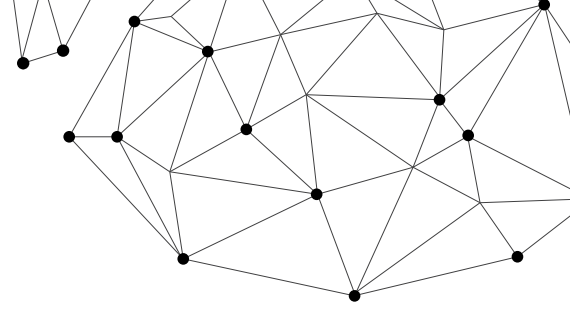


# Centre for Urban Excellence

We are the research spin-off of the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) and specialise in research communication, citizen engagement, urban advocacy and professional trainings.



## About

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 ISOCARP Institute exclusively operates as the project office of the ISOCARP Society.

## Mission

The mission of ISOCARP Institute is to enrich the knowledge base and developing the capacity of individuals, organisations and institutions partaking in shaping and developing 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.

### Practice

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

UPATs, Urban Labs & Technical Assistance

### Research

Capitalise and expand the urban knowledge of ISOCARP members and urban professionals by initiating, developing and managing research activities related to urban development, exploring research topics, programmes, ideas and urban development trends.

EU and Global Research Projects

### Academy

Disseminate the urban knowledge of ISOCARP and upgrade the capacities of urban stakeholders and younger professionals, by initiating and managing different programmes related to training and capacity-building, education and professional experience.

YPPs, Trainings & Online Education

## ISOCARP Institute in EU-funded projects

Within the Research Pillar, ISOCARP Institute actively contributes to the urban research community through its work on research projects, publications, and strong network of academic professionals. The Institute mainly 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, the H2020 project Positive City Exchange started and constitutes the first project solely operated within the Institute. ISOCARP Institute has been granted EU funding from other H2020 funded project on the topic of nature-based solutions, VARCITIES (2020-2025) and JustNature (2021-2026).

ISOCARP Institute focuses on a wide range of fields related to urban development (i.e., climate action, urban resilience, public spaces, smart cities, urban culture and heritage, etc.) and it always seek for new collaborations with other partners and organisations.

### +CityXChange (2018-2023)

CityxChange is a smart city project granted funding by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. It brings the two aspiring Lighthouse Cities Trondheim (NO) and Limerick (IE) together with distinguished Follower Cities Alba Iulia (RO), Pisek (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.

### VARCITIES (2020-2025)

In an increasingly urbanised world, cities face several challenges and threats, struggling to propose credible urban futures and new opportunities for their citizens. VARCITIES is an ambitious project that puts citizens and the "human communities" at the centre of future cities' vision. Eight European Pilot Cities (from different climate regions) will test and implement a series of nature-based solutions and visionary actions that support creativity, inclusivity, health, and happiness in a holistic way.

### JUSTNature (2021-2026)

JUSTNature is an EU funded project under Horizon 2020. Its overall objective is the activation of nature-based solutions (NbS) to ensure a just transition towards low-carbon cities, based on principles such as the right to ecological space, the right to clean air, thermal comfort, and a thriving biodiversity. The project will support seven European City Practice Labs in the co-design and co-creation of local low carbon and high air quality NbS to shape low-carbon cities.

