

JOINT APPLICATION TO HOST THE AESOP CONGRESS 2017 IN LISBON

BY SCHOOLS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LISBON, PORTUGAL: IGOT – CESUR/IST – FA, JANUARY 2015

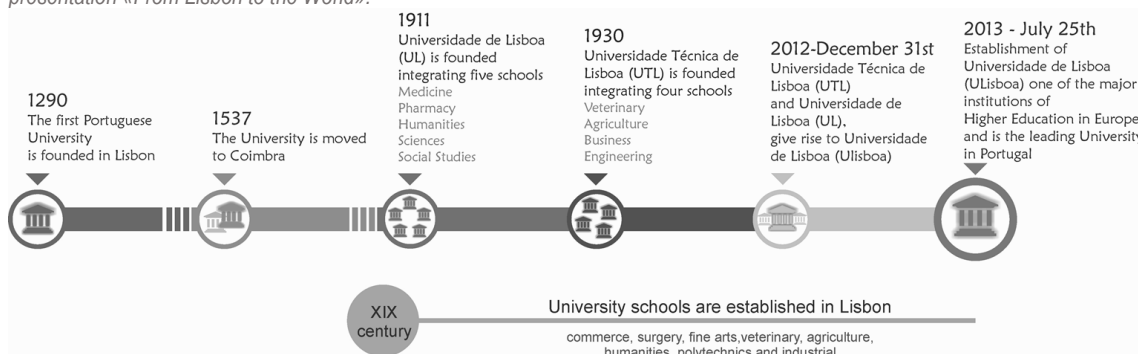


PROFILES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LISBON AND THE SCHOOLS

This application to host the AESOP Congress 2017 brings together three of the most worth mentioning schools in Portugal in the teaching of, and research in, urban and regional planning and design: the Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning (IGOT), the Instituto Superior Técnico (IST), and the Faculty of Architecture (FA). Leading schools in their expertise, they embody the spirit of two different universities – the Technical University of Lisbon (UTL) and the [Classical] University of Lisbon (UL) – recently merged into a single university: the University of Lisbon (ULisboa, available at www.ulisboa.pt). ULisboa is now amongst the largest in Europe, with 48,000 students and a teaching staff of almost 3,000. The IST, IGOT and FA can look back on many years of very productive collaboration and are currently involved in joint research projects and teaching programmes, particularly in the field of urban planning. At present, a joint Doctoral Programme in Planning and Land Use Management application is being developed.



Ulisboa Campi and ULisboa in numbers [from left to right, top down] Timeline of the University of Lisbon. Source: Ulisboa, Institutional presentation «From Lisbon to the World».



THE INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHY AND SPATIAL PLANNING (IGOT-ULISBOA)

Available at <http://www.igot.ulisboa.pt>

The Institute of Geography and Spatial Planning (IGOT-ULisboa) is an organic unity of education and research at the University of Lisbon in the fields of Geography and Spatial Planning. It was established in 2009, following an institutional reform of Portuguese higher education system, as a new autonomous body of the University of Lisbon, incorporating a teaching and training unit - the Geography Department (created in the 50's) and a research unit - the Centre for Geographical Studies (created in 1943), of the same university. IGOT-ULisboa mission is to ensure higher education, conduct research, disseminate knowledge and provide technical and specialized scientific consulting to the community in the fields of geography, spatial planning and management, development and territorial cohesion policies, urban planning, environment, resources and risks, the dynamics and socio-spatial organization. Thus, the mission of IGOT-ULisboa articulates the three functions of universities - Education, Research and Outreach - in order to stimulate innovation, disseminate knowledge and contribute to development. IGOT-ULisboa has approximately 700 students, considering all levels of education, a full-time teaching staff of 43 people with a PhD, and 199 researchers. Nowadays, IGOT-ULisboa is the leading Portuguese institution in geographical research and teaching developing diverse projects, either coordinated by its professors and researchers or in partnership with others, which include in their teams many PhD and Master students as well as young undergraduates who benefit from the applied research, very often working closely with policy makers both at the municipal and central level. The international reputation of IGOT-ULisboa professors and researchers is furthermore highlighted by a number of invitations for visiting professors at other institutions; keynote speakers at international conferences and memberships of editorial boards and boards of directors. Currently, the IGOT-ULisboa offers 2 graduation programs: "Geography"; and "Spatial Planning". Regarding to post-graduate education, IGOT-ULisboa has 5 Master degree programs ("Urban Management and Urbanism", "Geographical Information Systems Applied to Spatial Planning and Management", "Physical Geography and Spatial Planning", "Population, Society and Territory" and "European Policies"). In addition to this, it also conducts a PhD program in "Geography", which is open to the various disciplinary fields, and a PhD program in "Tourism" (with the collaboration of the Estoril Higher Institute of Hospitality and Tourism Studies); and is also partner of 2 other PhD programs: "Migrations"; and "Territory, Risk and Public Policies". The Centre of Geographical Studies (CEG) is the research unit of IGOT. Established in 1943, is the main Portuguese institution conducting research in the field of Geography. The research environment at CEG –IGOT benefits from belonging to the Universidade de Lisboa, which is the largest and one of the most prestigious universities in Portugal. CEG is organised in three Thematic Lines, which coordinate the activities of 7 Research Groups. Currently, around 200 researchers, of which 78 PhD graduates, work at CEG. CEG work is global in scope and addresses cutting-edge subjects of contemporary Human and Physical Geography and Planning inquiries, aiming at contributing to theoretical, methodological and empirical knowledge on the field. CEG owns and publishes continuously since 1965 the prestigious journal *Finisterra*. CEG is involved in several collaborative research partnerships and networking activities, both at international and national scales.



The University of Lisbon's Faculty of Humanities

THE INSTITUTO SUPERIOR TÉCNICO

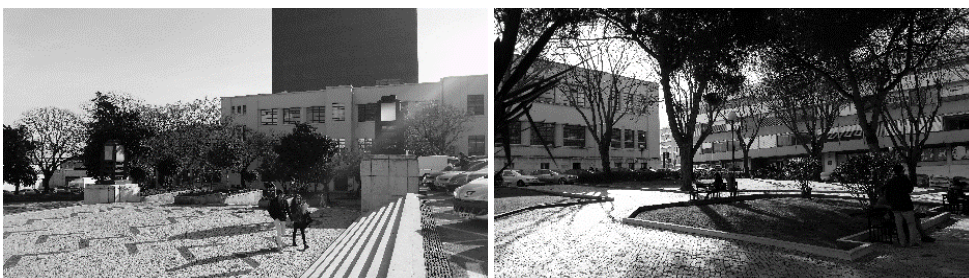
Available at <http://tecnico.ulisboa.pt/>

Founded more than a century ago (1911), the Instituto Superior Técnico (IST), has gained distinction for its national influence and international recognition. IST offers first and second-cycle courses as well as Integrated Master's degrees in almost all areas of engineering, architecture, science and technology. All courses are characterised by a solid basic education and commitment to advanced training, research and innovation. IST also offers a range of doctoral programmes that is exceptional in Portugal. The IST has more than 10,000 students and a considerable body of highly qualified teachers and investigators that includes more than 1,000 doctoral degree holders. In the context of an increasingly knowledge-based global economy, internationalisation is an indissociable part of the IST outlook. This is reflected in its extensive participation in international research and development programmes and its offer of Master's and Doctoral programmes in partnership with benchmark international schools. The Department of Civil Engineering, Architecture and Georesources has, for over three decades, been developing and implementing an approach to teaching, research and practice in urbanism and land management that has led to the creation of a Master's Degree course in Urbanism and Land Management that accepts students with 1st-cycle degrees in related fields (geography, architecture, landscape architecture, economics, urbanism, etc.) and also to collaboration with other Integrated Master's programmes such as civil engineering and architecture. It also has an important third-cycle offer in the form of a doctoral programme in Territorial Engineering. In addition to pedagogical aspects one can also highlight the vast and diverse scientific output published in high-profile magazines and journals and the direct involvement in local and regional development projects with the respective communities. These scientific studies are carried out by the Centre for Urban and Regional Systems (CESUR).

CESUR (available at <https://fenix.ist.utl.pt/investigacao/CESUR>) is a University Centre with 36 PhD researchers (more than 65% are also teachers at IST) devoted to interdisciplinary problem-oriented research on i. Urban and Regional Systems, ii. Engineering systems and Operational Research, and iii. Transportation Systems. Accomplishing this mission has entailed the development of an open strategy promoting:

- A wide range of applied projects aimed at solving specific problems of public and private clients;
- Advanced research to improve the understanding and modelling of real systems as well as to improve existing methodologies to formulate public policies and to plan, design and manage such systems;
- Advanced training to increase the number of young colleagues following this approach and ongoing training offered to leaders, managers and technical staff of public and private organisations to improve their professional practices;
- Diversified cooperation with leading national and international institutions.

These four types of activities are, therefore, not different or even conflicting programmes within CESUR but key and essential stages of the same integrated and interdisciplinary methodology adopted by CESUR in pursuing its mission since 1975, promoting a new culture of innovation and change management shared by multiple networks of knowledge and skills. During these three decades, innumerable results were obtained with a view to understanding and solving key problems of modern society, developing new scientific knowledge and improving professional methodologies and practices adopted in Portugal, in the EU or in other regions. Thousands of colleagues benefited from structured, tutorial or informal training offered by CESUR or based on CESUR methods.



IST- Alameda Campus

THE FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE

Available at www.fa.ulisboa.pt

Currently, the Faculty of Architecture offers programmes leading to the award of the Bachelor's, Master's and PhD degrees in Architecture, Urbanism and Design. It also offers non-degree programmes which provide further training for professionals who wish to extend their knowledge. This broad training offer makes the FA the largest and most diversified school in the country in its areas of expertise, with an intake of approximately 3,000 students. It is also the school with the largest number of foreign students, who come from Europe as well as other continents where the FA has exchange agreements. In addition, it is the oldest school in Portugal, with a history dating back to the 16th century. The main feature of this Faculty is the training offered through design studio project work in the 1st and 2nd cycles, in which the knowledge acquired in all subject areas is applied to the design of a broad range of possible objects, from small-scale to territorial. However, the aim of the FA is to train a wider range of professionals to work as consultants, researchers and public sector staff in areas associated with the built environment, culture and industry. It is, without doubt, these combined objectives which have ensured that over 95% of its graduates find employment within a year of completing their courses. The FA is currently investing in training professionals who can work in Portuguese society and help increase its potential for innovation, competitiveness and exports. For this reason, special emphasis is placed on the development of final projects and dissertations produced in collaboration with public and private entities, encouraging entrepreneurialism and creating future opportunities for students. The FA was the first Portuguese School to offer higher education training in architecture with a specialisation in urbanism, following the creation of degree programmes in Architecture Urban and Territorial Planning and Architecture: Urban Management in 1992, which have been very successfully consolidated and attract an increasing number of applicants. Adaptation to the Bologna Process consolidated the transversal basic training in architecture, reinforced by the specialisation in Urbanism offered by the Master's degree. The experience of providing doctoral studies in Urbanism dates back to 1990 and the FA is the only public Portuguese higher education institution to offer a PhD Programme in Urbanism. Urbanism is also one of the three fields around which CIAUD – Research Centre for Architecture, Urbanism and Design (available at: <http://ciaud.fa.ulisboa.pt>) is organised, as a unit which combines the teaching component of the FA with the development of advanced research.

A service provider centre, technology transfer office and business incubator have recently been created. CIAUD is one of the few research centres supported by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology. The FA hosts the Academia de Escolas de Arquitectura e Urbanismo de Língua Portuguesa/Academy of the Portuguese speaking Schools of Architecture and Urbanism (AEAULP available at: <http://aeaulp.com>) an already well established network in Portugal, Brazil and Africa. (Sources: guides and brochures available at: <http://dacademica.fa.ulisboa.pt/>).



FA, Ajuda Campus

REASONS FOR WHICH THESE SCHOOLS WISH TO ORGANISE THE EVENT

The wish to be involved in international projects and relations as a way of being part of the international community and benefiting from the synergies produced by the different experiences, perspectives and cultures is inscribed in the genetic code of the proponent schools. We firmly believe that the “melting pot” will always produce added value that can be used in dealing with the challenges facing the development of communities and improvement of territories the world over. Considering, on the one hand, the fact that these Schools have for a long time recognised the importance of AESOP in implementing the above principles and the success and quality of the events it organises, and, on the other, the pivotal role of land management policies in economic and social success, this challenge could not be forgone. Finally, it is also true that these schools recognise the prestige that can be gained from organising a conference of this importance. For these reasons they are applying to host the AESOP Conference 2017.

THE ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY OF THE UNIVERSITY AND THE SCHOOLS TO HANDLE THE EVENT

The organisational and logistic capacity for hosting events of this kind has been well demonstrated by the wide range of similar initiatives they have been involved in throughout their history, of which we will highlight only the major recent conferences: AESOP Heads of Schools Meeting (2013); 15th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering (2012); 12th World Conference on Transport Research (2010); 11th International Metropolis Conference (2006). From a logistical point of view we can highlight the conditions offered by the conference and meeting spaces which have a considerable capacity and are equipped with modern technological resources to cover all needs that may arise. The event's opening will be held in the *Aula Magna* (main lecture theatre) at the *Cidade Universitária Campus*, which has a capacity for 1,460. All other sessions will be held at the IST Alameda Campus, both with a convenient location in the heart of Lisbon, with a wide choice of hotels and public transportation.

THE FINANCIAL CAPABILITY OF THE UNIVERSITY AND THE SCHOOLS TO SUPPORT THE EVENT

The three schools resort to the State Budget and to their own income from different procurements, teaching and research, both national and international. The IST had a turnover of 85,500,000 euros in 2012, 60% of which was derived from own income and the remaining 40% coming from State Budget funding. As far as IGOT is concerned, it is important to underline that this institute generates 50% of its funding through own income. For example, in the last five years, CEG has participated in technical teams working on DG Regio studies, ESPON Programme and the INTERREG B projects network. In 2014, FA had a turnover of 12,500,000 euros, 2,500,000 of which from the management of European Mobility Programs, and ~47% (5,900,000) from State Budget funding. Accordingly, the financial capacity of the institutions involved guarantees the financial feasibility of the Congress.



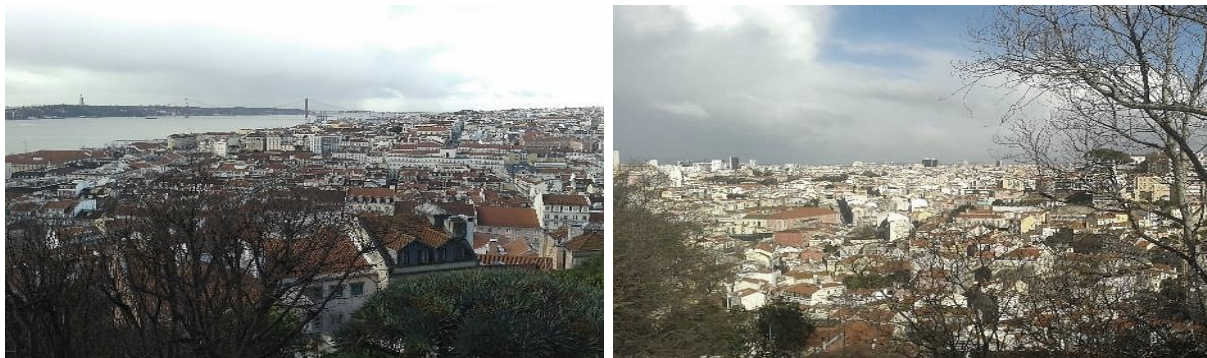
Lisboa: Baixa Plan (post-earthquake 1775); Terreiro do Paço e Castelo Hill; Expo 98' [from left to right]

INFORMATION ABOUT THE LOCATION

GENERAL ACCESSIBILITY AND ACCOMMODATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PARTICIPANTS

In recent years, the city of Lisbon's commitment to the development of tourism has resulted in an excellent offer in visitor accommodation of diverse levels of quality and types – hotels, apartments, guesthouses, etc. Lisbon has once again been named Best European Destination and Best Destination for City Breaks by the World Travel Awards (WTA). The IST's Alameda Campus is located in the centre of Lisbon, which facilitates travel within the city, allowing in many cases for visitors to walk to the campus from their accommodation through pleasant public spaces in its immediate surroundings. It also benefits from nearby bike paths and a public transport network – metro and buses – that connect regularly to a large number of destinations. In a walking distance from the campus (within a 400 metre radius) one can find a varied offer in terms of guest accommodation (more than 12 hotels and 1500 rooms), restaurants, culture, entertainment and shopping. One can also highlight the location of Lisbon International Airport within the city limits. In 2012 the airport received an underground station linking it directly to the city centre in less than 15 minutes. It is also served by several bus lines, rent-a-car agencies and taxi services. Lisbon Airport serves almost 15 million passengers a year, providing direct flights to some 100 international destinations.

ATTRACTIVENESS OF THE LOCATION FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF PLANNERS



Lisboa, Views from the Castle of São Jorge

Lisbon is considered to be one of the oldest cities in the world continuously inhabited. In fact, from Romans to Moorish (archaeological sites and Castelo, Alfama, Mouraria), from early Medieval to Gothic (Castelo), from Renaissance to the Age of the Enlightenment (Bairro Alto e Baixa Pombalina) the urban fabrics were weaved, patch by patch, forming a unique landscape before the Tagus Estuary. The river was not only home to so many different cultures but also the cradle for knowledge and ideas that would give birth to remarkable classical examples of cities and architecture overseas, in Brazil, Africa and India, just to name a few. Side by side with world renown heritage, from different historical periods, great examples from the contemporary age contribute to designing Lisbon, contributing to a varied landscape were the urban theory and practice that gave rise to a brand new field - Urbanism, Urban Planning – in late 19th century (Avenidas Novas), walk hand in hand with a matchless light casted on these seven hill city. The westernmost harbour city in Europe has been a hub to different places throughout the world, housing well acknowledged urban planning and design examples from the Modern City (e.g. Olivais) to up to present such as Expo 98/ Parque das Nações. The 21st century has already allowed for remarkable urban developments, mostly driven by a knowledge and creative based economy and ICT advances towards a mass customisation never seen before. While several metropolitan developments evolved having as a basis the settlement of a motorway network side by side with other large capacity transport infrastructures, such as port and railway, new land uses evolve towards emergent polarities that would carve the grounds allowing to connect places once unreachable (e.g. the centre of the city and the eastern borderline, Expo and Olivais, by underground). Tourism (e.g. Guesthouses, gastronomy and design), start-ups and incubators (e.g. Fab Lab), the reinvention of public space by ephemeral events or the shared management of kitchen gardens now

turned into parks, together with a more open municipal government would catalyse a renewed civic engagement. The recently approved Master plan for the city (2012) seeks to address societal, environmental, economic challenges, by taking advantage of a fresh approach to urban planning and design. Whilst local peculiarities are preserved, a toolkit made of new legislation criss-crossed by other instruments and funding (e.g. EC), span thru levels – from city wide, to metropolitan interaction, to local integration.

ESTIMATED COSTS OF ATTENDING THE EVENT FOR PARTICIPANTS

Although of the most visited cities for a number of reasons – landscape, heritage, culture and city life, gastronomy, safety – Lisbon is not a very expensive one. Average costs of accommodation range from 50-60 (3 stars hotel), 60-80 (4 stars hotel) to > 90, 00 euro, per night. There is a wide choice of places for a tasty and pleasant meal (lunches 8,00-15,0 euro in restaurants). Public transportation within the city limits is also varied. Taking a bus or the metro requires a Viva card (single ticket: 1,40 euro; daily ticket: 6,00 euro). Traveling from or to the airport to the centre of the city takes only a few minutes either by taxi (9,00 to 12,00 euro), airport shuttle or bus or metro. (More information available at: <http://www.lisbonlx.com>)



Lisbon, Ribeira das Naus, new waterfront public spaces.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROPOSED CONGRESS TOPIC

OUR COMMON VISION - LESSONS LEARNT, OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

In Europe, the US subprime crisis was followed by negative economic growth (particularly in 2009 and 2012) and severe impact through government and sovereign debt, loss of the enterprise fabric, brain drain, population decrease and ageing. As a result, it has become common to find a new landscape of unfinished or obsolete infrastructures and built spaces, and a natural decrease in property prices in real estate. It is also currently assumed that the social European model is changing, even in northern countries, especially through central state constraints to the public investment in infrastructures and sectors likewise, like education and healthcare. Other parts of the world have been witnessing different dynamics: where an economic growth is emerging (e.g. Brazil, Angola, and the Pacific Indian Axis) an unexpected influx of population to large cities occurs, with dramatic impacts on health, safety, social cohesion and severe environmental loss. These are indeed extreme times, that have already opened the opportunity not only to raise awareness to pivotal issues – like the need to find alternative resources (energy, water, food production) – that address not only climate change and natural hazards, but environment as a whole. Societal challenges which include the improvement of the quality of life in cities, by fostering a better life balance and inclusiveness of different cultures and autonomies. The promotion of a more inter-sectorial relationship between technological advances (ICT), design of smarter and more flexible functions. This would allow increasingly effective partnerships between public, private and civic participation and the evolving of economy and law, thus planning tools as well. Design, as a means of defining urban characters – i.e. urbanism – ensures the care not only for heritage but above all for public spaces as a common good for all. Not only as convenor of cultures and landscape values, but also as goals to accomplish in a progressively multi-level and flexible approach to urban and regional planning (at least as developed in the EU in recent years). A sustainable land use management, in a resilient perspective – ability of cities and territories to adjust positively to

change – will still be a valuable approach, even though the topic of the congress is an open debate to a near future (2017). In regions where growth has stagnated many developments that were begun at the height of the wave of growth through urban expansion have been halted, giving rise to unfinished outcrop-like structures in the middle of nowhere that have never been used and whose final destiny will remain a difficult problem to solve. In other words, there has been a large inefficiency in investments in infrastructures and public facilities. Some central zones in our cities have become obsolete, deserted and now function, in some cases, as ghettos for migrants, low income families including ageing population with constrained mobility. This situation contrasts with that in cities whose population has multiplied by 4 or 5 over the last decade, giving rise to very serious health and sanitation issues (the average life expectancy of their residents is barely over 40 in some cases, with new residential zones springing up in expansion areas based without accessibility, public transportation (with the home – work commute taking up to 8 hours a day), education and public infrastructures, conditioning social equity and territorial cohesion. Housing sector suffers large speculation in a context on non-public infrastructural investments. Housing and consumer goods prices are very high in emerging countries cities. If we are to intervene in these extreme realities, albeit with enormous differences, we should be able to prepare our students and early stage researchers and professionals, by not only learning from our blunders but also from the accomplishments. In short, the recession has brought with it situations of seldom-seen difficulty and differentiation as far as issues related with urban development, growth, safety and power of attraction are concerned. However, it opens as well new opportunities and challenges by resorting to the advancement of knowledge, technologies and the values intrinsic to our society.

THE AESOP PHD WORKSHOP

In line with this Congress Topic, the team envisages a PhD workshop organised by the University of Aveiro, AESOP Full Member, with the topic *Equity and Societal responses in a multi-level context*.

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