



AESOP IN GOTHENBURG

The Department of Conservation at the University of Gothenburg, together with the Department of Architecture, Chalmers University of Technology, Department of Urban Planning and Environment, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, and the Department of Spatial Planning, Blekinge Institute of Technology, Karlskrona, would be delighted to host the annual congress of the Association of the European Schools of Planning in Gothenburg.

PROPOSED DATES AND VENUE

The congress is suggested to be held at the Gothenburg universities or the Swedish Exhibition & Congress Centre, SECC.

To ensure congress capacity the SECC is preliminary reserved 11-15 July 2017.

Pre and post congress

The annual AESOP PhD workshop is proposed to precede the congress, preliminary 4-9 July 2017, and take place in Karlskrona.

A post congress tour, preliminary 16-18 July 2017, will be organised to Stockholm and the Lake Mälaren region.

1. UNIVERSITY/FACULTY/DEPARTMENT

a. University profile

University of Gothenburg - Faculty of Science, Department of Conservation

The University of Gothenburg is one of the major universities, not only in Sweden, but also in northern Europe. The university is world leading within several different research areas and is also well known for its strong multidisciplinary research environments. There are numerous national and international scientific collaborations in various subject areas, within the EU as well as outside. The eight faculties have a total of 6,000 employees and 37,000 students.

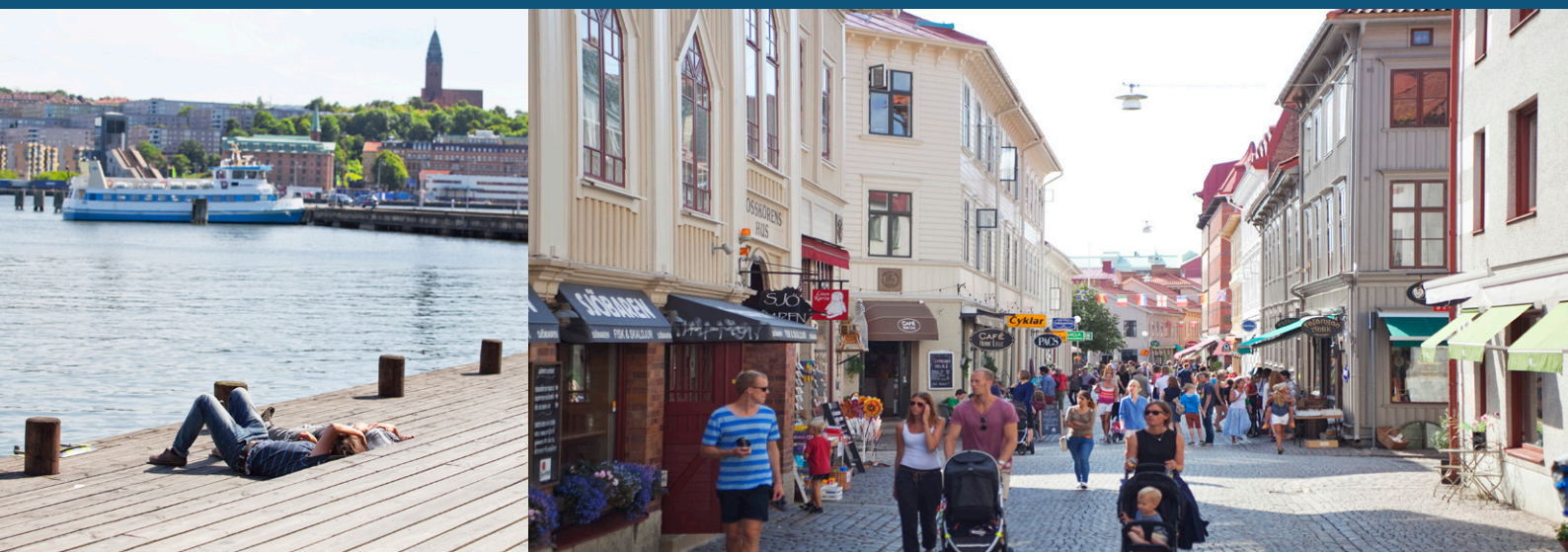
The Faculty of Science, to which the Department of Conservation belongs, has its scope and objectives as a future oriented approach, where the overall aim is to describe the environmental, cultural and societal possibilities and limitations for our common future in a local, national and global perspective.

The Department of Conservation is an interdisciplinary research environment. It is organised into three specific subject areas: Built Environment, including built heritage planning and management, Conservation of Cultural Heritage Artefacts, and Craftsmanship. The department is responsible for teaching of undergraduate and post-graduate levels in all three subject areas.

Each research area has its own research group that promotes its development through subject-specific conferences, seminars, and PhD courses. While each research group focus on one subject area, all teachers, researchers, and doctoral candidates in the department come together frequently for shared activities in order to develop the department's profile and ensure a creative exchange among the different subject areas.

The subject area Built Environment is the most related to the annual congress of AESOP. It is focused in particular on the relationship between the history of the built environment, politics of space making, policies for heritage development, evaluation, professional practice, and sustainability approaches. One central theme is how cultural objects are construed as historically valuable and how they are perceived as components of cultural heritage. The research includes, for example, discourse analysis, semiotics, source critique, professional history perspectives, and studies of contemporary planning and heritage management processes.

There are four main research themes within subject area Built Environment. **Structural Change and Cultural Heritage Processes** aims at expanding our knowledge of the complex connections between structural change in society and cultural heritage processes. **History of the Built Environment and Buildings** focus



on transformation processes in the cultural landscape, including rural settings as well as urban environments. **Urban Climate Research** focus on the climate of the city in relation to its infrastructure, land use, air quality, and climate comfort, as well as its relationship to climate change and tourism. **Space, Movement, and Artefacts in the Urban Landscape** focus on developing a new area of knowledge within the field of conservation called Landscape Archeology.

Chalmers University of Technology – Department of Architecture

The Department of Architecture develops professional skills and theoretical knowledge concerning buildings, built environments in the urban landscape for sustainable development. The aim is to promote balanced resource use and high quality conditions for human life, from urban regional scale to building details. Two bachelor programmes, Architecture and Architecture and Engineering, and two master's programmes, Architecture and Urban Design and Design for Sustainable Development are conducted. Research includes design and practice based methods such as projective research, often combined in trans-disciplinary modes with methods adapted from science, social sciences, humanities and fine arts. Chalmers Architecture leads and takes part in two strong national research environments; Architecture in the Making and Architecture in Effect. The national Centre for Healthcare Architecture is hosted by the department, and a centre for Architecture and Housing is in development.

KTH Royal Institute of Technology - Department of Urban Planning and Environment

KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm is the largest and oldest technical university in Sweden. Research spans from natural sciences to all branches of engineering and includes Architecture, Industrial Management and Urban Planning. The Department of Urban Planning and Environment have three main

focus of research: **Urban and Regional Studies, Geoinformatics; and Geodesy and Satellite Positioning.** The department has education on undergraduate and post-graduate level. The two masters programs Sustainable Urban Planning and Design, and Transport and Geoinformation Technology are also collaboration with other departments at KTH.

The research at the Division of Urban and Regional Studies takes its starting point in the recognition that social, economic and environmental knowledge underpin the political processes, which determine the futures of urban and metropolitan areas in an era of globalisation and climate stress. Decisions are related in a complex and interlinked way. Planning for the management of this complexity therefore embrace new research challenges, including the theory and practice of planning, strategy and public policy with particular relevance to sustainable urban development. Our focus is on actor interaction in complex and long-term decision processes using strategic planning theories, scenario methods and decision-support infrastructure systems as tools. Research and educational engagement is organised in three programmes: Civitas Athenaeum Laboratory (CAL), Regional Planning and Development (PROUD) and Space, Politics and Ecologies.

A major feature of the department's work is cooperation with a broad range of partners in academic environments and practitioner institutions in an attempt to do research with high societal relevance. For the department it is essential that its research will address issues of fundamental long-term relevance to society and that research staff be known both for scientific skill and academic scholarship.

Blekinge Institute of Technology - Department of Spatial Planning

At the Department of Spatial Planning the main research area is Planning for Sustainable Urban Development, including studies of changes and mutations that occur in the interaction between humans and their social and physical environments. The research



is multidisciplinary and seeks collaboration and development of networks at both national and international levels. The research milieu consists of four research lines, each providing a micro-environment, which gather both researchers and doctoral students.

The research line **Inclusive urban design and urban morphologies** addresses the morphogenesis of urban forms and the configurations of urban patterns, and their mutation through time, in order to provide principals and frameworks for sustainable urban development. The research line **Planning processes and power relations** addresses planning and decision-making processes for sustainable development and related power relations. The research develops, in particular, a critical analysis of local comprehensive planning. The third research line **Materialization and governance of spatial production** has its main focus on socio-cultural dimensions, on materiality and subjectivity of spatiality and the practice of planning. For example, it investigates how the history and historicity are used to validate contemporary planning and decision-making. The last research line **Environmental planning processes** addresses spatial planning from a broad range of perspectives, in particular complexity and dilemmas of planning in a social, spatial, technological and legislative context.

Moreover, the Department of Spatial Planning is committed to form future professionals of planning, in particular planning architects. The education and the research is embedded in theoretical, reflective and critical perspectives, which shape the content of all programs on both undergraduate and post-graduate levels.

b. Reasons for organising the event

Planning in Sweden is often associated with the development of the strong welfare state, and, hence, put forward as a successful model for public planning. However, in the last few decades, political, social and economic development in Sweden, and elsewhere, have challenged public planning and put the welfare society under stress. In some cases, in particular concerning health care,

railway traffic and elementary and grammar schooling, Sweden is today one of the most de-regulated countries in Europe. Thus, experiences in Sweden from both the heydays of public planning, and the development towards an increasing dependency between public and private sectors, makes planning in Sweden an instructive case.

Organising the event in Sweden offers the opportunity to contribute to the exchange of experiences, ideas and knowledge regarding planning in the 21st century, among European planning schools and others, from partly new perspectives.

c. Organisational capacity

The collaboration between our universities, all engaged in planning research and education but with complementary specialisations, will make a particular strong scientific base for organising the AESOP Congress 2017. The Department of Conservation, Gothenburg University is specialised in bridging the past with the future in different ways, whereas Department of Architecture, Chalmers University of Technology is specialised in architectural research. Department of Urban Planning and Environment, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, is in particular focused on strategic urban and regional planning, and the department at Blekinge Institute of Technology, is specialised in spatial planning and the education of planning architects.

d. Financial capability

Hosting the annual AESOP conference would not just be a great honour for the University of Gothenburg and the City of Gothenburg, it would be of national importance. We are confident that hosting the largest conference of its kind in Europe would generate the interest and financial support of many national agencies and authorities. The organising universities have strong networks and ongoing cooperations with several central partners.

Agencies and authorities on national, regional and local levels, as well as industry, concerned with various forms of planning,



benefit from the development and exchange of knowledge, ideas and experiences that permeate AESOP congresses. Moreover, agencies, authorities and companies will have a direct use of an internationalised planning education with high quality.

Strong hopes lies in that the industry will cooperate for this conference. A number of agencies will be approached in regards to sponsorship of the congress.

- Vetenskapsrådet – Swedish Research Council.
- Formas – the Swedish Research Council Formas. Promote and support basic research and need-driven research in the areas. Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning.
- Riksantikvarieämbetet – Swedish National Heritage Board.
- Trafikverket – Swedish Transport Administration.
- Boverket – National Board of Housing, Building and Planning.
- Naturvårdsverket – Swedish Environmental Protection Agency.

Other potential sponsors are e.g. the Swedish Energy Agency and the Region Västra Götaland. The proposal is also supported by the City of Gothenburg, the Swedish Exhibition & Congress Centre, the two hotel associations, Gothenburg restaurant association and Scandinavian Airlines.

2. LOCATION

Gothenburg is an old harbour city located on the Swedish west coast. It is rated the 2nd "Best value destination in 2013" by Lonely Planet. Major international meetings are regularly held here.

The city is the second largest in Sweden with 550,000 inhabitants. The metropolitan area, consisting of 13 municipalities, have 970,000 inhabitants.

Proposed meeting venues

Both venues are city centred.

Alternative 1. School of Business, Economics and Law at the University of Gothenburg and adjacent church hall.

The main school complex was erected in 1995. It comprises a series of linked structures that together enclose the campus. This

surrounding complex creates a coherent whole, full of light and space, and its location adjacent to the old school building provides a natural connection between the past and the future. The building has been awarded several architectural prizes.

The neighbouring church hall seats more than 1,000 people and is suggested to be used as main plenary hall. The hall can be decorated accordingly to maintain neutrality.

- Built in LCD projectors and computers in most lecture halls.
- General reception, providing full support.
- Conference technicians available upon agreement.
- Computer access for all delegates at the university upon agreement.
- Streaming possible at the university.

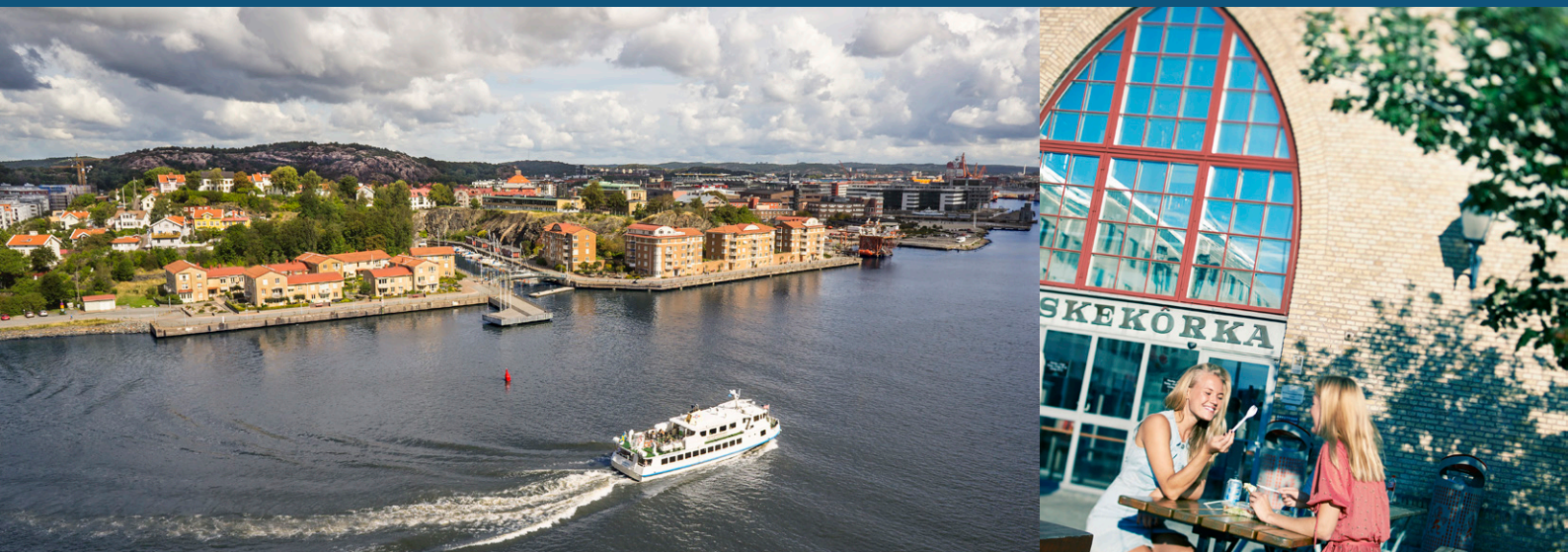
Alternative 2. Swedish Exhibition & Congress Centre

Europe's largest fully integrated venue offers great logistics and innovative technology making it one of the most effective meeting places in Northern Europe.

- Multifunctional, flexible venue – all under one roof.
- Meeting and exhibition space: 41,000 m²/9 exhibition halls/63 flexible meeting rooms.
- Auditorium style congress hall seats 1,500 people.
- Free Wi-Fi and latest technical equipment.
- 9 permanent interpretation booths in the congress hall.
- In-house accommodation with 1,200 hotel rooms. 3-5 star.
- 7 restaurants.
- 3 function rooms for 1,100, 700 and 300 people.
- 24 hours service.
- Equality-certified by European Tourism for All.
- Eco-certified by the City of Gothenburg.
- Airport buses stop right outside the venue and hotel, only 20 minutes from Göteborg Landvetter Airport.

a. Accessibility and accommodation

- 70 non-stop connections from 55 European destinations.
- 20 min transport from airports to city centre and venue.
- Star Alliance Convention Plus air fare discounts.
- Walking distance to hotels, restaurants and entertainment.



- 2,400 rooms within walking distance of the congress venue.
- Favourable hotel cooperation.
- Breakfast included in room rates.

b. Attractiveness

The key for a successful meeting is a city prepared according to your needs. A corner stone is Gothenburg's well-developed collaboration between the local meeting industry, universities and the City Council.

Advantages

- Little or no need for transportation.
- Great value. In Gothenburg you get great quality at a lower cost. Prices are below average European level.
- Leading Nordic destination for sustainable meetings.
- Amazing wilderness areas with incredible possibilities for social activities is just a tram ride away.
- City recognised as one of ten emerging destinations to visit by C&IT Magazine 2014.
- The city and local meeting industry works actively with environmental development to ensure an environmentally friendly stay for all visitors.
- We keep what we promise. Delegate satisfaction is 6.5 out of 7. (Satisfaction Index Gothenburg 2014.)

City of Gothenburg support to the AESOP

The following services are available to the meeting;

- Meeting organisation; Advice, site inspection, preliminary reservations, city pre-briefing.
- Pre-meeting promotion; pre-meeting prints.
- Media & marketing; Media contact, PR materials, publication, documentation.
- Green event certification.
- Transportation discounts.
- Event city dressing; Airport welcome, main access road billboards.
- Event hospitality; Welcome and networking reception, tailor-made city cards, city information, Taste of Gothenburg restaurant association.

Attractions

The highlights of Gothenburg and its surroundings are virtually at the hotel's doorstep. Also take the opportunity to experience exotic Scandinavia, while in the heart of the region.

- Cultural/historic discoveries.
- Parks and attractions.
- Performing arts.
- City tours and excursions.
- Local markets and shopping.
- Archipelago, forests and lakes a stone's throw away.
- Culinary Capital 2012.
- Sport and recreation.

Social events - conference dinner

The local restaurant network Taste of Gothenburg stands ready to compose a customised concept for your meeting. Kitchens from all around the world are represented, ranging from starry gourmet restaurants to street food, through to trendy newcomers, traditional restaurants and family restaurants. With various inputs and experience, they are here to help you with special offers designed to suit the meeting programme, occasion and invitees.

c. Estimated attending costs

Please note all indicative prices include VAT. €1 = SEK9

Gothenburg is a highly competitive city in many aspects - also price-wise. International indices agree that prices in Gothenburg are below the average European level and the Scandinavian capitals. What remains at top level, is the famous Swedish quality.



Registration fee

The registration fees are calculated with Swedish Exhibition & Congress Centre as main venue. A university venue would generate lower costs.

REGISTRATION FEE (IN EURO)	EARLY FEE	LATE FEE
AESOP Member	320	400
AESOP Non Member	420	500
Student	180	200
Accompanying person	250	250

Price examples

PRICE EXAMPLES LOW COST FLIGHTS RETURN TICKETS JUNE 2015	EURO
Barcelona	220
Budapest	280
Frankfurt	140
London	180
Paris	200
Rome	210

Please note costs may vary depending on demand and supply.

PRICE EXAMPLES GOTHENBURG 2015	EURO
Espresso	2,7
Lunch; cooked meal, salad, beverage and coffee	9
Dinner 3 courses	42
Glass of beer	5,5
Public transport (three-day ticket)	14
Museum entrance	4,4

Hotel costs and bookings

The two local hotel associations are ready to collaborate with the organiser of your choice to meet your needs.

HOTELS 2015			
Category	No. of hotels	No. of rooms	Rack rates €
★ ★ ★ ★ ★	2	177	203-
★ ★ ★ ★	46	8,122	140-215
★ ★ ★	52	2,374	85-145
★ ★	24	945	25-90
	124	11,618	

Please note hotel rates generally include breakfast.

3. PROPOSED CONGRESS TOPIC: MAKING SPACE FOR HOPE

We live in dark times – climate crisis, economic regression, war and conflicts of political, ethnical and religious reasons. Other challenges as rapid urbanization in metropolitan areas and shrinking cities in peripheral regions, growing social inequalities can be discerned. New technology fundamentally changes our understanding of the world and the way we live – with positive and negative effects. Planning is one of the activities – on different levels and in different contexts – striving for better futures. What used to be unrecognized by traditional planning debates can be useful to respond to contemporary planning problems. In-between spaces, insurgencies and untold stories can be rethought and re-explored to energize planning debates and practice.

We have already witnessed rapid changes in climate as well as in urban density, proximity, mobility, and diversity of life condition, and how its paradoxical sense of collapsed temporality and its hidden nature has increasingly brought issues of life quality and democracy, including recognition, belonging, sense of place, ownership, and rights, into fine relief. These changes can be debated



in relation to, amongst other, the challenges of population growth, migration, structural change, regional enlargement, gentrification, segregation, large infrastructure investments, housing renewal and cultural heritage management. The challenges should be considered as triggers for transformations to a sustainable future. Planning should contribute to making space for hope.

What opportunities historical and contemporary challenges and changes have brought can be explored by adapting alternative politics of space making. We need to go beyond mainstream politics, negation and cynicism. Instead planning debates ought "excavate" the hidden and submerged desires for better future by exploring hope and optimism.

Scientific content

Streams for paper presentations could, for example, include variations of the following themes, but also many more:

- Planning theory – is it possible to imagine the unrecognised?
- Planning education and how to bring up a new generation planners.
- New and improved planning methods for contemporary and future challenges
- Participation in planning – legitimacy of planning system, democracy and citizenship.
- Planning system and planning law.
- Urban planning and design – urban form for social and physical healthy futures.
- Heritage management – the past as a way to understand future.
- Transport planning – smart systems, life quality and sustainability.
- Environmental justice – local and global considerations.
- Planning processes, democracy and efficiency.
- Complexity in planning.
- Planning in conflict zones.
- Housing for new generations.
- Social cohesion from a critical perspectives.
- Energy and future landscapes.
- Rural development and social innovation.

The scientific content, i.e. the full description of the tracks and final programme of the congress, will be organised by a scientific committee, including representatives from Gothenburg University, Chalmers University of Technology, Royal Institute of Technology, Blekinge Institute of Technology, as well as representatives from other planning schools in Sweden and Europe. Moreover, the intention is to invite congress participants to submit proposal for organising specialised paper tracks, as well as round-tables and panels. Distinguished scholars, experts and official representatives, from Gothenburg, Sweden and abroad will be invited to give keynote speeches that in different ways addresses the overall congress theme.

Mobile workshops

The contemporary Gothenburg today faces many different planning issues. There will be good opportunities to plan a number of relevant social events, as part of the conference programme, as well as to organize intriguing mobile workshops. This could include, for example, study visits to Haga a former working class district, first planned to be demolished, but eventually saved and now partly a gentrified culture district with many restaurants, and vintage and second hand shops among other facilities. A mobile workshop located to Haga could, thus, bring about for example discussions about urban social transformation, heritage processes, and the role of culture in urban development. The West Link is an ongoing large infrastructure project including a railway tunnel under the historical and central parts of the city. The West Link raises several questions and challenges that can be scrutinised in mobile workshops, particularly addressing transport planning, enlargement of local labour markets, and the systemic spatial, social and economic change infrastructure investments might lead to. A third example is the since two decades ongoing waterfront re-development of large parts of the city's harbour area, including in particular large housing projects, university



campus and offices, but also a new opera house (from the mid-90s), and also the currently planned signature building (to be the largest building in Scandinavia). A mobile workshop located to the harbour area could, thus, include discussions about ideals in urban planning and design, democracy and governance processes, the restructuring of the local and regional economy and many other planning issues.

Other possible mobile workshops:

- Archipelago – rural development, and tourism.
- Harbour – expansion of the harbour away from the city.
- Coast line and Göta river – climate, flooding and risk management.
- Kungälv – the small town in the Regional City.
- Hammarkullen – sustainable integrated renovation and local participation with long term local engagement from the University of Gothenburg

Ph.D workshop

The Ph.D workshop will be organised by the Department of Spatial Planning – the Swedish School of Planning in Karlskrona and take place at the campus area of Blekinge Institute of Technology, a former military regiment. Karlskrona is a UNESCO World Heritage city of approx 65,000 inhabitants.

The PhD workshop will be organised in collaboration with the School's Advisory Board, and other prominent researchers from the AESOP network. The advisory board includes prof. Andreas Faludi, prof. Simin Davoudi and prof. Halina Dunin-Woyseth, prof Ali Madanipour and prof. Stefanie Dür. The board members contribute to an international broad network of cooperation with universities and schools of planning and architecture in Europe, Asia, North Africa and South America.

The theme of the workshop connect to the overall congress theme. The programme will focus on academic discussions enimating from the contributions from the PhD students, but will also include visits to the National Board of Housing, Building and

Planning, which is located in central Karlskrona, as well as outdoor social activities in the archipelago.

Post-congress tour

The metropolitan area of Stockholm is today characterised by strong expansion. Large infrastructure projects and building of several larger new city districts are on-going, combined with in-fill projects, refurbishment of housing areas from the 1960-70's, densification in connection to public transportation nodes and other development projects, some with high environmental profile. Lake Mälaren region is good example of regional enlargement, with better transportation expanding labour and housing market. Challenges concerns for example social inequalities and gentrification, debates and conflicts surrounding infrastructure investments, the preconditions for urban and regional planning due to changes in planning legislation and issues of sustainable development.

Some possible sites of interest:

- National Urban Park, a former Royal area nearby the city centre of Stockholm.
- Stockholm Royal Seaport, a new sustainable urban district in the harbour area
- Förbifart Stockholm, a new highway connection [E4] west of Stockholm. 18 out of 21 kilometres will be in tunnel, surpassing Lake Mälaren.
- The municipality of Botkyrka, with large share of their housing in areas with urgency of refurbishment, and highest share inhabitants with foreign background in Sweden.
- Västerås, the 6th largest and one of the oldest cities in Sweden, with long industrial and administrative history.

The Department of Urban planning and Environment has close collaboration with the central actors in the region and a broad network, which secure the possibility for arranging up-to date and interesting study visits during the tour.