



ISOCARP INSTITUTE
Centre for Urban Excellence

ISOCARP INSTITUTE CENTRE FOR URBAN EXCELLENCE

ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019



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Content

Foreword

In 2016 the Stichting (Foundation) ISOCARP Institute, Centre for Urban Excellence, was founded under Dutch Law to expand and support the activities of ISOCARP, the International Society of City and Regional Planners. After intensive preparations, the ISOCARP Institute started its activities and projects in March 2018. The first payments occurred in June 2018.

This Annual Report covers the first active year of the ISOCARP Institute from July 2018 to June 2019 but further includes the activities of the second quarter of the year 2018.

The ISOCARP Institute exclusively operates as the project office of the ISOCARP Society and focuses on knowledge dissemination (Research), workshops (Practice) and capacity building (Academy).

In 2018-2019, the ISOCARP Institute conducted successful and profitable UPAT workshops in Ningbo, Durban, Guangzhou and Suzhou, participated in the Wuhan Placemaking Week and in a Research Project with Strelka KB in Moscow.

Furthermore, the EU Horizon 2020-funded project Positive City Exchange started in December 2018 and will continue for five years.

This report covers the overall objective and setup of ISOCARP Institute, as well as the key outcomes and activities, and the strategic outlook towards the following years – focusing on setting up important structures, expanding our network and building a solid project pipeline.

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD



The ISOCARP Institute is initiated as a world class knowledge bank and think tank for planning excellence which empowers individuals, organisations and institutions to achieve better human settlements. We aim to bring together global planning experts and institutions to facilitate broader research communication and dissemination, as well as conducting professional educational programmes. Consequently, our mission is to enrich the knowledge base and developing the capacity of individuals, organisations and institutions partaking in shaping and developing human settlements. We strive to bridge the gap between planning theory and practice while contributing to knowledge generation and dissemination, fostering sustainability and effective functioning of human settlements.

The Institute's prime objectives are strengthening cross-border collaboration globally, upholding professional excellence in planning, advancing sustainable planning, increasing awareness of major development trends and promoting best practices, all while serving as a "Urban Think Tank" facilitating the generation and dissemination of knowledge for better cities.

The ISOCARP Institute started in January 2016, with the publication of its Statutes and registration as a Dutch Foundation to the Netherlands chamber of Commerce Register, after internal discussions and thought process within ISOCARP starting 2007 during our World Congress in Antwerp. The central idea was at that time – and is still valid today – how can we, as global society of urban professionals, capitalise and further develop the knowledge of our members, share their knowledge and improve the urban planning profession by all means – by involving the members and benefiting to the Society. In 2018, the Institute activities were officially launched with the setup of the Institute location and staff members.

To accomplish our mission, ISOCARP Institute has been structured in three main pillars: Institute Academy, Institute Research and Institute Practice, representing the three domains of activities at the Institute.

As academic branch of the ISOCARP Institute, the Institute Academy is intended to capitalise and disseminate the urban knowledge of ISOCARP and upgrade the capacities of urban stakeholders by initiating and managing different programmes related to training and capacity-building, education and professional experience. Those programmes are proposed to uplift qualification of urban stakeholders or other persons involved in urban actions.

ISOCARP Institute Research intends to distil and further capitalise the urban knowledge of ISOCARP members and urban professionals by initiating, developing and managing research activities related to urban development. Institute Research is exploring and identifying research topics and programmes, developing research ideas and exploring urban development trends.

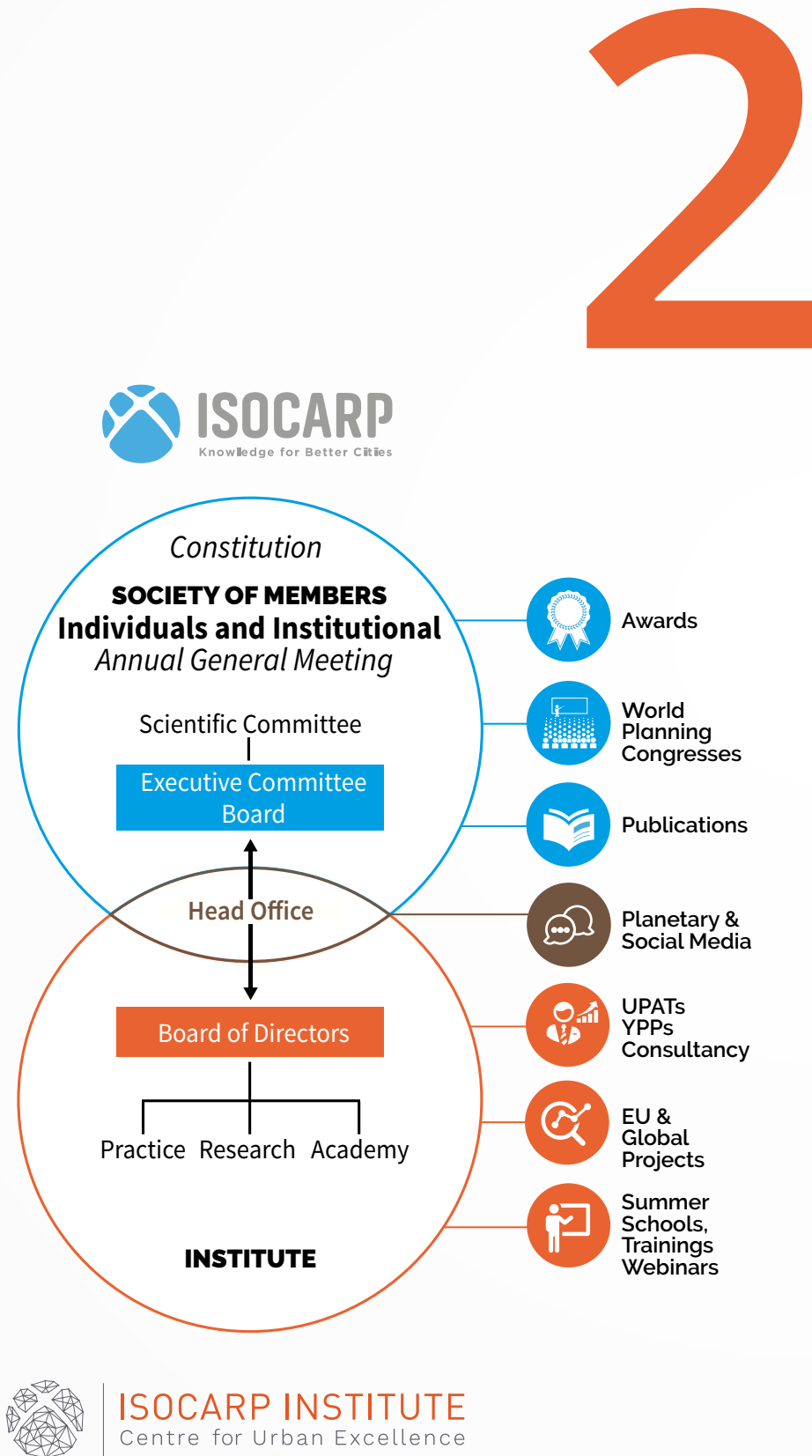
And finally, the ISOCARP Institute Practice is focussing on the practical implementation of urban solutions, supported by activities of technical assistance, urban labs and urban charrettes, delivering tangible solutions to local municipalities and governments, as well as other entities.

This Annual Report describes the activities achieved 2018-2019 within the three pillars of the Institute, and their achieved results.

We are looking forward to more and fruitful activities in the next years!

October 2019
Didier Vancutsem
Director on behalf of the Board

GOVERNANCE



Established in 2016 as a foundation, the ISOCARP Institute – Centre for Urban Excellence – is the practice-centred research spin-off of the International Society of City and Regional Planners. The focus lies on project-based work as well as the facilitation of activities which benefit from and contribute to the extensive membership base of ISOCARP, including the development of global capacity development, training and educational programmes with and for members. The Institute is managed by

the Board of Directors, introduced below. The Boards ensures the strategic alignment and collaboration with ISOCARP, its members and activities. The project office of the Institute, co-located with the ISOCARP head office, ensures the ongoing close collaboration and knowledge exchange. The current board consists of Martin Dubbeling, President of ISOCARP, Daniele Vettorato, Director for Academic Development at ISOCARP, and Didier Vancutsem, former Secretary General of ISOCARP.

MARTIN DUBBELING



Martin Dubbeling (The Netherlands) is an urban planner and urban designer specialised in sustainable urban design. In 2013 he founded Connecting Cities, office for research, consultancy, design and communication in sustainable urban and regional planning. Martin is an active and senior practitioner in spatial planning, urban planning, landscape architecture and the environment in the Netherlands and internationally. Furthermore, he is one of the authors of the award winning and best-selling books 'Sustainable Urban Design, Perspectives and Examples' (2005) and 'Sustainable Urban Design, The Next Step' (2010). As Vice President and Programme Manager of the Urban Planning Advisory Teams (UPATs) of ISOCARP (2010-2018), he organised several UPAT workshops all over the world.

DANIELE VETTORATO



Daniele Vettorato (Italy) leads a research team in urban and regional energy systems in the institute for Renewable Energy at EURAC Research, based in Bolzano, Italy. He holds a PhD from the University of Trento, focused on sustainable energy in cities and regions. Daniele has co-authored over 50 publications cited over 150 times and has been invited as lecturer and speaker in more than 50 events, trainings and universities courses. He worked in Brazil, Chile, Cambodia, Kenya, Mozambique, UAE, Russia, China. Daniele coordinates a research team of 20 professionals @EURAC research, has been project manager in several EU co-funded project and is technical and scientific coordinator of two Smart City and Communities Lighthouse projects in Europe (total budget over 50M€).

DIDIER VANCUTSEM



Didier Vancutsem (Germany/Belgium) is an international consultant in Urban and Regional Planning, Landscape Planning, Infrastructure and Environmental Management with 25 years research and planning experience, based in Munich and has degrees in City and Regional Planning, Landscape Architecture and Regional management. He is professor at the Brussels University Faculty of Architecture. He has gained professional experience worldwide, e.g. as expert for the EU, in the elaboration of national strategies for urban development, in regional strategies and abroad (Africa, Russia, Asia), and on the local level. He is involved in different European and international research projects. As past Secretary General of ISOCARP, he is now responsible for project management at the ISOCARP Institute.

OUR MISSION



ISOCARP INSTITUTE
WHAT GOALS ARE WE WORKING TOWARDS TO?

Global urbanisation rates and an intensifying climate crisis put the cities of our planet on the forefront in tackling today's and tomorrow's challenges. Over five decades of bringing international professionals together within ISOCARP contributed significantly to increased knowledge generation and exchange. However, this is not enough and more targeted and proactive initiatives to contribute actively to the sustainable future are needed. Therefore, the Institute streamlines ongoing activities, facilitates the knowledge and experience of members, and expands activities further – targeting the achievement of UN's Sustainable Development Goals, the implementation and localisation of the New Urban Agenda, as well as building urgently needed capacity.



ISOCARP INSTITUTE'S
MISSION

Our mission is enriching the knowledge base and developing the capacity of individuals, organisations and institutions partaking in shaping and developing human settlements. We strive to bridge the gap between planning theory and practice while contributing to knowledge generation and dissemination, fostering sustainability and effective functioning of human settlements.



ISOCARP INSTITUTE'S
VISION

The Institute is initiated as a world class knowledge bank and think tank for planning excellence which empowers individuals, organisations and institutions to achieve better human settlements. We aim to bring together global planning experts and institutions to facilitate broader research communication and dissemination, as well as conducting professional educational programmes.



ISOCARP INSTITUTE'S
OBJECTIVES

The Institute's prime objectives are strengthening cross-border collaboration globally, upholding professional excellence in planning, advancing sustainable planning, increasing awareness of major development trends and promoting best practices, all while serving as a "Urban Think Tank" facilitating the generation and dissemination of knowledge for better cities.

ACTIVITIES

3



The work of ISOCARP Institute is structured in three core pillars under which all existing and planned activities fall. Within the Research pillar, EU and global research project are situated which aim at advancing the academic knowledge in the urban field. Within

PILLAR 01 RESEARCH

We contribute actively to the urban research community through our work on global research projects, publications, academic exchange, and strong network of academic

PILLAR 02 PRACTICE

We support public and private institutions through a variety of programmes, including the Urban Planning Advisory Teams (UPATs), technical assistance and review, building

PILLAR 03 Academy

Through our newest branch – the ISOCARP Institute Academy – we facilitate our vast network and train young professionals and public representatives through our Young Planning Professionals Programme, semi-

the Practice pillar, technical assistance and consultancy is provided for primarily local authorities and the private sector. In the third pillar, Academy, the educational programme Young Planning Professionals is continued, as well as capacity building.

professionals. The core activities include dissemination and exploitation, the facilitation of knowledge generation and exchange, as well as linking theory with practice.

upon over 55 years of knowledge generation with the International Society of City and Regional Planners. New formats, such as City Labs, complement the programme.

nars, and online education. Different programmes of global and locally-adapted training initiatives complement the ongoing projects and will constitute one of the key fields of action in the future.



RESEARCH

3.1



PILLAR RESEARCH

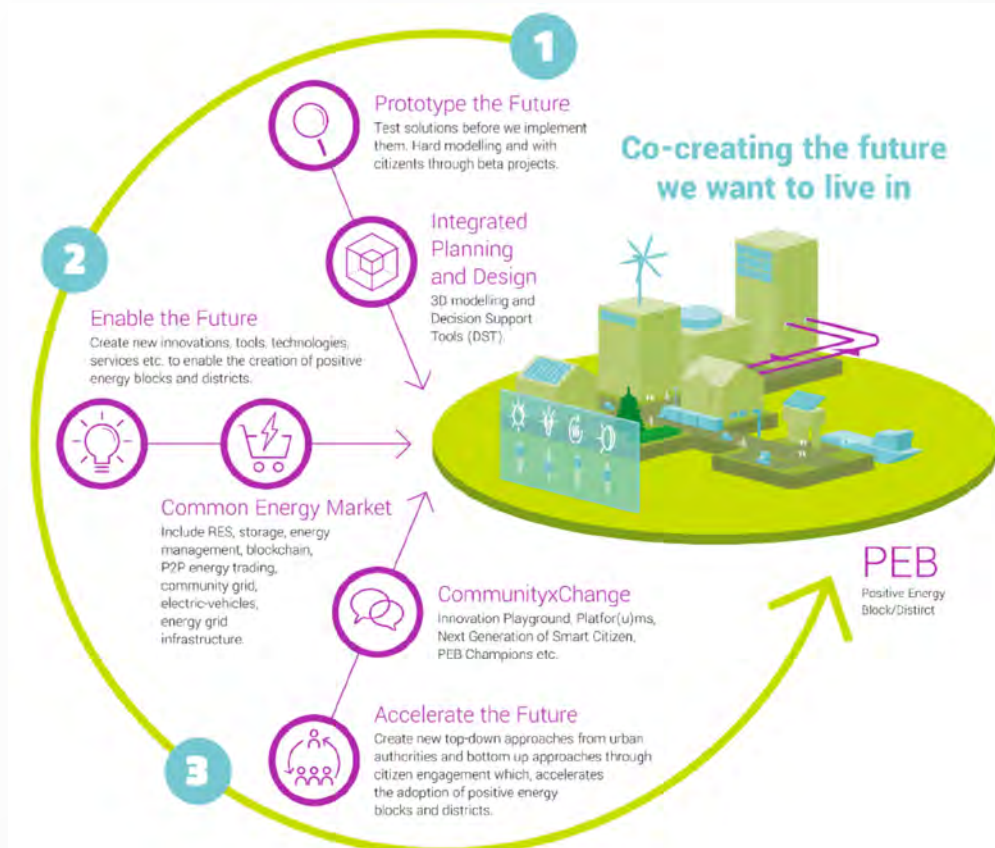
ISOCARP Institute actively contributes to the urban research community through our work on EU Research Projects, publications, academic exchange, and strong network of academic professionals. The work inside the Institute carries on the contribution to EU and global research projects initiated by the International Society of City and Regional Planners since 2016. In November 2018, one large research project, Positive

City Exchange, started and constitutes the first project solely operated within the Institute. Additionally, the previously started projects ThinkNature and CO-Land continue within ISOCARP while the expertise gained feeds directly into the new research pillar. In order to ensure a continuous project pipeline and further strengthening the research branch, a variety of proposals were submitted or are in development.

EU HORIZON 2020 INNOVATION PROJECT POSITIVE CITY EXCHANGE – +CITYXCHANGE

Positive City ExChange is a smart city project granted funding by the EU H2020 research and innovation programme. It brings the two aspiring Lighthouse Cities Trondheim (NO) and Limerick (IE) together with the Follower Cities Alba Iulia (RO), Písek (CZ), Võru (EST), Smolyan (BG) and Sestao (ES), to underline their ambition to achieve sustainable urban

ecosystems that have zero emissions and establish a 100% renewable energy city-region by 2050. We are work package leader for dissemination and communication, task lead for facilitation of storytelling workshops as part of inter-project collaboration, and development of five Bold City Visions 2050 with the Follower Cities.





PRACTICE

3.2



PILLAR PRACTICE

ISOCARP Institute supports public and private institutions through a variety of programmes, including the Urban Planning Advisory Teams (UPATs), technical assistance and review, building upon the over 55 years

of knowledge generation inside ISOCARP. The primary activities are the expansion of the existing UPAT programme within ISOCARP, while simultaneously expanding and redeveloping the range of activities.

PRACTICE URBAN PLANNING ADVISORY TEAMS

The two primary types of UPATs are Design Charrettes and City Labs.

Design Charrettes are collaborative design workshops during which members of ISOCARP rapidly work together with their planning and design colleagues from the Charrette host city, municipality or organisation. Design Charrette participants jointly analyse the Charrette's location and topic, and sketch designs to explore and share a broad diversity of possible ideas and solutions.

City Lab are design-based, collaborative projects in which selected ISOCARP members work jointly in an interdisciplinary team with a host city, municipality or organisation. The team typically consists of planners, architects, landscape architects and engineers, but also of citizens, city officials and other stakeholders, depending on topic and context. The aim is creating a design and implementation plan or conduct research-by-design on a specific topic, in a participatory approach of co-creating.

Why a Design Charrette?

- Opportunity for knowledge transfer, capacity building and knowledge exchange between different urban professionals
- The results of the Charrette can be used for urban analysis, competencies building, awareness-raising, spatial concept forming or evaluation of existing plans
- Open, international and collaborative character
- Forward-thinking and innovative answers to the Charrette's topic

Why a City Lab?

- Captures vision, values and ideas of the wider urban community of practice
- Facilitates in-depth knowledge of professional planners, designers, and diverse local stakeholders
- Utilises different competencies to create sustainable conceptual designs, plans and policies
- Based on inclusive, cross-disciplinary methodologies such as evidence-based design, data and project analysis, public consultation, etc.
- Produces high-valued, collaborative, design-based reports to be used for policy development, public outreach, design guidelines, and plan implementation

- PLANNING PROJECT/ POLICY PHASE**
Policy development, advocacy, project evaluation, design concept or strategy forming
- TYPE OF INVOLVEMENT / INTERACTION**
Moderated collaborative design workshop
- LENGTH OF THE PROCESS**
3-5 days / 1 session
- NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS**
10- 50 (including local participants from the host city)
- PARTICIPANT SELECTION**
Members of ISOCARP and local planning experts

DESIGN CHARRETTE AT A GLANCE

- PLANNING PROJECT/ POLICY PHASE**
Policy development, public outreach, advocacy, urban design guidelines, project evaluation, landscape design concept or strategy forming
- TYPE OF INVOLVEMENT / INTERACTION**
Field Work, studio work, participatory workshops, seminar
- LENGTH OF THE PROCESS**
Several sessions over a period of time
- NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS**
10-15 in the interdisciplinary team (incl. local experts from the host city) & wider stakeholder consultation (members of the public, policymakers)
- PARTICIPANT SELECTION**
Selected members of ISOCARP expert network and local experts for the interdisciplinary team

CITY LAB AT A GLANCE

UPAT Ningbo



MARTIN DUBBELING, DIRECTOR ISOCARP INSTITUTE OVERVIEW OF URBAN PLANNING ADVISORY TEAM NINGBO

Ningbo is an exciting and complex city. It has outstanding heritage, successful new developments, beautiful bridges, high quality museums, with a well-developed and continuous network of green ways and public spaces. During my many visits to Ningbo in the past years I have experienced that Ningbo is a city that embraces new spatial concepts that improve the ecological quality and living conditions for its inhabitants.

For more than two thousand years, Ningbo is one of the starting points and important trading cities of the Silk Road that connects China with other parts of Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Europe. Ningbo is one of the busiest trading ports since the Tang (618-907) and Song (960- 1279) Dynasties and serves today as the second Chinese harbour after Shanghai. Today and in the coming decades, Ningbo is one of the key cities in the 'One Belt, One Road Initiative' that will boast international trade and cultural exchange. Today, Ningbo is very well connected to the high speed railway network that connects to Hangzhou amongst other cities.

Ningbo's historic city and urban core is centred on the confluence of the Yong, Fenghua and Yuyao Rivers. Located along the eastern coast of the country, it developed as a port and maritime trading centre. Like many other Chinese cities, it has experienced rapid urbanization and urban expansion resulting from the creation of development zones established in the 1980s and 1990s. The city now has a population of 7.6 million and spans over an area of 9.816 square kilometres. Ningbo's GDP reached 985 billion Yuan (128 billion USD) in 2017 and ranked as the 15th city in China. The manufacturing and services industries are the two major components of modern Ningbo's economy.

(1642-1912). When foreign powers forced China into trading concessions after the First Opium War (1839- 1842), Ningbo became one of the five international trading ports in China. The other four open ports in that era were Shanghai, Guangzhou, Fuzhou and Xiamen.

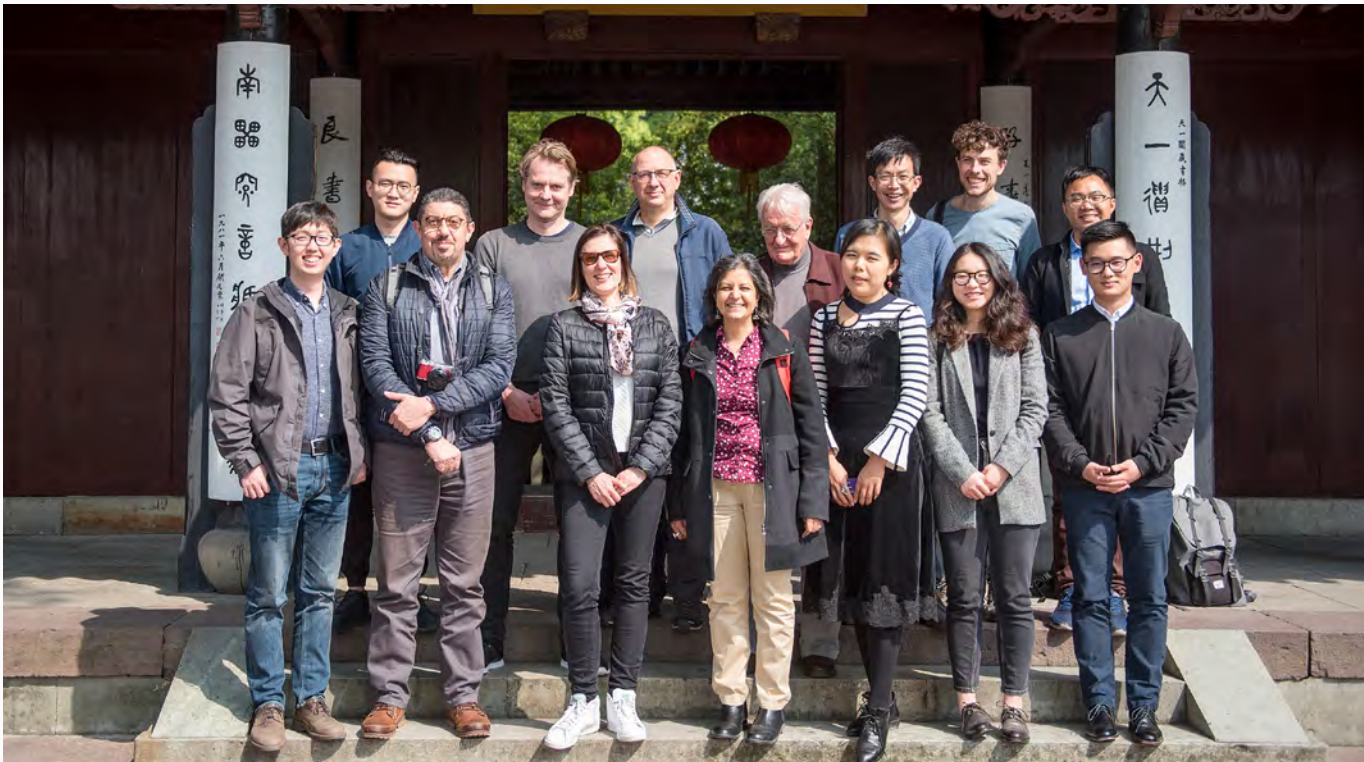
Xinmalu Historical District is situated adjacent to the Old Bund on Jiang Bei An, the north bank of

the Yong and Yuyao Rivers, where foreign traders settled and where they had their trading posts. In 1914 Yongcao Railway connected Ningbo with Hangzhou and Shanghai. In the end of 1900s, Jiang Bei developed into an important business centre with a large number of successful Chinese and international financial, trading and shipping enterprises. Today, the urban fabric and the mansions, warehouses and offices built under eclectic Sino-European architecture remind us of the British, French, German and Dutch presence in Ningbo. Most of these historical buildings, streets and infrastructures in Xinmalu Historical District are in need of renovation and reuse.

ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION AND URBAN RENOVATION

In 2016, the Central Economic Working Conference of the Chinese Government adopted the strategy to strengthen urban and rural planning and design, to restore natural and ecological vital areas and to encourage renovating urban areas. This new policy, developed by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Rural Development (MO-HURD), marks the beginning of a new phase in China's urban-rural planning and reconstruction. The Ecological Restoration and Urban Renovation Act emphasises the need for nation-wide tasks and targets on a local and city level. In effect, MO-HURD directs regional and local governments to retrofit and redevelop cities to improve the quality of life for citizens.

Ecological Restoration and Urban Renovation is a combined transition in both the urban development policy as well as the administration of urban governance. Ecological restoration encourages the repair of damaged natural features and the enhancement of ecological qualities and landscapes. It also emphasises the relationship between urban and ecology, between protection and development, and between human and nature. Urban Renovation, on the other hand, aims to upgrade urban functions and infrastructure and to improve urban identity and vitality through organic urban renewal.



COOL PLANNING

The task of the ISOCARP UPAT Team was to assist the NBPI in their visioning process for the new identity and urban renovation of Ningbo’s Xinmalu Historical District. The ambition of NBPI is that Xinmalu Historical District will become an example of urban renovation and ecological restoration that combines the restoration of urban functions, the improvement of living conditions and that utilizes potential spatial, social, cultural, ecological and economic values. In short, the task of the UPAT team is to enhance ‘Cool Planning’. ‘Cool’ in both senses of the word, as places desirable for living and doing business, and as places that our planet can support for the next generations.

The Urban Planning Advisory Team (UPAT) programme is a service that ISOCARP, the International Society of City and Regional Planners,

provides to cities and regions worldwide. The strength of ISOCARP’s approach lies in the diversity of each team, with a context and perspective that is specific to a certain location and point in time. Bringing together ISOCARP members and local professionals creates an alchemy that leads to creative and robust urban strategies.

The results of the UPAT team visiting Ningbo between 26 to 31 March 2017 are reflected in this PLAN Magazine. Other editions of PLAN Magazine present the results of other UPAT workshops in Gaza and West-Bank, Wuhan, Bodø, Durban and Guangzhou.

I thank the NBPI for preparing and hosting this excellent UPAT workshop and I thank the Ningbo UPAT Team for their contributions in the production of the PLAN Magazine.

ISOCARP'S TEAM

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- Hans Detlef Kammeier
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- Xinlong Liao
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- Wenjing Luo
- Sven Van Oosten



PLAN Magazine Issue 6

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UPAT Durban



MARTIN DUBBELING, DIRECTOR ISOCARP INSTITUTE OVERVIEW OF URBAN PLANNING ADVISORY TEAM DURBAN

Durban is a unique and very lively city in South Africa. Durban has largest port in Africa, it has an interesting heritage and it played an important part in recent history in the struggle against Apartheid. Durban's beaches and marina make the city a premier tourist hub in Kwazulu Natal. Presently, Durban still is a post-Apartheid city with segregated urban areas and gated communities. It also is a city dominated by cars that occupy an impressive and gridded network of roads. Interestingly enough, in large parts of the inner city and at in very desirable and attractive locations, new and second use car sellers as well as car related business such as garages, workshops and car wash facilities dominate the image of streets and city life. The observant visitor, however, can also find trendy and hipster shops, city hotels, bars, restaurants and nightclubs. This makes that Durban is a city with many faces, stories, opportunities and challenges.

INNER CITY SPATIAL FRAMEWORK PLAN

Durban is part of the eThekweni Metropolitan Area. The eThekweni Municipality has adopted a Spatial Framework Plan and Regeneration Strategy to enhance and stimulate the urgently needed social, economic and spatial transformation of the Durban Inner City. This strategy is developed through an extensive consultation process with all relevant stakeholders. The ambition and ultimate goal of the Durban Inner Spatial Framework Plan and Regeneration Strategy is to create vibrant, liveable, walkable city centre areas that will attract and retain investment and people in the inner city of Durban and thus will contribute to Durban becoming a caring and liveable city by 2040. As part of the consultation process in conjunction with relevant stakeholders, objectives and three cross-cutting themes are defined: the future regeneration and development should be based on a thorough analysis and solid understanding of the past and present situation, drivers of economic growth, as well as sustainable urban development. Additionally, four spatial principles are selected that address the social and spatial issues related to the inner city. These four spatial

principles emphasize that the Durban inner city is well connected with other parts of the eThekweni Metropolitan Area, that has accessible and walkable neighbourhoods, with intensified and diversified land use and a well design public spaces and parks.

52ND ISOCARP CONGRESS

In 2016 the City of Durban hosted the 52nd ISOCARP Annual Congress "Cities we Have vs. Cities we Need". At this congress, Durban presented its Inner City Spatial Framework Plan and Regeneration Strategy and organised technical tours to the inner city precincts. In 2017 the eThekweni Municipality was bestowed with the ISO-CARP Award of Excellence as the Durban Inner City Spatial Framework Plan and Regeneration Strategy provides a comprehensive planning strategy for and with the people who live in the city, and that can set an example for many other cities.

The task of the ISOCARP UPAT Team was to focus on strategic locations in the Durban Inner City, the Centrum Precinct and the Warwick Precinct. The Centrum Precinct includes the International Convention Centre, the Municipal Campus and Gugu Dlamini Park. The main objective for future development of the Centrum Precinct is that this area will become the primary civic precinct of the city, with housing for 77.000 people and 35.000 jobs in a mixed use area that incorporates a variety of cultural facilities and high quality public spaces that are accessible and used 24 hours a day. The Warwick Precinct is the historic and multicultural trading hub of the city that includes Berea Railway Station and Victoria Street Bus Rank, Durban's main transport hubs. The main objective for future interventions and improvements in the Warwick Precinct is to develop more residential accommodation, including affordable public housing, to pedestrianise and upgrade the quality of public spaces while maintaining its unique and vibrant character.



The results of the UPAT team visiting Durban between 29 April - 5 May 2018 are reflected in the PLAN Magazine. Other editions of PLAN Magazine present the results of previous and future UPAT workshops in Gaza and West Bank, Wuhan, Bodø, Guangzhou, Ningbo and Suzhou. I thank the Durban Inner City Team for preparing and hosting this excellent UPAT workshop and I thank the Durban UPAT Team for their contributions in the production of this Magazine.



ISOCARP'S TEAM

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UP AT GUANGZHOU



MARTIN DUBBELING, DIRECTOR ISOCARP INSTITUTE OVERVIEW OF URBAN PLANNING ADVISORY TEAM GUANGZHOU

Guangzhou is one of the biggest cities in China. The city is in some parts of the world better remembered as Canton. Together with Shenzhen, Hong Kong and Macau and other cities, Guangzhou is part of the energetic and vibrant Pearl River Delta. It is a trading city where Chinese heritage, colonial history and one of the world's most successful Central Business Districts are strengthening each other. Since the beginning of the maritime Silk Road, Canton, now Guangzhou never stopped trading. In large parts of the city traders from Africa, Asia and the Middle East visit and do business in wholesale markets. Seven days a week and all through the nights bags and boxes with dried seafood, fruits and mushrooms, as well as electronics, clothes, toys, stationary and spare parts are transported from one warehouse to another, waiting for international shipment. In hotel lobbies foreign traders talk in multiple mobile phones while waiting to be picked up by their local business partners. It gives this multi-layered city a friendly and international atmosphere that is aloof from borders and trade wars.

Guangzhou is one of the main centres of urban agglomeration in Pearl River Delta and it is one of the most dynamic metropolitans in China with an area of almost 7,500 km², over 14 million citizens (2016), and a strong economy. Guangzhou aims to be an international shipping hub, international aviation hub, international science and technology innovation hub, and strives to become a global city. For 28 consecutive years Guangzhou's GDP was ranked as the third city of China after Shanghai and Beijing. Together with Shenzhen, Macau and Hong Kong, Guangzhou is part of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area that finds its equals in the New York Bay Area, the San Francisco Bay Area and the Tokyo Bay Area. The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area has 80 million inhabitants and is in itself an economic force in the world.

Guangzhou Historic and Cultural Corridors For over 2200 years Guangzhou, known as Panyu in ancient times, is situated between magnificent mountains and oceans. Guangzhou has been the provincial capital in all previous dynasties and the

national capital during the Nanyue, Nanhan and Nanming dynasties. The city holds a great number of notable and cultural places and buildings of heritage. The Guangzhou historic layout can be best described as 'six streams connected to the ocean, half of the mountain extended into the city'. This image reflects the close connection between the city and its natural surroundings and resources.

Today, the old town of Guangzhou has a rich heritage with districts, islands, parks, waterways and buildings with a large variety of backgrounds, stories, histories and identities. Many of these places of interest are now isolated and deserve a better context, better connections and more attention. Learning from the Freedom Trail in Boston, USA, Guangzhou has launched the program of 'Most Guangzhou' for its Historic and Cultural Corridors to improve the accessibility and identification of historical resources as well as the environment along the corridor. Guangzhou follows the idea of 'Passing through 2000 years to Recall the Stories of Guangzhou' by designing a series of unique pedestrian routes that connect the most historical and traditional buildings, streets, parks and neighbourhoods. These routes can become great stages to tell the stories of Guangzhou and present Guangzhou to the world.

Ecological Restoration and Urban Renovation

In 2016, the Central Economic Working Conference of the Chinese Government adopted the strategy to strengthen urban and rural planning and design, to restore natural and ecological vital areas and to encourage renovating urban areas. This new policy, developed by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Rural Development (MOHURD), marks the beginning of a new phase in China's urban-rural planning and reconstruction. The Ecological Restoration and Urban Renovation Act emphasises the need for nation-wide tasks and targets on a local and city level. In effect, MOHURD directs regional and local governments to retrofit and redevelop cities to improve the quality of life for citizens.



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The Guangzhou Urban Planning & Design Survey Research Institute (GZPI)

For over 60 years the Guangzhou Urban Planning & Design Survey Research Institute (GZPI) is a longstanding, large scale and leading comprehensive planning and survey research institute in South China. GZPI is committed to providing engineering and building services to government, society and public. GZPI's services include urban planning, surveying, mapping and geo-information, architecture design, municipal engineering and landscape design, geotechnical engineering,

project consultancy, project supervision and project contacting. GZPI has 300 employees and has received many national and international prizes for their work. GZPI is one of the partner organizations of ISOCARP. In 2010 GZPI was bestowed with the ISOCARP Awards for Excellence for the Strategic Planning of Guangzhou City. In 2017 GZPI received this award for the second time for their Beautiful Village and Characteristic Town Planning initiative. GZPI is an institutional member of ISOCARP since 2017.

Cool Planning

The GZPI invited ISOCARP to select a team of eight experts to cooperate with five planners from the GZPI Planning Team and three experts selected by UPSC, the Urban Planning Society of China.

The results of the Urban Planning Advisory Team visiting Guangzhou between 03 and 10 June 2018 are reflected in this PLAN Magazine. I thank the GZPI and UPSC for preparing and hosting this excellent UPAT workshop and I thank the Guangzhou UPAT Team for their contributions in the production of the Magazine.

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UPAT SUZHOU



ADAPTED FROM JOHN ECHLIN, FLORENCE VANNOORBEECK
OVERVIEW OF URBAN PLANNING ADVISORY TEAM SUZHOU

The ninth edition of PLAN Magazine focuses on the International Design Workshop of the Grand Canal National Culture Park (Jiangsu Section) held in November 2018 in Suzhou, China. This workshop was co-hosted by ISOCARP and the UPSC, co-organized by the JUP and the local government of Suzhou. During the whole event, we received great support from the Publicity Department of Jiangsu Provincial CPC Committee, the Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development of Jiangsu Province and the Foreign Affairs Office of Jiangsu Provincial People's Government. For us as workshop participants, it was an extraordinary learning experience that will forever be a significant reference event in our professional lives. While nearly impossible to capture this experience on paper, we have attempted to represent in this edition the rich and varied viewpoints of the collaborators in a series of essays while documenting the outcomes and recommendations of the workshop. We hope these contributions will provide meaningful observations and guidance to the development of the Suzhou section of the Grand Canal National Culture Park and that our exploration in Suzhou can also serve as inspiration for other cities crossed and bordered by the Grand Canal along its entire length.

Like the workshop itself, the essays are a collaborative effort between members of the ISOCARP Urban Planning Advisory Teams (UPAT) and the JUP Teams. We begin with an introductory essay 'The Grand Canal of China: Heritage Revisited' by Milena Ivković, ISOCARP Vice President for UPAT, that provides the backstory to the workshop and highlights the main themes to be explored. This is followed by Dushko Bogunovich, with his personal observations and recommendations as the UPAT team leader in 'The Grand Canal of China: Turning the Corner in Suzhou'. Next, we have a series of essays that explore the deep and expansive history of the Grand Canal viewed from very different perspectives. Liu Zhichao describes the national context in 'The Grand Canal of China, Heritage of the World', Florence Vannoorbeeck explores 'The Grand Canal in Jiangnan: Origin and Development of a Multifunctional Infrastructure' and Yuting Tai

brings an understanding of the cultural meaning of water for Chinese society in 'From Retrospective to Prospective: Re-embracing Water Cultures.'

For context, we include a few facts and figures that provide a snapshot of today's Suzhou, together with an illustration of the workshop process. A highlight of the workshop was the evening Millennium Canal Salon, a cultural event that combined a Suzhou opera performance together with an informative dialogue with local experts and residents. Our group research-by-design analysis was based on site visits expertly choreographed by the host and intensive team collaboration. The results of this effort are summarized as our 'Challenges, Issues and Opportunities Identified in the Workshop'.

Following this, are the workshop design investigations, conducted at three scales agreed upon by the collaborators; the city scale, addressing the larger relationship of Suzhou and the Grand Canal, the master plan scale, corresponding to the 3km Shantang to Panmen section of the Grand Canal, and the detailed design scale of the Panmen site itself.

The condensed nature of a workshop leaves many ideas on the table as collective efforts must focus on a limited set of priorities. To complement the workshop, we include a series of follow-up essays that provide further thoughts and reflections on themes that emerged from the workshop. Suo Chao and Fan Sijia consider 'Heritage Activation: Bringing the Grand Canal Back to Daily Life'. Arunava Sarkar offers a lesson on the relationship of heritage river systems and cities from his native India in 'Learning from Varanasi: A node in the River of Eternal Life'. Olga Chepelianskaia looks at the role of stakeholder engagement and creating a holistic heritage experience in 'Suzhou and Beyond: Three Key Ingredients to Make Heritage Work Today'. John Echlin provides a perspective on the evolving role of water, nature and human activities in cities in 'The Suzhou Grand Canal Revitalization: Re-envisioning the Role of Water'.

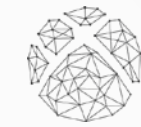


Sebastien Goethals, as an expert in urban mobility, looks at 'The Grand Canal Waterfront of Suzhou: a Connector for the People' and Milena Ivković offers her insights into the nature of design in historic contexts in 'Setting the Scene for Panmen: Strategic Design for Heritage'.

The PLAN magazine concludes with a personal reflection from Liu Zhichao 'The Flowing Heritage' that serves as a poignant afterword for the experience and a summary of the contributions from invited outside experts who attended the closing ceremony and provided us with considerable wisdom.

We would like to acknowledge and express our sincere thanks and appreciation to our hosts the JUP and the Suzhou government for their flawless organization and warm hospitality, truly providing a home away from home for the visiting UPAT experts. From the personal assistants assigned to each UPAT participant, to the workshop venue and hotel location immediately adjacent to the Panmen site, to the well-prepared project

documentation, curated site visits, simultaneous translation facilitated throughout, the unexpected media attention and coverage, the unforgettable Millennium Salon, and not least, our immersion in WeChat culture, the organizers exceeded all our expectations in preparation, making our participation in the workshop a true and humbling pleasure. We have made life-long friends with our organizers colleagues through the experience and appreciate their many thoughtful and passionate insights, endless good humor and patient tolerance entertaining all of our questions. We hope that the PLAN edition may give you a sense of the real outcomes and shared rewards of this invaluable UPAT experience.



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Wuhan Placemaking Week



MARTIN DUBBELING, DIRECTOR OF ISOCARP INSTITUTE OVERVIEW OF WUHAN PLACEMAKING WEEK

As an official partner, ISOCARP co-organised one of the sub-themes of the Wuhan Placemaking Week (WPW), Waterfront Placemaking, which focused on making better public spaces along Wuhan's riverfronts. The WPW kick-started the Chinese Placemaking Network, and simultaneously closed the year for Placemaking Weeks, a global movement and innovative social event that emphasised hands-on learning while leaving behind a public legacy in host cities.

Our team of experts, recruited across ISOCARP's global network, contributed to placemaking by a creative Design Charrette on the development of 'New Hanzheng Riverside Avenue' with some 900-meter long riverfront coastline at the confluence of Hanjiang and Yangtze rivers, while six distinguished colleagues moderated, lead teams and spoke at the main event.

Wuhan, like other Chinese cities, has grown at tremendous speed, especially since the country's economic rise in the past 40 years. China is entering a new phase: old functions cannot meet the requirements of new urban development and thus improving the urban public space, by means of placemaking, is becoming central to urban renewal. But placemaking in China is more than just beautifying cities. It is about creating new collaborations between officials, professionals, and communities. At the end of the workshop, participants presented their results on the New Hanzheng Riverside Avenue to the invited guests and the public.

The presentation addressed one of the challenges of developing public spaces, how placemaking can manage gentrification, and advised planners and policy-makers to pursue inclusive and sustainable growth strategies: creating places that enhance the existing social, cultural, economic, and natural characters of the historic Hanzheng District and riverside, instead of erasing them. The roadmap emphasised community engagement and local asset mapping as a benchmark for urban renewal and balanced development, supported by eight principles, which are vital for placemaking:

- Waterfront enhancement
- Encourage mix of uses
- Permeable block network
- High quality public space
- Complete streets for multiple modes
- Human-scale design
- Identity and sense of place
- Protect built historic heritage

The Design Charrette team identified three strategic interventions, which would ground balanced development: improve mobility, support new creative economies, and establish waterfront as a place for everyone. While some measures like introducing traffic filters, or traffic sectors, have a narrower purpose, others like re-imagining the Qingchuan 'Rainbow' Bridge as a green link across the Han River have complex objectives in terms of urban mobility, spatial connectivity, local identity and landmarking for the district.

These development plans came together with waterfront placemaking and design strategies most visibly at the Wuhan Central River Park, which was suggested as a new public park at the junction of the Jangtze and Hun rivers. The River Park would not only complete the Y-shaped network of urban green spaces at the left bank of the Hun River. But it would also integrate both riverbanks into one entity, via the Rainbow Bridge, with a natural tidal park at the confluence. By creative landscaping, the team illustrated, the robust dykes could be re-claimed for waterfront placemaking that respond to water-level rise without compromising on its crucial function as a flood protection. Meanwhile, participants also recommended to encouraging mixed land use and permeable block design, which would lend the new business district diverse characters and allow for various activities.

The team made an important contribution to frame waterfront placemaking in the New Hanzheng Riverside Avenue as an opportunity to utilise rich socio-economic and cultural values. And, by planning with water, rather than against, the River Park would add new urban functions to the city and Hankou would gain a distinct identity as a vibrant and attractive centre of Wuhan.

REVIEW OF INTEGRAL PLANNING GUIDELINES



MARTIN DUBBELING, DIRECTOR OF ISOCARP INSTITUTE REVIEW OF INTEGRAL GUIDELINES FOR URBAN TERRITORIES – STRELKA KB

Early January 2019, STRELKA KB commissioned the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) to review the “Integral Guidelines for Urban Territories – A set of principles for the integrated development of urban areas – Стандарт комплексного развития территорий”. This review was conducted by senior members of ISO- CARP through the research and project office of ISOCARP, the ISO- CARP Institute, Centre for Urban Excellence.

ISOCARP is very honoured to be invited to review the Integral Guide- lines for Urban Territories. During the review process, the team of reviewers was impressed with the quality of the guidelines, the precise description of the challenges encountered in Russian cities and regions, and the identification of the measures to be implemented to achieve more sustainable, liveable and integrated Russian cities. It reflects many of the principles of international urbanism and placemaking.

Our team of experts has reviewed the guidelines very thoroughly, has discussed the described topics and has developed some short term and longer-term recommendations.

On behalf of ISOCARP, the team of experts has reported to me that they are convinced that the “Integral Guidelines for Urban Territories” is an excellent document, that reflects the current challenges and proposes tools and solutions to improve Russian cities and the quality of life of their inhabitants.

We recommend all cities in the Russian Federation to take notice of the publication and apply the recommendations as described in these guidelines.

We wish STRELKA KB and all cities in the Russian Federation tenacity in the policy implementation of the Guidelines.

INTEGRAL GUIDELINES FOR URBAN TERRITORIES – STRELKA KB A SET OF PRINCIPLES FOR THE INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OF URBAN AREAS

The “Integral Guidelines for Urban Territories – A set of principles for the integrated development of urban areas” is a guidance document published by STRELKA KB, Mos- cow in December 2018, aiming to define the main approaches to design the development of residential and mixed-use areas for Russia, in correspondence with the needs and demands of residents, while taking into account the peculiar characteristics of development in Russian cities and the best international practices in the formation and transformation of the urban environment.

The scope of the Guidelines covers territories intended for residential and mixed-use development, which has been named by STRELKA KB as “the Standard”. This Standard does not apply to any other areas: business centres, university campuses, stadiums, technology parks, museum quarters, manufacturing areas, hospitals, etc. The standard covers various spheres of the

spatial development of urban areas: formation of new housing developments on green- field sites, transformation of the territories of existing housing developments, and the improvement of public urban spaces. The separate books making up the Standard are targeted to a wide range of users: residents, designers, developers, and those working for city administrations. The purpose of the Standard is to develop recommendations for the formation of a coherent urban environment and improve the quality of life of citizens.

ACADEMY



3.3


PILLAR
ACADEMY

One of ISOCARP Institute's core functions is to design and deliver capacity building and continued education programmes to individuals, organisations and institutions; conduct research and promote knowledge transfer; as well as offer advice and short-term consultancy services to government, non-government and international bodies worldwide. The programmes facilitate the vast knowledge and experience of ISOCARP, building upon over five decades and more than 850 individual and institutional members from about 85 countries working towards knowledge for better cities. The developed trainings are facilitated by representatives of the Board, senior members as well as staff.

One of these activities is the Young Planning Professionals Programme (YPP-P) which was initiated in 1991. The key activity is the facilitation of workshops which merge international and interdisciplinary co-creation and continued education for Young Planning Professionals (< 35 years). Since the establishment of the programme, 48 workshops across the globe were organised with around 1,000 participants from every continent.

The overarching goal is the creation of an ongoing global training programme towards the implementation of the SDGs in urban areas. This training programme is a global capacity-building initiative targeting urban leaderships and urban professionals.

It includes training for all levels of urban professionals that are directly involved in shaping the social, economic and environmental policies, strategies and implementation schedules of municipal and regional authorities.

This training programme shall be considered as an overall capacity building initiative, which includes not only an extensive capacity-building programme but also a governing structure, composed of a quality and monitoring committee (Advisory Committee) which guarantees the successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on a local and national level as well as deliver a substantial contribution to the global objectives towards 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda (NUA).

The training programme is designed as a significant medium to long-term capacity-building approach which comprises of a series of activities, created to enhance on-the-job performance. Each training programme is tailored to the client(s). To ensure reaching the desired outcomes more efficiently and effectively, the performance is regularly assessed to the extent that it is derived from two actions:

- (i) training needs assessment; and
- (ii) a negotiated agreement between the training provider and the client(s) on the changes required for trainees to effectively apply updated or newly acquired skills, know-how and tools.

The main focus of the Training Programme is on the role of planning in the Local Implementation of the SDGs and the NUA. The entry points for the Training Programme are the four "domains of change" of UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan. The training and capacity building component of the Programme is conceived to create and further enhance leadership development for local elected officials and for their senior managers to become change agents. The first stand-alone training following the new formula will take prior to the 55th ISOCARP World Planning Congress in Jakarta/Bogor, Indonesia in September 2019.

OUTLOOK

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ISOCARP INSTITUTE THE WAY FORWARD

ISOCARP Institute is on track to further develop and increase its activities in the next years, following the three main pillars of activities – Institute Academy, Institute Practice and Institute Research. Activities achieved during the year 2019-2020 will be described in the next Annual Report. Hereafter a short outlook for the years 2020-2025.

In the Institute Academy pillar, next activities will focus on conceptualisation of knowledge, operationalisation of capacity-building and training programmes in close cooperation with local and global partners, as well as professional impact as monitoring of training activities. Here the Institute is intending to develop Rapid training needs assessments, Training and Action Planning for senior managers, Leadership development (peer-to-peer learning), Organisational management assessment (OMA), and Training of trainers (TOT), besides conventional online seminars and workshops. Current activities and proposals are focussing on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, sustainable urban development strategies, stakeholder involvement and participation - in cooperation with local and global partners, such as national Member States, European Pilot programmes, UN-Habitat Urban Branch, or together with the European Development Cooperation Agency.

In the Institute Practice pillar, our next activities are a further diversification of the existing tools and instruments of practice – more recently we can observe that there is a demand to transform Urban Planning Advisory Teams (UPAT) into urban laboratories, urban services centres, online workshops, placemaking processes – which goes beyond planning advisory. Local authorities are expecting today local implementation and citizen involvement, integrated into coherent urban transformation programmes.

In the Institute Research pillar, beyond the current +CityxChange EU research project and a new research project, Research activities on European level will continue to be the main driver. ISOCARP Institute is an appreciated partner in EU project consortia. Here also, we are intending to diversify the portfolio and looking for global and applied research on local and global level.

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