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.

This Annual Report covers the third active year of the ISOCARP Institute from July 2020 to June 2021, and includes an outlook into the second half of 2021, as some projects started early 2021.

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

In 2020-2021, the ISOCARP Institute conducted successful and high-level workshop activities, participated in several worldwide networking events such as Urban Thinkers Campuses of the World Urban Campaign and developed capacity-building programs globally.

Within the Research pillar, the EU Horizon 2020 funded projects Positive City Exchange and VARCITIES research projects were further developed and our new EU project JUSTNature will start in September 2021.

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.
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, resilience 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. First ideas for a project office of ISOCARP were already developed 2007 – as global society of urban professionals, we aim to 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 its 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 and reflecting the main interests of the membership.

Institute Academy intends 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.

Institute Research aims 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 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 2020-2021 within the three pillars of the Institute, and their achieved results.

July 2021
Didier Vancutsem
Director on behalf of the Board
TIMES OF COVID-19

The ISOCARP Institute has been strongly affected in 2020 - 2021 by the global pandemic crisis. Physical activities were strongly reduced or cancelled and shifted to online activities. As an example, our intensive workshop activities (Urban Planning Advisory Team workshops - UPATs) planned as on-site labs, an important activity of the Institute in 2019, were completely cancelled.

Consequently, a substantial part of our activities became online, following an adaptation period. The Institute staff worked and delivered all project results from home. Coordination work increased due to physical absence – physical staff meetings were replaced by regular, weekly meetings. Hereafter some detailed information.

Related to Research, all our activities linked to our EU research projects became online, and physical project meetings were cancelled or online organised. Our project outputs were delayed, also because our project partners such as city administrations were not prepared to switch to digital project management.

Related to Technical Assistance, our on-site activities such as Urban Labs or YPPs were cancelled or postponed. Nevertheless, technical reviews and desk work such as the planning system project were implemented, although delayed. The lack of urban labs was compensated by our digital Urban Thinker Campuses of the World Urban Campaign by UN-Habitat, where the Institute could increase knowledge creation and sharing.

Related to Capacity Building, we successfully planned the activities as digital training from the beginning. Training sessions were delivered online.

We thank the Dutch Government for their financial support delivered within the pandemic crises in form of salary compensation - it enabled us to operate and implement our activities in an appropriate way.

As our activities are recovering and we identify new, promising opportunities in a near future, we are looking forward to more and successful activities, and hopefully on site.

July 2021
Didier Vancutsem
Director on behalf of the Board
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 Board 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, Board member at ISOCARP, and Didier Vancutsem, Institute Director.

**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 at 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 30 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 Commission, 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 currently responsible for project development and management at the ISOCARP Institute.
OUR MISSION

ISOCARP INSTITUTE

WHAT GOALS ARE WE WORKING TOWARDS?

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.
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 projects are situated which aim at advancing the academic knowledge in the urban field. Within 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.

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

PILLAR 02
PRACTICE
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, seminars, 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.

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, seminars, 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.
3.1 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. ISOCARP Institute has two main research project activities so far. The first, Positive City Exchange, started in November 2018 and goes on until November 2023. VARCITIES started on September 2020 and will last until February 2025. ISOCARP Institute has been granted EU funding from another Horizon 2020 funded project, JUSTNature. The new project will start on September 2021 and will last for a period of four and half years.
Trondheim, Limerick, Alba Iulia, Pisek, Sestao, Smolyan and Voru and their industry and research partners joined forces to co-create the future we want to live in. As aspiring Lighthouse and Follower Cities, respectively, they have detailed out their ambitions in the +CityxChange project, which describes a structured approach on how to develop and deploy Positive Energy Blocks and Districts and scale these as part of the Clean Energy Transition.

The approach combines: Prototyping the Future through Integrated Planning and Design; Enabling the Future through Creation of a Common Energy Market; and Accelerating the Future through CommunityxChange with all stakeholders of the city. New forms of integrated spatial, social, political, economic, regulatory, legal, and technological innovations will deliver citizen observatories, innovation playgrounds, regulatory sandboxes, and Bold City Visions to engage civil society, local authorities, industry, and RTOs to scale up from Positive Energy Blocks (PEBs) to Positive Energy Districts (PEDs) to Positive Energy Cities, supported by a distributed and modular energy system architecture that goes beyond near Zero-Energy-Building (nZEB). On top of this, the consortium will create a new energy market design coupled to consumer-driven innovation, developed in close working cooperation with national regulators, Distributed System Operators (DSOs)/Community System (CSOs), property developers, and local energy communities. Flexibility is at the core of the distributed energy system by creating new micro-grid operations, prosumer-driven CSOs, and new markets for peak shaving/Renewable Energy Sources (RES) trading to reduce grid investment needs and curtailment. The aim is to realise Europe-wide deployment of Positive Energy Districts by 2050 and prepare the way for fully Positive Energy Cities.

As leader of work package (WP) 10 “Dissemination and Communication” ISOCARP Institute manages communication and dissemination to reach a large audience; establish networks of stakeholders; create a platform and scale up the project to EU level and beyond; create a learning community of lighthouse cities and followers; involve citizens and local municipalities in fresh and innovative ways. In various tasks, ISOCARP supports with international references and standards. As task leader for task 6.2, ISOCARP supports the Follower Cities in developing and delivering the Bold City Vision and guidelines.
In an increasingly urbanising world, governments and international organisations strive to increase productivity of cities, recognized as economy growth hubs, as well as ensuring better quality of life and living conditions to citizens. Although significant effort is performed by international organisations, researchers, etc. to transform the challenges of cities into opportunities, the visions of our urban future are trending towards bleak. The increase in urban population is already intensifying the pressure on urban services and facilities, as well as on nature and ecosystems, significantly affecting the liveability of contemporary cities. Air pollution and heat island effect are just two of the most evident impacts of the climate crisis we have started to live. These impacts will more and more negatively affect social and health facilities, whose responsiveness and efficiency are more than ever crucial in time of pandemic crisis like in 2020.

The vision of Varcities is to implement real, visionary ideas and add value by establishing sustainable models for increasing health and well-being of citizens (children, young people, middle age, elderly) that are exposed to diverse climatic conditions and challenges around Europe. The ambitious foundation of Varcities lies in the close interrelation of sustainability, public health and digital innovation to make cities more liveable and welcoming; shared public spaces are pointed out are the privileged areas where to explore this integration, and ultimately to foster the evolution towards fully “human-centred cities”. The specific objectives of the project are:

- To design visionary nature-based solutions which contribute to the shaping of future cities and the well-being of citizens in eight European cities.
- To monitor and assess the sustainability and impact of interventions through advancing and developing new KPI indicators for health and well-being.
- To improve the sustainable transition to smart and future cities by creating a framework of locally adapted Gbf (Governance, Business, Financing) models.
- To include, in the co-design process, various stakeholders and inspire sustainable and resilient future smart cities.
- To achieve knowledge exchange, maximization of EU investments, advancement beyond the state of art through clustering with other European initiatives and platforms.
- To transfer, upscale and sustain best practices from Varcities through the development of a Healthy cities Helix.

The project officially started on 1st September 2020. During the first year of Varcities, the consortium set up the project, the Healthy Cities Helix and completed the creation of the knowledge based for each Pilot City. Moreover, the first series of co-creation workshops with local communities and stakeholders took place in June 2021 in order to prepare the design of the visionary solutions.

Isocarp Institute played an important contribution by creating the Communication and Dissemination Strategy, the project website and social media, as well as the Branding Identity Guidelines. In the following months, the institute will be engaged in facilitating clustering activities among European municipalities and in reviewing the sketches of the visionary solutions to be implemented within the Pilot Cities.

Isocarp Institute will be part of the Consortium which will implement the new EU H2020 funded project JustNature, together with other 18 partners and under the lead of EURAC. The project will officially start on 1st September 2021, and it will last until February 2026. The overall objective of JustNature is the activation of nature-based Solutions, by ensuring a just transition to low-carbon cities, based on the principle of the right to ecological space. This refers to the right to clean air and indoor/outdoor thermal comfort for human health and well-being, as well as thriving biodiversity and ecosystems. It also refers to the duty of not constraining the ecological space of others, in relation to the mitigation of climate change and measures required for reducing GHG emissions. JustNature will contribute to this vision of shaping low-carbon cities by developing a set of typical Low carbon | High air quality NbS in seven European city practice labs. By activating their just implementation, it will drive the co-design, co-creation and co-decision of supporting interventions regarding four innovation dimensions:

1) Enabling effective governance,
2) Enabling NbS system maintenance and operation,
3) Enabling innovative business models and market design, and
4) Enabling efficient technologies and applications.

The seven European City Practice Labs are: Bolzano-Merano (Italy), Chania (Greece), Gzira (Malta), Leuven (Belgium), Munich (Germany) and Szombathely (Hungary).

Within the consortium, Isocarp Institute will implement various communication and dissemination activities, and it will support cross-learning activities between municipalities. Furthermore, the Institute will deliver a report on good practices for the co-governance of nature-based solutions.
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 technical review, building upon the over 55 years of knowledge generation inside ISOCARP. Technical assistance and review are a central aspect of the practice pillar, delivering scientific review of planning documents or planning system analysis. The expansion of the existing UPAT programme with further development and adaptation to the current trends with urban labs, design charrettes and think tank workshops - such as Urban Thinker Campus (UTC) of the World Urban Campaign is another priority.

PRACTICE

DESIGN CHARRETTES/CITY LABS - UPAT

The two primary types of UPATs are Design Charrettes and Urban 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.

Urban Labs 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.
The Design Planning Workshop occurred from 4th to 10th July 2021. ISOCARP Institute selected a team of 5 (five) international member-experts to visit Weifang and work together with SEU team of planners, designers and students, and to achieve high-level results aimed to be published in China and abroad in 2021. The preparation process of the Weifang Workshop started in May 2021.

SEU invited ISOCARP Institute to select a team of experts that assisted the team from SEU in the organization of the design, contributed to knowledge on urban design of the International City of Peace of Weifang through an urban design workshop.

While the organization team and technical experts of SEU coordinated the workshop organization in Weifang with the international experts, including the Chinese technical experts, the involvement of the Chinese students of the SEU, the accommodation, and on-site activities, the ISOCARP expert team attended and visited the site with the local experts, worked and created urban design solutions for the City of Weifang, delivering innovative urban solutions and urban visions for the Weifang international centre of Peace.

Together with the SEU team, the ISOCARP international experts developed design goals for the Ledaoyuan historical and cultural area, such as building the Ledaoyuan historical and cultural area into an Asian pivot for international humanitarianism and improve the international humanitarian network, reshaping the historical features of Ledaoyuan, promoting the overall coordination of the Ledaoyuan historical and cultural area and its surrounding area, and realizing the harmonious coexistence of history and existing.

The international team successfully developed a renewal design and implementation path for the Ledaoyuan historical and cultural area that can be implemented. The findings were presented to the City of Weifang on the last day of the workshop, together with urban design solutions and recommendations.

We thank the ISOCARP team members Björn von Randow, Alex Camprubi, Christian Nolf, Thomas Fritzschke and Christian Hartmann for their attendance, contributions and highly appreciated ideas.
URBAN THINKERS CAMPUS OF THE WORLD URBAN CAMPAIGN (UN-HABITAT)

The Urban Thinkers Campus (UTC) model is an initiative of UN-Habitat’s World Urban Campaign, conceived in 2014 as an open space for critical exchange between urban researchers, professionals, and decision-makers who believe that urbanization is an opportunity and can lead to positive urban transformations. It is also intended as a platform to build consensus between partners engaged in addressing urbanization challenges and proposing solutions to urban futures. In 2021, UTCs are presenting, discussing and delivering climate action solutions. Contributions from the UTCs will be shared and discussed during the next COP26 in Glasgow / UK, November 2021. Hereafter a short overview of UTCs where the ISOCARP Institute was initiator or contributor.

URBAN THINKERS CAMPUS 1
UTC NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS AND GREEN PUBLIC SPACES FOR HEALTH AND RESILIENCE

On Wednesday 14 October, ISOCARP Institute hosted the Urban Thinkers Campus “Nature-based Solutions and Green Public Spaces for Health and Resilience”. The event was organised in collaboration with the ISOCARP Community of Practice on Urban Health (CoPUH) and the International Society for Urban Health (ISUH), as a first activity within their new collaboration partnership. The UTC session brought together international experts and thought leaders providing an overview over public spaces, nature-based solutions, and their potential for urban health and in the current Covid-19 crisis.

In his keynote speech, Mark Nieuwenhuijsen demonstrated how green spaces are essential to a healthy urban living, bringing tangible evidence of several studies and researches, and presenting interesting case studies.

During the First Panel Discussion, Laura Petrella reflected on the work of UN-Habitat and its agenda, highlighting the importance of nature-based solutions and public spaces, and the need to design adaptable solutions to local contexts. Cecilia Vaca Jones brought the perspective of the children, presenting the critical challenges and needs for their health, in particular during the current pandemic. Thiago Héric de Sa focused on the necessity to bring the community of planners and health together, presenting the latest Sourcebook “Integrating Health in Urban and Territorial Planning”.

The Second Panel Discussion focused on concrete experiences of implemented projects of green public spaces in different local contexts. Uta Christine Dietrich brought the experience of ThinkCity in South-East Asia, highlighting the issue of justice and distribution of green spaces in cities. Nathan Iyer reflected on his experience in South Africa and on the role of public spaces and nature as critical infrastructure in the urban environment. Nabi Agzamov presented some of the work made by Strelka in Russia, focusing on the most critical local challenges for urban health and possible interventions through green public spaces.
Hot cities in the MENA region – with the reference to Dubai – are a current trend which will be highlighted and discussed during the UTC. Meanwhile we would like to expand the discussion on what other trends related to the Hot Cities trends are emerging? Among the main trends that we would like to touch upon and discuss possible solutions are: water scarcity, biodiversity loss, sea level rise, loss of coastal defence and storm surges.

The main objective of this UTC is to discuss and explore solutions that are being tested to ameliorate the future of urban living conditions. The Campus explored and discussed solutions on how cities can better respond to changing climate conditions, using Dubai as an example of a city which due to its demanding climate conditions, has from the beginning had to plan in ways, which can offer valuable best practices to urban planners around the world.

In his keynote presentation, Martin Knuijt (OKRA Landscape Architects) reflected on how to design healthier and resilient cities. By presenting some of his work in different urban contexts, he emphasized the importance of preserving biodiversity, connecting places to increase social cohesion, and designing adaptive infrastructure, especially when it comes to water management. This is only possible through integrated and holistic solutions, able to meet citizens' needs and generate their enthusiasm.

Afterwards, the session continued with a series of contributors from city representatives and experts from different background. Elsa Durieux (ICLEI) framed the discussion around the European Green Deals as new approach to accelerate and scale-up cities' sustainability ambitions, discussing the main challenges and barriers; she also introduced the Local Green Deals Blueprint for Action. Nicolas Gharbi (city of Madrid) presented the case of the metropolitan forest of Madrid, the flagship project for the recovery plan of the city; the forest will be a 75 km ring infrastructure connecting existing green spaces around Madrid. Valentina D’Alonzo (EURAC) gave an overview of H2020 project VARIOCITIES, and its holistic approach in developing visionary solutions which link nature-based solutions, urban health, public spaces and smart cities. Elisa Torricelli (City of Milan) brought the experience of the city of Milan, showing the work of the Environmental Transition Department in developing local plans and initiatives to increase urban resilience.

The session was also the occasion to present contributions from different countries, ensuring a truly international perspective. Sevval Cavusoglu brought her experience from Turkey and reminded the importance of decision support systems for low-carbon city projects. Bhagyashri Kulkarni reflected on bottom-up and participatory practices to manage green public spaces in collaboration with citizens, beyond traditional public-private partnerships. Joana Bispo introduced the Sustainable Development Strategy of the city of Teresina (Brazil) and some specific projects, in particular highlighting the monitoring of SDGs at the local level.

Milena Ivkovic moderated the last part of the session, with questions and answers, while Didier Vancutsem thanked all presenters and participants for the engaged discussion and closed the Campus.
In September 2020, STRELKA KB commissioned the ISOCARP Institute to develop a critical analysis of urban planning systems in OECD countries and a critical overview of deliverables of the “National Guidelines for Master Planning of Russian Cities”. This work is still going on and is expected to be concluded in September 2021.

An expert team together with the staff of the ISOCARP Institute was set up to implement this task. The work objectives were to define urban planning system and regulations adequate for modern Russia, including levels of strategic and territorial planning, urban design, development of regulations and operational planning – as well as to develop a proposal for the integration of strategic master planning for cities into the Russian planning system.

In particular, the work focussed on the development of an overview of national urban planning systems worldwide, including a selection of up to 10 countries for review based on criteria defined together with Strelka KB. This analytical report included the following information for every selected country:

- Introductory note on a country,
- Historical overview of the planning system development,
- Diagrams illustrating the structure of planning system of a country, goals and place of the planning documentation,
- Analytical overview of the planning systems of selected countries.

The list of selected countries was as follows: United States of America, with focus on California and New York City, Canada, Germany with focus on Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria, France, United Kingdom, Norway, Japan, South Korea, Netherlands, Australia, with focus on Melbourne.

Additional support regarding urban analysis and urban master planning methodologies, case studies was also delivered.

A critical Review of the Guidelines, including the general comments on the structure, content and applicability of the Guidelines, as well as comments and suggestions for the improvement of the Guidelines or its parts is expected to be implemented in the next months before the end of 2021.

This working experience and achieved results initiated the discussion of a further development of this methodology to be applied to other countries globally, aiming to develop a global overview of urban planning systems – connected to the implementation of the SDGs. This project idea is currently under development with different partners and will be implemented in the next months.
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 750 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.
In July 2020, ISOCARP Institute facilitated a 2-day online training on Sustainable Urban Development and Planning. The training feeds into the EU co-funded Climate Resilient and Inclusive Cities (CRIC, www.resilient-cities.com) project which works towards sustainable cooperation between Europe and Indonesia, as well as other Southeast Asian countries. The training programme was split into two elements: 1) On the 22-23 July 2020 an online training was facilitated; 2) In October 2021 (depending on travel restrictions) an on-site training to be conducted in Indonesia. Both trainings feature the same content, however, adapted to the format and expanded by more interactive sessions for the latter. ISOCARP Institute is facilitating both trainings with the support and input of experts from ISOCARP, as well as input of contributors to the 55th ISOCARP World Planning Congress 2019 in Jakarta/Bogor and its accompanying publication and declaration.

The training is organised in four themes, namely the three dimensions of sustainability and governance: 1) Economic, 2) Environmental, and 3) Social sustainability, as well as the cross-cutting theme of 4) Governance. Additional to the live training, supporting materials are provided which consist of case studies and best practices, further readings, and references to other interactive media. For the contextualisation in current practice, global planning concepts and approaches are covered. These include the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 11, the New Urban Agenda (NUA), Sustainable Urban Development (SUD), Transit-Oriented Development (TOD), human-centred design, metropolitan/territorial planning, as well as socially inclusive planning. The training will cover planning across scales, planning across disciplines/sectors, planning for the poor/for informality, and discuss how to link different planning bodies. The four thematic main sessions of the training are introduced together with the structure and approach in the first session, as well as summarised in the last. Each main session consists of a theoretical input lecture and case studies and examples, complemented with viable approaches and tools, such as visioning, action planning, monitoring and assessment approaches, and digital tools. The four main modules discussed the topics below:

Module 1 | Enhanced Shared Prosperity of Cities and Regions
Module 2 | Planning for Climate Action and Improved Urban Environment
Module 3 | Planning for Spatial Equality and Poverty Reduction
Module 4 | Urban Governance for Sustainable Development
DUBAI FUTURE FOUNDATION AND ISOCARP INSTITUTE

SHAPING HUMANITY’S URBAN FUTURE BEYOND 2030

ISOCARP Institute is developing in cooperation with Dubai Future Academy, the academic branch of Dubai Future Foundation, an educational course structure with the topic of “Shaping Humanity’s urban future beyond 2030”.

This course will provide the means for the participants to understand the prospective thinking of urban humanity and its future. This is done by delivering a comprehensive overview of the urban interconnected system and how it will evolve in the next decades, beyond the implementation of the SDGs and 2050. The course will deliver a clear idea of the urban humanity and its future, and how prospective thinking can be practiced. Course attendees are trained to understand the urban planning principles and enabled to formulate alternative scenarios for the urban design spaces towards 2050 and beyond.

The aim of the course is to understand the future of the urban humanity, its evolution and how the future beyond 2030 looks like, which challenges and pathways shaping urban futures will dominate in the next decades, and how the relationship between human and technology will evolve. Participants will be able to grasp resilience principles, zero-carbon urban future and urban sustainability as a basis for the urban humanity; the participants will be able to capture the forward-thinking methodology and comprehend the next generations of urban territories and its implications for Dubai and UAE.

THINKCITY ACADEMY AND ISOCARP INSTITUTE

PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM ON SUSTAINABLE URBAN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ISOCARP Institute and ThinkCity Academy agreed 2021 to join forces in the preparation and implementation of a capacity building program on Sustainable Urban Planning and Development. This initiative includes capacity building course and workshops focusing on professionals working in the city-making disciplines – mainly in ASEAN countries. The aim is to improve decision-making and the implementation of projects at the local, regional and national level.

The proposed training focusses on four main topics and localises their application in the ASEAN context. The developed materials consist of case studies and best practices, videos, further readings and references to other interactive media. Additional to the overall themes, current global planning concepts and approaches are covered. These include the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 11, the New Urban Agenda (NUA), Sustainable Urban Development (SUD), Transit-Oriented Development (TOD), human-centred design, metropolitan/territorial planning, as well as socially inclusive planning. Furthermore, the training will cover planning across scales (placemaking/urban design > regional planning > national policies), planning across disciplines/sectors, planning for the poor/for informality (assessment/ mapping, participatory planning, upgrading, community-led, collaboration between private/public, non-profit/governmental, academia), and discuss how to link different planning bodies.

These topics will be complemented with viable approaches and tools, such as vision building, action planning, monitoring and assessment approaches, digital tools (open data, GIS, surveys, ...) and tackle the question of suitable planning and which elements to be considered in various contexts.

The courses will take place starting November 2021 in an online format.
ISOCARP INSTITUTE’S KNOWLEDGE BASE
OVERVIEW OF THE COMPOSING ELEMENTS

The Knowledge Base platform aims at compiling, sharing, discussing, and elevating the knowledge of the global community of urban and territorial planning professionals. The Institute has created the Knowledge Base to allow for global dissemination of the accumulated knowledge of ISOCARP’s members (e.g. Presentations, interviews, lectures, papers, articles), as well as to disseminate the results and solutions that are being developed within our projects and our Urban Thinker Campuses (UTCs). The outcomes – which cover topics of ISOCARP World Planning Congress papers, projects, case studies, or ISOCARP Review articles – are available as videos on our Knowledge Base and other communication channels. Furthermore, they feed into activities of the ISOCARP Institute Academy, e.g. by acting as expert inputs for city leader trainings and capacity building.

KNOWLEDGE BASE BY THE NUMBERS:

6 CASE STUDIES
24 CONGRESS PAPERS
21 REVIEW ARTICLES
6 VIDEOS & RECORDINGS
ISOCARP Institute hosted the special session "Digital Infrastructure for Smart Urban Services and Public Value" on Wednesday 9 December 2020. The event was part of the 56th ISOCARP World Planning Congress "Post-Oil City. Planning for Urban Green Deals". The session aimed to reflect on how cities can support the ecological transition by providing more sustainable urban services (i.e., energy, health, mobility, etc.) and improving the quality of life of citizens.

The session was spearheaded by the Keynote speaker Luca Mora, Associate Professor of Urban Innovation at the Business School of Edinburgh Napier University, with his keynote 'Assembling Sustainable Smart City Transitions'. Pointing out the disparity between the abundance of technological applications and the lack of research on how to build platforms for integrating those technologies for making cities smarter, he set the tone for the discussion on the importance of a ‘collaborative environment’. An open and engaging environment that strengthens the capacity of individuals and organizations to implement the technologies and to work together and participate, innovate and improve. Mora mentions the importance of "play" in the process: competitions, hackathons and citizen workshops are a great way to innovate and experiment in a more relaxed setting.

Afterwards, the experiences from two EU Horizon 2020-funded projects supported by ISOCARP Institute were presented. Both presentations focused on the context-specific strategies chosen for the implementation of Smart City solutions in their local contexts.

The first project, +CityxChange, was presented by Project Manager Dirk Ahlers from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology. +CityxChange is focusing on enabling community-supported energy transition actions. Being a collective project of 7 cities around Europe, Ahlers discussed striking the balance between well-established frameworks but also certain flexibility, which allows taking different cultural and natural conditions into account.

The other EU Horizon 2020 -project, VARIOUS, was presented by Associate Professor Denia Kolokotsa, Technical University of Crete. One of the main goals of the project is the development of a Healthy Cities Helix, a collaborative tool for developing models for increasing the health and well-being of vulnerable citizens with nature-based solutions. These models are especially focused on the symbiosis of urban green and smart technologies.

The presentations were followed by a joint post-it session in order to discuss the different opportunities and challenges of the implementation, participation and governance involved in initiating new digital and smart solutions. In conclusion, all participants agreed on the importance of flexibility and tailor-made solutions; no matter how fantastic a framework might be, one size does not fit all.

A Smart City is no longer only a question of a technological premise. The technology already exists, but in order to make solutions truly community-based, the gap between technology and the general public needs to be bridged by building platforms of integrated smart city solutions in a sustainable and collaborative manner. After all, a Smart City is a challenge beyond technology.
ISOCARP Institute is a proud partner of the New European Bauhaus initiative.

The New European Bauhaus initiative connects the European Green Deal to our living spaces. It calls on all Europeans to imagine and build together a sustainable and inclusive future that is beautiful for our eyes, minds, and souls.

The New European Bauhaus will:

1. Bring citizens, experts, businesses, and Institutions together and facilitate conversations about making tomorrow’s living spaces more affordable and accessible.

2. Mobilize designers, architects, engineers, scientists, students, and creative minds across disciplines to reimagine sustainable living in Europe and beyond.

3. Strive to improve the quality of our living experience. It will highlight the value of simplicity, functionality, and circularity of materials without compromising the need for comfort and attractiveness in our daily lives.

4. Provide financial support to innovative ideas and products through ad-hoc calls for proposals and through coordinated programs included in the Multi-Annual Financial Framework.

As a partner, ISOCARP Institute intends to enrich the activities of the NEB by deploying our leveraging capacity through capitalization, dissemination, and co-creation activities on a global level through the following:

1. Communicate, disseminate, share and amplify key messages of New European Bauhaus.

2. Co-creation with a wide range of global stakeholders across public, private, and civil society.

3. Mobilizing the vast network of ISOCARP.

Since the initiation of the partnership ISOCARP Institute has been involved in the Co-Design and NEB Prize phases which include a series of consortium workshops activities as well as jury member evaluation responsibility. As the NEB concludes the prizes phases in September 2021, it also kicks off its next phase, the Pilot projects. The institute aims to be an active member in shaping the process and hosting conversations to strengthen the dialogue on the NEB Initiative.
ISOCARP ECOSYSTEM
COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN ECOSYSTEM

As the project office and research branch of the International Society of City and Regional Planners ISOCARP, the ISOCARP Institute is communicating with the Society and its membership on several levels and ways:

On Board level

- Regular communication with Board members on project ideas, e.g. on future urban lab activities, review and research projects, capacity building or congress seminars
- Regular information about Institute activities with weekly report to Board members as Team minutes
- Bi-monthly online "Interboard" with presentation and discussion on Institute and Society activities
- Publication of Institute activities in regular, monthly Newsletter

Presentation of Institute results and activities during members meetings such as the AGM, the SGM or the World Cafe

On Membership level

Involvement of members in the three activity pillars of the Institute:

- Academy: involvement of members in the capacity-building and training programmes
- Practice: attendance and contribution from the membership to urban labs, design charrettes, and think tank labs such as the Urban Thinker Campuses
- Research: participation and involvement of members in the research projects and their dissemination events

Beyond the regular, daily, weekly or monthly communication between the Board members of the two entities, a Project Team – as Project Task Force – Identifies, develops and channels project ideas and opportunities for the ecosystem. The Project Team is composed by members from the two entity’s Boards and includes also individual members: the working and communication structure is flexible and dynamic and represents its main asset. Concept notes, projects and knowledge goals are identified in a quick way and focus on urban intelligence development.

Within the ISOCARP knowledge ecosystem, Society and Institute are complementary entities with the aim to develop urban excellence and share a broad knowledge for better cities: the level of joint goal setting and the collective action towards the above-mentioned aims define the intensity of interaction in the knowledge ecosystem. Both entities engage in this joint search for innovative knowledge pursuing new and highly valuable goals.

While the Society is developing and managing the membership network, congresses and publications, the Institute is initiating, developing and implementing projects with involvement of its membership to the benefits of the Society. Acquired knowledge by both entities is made available to the membership and the broader community. Not only both entities, Society and Institute, are benefiting from this collective action – also the membership has a return in form of higher and qualified knowledge and professional experience.
CURRENT STAFF
THE TEAM WORKING FOR ISOCARP INSTITUTE

FEDERICO AILI
Project Manager
Federico joined the ISOCARP Secretariat in September 2018 and worked on the EU project thinkNATURE, the YPP Programme, as well as research and publications. In January 2020 he joined ISOCARP Institute and he is currently working on the EU Horizon 2020 project VARCITIES, research proposals and training programmes.

MARIE-SOPHIE
Project Assistant
Marie-Sophie Barreau is a researcher and policy analyst in the field of environmental policy, with a focus on health and living environments. She has expertise in EU policy-making, urban farming, and foresight methodologies. She joined us in July 2021 to support the JUSTNature and +CityxChange projects, as well as project management and office strategy.

GISELA GARRIDO VERON
Project Manager
Gisela is a researcher and a policy adviser in sustainable urban development. Her expertise includes urban policy, socio-environmental risk, nature-based solutions, and energy transitions. She joined us in September 2020 for the EU funded project +CityxChange and involved in staff and office management, project acquisition and office strategy.

JOHNATHAN SUBENDRAN
Project Assistant
Johnathan has been part of the ISOCARP Institute since March 2021. His expertise lies at the intersection of spatial planning, spatial justice, sustainability transitions and urban design. His role revolves around assisting in various ISOCARP Institute activities primarily on EU Horizon projects, and exploring for new project opportunities.

MARIE-SOPHIE
Project Assistant
Marie-Sophie Barreau is a researcher and policy analyst in the field of environmental policy, with a focus on health and living environments. She has expertise in EU policy-making, urban farming, and foresight methodologies. She joined us in July 2021 to support the JUSTNature and +CityxChange projects, as well as project management and new project opportunities.

PAST STAFF

SINDI HAXHIJA
Urban researcher and designer (until June 2021)

ANNA MYLLYMAKI
Communication officer (until March 2021)

TJARK GALL
Project Manager (until October 2020)

DAVID STRUIK
Project Manager (until December 2019)
The last operational year 2020-2021 was a challenging year: several planned activities were cancelled or postponed; physical workshops became not implementable, and all activities turned online.

For the next months, ISOCARP Institute is planning to increase its activities, following the three main pillars: Institute Academy, Institute Practice and Institute Research. Several activities started early – mid 2021 and will continue in 2022 and following years.

In the Institute Academy pillar, our activities are focussing 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. Several capacity-building programmes were developed in the past months and will be implemented in 2021-2022.

A capacity-building program on the Future of the Urban Humanity, in cooperation with the Dubai Future Academy as part of the Dubai Future Foundation, will focus on “Shaping Humanity’s urban future beyond 2030”. The courses are aiming to understand the future of the urban humanity, its evolution and how the future towards 2050 and beyond looks like, which challenges and pathways shaping urban futures will dominate in the next decades, and how the relationship between human and technology will evolve.

Another capacity-building program is scheduled to take place in cooperation with ThinkCity Academy, the capacity-building branch of ThinkCity Foundation, Malaysia. Here, the courses will focus on “Sustainable Urban Planning and Development”, providing the participants an understanding of the principles of sustainable urban planning and learning from global best practices with a special focus on the ASEAN context.

Besides the CRIC Training Curriculum in Indonesia taking place in person, the Institute is further developing 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.

In the Institute Practice pillar, we do see a growing interest to move back to physical interactions and workshops. As an example, the urban design lab in Weifang / China July 2021 was held as physical event only. While we are diversifying our activities and developing hybrid workshops, we also do look at developing Thematic Design Charrettes as short-term online activities combined with high-level curators involved, but also at participatory urban laboratories, webinars, or placemaking processes beyond planning advisory in physical form. Regarding our technical assistance and professional review activities, the Institute will be further involved in the global planning system Analysis, started last year for our partner STRELKA KB Moscow – the study will be extended on the global level, and will include additional aspects such as climate adaptation and SDG implementation.

Our planned activities in the next months include also on site placemaking workshop with inhabitants (e.g. Middle East, China), think tank placemaking workshop with capacity building program (North Africa), as well as Urban Thinker Campuses of the World Urban campaign focusing on climate resilience and adaptation (in line with the COP26). As an example, the Institute is engaged in Urban Thinker Campuses on
“Mass housing and climate change” as well as “Climate resilience and the urban poor”. The attendance to the next WUF in Katowice June 2022 will be part of our physical activities.

In the Institute Research pillar, EU research projects such as CityxChange, VARCITIES and JUSTNature are our main activities, but the Institute is also looking at other research opportunities globally, although our 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.
The ISOCARP Institute has a broken book-year. Each financial year starts at the 1st of July and ends at the 30th of June of the following calendar year. The Institute has completed three financial years, 2018-2019, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. In the first financial year (2018-2019), the Institute operated several UPAT workshops for ISOCARP with an unexpected high result.

In the second financial year (2019-2020) the COVID-19 pandemic started to impact the operations of the Institute with less UPAT workshops, but with more EU funded Research and the first activities for the Academy, resulting in a small result. In the third financial year (2020-2021), more EU funded Research projects started and we managed to change some in-person Practice and Academy activities into virtual activities. The Dutch Government granted the Institute with generous (but preliminary) COVID-19 salary compensation subsidies, enabling us to continue with our operations and implement our activities. In this third financial year, the Institute contributed to ISOCARP Society with donations and contributions in kind, like paying the rent of the new office of both the Society and Institute and paying for the necessary renovation and update of the website. This resulted in a substantial loss in 2020-2021 for the Institute and in a balanced result for the Society. For 2021-2022 we are certain of a continued growth in EU funded Research and we hope for the restart of in-person Practice and Academy activities. As the future remains uncertain, it is very hard to make reliable predictions on the incomes and expenditures of the Institute. However, the Institute will continue to serve and support ISOCARP Society and we aim for a balanced result.

### Financial Year 2020-2021

#### Income and Expense

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<td>Income Practice</td>
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