thus, the research group addresses the following multidisciplinary, amenity-related scientific issues:

- Knowledge about nature and change in societal expectations; amenities as a social construct
- Evaluation of the non-commercial functions of rural areas and recommendations for enhancing the production of public amenities

- The importance of governance, and conditions for stakeholder coordination in the face of environmental expectations
- Circumstances that govern the emergence, the implementation and the territorialisation of public action, as well as its evaluation
- Impact of environmental factors on land development; amenities as a comparative advantage

In terms of resources, the TR Amande research group comprises about 50 researchers, technical staff, postdocs and PhD students:

- Located over three main sites: Clermont-Ferrand (research unit: Changes in rural territories), Grenoble (research unit: Development of mountain regions), and Bordeaux (research unit: Amenities and Dynamics of Rural Areas)
- With expertise in three main fields: (environmental, regional, territorial, institutional) economics, sociology (environmental sociology and sociology of collective action), and management sciences (collective action and management of rural areas); additional fields of expertise include political science and information systems.

Results pertain to three main areas:

- Research and contribution to knowledge, with over one scientific article per researcher per year (on average), and an increasing share of international journals
- Extension, with a diversity of partners: Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of the Environment, local units of government, the European Union, national and regional parks, the national spatial planning agency (DIACT)
- Teaching and continuing education, with about 30 Master's students supervised per year

Cemagref is also involved in international partnerships and collaborations, be they institutional networks (e.g., such as the Partnership for European Environmental Research), the 7th Framework Research and Development Program (examples of previous FP projects involvement include Newrur, Plurel, Alternet), Interreg projects (such as Climchalp, Diamont, Regalp), as well as bilateral or multilateral programs with foreign teaching and research institutions.

In short, Cemagref's TR Amande research group contributes to research, extension and teaching on planning-related issues, be they rural-urban relationships, regional development or rural and landscape policy, to name three topics only. Over the next few years, researchers will continue to work on planning questions by focusing on two research domains in particular: 1) the organisation of rural and periurban areas, and 2) the analysis of environmental policy and the relationship between human beings and nature.

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