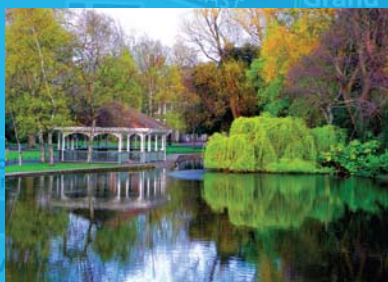
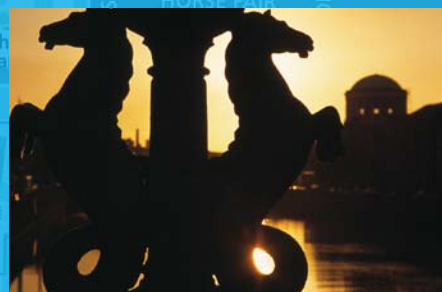


JOINT AESOP/ACSP CONGRESS DUBLIN

2013



University College Dublin and its reasons for hosting the Joint AESOP-ACSP Congress

[School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Policy](#) (GPEP) is a dynamic research and learning environment based at University College Dublin (UCD), Ireland's largest university with over 22,000 undergraduate and 6,000 graduate students spread across 7 colleges. UCD is positioned in the top 5% of universities worldwide and is a member of the consortium of European Universities, Groupe Maastricht, and the international network Universitas 21. UCD Library and IT Services provide state of the art teaching and research services including video conferencing facilities, visualisation and smartboard technology and ubiquitous wireless and fixed network point Internet access. GPEP School provides undergraduate and graduate programmes in planning and geography, a doctoral training programme and an active and diverse research agenda on the dynamics of physical landscapes and environmental and development processes, and the inter-relationship between people and places at various scales. The School is associated with the [Urban Institute Ireland](#) (part of the newly formed [Earth Science Institute](#)) – a major research centre gathering multi- and inter-disciplinary researchers and PhD students from planning, architecture, geography, natural sciences and civil engineering, focused on the themes of urban sustainability and environmental economics and policy.

Within the School and UCD context, the planning and environmental policy (PEP) programmes and staff are the base of premier quality professional education and policy-relevant research. The programme dates back to 1966 when the first planning degree course was established. The present undergraduate and master's degree courses are accredited by the [Royal Town Planning Institute](#) (RTPI) and the [Irish Planning Institute](#) (IPI). The staff of 11 provides expertise across the planning fields, including comparative planning, urban development theory and practice, housing, transportation, environmental and rural planning, law, urban design, community development, urban governance and planning technology and modelling. The planning and environmental policy staff are research active and well connected to the relevant local and international policy institutions and networks, including AESOP and other area specific associations and organisations such as the European Network for Housing Research, European Urban Research Association (EURA), Association of Geographic Information Labs in Europe (AGILE), European Council of Spatial Planners (ECTP), Urban and Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) and the European Environmental Agency in Ireland. The staff work closely with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Environmental Protection Agency, Dublin City Council and other local authorities and provide policy advice and expertise to local and national policy bodies such as the [National Transport Authority](#), Dublin [Docklands Redevelopment Authority](#) and [An Bord Pleanála](#) – the main national planning entity which arbitrates planning appeals.

Recent and current research projects include an EPA funded study on rural housing, EU sixth framework (FP6) project 'Accommodating Creative Knowledge – Competitiveness of European Metropolitan Regions within



O'Reilly Hall, UCD

the Enlarged Union' ([ACRE](#)), 'HAPpiness, Political Institutions, Natural Environment and Space' ([HAPPINESS](#)), an EPA funded [Urban Environment Project](#) and newly awarded FP7 project as a lead partner for a 5-year study Toward Urban Resilience and Sustainability (TURaS). The staff are also actively involved in other service activities to the community of planning academics and practitioners, including editorships and editorial board membership to planning journals such as Planning Theory and Practice, Environment and Planning C, Journal of Environmental Planning and Management, Urban Practice and Research, Journal of Urban Planning and Development, International Journal of Spatial Data Infrastructure Research, and International Journal of Knowledge-based Development, among others.

The planning programme staff and subject and GPEP School leadership is pleased to participate in the bid for hosting the joint AESOP-ACSP congress for the following reasons:

1. The School, staff and the programmes have the **profile and capacity to provide well qualified leadership** for the intellectual content and the organisational aspects of the conference.
2. The special position that Ireland holds with respect to **connectivity with both European and American societies and planning communities and issues**. Traditionally and with respect to planning system and practice, Ireland has looked both east and west – UK and US in particular, while increasingly contributing to and drawing from European planning debates. The ties with the United States are especially strong, made through several centuries and ongoing flow of emigration and well established academic links including:
 - a) Recent joining of UCD by Professor Zorica Nedovic-Budic, the head of school and head of planning subject, after 22 years spent in the US, including the PhD study at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill; academic positions (assistant professor to full professorship) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and Virginia Tech; and regular participation in many ACSP events and engagement in programme as the abstract reviewer, session moderator, and presenter. As with the American link, through her educational and personal background and research Professor Nedovic-Budic also has strong association with the post-communist Europe.
 - b) Exchange programmes for staff and students that are already underway or being initiated with University of Illinois – Chicago, Laval University in Quebec, University of Washington, Northeastern Boston University and the Network of European Urban and Regional Studies ([NEURUS](#)). In Europe, the staff maintain links with many Universities including: the University of Sofia, University College London, Wageningen University, University of Twente, University of Nijmegen, University of Utrecht, Catholic University Leuven, Queens University (Belfast), Universita Roma di Sapienza, Universita di Pisa, and University of Belgrade, among others.



3. The ***appeal of Ireland and Dublin as the case study and setting*** for examining and discussing contemporary planning issues – particularly the ones stemming from the recent global fiscal and housing mortgage crisis.
4. The ***attractiveness and easy access to Ireland and Dublin*** as destinations for both European and American participants and the availability of conference support infrastructure. Among many special designations, Dublin has been given the status of the [UNESCO City of Literature in 2010](#); in 2012 Dublin is the [European City of Science](#) and will host the Euroscience Open Forum; and most recently, the city has been shortlisted for the 2014 World Design Capital.

The school's organizational and financial capacity to host the Congress

The School receives an annual budget allocation of about €250,000 working on a fiscal year commencing on October 1st. The School will be able to allocate some funds for covering the up-front expenses that are necessary for timely conference organisation. The letter of support from the College Principal is attached.

Part of the up-front costs will be handled by the funds raised from various sources. The School will seek sponsorship from the local, regional and national public agencies, as well as the private sector – planning consultancies in particular, e.g., [DEHLG](#), [EPA](#), Dublin City Council, [Regional Planning Authority](#), Ireland's Organisation for Geographic Information ([IRLOGI](#)), IBM, and Google Ireland.

The main Irish tourist organisation [Fáilte Ireland](#) and a professional conference organiser (PCO) [Odyssey](#) will both be actively engaged in the conference organisation and delivery. Cultural programme will be planned as part of the conference and as information on opportunities for pre and post-conference tours.

Former experiences in hosting conferences are to be mentioned.

- Urban and Regional Information Systems Conference ([URISA](#)), 1999, 2000, Zorica Nedovic-Budic (conference and programme chair), Chicago and Orlando
- Conference Winds of Societal Change: Transformation of Post-Communist Cities, 2004, ZNB (organisation and programme), University of Illinois campus
- International Conference on Urban Climates, 2012, Gerald Mills (chair and organiser), UCD campus
- European Network of Housing Research Annual Conference, 2008, Mark Scott and Declan Redmond (organisation and delivery), UCD campus
- Titanic Memory and Heritage Conference, 2011, Berna Grist (organisation and programme), Belfast
- Various national conferences in planning, geography and environmental policy areas.

Accessibility, Accommodation & Congress Venue

Access

Dublin Airport offers a great choice of destinations, with services to 28 airports in the UK and a European network covering over 100 airports. The long-haul network at Dublin Airport provides a good choice of destinations, with nine scheduled services to North America and with many of these destinations offering great connections for further travel within the US and Canada. The US network has expanded in 2011 with a new daily summer service to Charlotte, North Carolina by US Airways. The Airport also serves Agadir in North Africa and the Middle East is served by Abu Dhabi.

Dublin Airport handled over 18.4 million passengers in 2010. During the year eight new services were launched and the airport served over 177 routes with 63 airlines.

Journey time from Dublin Airport to the city centre via the Port Tunnel is just 12 minutes and Dublin Airport is well served by many private/public bus services into the city.

Accommodation

Dublin boasts a first class accommodation infrastructure. In the last five years there has been a significant increase in the number of hotel beds available in the capital. As well as established, high-quality local operators, most of the major international hotel chains are now present in Ireland. Dublin offers over 180 hotels with just under 20,000 beds, all approved by Fáilte Ireland – the National Tourism Development Authority. There is a number of hotels in the vicinity of UCD including the [Radisson Blu St. Helens](#); the [Burlington Hotel](#) and [Bewleys Hotel in Ballsbridge](#). In addition to this, there is extensive campus accommodation in UCD.

Venue : University College Dublin

We are proposing to host the congress between the O'Reilly Hall and the Health Sciences Centre. These venues are a short stroll from each other at the very centre of the leafy campus.

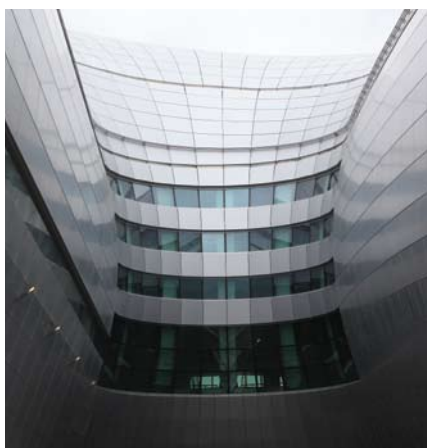
The best of contemporary architecture and Irish art have created O'Reilly Hall . The hall will provide excellent space for publisher and poster exhibitions, encompassing an area of 2,632 square meters and with a capacity for 1062 delegates, was designed by renowned architects Scott Tallon Walker.

Constructed in 2007, the Health Sciences Centre is a 16,000m² state-of-the-art building offering multiple spaces to satisfy the many session requirements. The attractive concourse and cloisters area will enhance the congress in providing spacious areas for cafés and networking.

2 x 250	delegate capacity	lecture theatres
2 x 100	delegate capacity	lecture theatres
2 x 60	delegate capacity	classrooms
2 x 40	delegate capacity	classrooms
2 x 32	delegate capacity	classrooms
4 x 30	delegate capacity	classrooms
3 x 26	delegate capacity	classrooms
2 x 22	delegate capacity	classrooms

Both the O'Reilly Hall and the Health Sciences Centre offer excellent inbuilt audio-visual equipment, and complimentary wi-fi is available throughout the campus.

These facilities are reserved from Monday July 15th to Friday July 19th, 2013.



Attractiveness of the location for planners

In the decade from 1996 to 2006 Ireland experienced one of the highest levels of economic growth in the developed world. This economic growth generated high levels of employment and prosperity to the extent that the country became known as the Celtic Tiger. Increased employment and income levels generated a major property boom, with very high rates of housing, office and industrial development occurring across Ireland. However, after over 15 years of the unprecedented economic growth, societal transformation and infrastructural and urban development, mainly based on the IT sector and knowledge industry (the 'Celtic Tiger' boom) – Ireland has suffered a dramatic economic downturn following the recent global financial crisis. The related social, community, real estate and economic development issues are brought to the foreground and are clearly identifiable – for example, Ireland's pre-crisis per capita rate of house-building was the highest in Europe. The political and fiscal elements of urban development are particularly pronounced in the case of Ireland. The mismatch between planning and local decision-making processes fuelled by irresponsible financing practices resulted in speculative development on a massive scale and an unsustainable settlement pattern – in fact a substantial departure from the traditional built environment. Although new planning legislation was enacted in 2010 to provide for more evidence-based planning process and decisions, the recovery from and retrofitting of the 15 years of neglect still occupies much attention and energy of all planning and societal actors. For all its successes and faults, such an environment provides a unique learning opportunity and a challenge to planning scholars and practitioners. The themes related to economic growth and decline and associated planning trends, issues and consequences would provide an interesting feature in the conference programme and would also be explored through mobile workshops.

The imprints of the Celtic Tiger and its aftermath are visible all over Irish rural and urban landscapes. Equally interesting would be the explorations that connect to the historical developments of Irish cities, Dublin in particular. Following are a few examples that could be incorporated into the conference activities and provide opportunities for mobile workshops:

- Central city revitalisation: including [Dublin Docklands](#) and Smithfield regeneration areas;
- Social housing redevelopment: the retrofitting of Ballymun, Dublin's largest development of social housing in the 60s/70s;
- Edge city development: the contested development of Dublin City West;
- Rural sprawl: in Dublin's peri-urban fringe;
- Historic built environment preservation: Dublin's Georgian streetscape;
- Heritage management: [Brú na Bóinne](#) World Heritage Site in County Meath;
- Uninhabited / abandoned developments – so called 'ghost estates' in the north city fringe of Dublin;



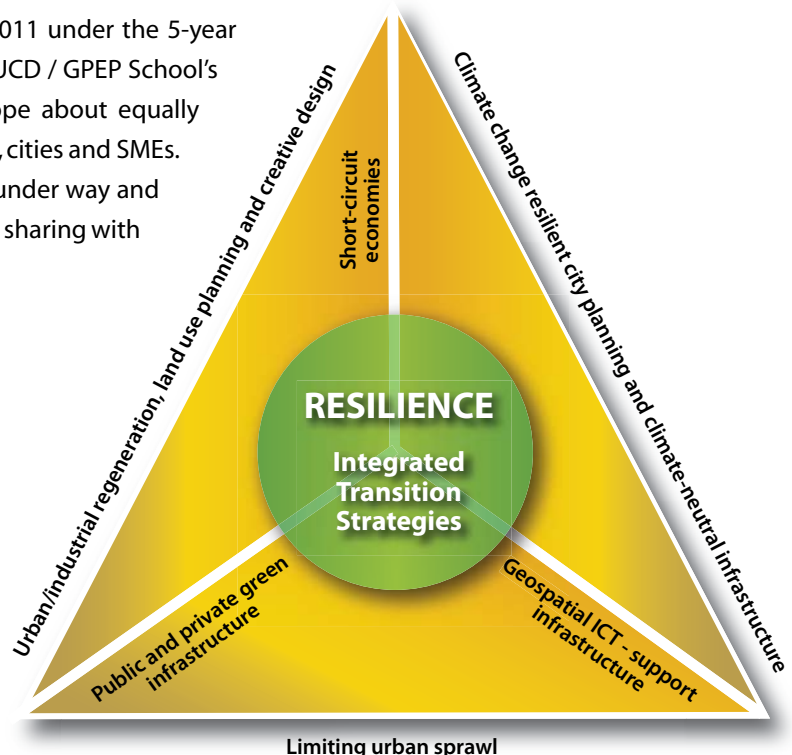
- Major infrastructure projects: including new light rails, proposed new Metro links, road transport development (M50, Port Tunnel, etc.), sports infrastructure, [AVIVA Stadium](#);
- Digital hub – the IT industry node in central Dublin
- Eco-village development: [Cloughjordan eco-village](#), County Tipperary;
- Ethnic community space: including new spaces of immigration and Irish Travellers and planning issues;
- New town planning: [Adamstown](#)

The proposed congress theme: RESILIENT NEIGHBOURHOODS, CITIES & REGIONS

RESILIENCE has become the focus of various societal and related planning efforts in cities and regions across the globe aiming to sustain their viability and improve the quality of life for their residents amidst the global economic crisis and climate change. The term takes various meanings, ranging from aspirations to develop technologically and ecologically smart cities to economic competitiveness and survival against human-made or natural disasters. The extremes cases are present in both developed and developing regions given the disparities across and within countries and societies, and even at the micro level – within cities. Given the Irish context and the rich learning experiences that its past and recent trends in urban and rural development offer, we propose to brand the theme with the local flavour of CELTIC RESILIENCE. In addition, we believe that there is an opportunity to explore planning issues from peripheral (edge) positions and perspectives. This applies to Ireland as much as it does to the new EU accession countries in east and southeast Europe in particular. We would like the conference conversations to take special regard for cross-societal and cross-cultural themes and to promote exchange of experiences and learning between the central (mainstream) and alternative standpoints. Starting from the 16 standard tracks and exploring with the joint committee their suitability for this particular event, we hope that new and unique content will be infused to reflect the local context and circumstances which offer a true laboratory for exploring planning issues and challenges. We would like to draw on the project Toward Urban Resilience and Sustainability (TURaS) as an anchor for various themes and sessions. The project is to commence in October of 2011 under the 5-year grant from EU Framework 7 funds, with UCD / GPEP School's leadership and 28 partners across Europe about equally distributed among academic institutions, cities and SMEs. By 2013 the project will have been well under way and preliminary results and learning ready for sharing with the AESOP and ACSP colleagues.

Project Framework


Céad Míle Fáilte
A Hundred Thousand
Welcomes!





UCD School of Geography, Planning & Environmental Policy
Planning Building - Richview
Belfield
Dublin 4
Ireland

Phone: +353 1 716 2753

Fax: +353 1 716 2788

Email: zorica.nedovic-budic@ucd.ie

