

# **ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN SCHOOLS OF PLANNING**





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*Association of European  
Schools of Planning (AESOP),  
established in 1987, is an  
international association  
of universities teaching and  
researching in the field of  
spatial planning.*

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# MISSION

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## **AESOP has the aims of:**

- + promoting within Europe the development of teaching and research in the field of planning;
  - + instigating cooperation and exchange between planning schools in Europe, and encouraging the harmonisation and equivalence of degrees which they award;
  - + coordinating initiatives which include other stakeholders in planning and
  - + representing the interests of European planning schools, particularly within Europe, at national and international level, and before both public and private institutions.
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*In 2012  
more than*

*150*

*institutions  
mainly European  
universities  
were AESOP  
members*

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# EVENTS

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## AESOP CONGRESS

Every year in July, AESOP holds its Annual Congress, hosted by one of member universities. Congresses are a wide platform of exchange in the fields of research, education and practice in planning. Recently more than 700 scholars were attending AESOP Congress.

Every five years AESOP co-organizes World Planning Schools Congress (WPSC) gathering planning schools from all over the world. The organizer of this congress is GPEAN. AESOP is one of the founding fathers of this global association. WPSC took place in Shanghai (2001), Mexico (2006) and

Perth (2011). Rio de Janeiro will be hosting WPSC in 2016.

AESOP congresses are open to all, but AESOP members benefit from reduced congress fees. Every participant affiliated to the AESOP member institution has a right to reduced fee.

Recent AESOP Congresses took place in: Chicago (2008, joint event with ACSP), Liverpool (2009), Helsinki (2010), Perth (2011, WPSC), Ankara (2012), Dublin (2013, joint event with ACSP).

In 2014 planning scholars will be welcomed in Utrecht and in 2015 in Prague.



## **AESOP HEADS OF SCHOOLS MEETING**

AESOP Heads of Schools Meeting is an annual forum for planning education. AESOP is happy to welcome delegates from our member schools, whether they are heads of the schools or any key persons designated by the schools, to discuss main problems and challenges for planning education across Europe. We are delighted when delegates from the schools, which are not AESOP members yet, join us and share their experience and knowledge.

AESOP Heads of Schools Meeting takes place in spring (March-May). Usually, meeting starts on Friday evening and continues all day on Saturday.

Recently, AESOP hHads of Schools Meetings took place in Łódź (2008), Lille (2009), Istanbul (2010), Tirana (2011), Oslo (2012), Gdańsk (2013).

Forthcoming AESOP Heads of Schools Meeting in 2014 will take place in Hamburg.



## AESOP PHD WORKSHOP

Since 1993 AESOP runs PhD Workshop, which is an annual event for 30-40 PhD students from AESOP member schools. Guided by high level academic tutors, they share research ideas, findings and concerns in an informal atmosphere. AESOP funds a few bursaries for the students which delivered the best papers.

The workshop is always carried out in conjunction with the AESOP

Annual Congress. Students attending the workshop are invited to attend all the sessions of the Congress.

Recently PhD Workshops took place in Jotunheimen National Park (2008), Manchester (2009), Seili Island (2010), Kostelec nad Cernymi Lesy (2011), Izmir (2012), Belfast (2013).



## EUROPEAN URBAN SUMMER SCHOOL (EUSS)

In 2010 AESOP launched a new annual event: the European Urban Summer School (EUSS) for young planning professionals. AESOP wanted to bring together young professionals and experienced academics and practitioners across Europe to discuss planning issues. EUSS gathers young planners for a week in September at one of the member universities.

In 2011 AESOP invited European partners from planning organizations to cooperate in this project.

In 2012 the following organisations

officially have joined EUSS: European Council of Spatial Planners (ECTP-CEU), International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP), International Society for City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP).

EUSS took place in Wrocław (2010), Lisbon (2011), London (2012). EUSS 2013 is taking place in Madrid.

EUSS 2014 will take place in Tours.



## LECTURE SERIES

In 2012 AESOP and IFHP have launched a joint activity: a series of lectures by well-known planners and other urban thinkers, both academics and practitioners. The aim is to find possible answers to present-day and emerging challenges that face planning and planners as a modern discipline in a new role in our contemporary complex and dynamic society. Big name speakers shall attract media attention and give us

the possibility of presenting planning in more positive, constructive and attractive way.

In 2012 our speakers were: Klaus R. Kunzmann, Andreas Faludi and Danuta Hübner; in 2013 already Peter Hall and Juval Portugali.

Next lectures are planned in the second half of 2013 and in 2014.

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# AWARDS

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## *AESOP confers three Awards.*

### **Best Published Paper Award**

Initiated in 1995, the purpose of the Best Published Paper Award is to celebrate the work of the scholars and professionals in the planning field publishing in European planning journals. Annually, the Editorial Boards of 52 European planning journals are invited to nominate the best published papers of their journal for the prize.

### **Excellence in Teaching Award**

In 2002, AESOP introduced a prize, which recognises and encourages Excellence in Teaching. Through this award, AESOP would like to celebrate and disseminate innovative practices in teaching to be found at our member schools.

### **Best Congress Paper Award**

The Best Congress Paper competition has been running as part of the AESOP Annual Congresses since 2005. The objective of the award is to promote and disseminate high-quality congress papers and to stimulate the willingness of congress participants to submit and present full congress papers of high quality.

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# AESOP RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT

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## **AESOP THEMATIC GROUPS**

AESOP Thematic Groups are working groups on specific themes established in order to create more effective platforms for debate and discussion amongst AESOP members. Thematic groups organise their own activities benefiting from the support of AESOP.

Thematic Groups have their own sub-pages on the AESOP website. They are administered independently by TG Coordinator(s). In 2013 there were 15 Thematic Groups.

## **AESOP YOUNG ACADEMICS NETWORK**

The idea of Young Academics network was included in the action programme presented at the Council of Representatives Meeting in Bergen (1999) by Hans Mastop and the kick off meeting of young planning scholars was held during the AESOP Congress in Volos (2002).

Today YA network is formed by young planners who have only recently entered the academic world: mostly PhD students and postdocs.

YA network benefits from AESOP support in their activities. Young Academics are always invited to participate in AESOP activities.

## **AESOP PUBLICATIONS**

AESOP Newsletter with more than 3.000 subscribers is issued every three weeks.

**AESOP Yearbook** presents the association and its activities is available both in printed and digital version.

**Planning Education** presents overview of the topics discussed during the AESOP Heads of Schools Meeting. Journal is available both in printed and digital version.

**EUSS books** give a deep insight into the topics elaborated during the summer school. Books are available both in printed and digital version.

**AESOP Booklet Series** introduces an academic discussion on the highest research level to young planning scholars and practitioners.

AESOP has started work on **Digital Platform**, which could provide access to different databases and the latest technology achievements. It

could become a database with the best practices, which would be a great combination for teaching and collecting information. It should be viewed as all-digital, but in a broad sense: online and interactive.

## **AESOP PARTNER JOURNALS**

disP The Planning Review (Routledge & ETH Zürich) is devoted to professionals in research and in practice who are interested in European planning issues. AESOP is an official partner of disP.

European Planning Studies (Routledge) provides a forum for ideas and information about spatial development processes and policies in Europe. EPS is published in cooperation with AESOP.

Dialogues in Urban and Regional Planning (Routledge) is a project undertaken by GPEAN presenting global planning perspective. AESOP is represented in the Editorial Board.

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# AESOP EXTERNAL RELATIONS

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AESOP cooperates with organizations involved in planning issues. AESOP mainly focuses on the organizations located in Europe, although some of them operate globally. Among main partners are: European Council of Spatial Planners – Conseil Européen des Urbanistes (ECTP-CEU), International Academic Association on Planning, Law and Property Rights (PLPR), International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP), Interna-

tional Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP), European Regional Science Association (ERSA), UN-Habitat, The United Nations Human Settlement Programme, European Urban Research Association (EURA), The European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion (ESPON) Programme, Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas (METREX).

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# AESOP STRUCTURE

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## **General Assembly (GA)**

General Assembly acts as formal means of consultation, discusses planning education, research and practice issues and considers the activities and general policy of the Association.

The General Assembly is open to individual members and representatives of institutional members, as well as to academics and students from schools represented in the Association.

The General Assembly takes place during AESOP Annual Congress in July.

## **Council of Representatives (CoRep)**

All the powers of the AESOP rest within the Council of Representatives, which is a body elected by Full Members. Among other functions, it defines the policies and programmes of the Association and elects the Officials of AESOP.

## **Executive Committee (ExCo)**

Executive Committee operates with delegated powers on behalf of the Council of Representatives and is subject to its authority. It holds the managerial and administrative powers of the Association.

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# MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

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## Full Membership

may be granted to a European School, running an autonomous programme in planning which meets the criteria defined in the core curriculum of AESOP.

Full members hold voting rights and hence, through their representatives, co-determine AESOP policies and procedures.

**Membership Fee: 600 €/year**

or 300 €/year for countries with low GNP according to the World Bank criteria.

## Associate Membership

may be granted to a European School, running courses or modules in planning.

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

**Membership Fee: 300 €/year**

or 150 €/year for countries with low GNP according to the World Bank criteria.

## Corresponding Membership

may be granted to a non-European School, running courses or modules in planning.

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

**Membership Fee: 300 €/year**

or 150 €/year for countries with low GNP according to the World Bank criteria.

## Affiliate Membership

may be granted to an enterprise, company, institution, organisation, agency or other entity being a legal person focused on planning.

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

**Membership Fee: 300 €/year**

or 150 €/year for countries with low GNP according to the World Bank criteria.

## Individual Membership

may be granted to a person involved in planning.

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

**Membership Fee: 150 €/year**

or 75 €/year for countries with low GNP according to the World Bank criteria.

## Honorary Membership

may be conferred to a person who has made a significant contribution to the discipline of planning.

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**AESOP Secretariat General (2011-2015):**  
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# **PROMOTING EXCELLENCE IN PLANNING EDUCATION AND RESEARCH**

