

Wrocław, 5th July 2013

AESOP
SECRETARY GENERAL
REPORT 2013
COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES MEETING
DUBLIN, 15TH OF JULY 2013

According to the Article 21b of the AESOP Charter 'Representing the Association and managing its current affairs (...) shall be delegated to the President and the Secretary General'. The main responsibilities of the Secretary General are:

- + managing membership issues;
- + managing AESOP database acting as the administrator;
- + managing the AESOP webpage;
- + preparing documents and legal files;
- + supervising elections of National Representatives of the Council of Representatives;
- + organizing Executive Committee Meetings;
- + organizing Council of Representatives Meetings;
- + launching the calls for AESOP positions and hosting events and proceeding the application process;
- + collaborating with the Chair of the AESOP Expert Pool in preparing Missions and documents;
- + co-operating with Local Organizing Committee of the AESOP Congress;
- + co-organizing AESOP Heads of Schools Meetings;
- + organizing AESOP events: Lecture Series, European Urban Summer School in cooperation with the host institutions;
- + running current projects and developing new projects with AESOP partner organizations;
- + collaborating with disP with respect to AESOP News section in the journal;
- + preparing AESOP publications;
- + running approved projects (i.e. Silver Jubilee Celebrations, Digital Platform)
- + answering members' requests;
- + assisting the members in the process of using interactive functions of the AESOP website.

Ongoing term of office of the Secretary General is 2011-2015.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Membership issues

AESOP offers 5 categories of membership – four of them are institutional and one is individual.

Since May 2011 AESOP noticed dynamic growth of membership.

Five institutions changed their category from ASSOCIATE to **FULL**. Five new **FULL** Members were accepted. This makes almost 10% growth in the number of **FULL** Members in the short period of two years.

More significant increase in membership could be observed in **ASSOCIATE** Membership: eight new institutions were accepted which makes almost 45% growth in this category. This situation creates potential to attract more institutions where planning does not play a dominant role to be involved in AESOP activities and help with strengthening planning discipline within these institutions.

Number of **CORRESPONDING** Members more than doubled within last two years. Secretariat is being enquired by a few prestigious overseas universities about benefits of AESOP membership.

Ten per cent increase in **AFFILIATE** Membership completes the list.

Full list of new (since 2011) AESOP members is as follows:

Category change form ASSOCIATE to FULL:

- + University of Ulster, School of the Built Environment, Ulster (UK)
- + Lusófona University, Lisbon (P)
- + University of Lisbon, Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning, Lisbon (P)
- + University of Roma Tre, Urban Studies Department, Rome (I)
- + Gdańsk University of Technology, Faculty of Architecture, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Gdańsk (PL)

FULL Members:

- + Madrid University of Technology, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Madrid, (E)
- + Warsaw University of Technology, Department of Spatial Planning and Environmental Sciences, Warsaw (PL)
- + Artesis: Antwerp University Association Faculty of Architectural Sciences, Department of Urbanism and Spatial Planning, Antwerp (BE)
- + Dublin Institute of Technology, School of Spatial Planning, Dublin (IE)
- + Perm National Research Polytechnic University, Department for Urban Sustainable Development, Perm (RU)

ASSOCIATE Members:

- + EPOKA University, Department of Architecture, Tirana (AL)
- + Catania University, Department of Architecture, Catania (I)
- + Tartu University, Department of Geography, Tartu, (EE)
- + University of Seville, School of Architecture (ETSA), Seville (E)
- + CEU San Pablo University, Polytechnic School, Department of Architecture and Building, Madrid (E)
- + University of Nis, Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture, Nis (RS)
- + New University of Lisbon, Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, Lisbon (P)
- + Windesheim University, Research Centre Technology – Land Development, Zwolle (NL)

CORRESPONDING Members:

- + Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia, USA
- + RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia
- + University of Michigan, USA
- + Xian Jiaotong-Liverpool University, China

AFFILIATE Members:

- + ILS – Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development GmbH, Dortmund (D)

Since May 2011 three FULL members were suspended (no fee paid). One institution does not exist anymore (Department of Geography, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Bergen) so its membership has been cancelled. Two ASSOCIATE members have been suspended and one cancelled membership not being able to pay fee due to the funds cuts. One CORRESPONDING member was suspended.

AESOP is more focused on institutional membership, however there is an opportunity for individuals to become a member when their institution is not interested in membership or they perform as independent planners. Since May 2011 AESOP accepted 7 new INDIVIDUAL Members. At the same time 10 INDIVIDUAL Members were suspended.

Currently two new institutional applications for AESOP membership are being reviewed.

Council of Representatives

According to the Article 16b of the AESOP Charter Secretary General is responsible for the general oversight of the process of the elections of the National Representatives. In 2012 new National Representatives were elected. The process went generally smoothly although there are still National Representatives and/or their Substitutes missing:

Albania

To be appointed: Representative (1), Substitute (1) representing POLIS University, Tirana

Belgium

To be elected (3 Full Members): Representative (1), Substitute (2)

Denmark

To be appointed: Representatives (2), Substitutes (2) representing respectively Aalborg University & Aarhus School of Architecture

Ireland

To be elected (3 Full Members): Representatives (1), Substitutes (1)

Norway

To be elected (5 Full Members): Substitutes (2)

Spain

To be elected (3 Full Members): Substitutes (2)

Switzerland

To be appointed: Substitutes (2) representing respectively ZTH Zurich and University of Applied Sciences Rapperswil

United Kingdom:

To be elected (18 Full Members): Substitutes (2)

Secretary General prepared a brochure for the National Representatives of the Council of Representatives introducing them into the AESOP structure and procedures. This brochure is available both in printed and digital form.

All the National Representatives and their Substitutes who have registered as USERS on the AESOP webpage are listed in the section '**About Us**'. List of National Representatives and their Substitutes is available from AESOP website.

All the documents for the Council of Representatives meetings are available from the Files repository on the AESOP website.

Secretary General constantly encourages National Representatives who have not registered yet as USERS to do so in order to benefit from all interactive options of our website.

In 2014 there will be next elections of the National Representatives.

New AESOP Charter

The process of reviewing AESOP Charter started in 2012 and was initiated by Anna Geppert, then Secretary General of AESOP. In 2011 all the duties with respect to preparing draft version of the new charter went to the ongoing Secretary General. First drafted version was discussed during the Council of Representatives Meeting in May 2011 in Tirana, then Secretary General was dealing with comments and proposals from the Members. Initial summary of the discussion was presented during the Council of Representatives Meeting in July 2011 in Perth and on this basis the final version of the Charter was prepared and delivered to the members. New AESOP Charter was accepted in May 2012 during the Council of Representatives Meeting in Oslo and since then our association operates within new legal framework.

AESOP Charter is available from AESOP website.

AESOP Experts Pool

AESOP has started a broader set of activities, which aim to support the quality development and assurance at the member schools. One of these actions is the establishment of the AESOP Expert Pool (AESOP EP), promoting excellence in planning education, research and academic management.

Secretary General in cooperation with the Chair of AESOP Expert Pool was responsible for completing the list of experts and get it ratified by the Council of Representatives. Finally, the new section, presenting AESOP Expert Pool, was added to the AESOP website.

Secretary General keeps the files of the Missions and facilitates exchange of the official documents between AESOP and planning schools applying for AESOP EP service.

Secretary General regularly addresses members of the Expert Pool to help with assessment of the applications for AESOP membership.

AESOP Events

Secretary General always cooperates with Local Organizing Committees of the Congresses especially with respect to AESOP meetings and facilities for the attendees. During the Silver Jubilee Congress in 2012 Secretary General was the key person in organizing special session with AESOP Presidents presenting their vision for the future.

Secretary General acting in close cooperation with Local Organizing Committee is responsible for the successful structure of the AESOP Heads of Schools Meetings.

Secretary General is responsible for two new events: **AESOP-IFHP Lecture Series** which has arisen as a part of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations, and **European Urban Summer School (EUSS)**. Full information about both events as well as reports from the past events are available on the AESOP website.

Within AESOP-IFHP Lecture Series the following lectures have already taken place:

Klaus R. Kunzmann

Europe: 25 Years of Planning Education and Policies that Impact

28th January 2012, Cappenberg Castle, co-organized by TU Dortmund

Special word of gratitude to Christa Reicher, Benjamin Davy, Thorsten Heitkamp, and Frank Othengrafen for their remarkable help in organizing event

Andreas Faludi

Twentieth Century Foundations of European Planning

2nd June 2012, Paris, co-organized by Université Paris IV Sorbonne.

Special word of gratitude to Anna Geppert who was the key person helping with the event.

Danuta Hübner

Space and Place as Integrating Factors in Policy-Making: New Models of territorial Governance in Europe.

5th October 2012, Brussels, co-organized by ISURU - Institut Supérieur d'Urbanisme et de Renovation Urbaine

Special word of gratitude to Christophe Wascher and Didier Vancutsem, both deeply involved in the organization of the event.

Peter Hall

Squaring the Circle: How to Reconcile Apparently Impossible Contradictions in Contemporary Urban Policy.

17th January 2013, London, co-organized by The Crystal - The Sustainable Cities Initiative by Siemens.

Juval Portugali

The Future is Not What It Used to Be. Complexity, Cognition and the City – Implication to Planning

5th April 2013, Amsterdam, co-organized by University of Amsterdam.

Special words of gratitude to Wilem Salet and Leonie Janssen-Jansen for their help in organizing the event.

Next lectures within AESOP-IFHP Lecture Series are planned in autumn 2013. Please visit our website for details. All the lectures, with the exception of the lecture of Juval Portugali, can be watched on AESOP website. They are available in the **Events** section of the website.

European Urban Summer School is an event for young professionals. AESOP Members are interested in hosting this event which gives them an opportunity to promote their methods and research among European planning professionals. Secretary General was deeply involved in organization EUSS since their beginning in 2010.

In 2012 AESOP decided to invite European partners from planning organizations to cooperate in this project within the framework of the Decade of Planning. Secretary general was coordinating this process. In 2012 the following organisations officially have joined EUSS: European Council of Spatial Planners (ECTP-CEU), International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP), International Society for City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP).

Since 2011 the following EUSS have already taken place:

2011

Lisbon (Portugal), 23-30 September EUSS in cooperation with ECTP-CEU, EURA, IFHP, ISOCARP, hosted by **Lusófona University**
Quality of Space - Quality of Life

2012

London (UK) 21-30 September - joint event with ECTP-CEU, IFHP and ISOCARP within the framework of the Decade of Planning, hosted by **University of Westminster**
Times of Scarcity – Reclaiming the Possibility of Making

Next events have been already ratified by the Council:

2013

Madrid (Spain), September - joint event with ECTP-CEU, IFHP and ISOCARP within the framework of the Decade of Planning, hosted by **San Pablo CEU University**
Strategies for the Post-Speculative Cities

2014

Tours (France) joint event with ECTP-CEU, IFHP and ISOCARP within the framework of the Decade of Planning, hosted by **University Francois Rebelais**
Heritage conservation and urban sustainable development

Publications documenting outcomes of the European Urban Summer Schools are available from the AESOP website.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

AESOP Silver Jubilee Celebration

In 2012, the Association of European Schools of Planning was 25 years old. The Silver Jubilee gave a unique opportunity for AESOP to promote its goals and mission as well as to strengthen its position in Europe. The Silver Jubilee also created special conditions for the recognition of AESOP and to undertake new activities; it also allowed it to expand its cooperation with other planning bodies and organizations.

In 2012, AESOP was honoured to invite its members, friends and partners to numerous meetings and events connected to our Silver Jubilee. Our 2012 agenda included, apart from special settings of our standard events, also a few completely new initiatives and activities designed to celebrate the AESOP Silver Jubilee.

Secretary General was responsible for both preparing an idea and agenda for the Silver Jubilee Celebration (in cooperation with Communication Officer) and organizing all the activities.

In 2012 AESOP and IFHP have launched a joint activity: a Lecture Series by well-known planners and other 'urban thinkers', to celebrate respectively AESOP Silver Jubilee (2012) and IFHP Centenary (2013).

The celebrations of the AESOP Silver Jubilee Year started on 28th January in Schloss Cappenberg near Dortmund. It is a place of special significance for AESOP, as it was where our association was founded on 24th of January 1987. The essential element of our birthday meeting was a lecture by one of the founding fathers and the first President of AESOP, Professor Klaus R. Kunzmann, which opened the AESOP-IFHP Lecture Series.

On this occasion, European planning organisations have been invited to begin together a discussion on future collective activities. The President and the Secretaries General of AESOP have issued invitations to the Presidents and Secretaries General of various planning organisations. It is our great hope that a new chapter in the history of mutual cooperation between international organisations concerned with planning may be opened. The meeting took place at the AESOP 'birthplace' – Cappenberg Castle.

During the AESOP Silver Jubilee Congress on 11-15 July 2012 in Ankara, a special plenary session gathering all past AESOP Presidents took place, during which vision for AESOP for the next 25 years was discussed.

In October 2012 in Brussels representatives of European planning agencies and institutions (Dimitri CORPAKIS, EC, DG Research & Innovation; Ole DAMSGAARD, NORDREGIO; Philippe DOUCET, ISURU

& ULB; Christian SVANFELDT and Władysław PISKORZ, EC, DG Regio; Emmanuel MOULIN, URBACT and David EVERS, Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency) formed panel to discuss Perspectives for Territorial Governance in Europe which followed the lecture by Danuta Hübner. AESOP rounded off its Silver Jubilee celebration with strengthening European links and cooperation.

Cooperation with European Partners

AESOP cooperates with organizations involved in planning issues. AESOP mainly focuses on the organizations located in Europe, although some of them operate globally. Since 2011 Memoranda of Understanding with following organizations have been signed:

- + International Academic Association on Planning, Law and Property Rights (PLPR)
- + International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP)
- + European Urban Research Association (EURA)
- + European Regional Science Association (ERSA)

All of these MoUs were prepared and negotiated by Secretary General before its final ratification by the Council of Representatives.

Secretary General also facilitated the initial cooperation with UN-Habitat, The United Nations Human Settlement Programme, Habitat Partner University Initiative which then resulted in Memorandum of Understanding with GPEAN (embraces also AESOP).

Secretary General since 2011 has been working on strengthening the links between AESOP and partner organizations. Apart from inviting them for the meeting in Cappenberg Castle described above AESOP represented by Secretary General has initiated following joint activities:

- + Decade of Planning
- + AESOP-IFHP Lecture Series
- + AESOP - ECTP-CEU – IFHP - ISOCARP European urban Summer School (EUSS)
- + AESOP-ISOCARP Working Group on Planning Education and Practice
- + Brussels European Liaison Office (BELO)

Detailed description of all the initiatives can be found on AESOP website.

Currently we are finalizing work on the proposal of joint AESOP-ERSA Winter School and programme of activities of BELO.

AESOP recently cooperates with The European Observation Network for Territorial Development and Cohesion (ESPON) 2013 Programme, METREX, the Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas and URBACT Secretariat. AESOP will be visibly present at the ESPON Scientific Conference 2013 in Luxembourg. Representative of the URBACT Secretariat is a guest of our Congress in Dublin to strengthen the link between AESOP and URBACT and present their achievement to the AESOP community.

Since 2011 AESOP invited representatives of European Commission to get involved in AESOP activities. Representatives of the Directorate General for Regional and Urban Policy contributed to our panel discussions which followed lectures within the framework of AESOP-IFHP Lecture Series in Paris and in Brussels. Former Commissioner for Regional Policy Danuta Hübner and current member of European Parliament responsible for urban policies, head of URBAN intergroup. Jan Olbrycht were speakers during our events.

AESOP significantly strengthened cooperation with partner organizations which the MoUs were signed before 2011: ISOCARP and ECTP-CEU.

Website and communication

Secretary General manages AESOP website, publishes AESOP News and sends newsletter. Currently 3.500 subscribers receives newsletter.

Secretary General assists the members in the process of using interactive functions of the website.

The brochure about AESOP has been prepared and printed.

Publications

Secretary General is responsible for publishing news from AESOP in each **disP** issue.

The **AESOP Yearbook** – Silver Jubilee Edition has been edited by Secretary General and published.

Currently the final editing of the **Planning Education** No 3 is almost completed. Soon new issue will be designed and printed.

Secretary General is also working on the possibilities of using AESOP website as a gateway to **AESOP Digital Platform**.