



ISOCARP INSTITUTE
Centre for Urban Excellence

ISOCARP INSTITUTE CENTRE FOR URBAN EXCELLENCE

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



Prepared by:

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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.

This Annual Report covers the fifth active year of the ISOCARP Institute from July 2022 to June 2023 and includes an outlook into the second half of 2023.

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 2022-2023, the ISOCARP Institute continued with the implementation of several ongoing projects and kicked off several new initiatives.

Within the **Research pillar**, the EU Horizon 2020 funded projects Positive City Exchange (+CxC), VARCITIES and JUSTNature research projects were further developed, and our new EU projects (funded by Horizon Europe) DUST, UP2030 and PlusCHANGE started in the first half of 2022.

Within the **Academy pillar**, the WAVE project ended in June 2023. We were also busy setting up new capacity-building and training programmes, which we should start delivering in early 2024.

Within the **Technical Assistance Pillar**, we are part of an Interreg Europe project on sustainable rural development, Down to Earth, which started in March 2023, where we advise regional partners on disseminating and uptake of good practices.

This report covers the overall objective and setup of ISOCARP Institute, 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.

1. 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 professional experts and institutions to facilitate broader research communication and dissemination, as well as conduct professional educational programmes. Consequently, our mission is to enrich the knowledge base and develop 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. As a finality, we consider ourselves as knowledge brokers.

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. The first ideas for a project office of ISOCARP were already developed in 2007 - as a global society of urban professionals, we aim to capitalise on 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 into 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 the 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 explores and identifies research topics and programmes, develops research ideas, and explores urban development trends.

And finally, the **Institute Practice** focuses 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 2022-2023 within the three pillars of the Institute, and their achieved results.

July 2023
Didier Vancutsem - Director on behalf of the Board

2.1 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 that 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 Pietro Elisei, President of ISOCARP, Daniele Vettorato, Board member at ISOCARP, and Didier Vancutsem, Institute Director.

PIETRO ELISEI



Pietro Elisei (Romania/Italy), town and regional planner, senior researcher, and policymaker. He collaborates, as consultant, with ministries, cities and towns all over Europe, holding important positions in international organizations dedicated to urban planning (PLANUM SG, ISOCARP VP).

International expert in urban regeneration policies, integrated planning for small-medium sized cities and topics related to smart cities and strategic planning. As collaborator with EU universities and research centres, he works as international expert with international institutions (European Commission: URBACT and UIA Secretariats, UN-Habitat, UNECE) for important urban and territorial planning research/planning tasks. Dr. Elisei also routinely holds keynote speeches in international conferences and publishes several scientific articles on topics related to urban planning. Founder and Director of URBASOFIA (www.urbasofia.eu). Pietro is ISOCARP President 2021 – 2024.

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 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, Middle East, Asia), and on the local level. He is involved in different European and international research projects. As past Secretary General of ISOCARP until 2019, he is currently responsible for project development and management at the ISOCARP Institute.

2.2 MISSION

ISOCARP INSTITUTE

WHAT GOALS ARE WE WORKING TOWARDS?

Global urbanisation rates and an intensifying climate crisis put the cities at the forefront of tackling today's and tomorrow's challenges. Over five decades of bringing international professionals together within the ISOCARP network, ISOCARP has contributed significantly to knowledge generation and exchange. We aim to contribute more proactively to a sustainable future by becoming a more targeted and active initiative. Therefore, the ISOCARP Institute streamlines ongoing activities, facilitates the knowledge and experience of members, and expands activities further – targeting the achievement of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, the implementation and localisation of the New Urban Agenda, and building urgently needed capacity.



ISOCARP INSTITUTE'S MISSION

Our mission is to enrich the knowledge base and develop 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 conduct 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 an "Urban Think Tank" facilitating the generation and dissemination of knowledge for better cities.

3. ACTIVITIES



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 academic knowledge in the urban field. The **Practice** pillar provides technical assistance and consultancy primarily for local authorities and the private sector. In the third pillar, **Academy**, we develop training and capacity-building programmes and take part in educative projects.

PILLAR 01 **RESEARCH**

We contribute actively to the urban research community through our work on global research projects, publications, academic exchange, and a 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**

We support public and private institutions through various programmes, including the Urban Planning Advisory Teams (UPATs), technical assistance and technical review, building upon over 55 years of knowledge generation with the International Society of City and Regional Planners. We also provide technical advisory as part of specific projects in partnership with local and regional authorities. New formats like City Labs and think tank workshops complement the programme.

PILLAR 03 **ACADEMY**

We facilitate our vast network and train young professionals and public representatives through our seminars and online education. Different programmes of global and locally adapted training initiatives complement the ongoing projects and constitute one of the key fields of action.

3. ACTIVITIES

3.1 RESEARCH



ISOCARP Institute actively contributes to the urban research community through our work on EU Research Projects, publications, academic exchange, and a 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 six main research project activities so far:

Positive City Exchange (+CityxChange)

started in November 2018 and goes on until November 2023.

VARCITIES - Shaping the future of cities

started on September 2020 and will last until February 2025.

JUSTNature - Driving a just transition toward low carbon cities

started in September 2021 and will be continued until February 2026.

UP2030 - Urban Planning and Design ready for 2030

started in January 2023 and goes on until December 2025.

DUST - Democratizing jUst Sustainability Transitions

started in February 2023 and will last until January 2026.

PLUSChange - Planning Land Use Strategies

started in June 2023 and will be continued until May 2027.





EU HORIZON 2020 INNOVATION PROJECT **POSITIVE CITY EXCHANGE: +CITYXCHANGE**

+CityxChange (+CxC) is a Horizon 2020 (Grant Agreement no: 824260) smart city Lighthouse project that aims to enable the co-creation of a liveable future by developing processes, frameworks, and tools to help achieve a Clean Energy Transition. The approach combines Prototyping the Future through Integrated Planning and Design, Enabling the Future through the Creation of a Common Energy Market, and Accelerating the Future through CommunityxChange with all city stakeholders. Specific innovations and methodologies, including citizen observatories, innovation playgrounds, regulatory sandboxes, and Bold City Visions, help to engage civil society, local authorities, industry, and other relevant stakeholders 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. The consortium has also worked to create a new energy market design coupled with consumer-driven innovation, developed in close cooperation with national regulators, Distributed System Operators (DSOs)/Community System Operators (CSOs), property developers, and local energy communities. The aim is to realise Europe-wide deployment of Positive Energy Districts by 2050 and pave the way for fully Positive Energy Cities.

As the project moves into its final year, it has shifted focus to support scalability and replicability, disseminating replicable pathways to help achieve sustainable urban ecosystems with lower emissions and 100% renewable energy on a large scale. PEDs developed during the project's duration aim to support scalability by expanding within existing urban areas and existing infrastructure. Replicability is achieved by sharing and exploiting processes to develop and implement solutions in new cities, driving climate-neutrality.

As leader of work package (WP) 10 "Dissemination and Communication", ISOCARP Institute manages communication channels and the project's website, working to inform networks of stakeholders and facilitate dissemination and exploitation of project results. In this final stage of the project, ISOCARP is working to communicate tangible outcomes through various platforms, scaling up the project to the international community and supporting creative storytelling pathways. As task leader for task 6.2, ISOCARP supports the Follower Cities in developing and delivering their Bold City Visions for 2050 and guidelines. ISOCARP also leads storytelling workshops within the project.



EU HORIZON 2020 INNOVATION PROJECT

VARCITIES: VISIONARY NATURE BASED ACTIONS FOR HEALTH, WELLBEING AND RESILIENCE IN CITIES

VARCITIES is an ambitious project funded by Horizon 2020 (Grant Agreement no 869505) that acknowledges the complexity and challenges of future cities. The target is to advance innovation across different urban scales by fully exploiting nature-based solutions from a digital, social and cultural perspective through the vision of VARCITIES to implement nature-based actions in cities. The project helps to establish sustainable models for increasing the health and well-being of citizens exposed to different climatic conditions and challenges. The approach prioritises an integrative, trans-disciplinary focus that considers the entire ecosystem in its complexity, including all members of society. Recognising the necessity for nature-based approaches to be inevitably individual and context-specific, each Pilot City is directly informed by the unique and respective needs of the local society, the specific contextual evolution and the strategic municipal policies. The nature-based solutions interventions aim at becoming an underlying customisable fabric of an entire ecosystem of fully connected intelligent sensors and devices capable of delivering several co-benefits, transforming the daily lives of European citizens. The aim is to complete a business and commercial sustainable plan leading to a replication toolkit at the end year of the project in 2025.

ISOCARP Institute has contributed significantly since the first year by creating the General Communication and Dissemination Strategy, creating and maintaining the project website and social media channels, as well as the Branding Identity Guidelines. In 2022, the Institute produced the project's promotional video to accelerate public awareness of broader audiences.

The project is completing its third year. For the remaining 24 months, VARCITIES will focus on the development of VARCITIES ICT components: the Health & Well-Being (H&WB) platform, which will 3D models and existing data platform, AR/VR app and "Go Nature" game to be used in pilots and the H&WB final-live data platform. They are expected to launch by the end of 2023. The last phase of the project will focus on transferring, upscale and sustaining best practices from VARCITIES through the development of a Healthy Cities Helix. The ISOCARP Institute will be key in organising transfer with municipalities and planning the VARCITIES Final event.



EU HORIZON 2020 INNOVATION ACTION **JUSTNATURE: DRIVING A JUST TRANSITION TOWARD LOW CARBON CITIES**

The ISOCARP Institute is part of the Consortium that implements the EU H2020 funded project JUSTNature (Grant agreement no 101003757), together with 18 other partners and under the lead of EURAC. The project officially started on 1 September 2021 and will last until February 2026. JUSTNature represents the Institute's third project on nature-based Solutions (NbS) in less than five years, strengthening its international reputation and expertise on the NbS topic.

Cities represent a complex setting where low-income populations are more exposed to environmental ills, and climate impacts are not distributed evenly. Environmental qualities are becoming increasingly exclusive to high-income households, and wealthier neighbourhoods are more biologically diverse than others, leading to discussions on the future pathway of economic and social development due to the social and economic disruptions. In this regard, the overall objective of JUSTNature is the activation of nature-based solutions (NbS) 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 concerning 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. Activating their just implementation 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.

Within the consortium, ISOCARP Institute is implementing various communication and dissemination activities (WP9), supporting cross-learning activities between municipalities (WP5), and engaging in high-quality research activities to deliver a report on good practices for the co-governance of nature-based solutions (WP7).



EU HORIZON EUROPE INNOVATION ACTION UP2030: URBAN PLANNING AND DESIGN READY FOR 2030

UP2030 is a Horizon Europe funded project (Grant Agreement no 101096405) officially started on the first of January 2023 that aims to support cities in driving the socio-technical transitions required to meet their climate neutrality targets by leveraging urban planning and design. UP2030 looks, in fact, at mainstreaming the climate neutrality agenda using urban planning and design as a vehicle for enhancing the liveability of urban communities. The emphasis on liveability will connect the urban planning and design approaches to the provision of multiple socio-environmental benefits, foremost at a neighbourhood scale. An innovative methodology (5UP-approach) will be developed and applied through the co-development and implementation of science-based - yet practical - tools and methods.

To drive city-wide impact, cities will need to go well beyond technical designs and piloting; UP2030 will empower local authorities to shape their innovation-enabling city environment through a relevant policy framework, deliberate inclusive participation, shifts to sustainable behaviours, capacity building in city departments, new governance arrangements and financial facilitation. In this regard, Inclusive participation is key throughout the project's full cycle of activities so that the real needs of communities are reflected in the city-specific visions and co-designed interventions to maximise co-benefits delivery. As such, UP2030 will have a measured positive impact on spatial justice in the pilots and allow citizens to participate in the transition by becoming agents of change themselves through their sustainable behavioural shifts.

UP2030 applies its implementation methodology in 10 European city pilots - Budapest, Granollers, Lisbon, Milan, Muenster, Rotterdam, Thessaloniki, Zagreb, Belfast, Istanbul, - and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. These cover a wide diversity of socio-economic, demographic, climatic, geographic and cultural conditions, thus offering good opportunities for testing and learning how the UP2030 approach applies in different contexts.

The role of the ISOCARP Institute is to produce the exploitation and sustainability plan and actions aiming to maximise the benefits arising from the adoption of the UP2030 solutions by individual members of the consortium, as well as by the consortium, after the lifespan of the project. The plan focuses mainly on commercialisation, intellectual property and standardisation strategies. It includes information on the project's exploitable solutions and the appropriate business model that will be selected to incentivise, acquire, and retain UP2030 stakeholders and ensure subsequent commercial growth of the UP2030 solutions. We will also test new participatory approaches with several city pilots.



EU HORIZON EUROPE INNOVATION ACTION **DUST: DEMOCRATISING JUST SUSTAINABILITY TRANSITIONS**

DUST (Democratising jUst Sustainability Transitions) is a project funded by Horizon Europe (Grant Agreement no 101094869) that aims to develop new participatory instruments to ensure the voices of the least engaged communities are heard in sustainability transitions. Through several novel participatory experiments, the project seeks to increase citizen participation in structurally weak regions dependent on energy-intensive industries that will be most affected by sustainability transitions. The project uses the principle of 'active subsidiarity' to understand the determinants of participation in decision-making on sustainability transitions at different levels of government. Novel participatory instruments, such as Regional Future Literacy Labs (RFLs), are deployed to investigate modes of facilitating proactive and strategic citizen engagement, where communities are supported in imagining their own futures. In addition to this, the project utilises a number of digital tools both in applications and the securing of stories, narratives and voices relevant to citizen deliberation at scale. Through the above, the project aims to create real learnings for policy development that recognise the value of including diverse voices in sustainability transitions.

DUST carries out case study research in 8 regions. As evidenced by their eligibility for the Just Transition Fund (JTF), all need just sustainability transitions. Case study regions are located in Bulgaria, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and Sweden. RFLs set up in 4 case-study regions, test the potential of design-led territorial and digital instruments to enhance strategic and proactive participation of the least engaged communities in democratic decision-making. These regional experiments aim to scale up participation, expanding the inclusion of least-engaged voices from local to regional levels.

The role of the ISOCARP Institute in the project is as the primary knowledge broker connecting the project to broad audiences in varying professional domains. Through a novel approach to Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation (CDE), we conduct an exploration into the two-way exchange of project information, drawing on the experiences and stories that emerge through enaction of the project. Our focus on affective communication in the project, as a driver of policy change and co-creative societal developments for sustainability, is successfully tested and deployed. This is supported by a number of tasks where ISOCARP is the lead organisation, working directly with societal partners to develop storytelling with the least-engaged communities in case study regions, locate and spotlight community champions capable of facilitating behavioural changes.



EU HORIZON EUROPE INNOVATION ACTION

PLUS CHANGE: PLANNING LAND USE STRATEGIES: MEETING BIODIVERSITY, CLIMATE AND SOCIAL OBJECTIVES IN A CHANGING WORLD

The PLUS Change project is a collaborative Horizon Europe project (Grant agreement no 101081464) started in June 2023. The project focuses on understanding the relationships between urban, regional, and peri-urban areas by bringing together a diverse range of stakeholders and incorporating case studies from across Europe. The ultimate goal is to generate knowledge and drive transformative change towards a sustainable world.

Throughout the project, we adopt a social perspective to understand how different actors' values, knowledge, governance, powers, and roles interact to influence land use decisions. We strive to recognise the diverse needs and values associated with land use, considering the consequences of effective interventions and good governance. Our approach to land use planning takes a long-term, dynamic perspective, considering social and physical changes over time, trade-offs, synergies, and expected/desired climate and biodiversity trends.

To achieve these objectives, the PLUS Change project has adopted a highly transdisciplinary project design and co-creation of research solutions with stakeholders from 12 different practice cases spread throughout Europe. Our 12 Practice Cases are real-world examples of land use decision-making and action within a geographic area and include Amsterdam, NL; Nitra City, SK; Flanders, BE; Kaigu Wetland, LV; Parc Ela, CH; Lucca, IT; Green Karst, SI; Three Countries Park, DE, BE, & NL; South Moravia, CZ; Surrey, UK; Ile de France, FR; Mazovian Region, PL. By integrating these components, the project aims to facilitate both learning and the development of policy and solution-oriented outcomes.

The ISOCARP Institute is responsible for the Dissemination, Communication and Exploitation of the project, its findings and results to the target audience, including the practice case regions, policymakers, researchers and the general public. The goal is to create knowledge and awareness of the project's objectives and impact and to promote in the regions across Europe the development of strategies and decision-making processes for land use that effectively address challenges related to climate change, biodiversity, and human well-being. As we navigate the project's trajectory, we use imaginative storytelling and participatory methodologies to engage with stakeholders and give tangible form to their visions of future land use. This dynamic approach serves as a catalyst for meaningful data collection and the cultivation of innovative ideas.

3. ACTIVITIES

3.2 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 central aspects of the practice pillar, delivering scientific reviews of planning documents or planning system analysis. Expanding the UPAT programme with further development and adaptation to the current trends with urban labs, design charrettes and think tank workshops -such as the Urban Thinker Campus (UTC) of the World Urban Campaign is another priority.

DOWN TO EARTH – TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO AN INTERREGIONAL PARTNERSHIP ON SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Since March 2022, we are collaborating with 7 regional partners in Europe to support policy and knowledge exchange related to the topic of tackling depopulation challenges to improve environmental resilience in rural areas. The partnership is funded through Interreg Europe and will last 4 years.

Over the four years of our project, we will address the following themes during the **core phase**:

- Year 1: Environmental risks related with depopulation and ageing population in rural areas
- Year 2: Access barriers to young farmers in depopulated areas
- Year 3: Policy instruments to foster the role of farmers and land managers in fighting climate change and environmental risks.

The fourth year will be dedicated to ensuring the knowledge developed is used to improve the use of available tools and resources in the partner regions.

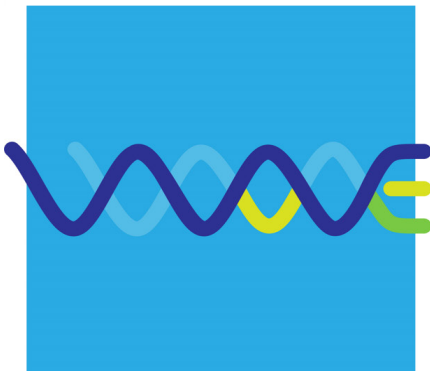
By facilitating knowledge sharing among regional and local authorities and relevant stakeholders from participating rural areas, the partnership aims to enhance their capacity to address the challenges linked with climate change and sustainable rural development. The ISOCARP Institute acts as an advisory partner, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and policy results.



3.3 Academy



One of ISOCARP Institute's core functions is to design and deliver capacity building and continued education programs 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, and staff. We are currently developing new capacity-building and training programmes, which we should start implementing in late 2023.



ERASMUS + INTENSIVE PROGRAMME **WAVE**

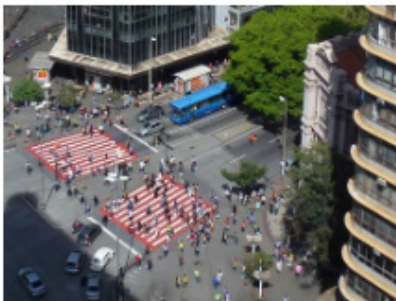
Water Areas Vision for Europe (WAVE) is an Erasmus+ funded project aiming to create integrated knowledge and visions for sustainable water landscapes in Europe. WAVE Living Labs Constanta (RO), Bucharest (RO), Naples (IT), Tartu (EE), Brussels (BE), Freising (DE), and Nürtingen (DE) bring educational institutions and communities together to collaborate to initiate the resolution of water-related landscape challenges specific to their local contexts. As part of the project, several intensive programmes (IPs) were organised on-site with students from different partner universities. One IP was organised in Naples in September 2022, and the final one was organised in June 2023 in Nürtingen, focusing on the Tiefenbach Valley. WAVE Multiplier event was organised as part of the Landscape Forum, which happened simultaneously in Nürtingen.

The ISOCARP Institute acted as a tutor during these IPs, mentoring groups of students tasked with formulating new design prototypes to address water in the landscape.

Knowledge Library

ISOCARP INSTITUTE'S KNOWLEDGE LIBRARY: OVERVIEW OF THE COMPOSING ELEMENTS

The Knowledge Library platform aims to compile, share, discuss, and elevate the knowledge of the global community of urban and territorial planning professionals. The Institute has created the Knowledge Library to allow for international dissemination of the accumulated knowledge of ISOCARP's members (e.g., Presentations, interviews, lectures, papers, and 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 curated under topics of Climate Change, Ecology, Energy, Food, Gender, Health, Informal Settlements, Innovative, Participatory, Poverty, Resilience, Smart Cities, Sustainability, Urban design, Urban planning, Urban study, and Water.



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4. COOPERATION AND DISSEMINATION



58TH **ISOCARP** **FROM** **URBANISM AND** **3-6 OCTOBER**
WORLD **WORLD** **WEALTHY** **PLANNING FOR** **2022**
PLANNING **CONGRESS** **TO HEALTHY** **THE WELL-BEING** **BRUSSELS**
CONGRESS **CITIES** **OF CITIZENS** **BELGIUM**

58TH ISOCARP WORLD PLANNING CONGRESS ISOCARP INSTITUTE'S SPECIAL SESSIONS

ISOCARP Institute organised two special sessions as part of the 58th ISOCARP World Planning Congress, "From Healthy Cities to Wealthy Cities," in Brussels, Belgium, from 3.-6. October 2022. The Special sessions were organised for the Institute's ongoing EU projects, +CityxChange and JUSTNature.

For JUSTNature, the special session "Justice for what? Ecological (space) justice in the cities" aimed to share the knowledge created during the project, mainly concerning knowledge on how to link ecological (space) justice and the activation of nature-based solutions (NbS) potentials and good co-governance (principles, barriers and enablers) of NbS. The session also included an interactive discussion session, adopting the House of Commons approach to discuss the activation of NbS for more healthy and just cities. The discussion point is "A matter of ever more optimised distribution of NbS or a question of procedural and recognition ecological justice considerations?"

For +CityxChange, the special session "Pathways from Positive Energy Districts to Climate-Neutral Cities" examined how to accelerate the adoption of Positive Energy Blocks and Districts (PEBs/PEDs). PEBs/PEDs — defined as connected buildings that together have an average yearly positive energy balance—play an important role in supporting climate-neutral cities and sustainable urban transitions. The Session will include short, interactive presentations highlighting the various perspectives (political, social, technological, economic), followed by a guided discussion where, together with the audience, the perspectives were discussed to define pathways to climate neutrality. The Session will serve as an arena for documenting and discussing the processes that take place in the project, exploring cross-cutting challenges, exchanging experiences, and developing solutions.

NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS

ISOCARP Institute is a proud partner of the New European Bauhaus initiative.

The New European Bauhaus, initiated by the European Commission in October 2020, connects the European Green Deal to our living spaces. It calls on all Europeans, and by extension all citizens worldwide, to imagine and build together a sustainable and inclusive future that is beautiful for our eyes, minds, and souls.

The New European Bauhaus will:

- Bring citizens, experts, businesses, and Institutions together and facilitate conversations about making tomorrow's living spaces more affordable and accessible.
- Mobilize designers, architects, engineers, scientists, students, and creative minds across disciplines to reimagine sustainable living in Europe and beyond.
- 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.
- 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 Society.**

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. After the kick-off phase, the New European Bauhaus engaged in the pilot project phase and the NEB prizes, followed by the NEB lab projects phase. The institute aims to be an active member in shaping the process and hosting conversations to strengthen the dialogue on the NEB Initiative.

4. COOPERATION AND DISSEMINATION

COMMUNICATIONS WITHIN THE ISOCARP 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 reports to Board members as Team minutes
- 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 .

ISOCARP ECOSYSTEM - SOCIETY AND INSTITUTE

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.

5. THE TEAM

CURRENT STAFF

THE TEAM WORKING FOR ISOCARP INSTITUTE



TALIAH DOMMERHOLT
Project Manager



METHI LAITHAVEWAT
Project Assistant



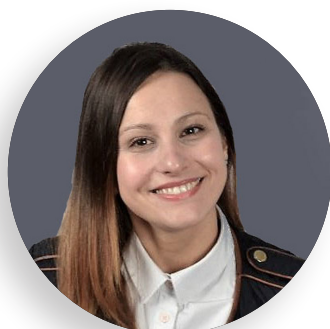
YOANN CLOUET
Project Manager



Tannya Pico
Project Manager



SAMIR AMIN
Project Manager



MAJA PASKALOVA-UTKOVSKA
Financial Manager



ALICE JELMINI
Project Assistant

PAST STAFF

WILLEM-PAUL HERBER
GISELA GARRIDO VERON
SINDI HAXHIJA
DAVID STRUIK

YIRANG LIM
MARIE-SOPHIE BARREAU
ANNA MYLLYMAKI

JOHNATHAN SUBENDRAN
FEDERICO AILI
TJARK GALL

6. OUTLOOK

ISOCARP INSTITUTE THE WAY FORWARD

The last operational year 2022-2023 was more dynamic and intense than the previous -challenging- 2020-21. After the cancellation or postponement of workshops and events, new online opportunities and activities were developed and implemented.

For the second half of 2023 and the first half of 2024, ISOCARP Institute is planning to continue the implementation of its activities, following the three main pillars: Institute Academy, Institute Practice and Institute Research. This corresponds to the current business evolution of the Institute: after three years of start-up operations, the Institute is now stabilising and confirming stable and sustainable growth.

In the **Institute Academy** pillar, our activities are focussing on the 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. We are building on the capacity-building experience of the CRIC project and the capacity-building program for the Dubai Future Academy and looking forward to further implementation steps. New opportunities are under preparation.

In the **Institute Practice** pillar, we are diversifying our activities and developing hybrid urban planning workshops; we also look at developing other kinds of activities, such as short-term online activities combined with high-level curators involved, such as participatory urban laboratories, webinars, or placemaking processes beyond planning advisory in physical form. Our technical assistance and professional review activities may be relaunched, focussing on planning systems topics, a new generation of a manual of planning practice, including additional aspects such as climate adaptation and SDG implementation.

In the **Institute Research** pillar, there are currently 6 active EU research projects (CityxChange, VARCITIES, JUSTNature, UP2030, DUST and Plus Change). ISOCARP Institute is an appreciated partner in EU project consortia. Over the past year, the Institute has been involved in several project proposals, a number of which are still under evaluation. The Institute was also awarded 1 new project, REGEN, in July 2023. REGEN will develop a new approach for planning and implementing urban regeneration projects.

The ISOCARP Institute is now recognised as a liable partner in European research projects. For the next year, we are looking to diversify our portfolio and look for global and applied research on local and international levels. For our research activities on the European level, we will shift our focus to strategic projects with high impacts on the planning sector.

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