

## AESOP Council of Representatives Meeting

# MINUTES

7<sup>th</sup> July 2014

Utrecht University, Netherlands

### **Present:**

32 National Representatives and their Substitutes (28 has voting rights, 4 Substitutes are attending the meeting together with the national Representatives), 8 AESOP Officials, including 7 Members of the Executive Committee (List of attendance – Appendix 1)

**There is a quorum required by the Charter.**

### **Welcome address**

The President welcomes the Country Representatives warmly at the Annual AESOP Congress at the Utrecht University. He presents very briefly the agenda of the meeting and points out the most important issues to be discussed, including elections and ratifications.

**The agenda of the meeting is accepted by the Council.**

President asks for accepting minutes from the CoRep meeting in Lisbon. The minutes have been made available in the files repository for the CoRep. There are no comments.

**The CoRep accepts minutes from the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at the University of Lisbon.**

In his introductory statement the President indicates that AESOP evolves constantly by running a lot of new activities and projects as well as intervening with partner organizations and European institutions. The President reports that hopefully AESOP is going to continue successful projects like Lecture Series or Identity Project and develop new ones, which have been announced earlier, especially AESOP Digital Platform InPlanning, including platform for Young Academics Network, BELO/EU, Sense of History.

The President encourages the members of the Council to propose new initiatives to be developed by the ExCo.

### **Secretary's General Report**

The Secretary General starts with presenting the duties and powers of the Country Representatives described in the Charter and procedures established by the council so far. She also gives technical instruction how to use File Repository in AESOP online database which gives access to all AESOP documents for the members of the Council. She presents also AESOP Officials, especially chairs of the AESOP Award Committees.

*Applications for AESOP membership*

The Secretary General presents membership issues. Since last CoRep meeting three new institutions applied for AESOP membership. The applications have been reviewed by the members of the AESOP Experts Pool and have got positive evaluation and they are all recommended by the ExCo to be accepted. Secretary General presents the institutions and asks CoRep for acceptance of new AESOP members.

**Nurtingen-Geislingen University, Faculty for Landscape Architecture, Environmental and Urban Planning in Germany is accepted as the Full AESOP Member** by all members of the Council. There are no votes against, nobody abstains (36 votes YES).

**International University of Catalonia, Department of Urbanism and Spatial Planning is accepted as the Associate AESOP Member** by all members of the Council. There are no votes against, nobody abstains (36 votes YES).

**University of Applied Sciences Rotterdam in the Netherlands is accepted as the Associate AESOP Member by the Council.** There are no votes against, two members of the Council abstain (34 votes YES).

*AESOP Lecture Series*

The Secretary General informs about AESOP Lecture Series and briefly presents recent Lectures. She also reminds that lectures are available to be watched online on the AESOP website in the section *Events*.

There are lectures planned:

- on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2014 (celebrating World's Planning Day) at Warsaw University of Technology (celebrating its centenary, AESOP has two members at Warsaw University of Technology: Faculty of Architecture and Department of Spatial Planning and Environmental Sciences) which would like to prepare the dialogue on the topic 'Town Planning – the Phenomenon of Still Newly Discovered Modernity'. One of the speakers would be prof. Sławomir Gzell (Warsaw University of Technology) and the other will be proposed by our partner European regional Sciences Association (ERSA);
- at University of Groningen with prof. Michael Batty as a speaker on the topic of advanced methods in planning in January/February 2015.

The Secretary General warmly encourages AESOP members to host lecture lectures at their universities and proposes the speakers.

*European Urban Summer School (EUSS)*

The Secretary General starts the presentation of the European Urban Summer School (EUSS) by presenting two books from previous summer schools. She reminds that the books are also available online and as pdf files on the AESOP website. Thanks to the cooperation with the partner organizations (EUSS is a joint event with ECTP-CEU, IFHP and ISOCARP) Secretariat managed to get support from the Dutch Ministry of Environment and Infrastructure for the

publications documenting EUSS 2012, 2013 and 2014. Secretary General encourages members of the Council to explore possibilities to get financial support for the publication in the future.

EUSS 2013 was hosted by San Pablo CEU University in Madrid in Spain (9-15 September 2013) and it was very successful. The Head of EUSS Teresa Franchini and EUSS Coordinator Juan Arana have finished the edition of the book documenting EUSS 2013 and it is in the final phase of preparation for printing.

EUSS 2014 will be organized and hosted by Ecole Polytechnique de l'Université de Tours, Département Aménagement, and will take place on 1-8 September 2014. The EUSS 2014 topic is 'Heritage Conservation & Urban Sustainable Development'. Head of the EUSS 2014, Laura Verdelli, finalizes the preparation for the EUSS.

### *Forthcoming calls*

The Secretary General informs about forthcoming calls for AESOP positions and hosting AESOP events:

- hosting European Urban Summer School in 2015 (opens in autumn 2014);
- hosting PhD Workshop in 2016 (opens in autumn 2014);
- hosting Heads of Schools in 2016 (opens in autumn 2014 in case CoRep would not offer this option the school which applied for 2015);
- hosting AESOP Congress in 2017 (opens in winter 2014/2015);
- AESOP President 2016-2018 (=Vice President 2015-2016 and 2018-2019);
- Young Academics Network Coordination Team Elections, spring 2015.

### *AESOP Awards*

The Secretary General informs also about AESOP Awards in 2014.

Twenty two papers were nominated for the AESOP Best Published Paper Award and the Award Committee chaired by Karina Pallagst selected the short list of 5 papers which includes also the winning paper. The decision of the Committee will be announced during the General Assembly.

Three schools applied for the AESOP Excellence in Teaching Award. The decision of the Award Committee chaired by Lia Vasconcelos will be announced during the General Assembly.

Secretary General asks National Representatives to encourage the schools to apply for this prize in order to promote innovative methods of teaching.

### *AESOP Thematic Groups*

The Secretary General presents the Country Representatives general information about AESOP Thematic Groups. She points out that the Thematic Groups generally failed to deliver their reports. Only three from fifteen Thematic Groups shared their achievements with the wider AESOP community. This situation remains unchanged since 2012. During Congress there will be meeting with the TG Coordinators and they will be encouraged to share with AESOP community their achievements.

The Secretary General reminds that application for new thematic group 'Sustainable Cities' has been approved by CoRep in Lisbon 7 March 2014.

Secretary General asks for ratification the ExCo decision terminating AESOP Thematic Group "Monitoring of the European Landscape Convention". Coordinator of this TG has applied for this decision because the group is no longer active. Nobody was against, one member of the Council abstained (35 votes YES).

**AESOP Thematic Group "Monitoring of the European Landscape Convention" has been terminated.**

The Coordinator of the AESOP thematic Group "Transnational and Cross-Border Planning" has applied for termination of the group however the Secretary General proposes to find somebody who might be interested in reviving the group. The topic is very popular among many AESOP scholars and the track "Transnational and Cross-Border Planning" is always very popular on AESOP Congresses. Secretary General will report back to the Council during the next meeting whether her efforts in finding somebody interested in taking care of the group have been successful.

#### *Nomination of the AESOP Officials responsible for the specific projects*

According the CoRep recommendation expressed during the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2014 in Lisbon AESOP should nominate project officers who would become AESOP Officials and would be responsible for the specific projects and their budgets. Following this recommendation three AESOP Officials responsible already for approved AESOP projects should be ratified by CoRep.

Gert de Roo should be approved as an AESOP Official responsible for the project InPlanning - AESOP Digital Platform. Izabela Mironowicz should be approved as an AESOP Official responsible for the projects: (1) AESOP Identity, (2) European Urban Summer School (EUSS), (3) BELO/EU Projects. Francesco Lo Piccolo should be approved as an AESOP Official responsible for the project "Quality Recognition for the European Dimension in Planning Programs".

Before the confidential voting the scrutinizing commission consisting of Thomas Matta, Gerhard Schimak and Anna Bocian is approved by the Council. There are no votes against, nobody abstains (36 votes YES).

The results of the voting are the following:

**Gert de Roo is approved as an AESOP Official responsible for the project "InPlanning: AESOP Publishing Platform".** There are no votes against, nobody abstains (36 votes YES)

**Izabela Mironowicz is approved as an AESOP Official responsible for the projects: (1) AESOP Identity, (2) European Urban Summer School (EUSS), (3) BELO/EU Projects.** There are no votes against, nobody abstains (36 votes YES).

**Francesco Lo Piccolo is approved as an AESOP Official responsible for the project "Quality Recognition for the European Dimension in Planning Programs".** There are no votes against, nobody abstains (36 votes YES).

***AESOP Identity Project, New AESOP Identity Guidelines, New AESOP website***

The Secretary General having received the comments from the Council after the meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2014 in Lisbon managed to implement suggestions of the Council into the final concept of AESOP Identity Guidelines as well as into new version of the website. She presents new AESOP Identity Guidelines with the historical background and philosophy behind the concept and asks Council for the final approval.

**AESOP Identity Guidelines are approved by the all members of the Council.** There are no votes against, nobody abstains (36 votes YES).

The Secretary General presents the new version of AESOP website and explains all its new functions. **The Council** appreciates this version and **approves it as a new official AESOP website.** There are no votes against, nobody abstains (36 votes YES).

The President asks for applause for the Secretary General for her effort and hard work.

The new AESOP Identity Guidelines and new AESOP website are the results of the Identity Project, but there are more products already available and the project will continue.

Finishing the report, the Secretary General encourages National Representatives to join the General Assembly on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

**InPlanning - AESOP Digital Publishing Platform**

The President describes the idea behind the project and its history. He stresses that AESOP should develop digital publishing tools in order to accommodate modern needs and to look for new canals of communication. The President strongly believes that InPlanning would help to strengthen AESOP position and would be of great benefit for the entire AESOP community. The President presents the possible products like online and open access journals, books, textbooks, lectures. The other option are also MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses). He also introduces the institutional structure of the project where the Scientific Editorial Boards would be central for the quality of the publications. Being AESOP Official responsible for the project he will perform as Editor in Chief of InPlanning.

The President asks Leonie Jensen-Jensen (NL), Camilla Perrone (I) and Paulo Silva (PT) to present vision of possible development of InPlanning from their national perspective. Leonie Jensen-Jensen presents the progress of the project in the Netherlands, where the foundations of the project have been constructed by Dutch Planning Schools to support their teaching and share research results. The project therefore is relatively advanced there: the first publications are already available from the platform and soon also lectures and PhD theses will be made available. Dutch schools are ready to share their experience with other countries.

Camilla Perrone discusses the case of Italy. She stresses that InPlanning should work as process guided by AESOP. It should have a global focus and support connections with other parties. She describes 7 categories of products including books, journals, PhD theses. Camilla Perrone explains the possible strategies: strong Editorial Board, and "supportive" editorial board with open platform of the kind of InPlanning Wikipedia. She presents Italian point of view on why

(opportunity, open archive, innovative learning) and how (bridging Planum – Journal on Urbanism which already exists and InPlanning) as well as the concept of the Italian InPlanning Editorial Board. The InPlanning should be like a laboratory to experiment how to support the encounter of different action realms and knowledge in the planning domain. Communication between theory and practice is stressed. She presents the Planum platform and describes it shortly.

Paulo Silva gives a brief impression what could be the result of implementation of the InPlanning Publishing Platform in Portugal. He stresses the language barrier and points out that the Brazilian planning community is very vibrant and Portuguese-speaking which would give global impact to the platform. Paulo Silva suggests that starting point in Portugal should be based in planning schools, local editorial board has to be linked to AESOP, however establishing strong links with Brazilian partners is crucial. First step is to involve CoRep members and Portuguese planning schools to give institutional framework. Then, the forum for debate should be created by defining the core activity and expanding diversify of activities.

The President encourages the discussion within AESOP community on the possible opportunities of collaboration and informs that there will be InPlanning roundtable during the Congress in case somebody would like to discuss the issue in the more detailed way.

### **Suspension of AESOP members**

The Secretary General reminds that according to the AESOP Financial Regulations the members should be suspended by the Council having failed to pay their fee for three consecutive years.

According to the files delivered by the Treasurer, University of Seville, Higher Technical School of Architecture from Spain, registration number A-034-01 should be suspended (debt of 1290 EUR). All CoRep members vote for the suspension (36 votes YES).

According to the files delivered by the Treasurer, Dokuz Eylul University, Department of City and Regional Planning from Turkey, registration number F-090-04 should be suspended (debt of 1920 EUR). All CoRep members vote for the suspension (36 votes YES).

**University of Seville, Higher Technical School of Architecture, registration number A-034-01, has been suspended as an AESOP Associate Member.**

**Dokuz Eylul University, Department of City and Regional Planning, registration number F-090-04, has been suspended as an AESOP Full Member.**

Claire Colomb (UK) asks what according to the Financial Regulations happen when a member that was suspended wants to come back – does the school need to pay for previous years? She stresses that this is a case it could be perceived as unfair to pay for previous years, because the team at that university might be completely different that few year before. The Secretary General and the Treasurer argue that they need to pay, otherwise all members would leave the AESOP and then start from zero. According to the decision of the Council the school can become a member again as soon as due fees are paid. There is no re-application process in this case. The membership is simply restored.



The Secretary General informs that CoRep members have a right to propose topics for agenda and this issue might be discussed next time. In this case Secretary General and Treasurer will prepare general overview of the problem. The CoRep members will be addressed to consult the agenda at least 3 weeks before the meeting and this would be good moment to put this issue to the general discussion.

There are also three individual members to be suspended: Deepta Sateesh (debt of 322,5 EUR), Günes Uyaniker (debt of 397,5 EUR) and Suzanne Moritz (debt of 645 EUR).

**Deepta Sateesh has been suspended as an AESOP Individual Member, registration number I-919-01.** All CoRep members vote for the suspension (36 votes YES).

**Günes Uyaniker has been suspended as an AESOP Individual Member, registration number I-090-02.** All CoRep members vote for the suspension (36 votes YES).

**Suzanne Moritz has been suspended as an AESOP Individual Member, registration number I-044-03.** All CoRep members vote for the suspension (36 votes YES).

### **AESOP Quality Recognition for the European Dimension in Planning Programmes Project**

Francesco Lo Piccolo informs about the progress of the pilot phase of the AESOP Quality Recognition for the European Dimension in Planning Programmes Project. The invitations have been sent to 40 schools for the pilot phase and the feedback is positive. The applicants shall deliver their reports before the end of October and preliminary results and recommendations for the future standard procedure will be hopefully presented during the AESOP Heads of Schools Meeting 2015.

### **Selection of the host of AESOP Heads Schools Meeting 2015**

The Secretary General informs about two bids submitted by the Secretariat for hosting AESOP Heads of Schools Meeting in 2015 (the bids were made available for the members of the Council before the meeting) and invites the Events Officer to introduce the applicants. Having presented the schools Events Officer asks representatives from the universities to present their proposals.

The Event Officer introduces the Technical University of Madrid and its representative Jose Miguel Fernandez-Güell who present the university, the city, possible venues for social events, and options for the study tours. He stresses that the added value of having important AESOP event in Spain would encourage Spanish schools to become AESOP members. At the moment AESOP presence in Spain is rather weak and Technical University of Madrid is willing to help to improve this situation. Professor Fernandez-Güell presents his research on Spanish schools which could be invited for Heads of Schools Meeting 2015 and given the good opportunity to join AESOP.

The Event Officer thanks Jose Miguel Fernandez-Guell and asks the Council for questions. There are no questions. Therefore he introduces the University of Thessaloniki and the representative Elisavet Thoidou.

Elisavet Thoidou presents the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, its history and educational profile. She describes the venue and financial conditions to host the event. General information about the city is also provided. She describes proposed study tours.

The Event Officer thanks Elisavet Thoidou and asks for questions. There are no questions.

Events Officer is convinced that both schools are capable to host the event. However, the ExCo preference is given to Madrid, because the Spanish schools are important for AESOP future development, also in the context of developing InPlanning Spanish section. He adds that the University of Thessaloniki might be invited – if Council wishes to do so – to host the AESOP Heads of Schools Meeting in 2016. The Event Officer informs about the rule that allows to choose two consecutive hosts and describes shortly the procedure. He encourages the CoRep to give an option to the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki to host the event in 2016.

Events Officer asks the CoRep to vote to select the host of AESOP Heads of Schools Meeting 2015. The voting is confidential.

The result of voting is the following: 25 votes for Technical University of Madrid, 10 votes for Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, 1 abstained.

**Technical University of Madrid has been selected as a host for the AESOP Heads of Schools Meeting 2015.**

The Event Officer asks the CoRep whether the Council would like to give an option for the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki to host AESOP Heads of Schools in 2016.

The result of the voting is: 34 votes for, 2 votes against, 0 abstained.

**Aristotle University of Thessaloniki has been given the option to host AESOP Heads of Schools in 2016.** The university shall decide before the end of September 2014 whether it would use this option and confirm it in writing to the Secretary General and Events Officer.

### **Election of the AESOP Secretary General 2015-2019**

Secretary General reminds that her mandatory period finishes in July 2015 and she does not wish to re-apply for the position. Therefore the call for the new AESOP Secretary general has been launched. AESOP received one application as a response to this call. The applicant is Paulo Pinho, affiliated to the University of Porto, an AESOP member institution.

Secretary General invites Paulo Pinho to present his motivation statement and his curriculum vitae to the CoRep. Paulo Pinho in his presentation stresses his identification with AESOP's values and principles, and his wish to dedicate himself deeply to AESOP. He highlights also the support from his department, president of the university and colleagues. Paulo Pinho presents also his vision of how to run the office.

After the presentation Secretary General opens floor for the questions.



Claire Colomb (UK) asks Paulo Pinho what support he would get from the university and whether he is able to adapt to high IT skills required to administer AESOP database and website. Secretary General is personally responsible for these issues.

Paulo Pinho explains that he is aware of all duties. He assures that his department is aware of his duties and is prepared to give the technical support to him. He will also get the training from ongoing Secretary General.

There are no other questions.

The confidential voting results in 34 votes for Paulo Pinho as AESOP Secretary General 2015-2019, 1 vote against and 1 vote abstain.

**Paulo Pinho, affiliated to the University of Porto, has been elected as AESOP Secretary General 2015-2019.** His mandatory period will start on 1 August 2015.

### **AESOP at the Habitat III Meeting**

The AESOP Representative in GPEAN provides general information about the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development. This Habitat III Meeting early stage is to identify possible partners to contribute to New Urban Agenda. AESOP has not been addressed as one of independent partners but as a important part of GPEAN. This is seen as an important opportunity to launch a debate in our community, and to become an Agenda Partner. A blog was launched on AESOP website to serve both purposes.

GPEAN and UN-Habitat are informed about ongoing debate. The further inputs will be submitted after the CoRep meeting. Ela Babilik-Sutcliffe asks the CoRep to use the blog and start the debate. She explains also key-points, which are also available on the blog.

Jan Schreurs (BE) asks what would be done with the opinions from the blog? He suggests to limit the number of issues raised. Ela Babilik-Sutcliffe agrees that this is very good way to formulate discussion.

Thomas Dillinger (A) asks about benefits for AESOP from the New Urban Agenda. Ela Babilik-Sutcliffe explains that the discussion on this particular issue should actually take place. AESOP reacted for the invitation, acting under the pressure of time, however our relations with global movements and initiatives shall be widely discussed. She offers to work on the background info to provide as a basis of the discussion during the Heads of Schools meeting in Madrid.

### **2015 AESOP Congress in Prague and PhD Workshop in High Tatra Mountains**

The Secretary General introduces Karel Maier from the Czech Technical University in Prague, chair of Local Organizing Committee of 2015 AESOP Congress and Maros Finka from Bratislava University of Technology responsible for PhD workshop.

Karel Maier presents and explains briefly the theme of the congress "Definite Space – Fuzzy Responsibility". He also introduces the Council into the timetable of the congress and agenda of preparations. Prof. Maier presents 19 tracks, gives good description about the venues, and introduces local organizing committee. Congress website is ready to be launched.

Maros Finka discusses the topic of the PhD Workshop in High Tatra: 'Fuzzy Responsibility – Multi-actors decision making under uncertainty and global changes'. PhD Workshop in 2015 will start on 6<sup>th</sup> July and finish on 10<sup>th</sup> July. The venue and High Tatras should be very attractive to the students because of the quality of the environment and good atmosphere for work. There are no bigger organizational problems.

The Council appreciates state of the preparations to the Congress and PhD Workshop.

### **Closing**

The Secretary General closes the Country Representatives Meeting. She thanks all the members of the Council and invites them to join the next meeting in March 2015 in Madrid.

Notes:

**Anna Bocian**

SG Assistant