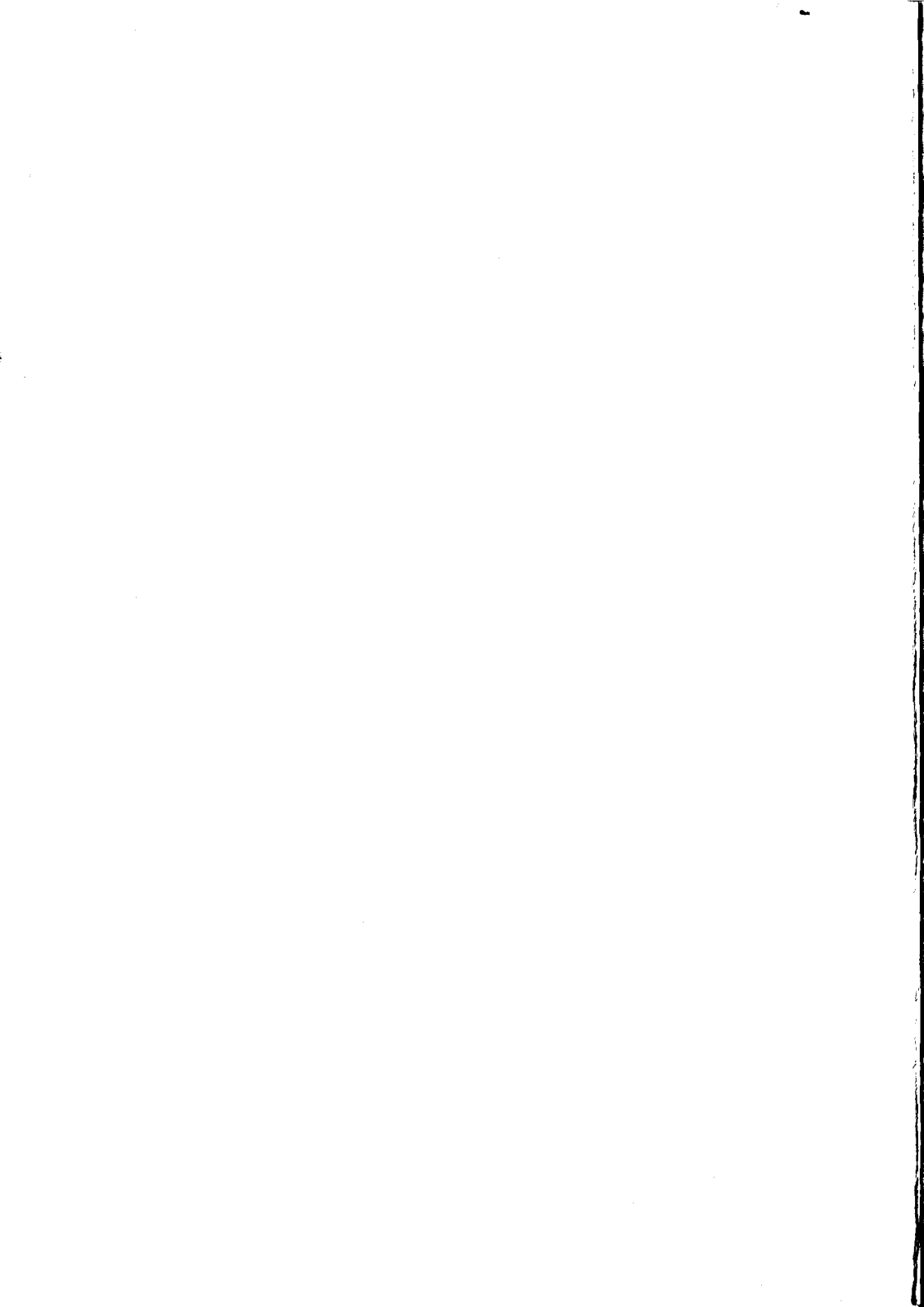




AESOP

**Annual Report
1995-96**

**Association of European Schools of Planning -
November 1996**



AESOP

**Annual Report
1995-96**

**Association of European Schools of Planning. Report from
July 1995 - June 1996**

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1. THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1.1 Educating the next generation of planners

The growing policy interest across Europe in spatial planning, the quality of cities and of urban regions was noted in our last Annual Report. All the evidence suggests that this continues. Many of the dimensions of these changes were discussed at the 1995 AESOP Annual Congress in Glasgow.

With this policy in mind, the AESOP Council and ExCo have, during the past year, put a particular emphasis on developing the educational capacity in the spatial planning field. Spatial planning education in Europe draws on several foundations. In Eastern Europe, economics and engineering are the bases from which planning education has grown. In Southern Europe and Germany, the base is architecture. In parts of Scandinavia, Britain and to some extent in France, planning education draws on geography and public administration. These different origins lead to different emphases in the planning curriculum. One of the most vigorous debates in planning schools across Europe and at AESOP events is the way planning curricula now need to change, to meet the challenge of new demands for expertise and new institutional positions in which planners work these days.

AESOP has taken a firm view of the core of a planning education programme. In the AESOP paper on *European Planning Education* (1995), the Working Group on Planning Education stated that such a programme involves:

'the scientific study of, and training in, creative conceptual and practical thinking on the relation between society and the environment at various territorial levels and in the search, development and advancement of opportunities for purposeful intervention in that relation to ensure sustainable development'. (p. 4)

The paper goes on to discuss the knowledge, skills and practical capabilities which this involves. Through this approach, the AESOP viewpoint combines a high level of scientific knowledge, from the social, natural and physical sciences, with skill in understanding and the practice of relating knowledge to action. One of the challenges faced by all planning schools is to develop the synthetic capability to draw together strands of understanding to focus on problem-solving actions relating to improving the quality of places and environments in politically complex situations. This capability in spatial synthesis is at the core of the technical skill of the planner. But these days, that skill must be exercised into the ongoing flow of social interaction, in consultation meetings, discussion groups, inquiries into plans, conflict mediation processes. Planners therefore need to become skilled in working interactively, with many different groups. The capability in interactive problem-solving approach is typically underdeveloped in the foundation disciplines from which planning as a subject and a practice has evolved. But new ideas in planning theory are fast developing to fill the gap. This makes the planning field in the forefront of the current challenge from society to academia. How to bridge the worlds of academic knowledge development and the infusion of knowledge at the service of society?

One challenge for planning education today is to maintain this developmental path, which seems to be even more appropriate to meet the spatial planning challenges of today and the future. At the same time, the planning schools need to be outward looking to explore alternative ways of thinking about issues and about teaching programmes and to remain closely involved with the dynamic way planning practices are changing in different countries and regions.

AESOP has been addressing these challenges in the past year in three ways. Firstly, the Education Working Party has been

reviewing new developments in member countries. There are initiatives in several countries to form new organisations to represent spatial planning education and research, equivalent to APERAU in France and FUS in Norway. The challenge to be faced is to find ways of producing the capability for spatial planning which is clearly demanded in the new urban and regional policy context, while explaining to our higher education colleagues that what we do is not quite the same, and much more skill-based, than many traditional disciplines.

Secondly, we are developing a proposal for a seminar to be held in April 1997, jointly with ISOCARP, to look specifically at the relation between knowledge and action in the spatial planning field as it is developing at the end of the millennium and the implications for our education programmes. This theme will be followed up in the 1997 Nijmegen Congress

Thirdly, we submitted an application to the EU SOCRATES programme to be recognised as the main thematic network in the planning field in order to promote education development initiatives in complement to the well-established arrangements for student exchange. Our project was not selected for 1996 but a revised application will be submitted to the EU in January 1997.

Our objective in all these actions is to promote the intellectual and practical qualities of spatial planning education programmes and assist the European community of planning scholars and educators to ensure high quality, flexible new graduates are available to work in the expanding spatial planning practices in Europe into the 2000s.

1.2. Main Activities: 1995-96

The Congress

The Ninth AESOP Congress was held at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow in August 1995. Organised by John Punter and Keith Hayton, this consolidated AESOP's reputation as the major academic forum for research and education issues in Europe. The Congress was preceded by the Doctoral Research Workshop, organised in Glasgow by Francesco Lo Piccolo and Giovanni Caudo, of the University of Palermo, which was a great success.

Education development

A range of issues, outlined above, have been taken to promote educational development in the field. Senior Vice President, Marcel Bazin, has taken the lead in these initiatives. The preparation of the new AESOP Directory, by junior Vice-President Tadeusz Marszal, provides a valuable information input to these discussions.

Involving the Council

After our work last year in making the ExCo act as an effective team, we worked to make all Council members feel actively involved in the work of AESOP, and to play their role in helping members in each country feel that AESOP is accessible to them. This worked well at the Lyon Council Meeting in March 1996. If you couldn't make it, be sure not to miss upcoming meetings!

Raising the profile

Following last year's initiatives in making AESOP visible to international planning organisations, we have continued our close contact with other organisations, especially ECTP, ISOCARP and ACSP. We have also been in discussion with the Asian Schools of Planning Association, and we

anticipate a World Congress in Asia in 2000 or 2001!. We have also aimed to raise AESOP's profile with all kinds of agencies. In addition to the Newsletter, which produced the usual two numbers thanks to Taner Oc and his team at Nottingham University, we now have a good range of information documents about AESOP, and special papers, to distribute to interested people. These have been very well-received. We are also contacting a range of agencies proposing affiliate membership of our lively, forward-looking and policy-relevant organisation! Suggestions for people to approach to the President, please!

Effective management

AESOP is partly the work of all its members, in all kinds of different capacities. But it also requires a supportive organisational infrastructure. This has been most capably provided this year by General Secretary, Göran Cars, and our new Treasurer, Ernst Heer.

1.3. Priorities for 1996-97

The period of office of most ExCo members ends at the Toronto Congress in July 1996. There will be a new Council as well. The new President will be Marcel Bazin, elected last year. The composition of the new ExCo will not be known until elections in July, but there is expected to be at least some continuity. Of course, the ExCo and Council may want to develop quite new priorities, but as outgoing President, I will make a few 'predictions'!

The development of initiatives on planning education will be rapid, with two meetings in September and April, leading onto further discussion at the Nijmegen Conference in May 1997.

The AESOP-commissioned report on PhD research programmes in Europe, prepared by Ingrid Lundahl, will be the subject of discussion, with ideas about how to take the development of research training in the planning field further.

A prize for the best article by an academic working in an AESOP member school and published in a Journal produced in Europe, will generate considerable interest, as a way of both promoting the work of planning academics and discovering what we are all thinking and researching about and where we are publishing our thoughts and findings!

The ExCo will continue to work as a friendly, outward-looking and effective team, with our regular Newsletters, information from the General Secretary, and a friendly but firm attitude from our Treasurer!

2. SECRETARY GENERAL'S REPORT

2.1 Membership

During the year AESOP has increased its membership up to 178 members (167 in 1994/95). Members have been distributed in various categories of membership as follows:

Full Members	93
Associate Members	41
Corresponding Members	5
Individual Members	33
Affiliate Members	6
Total	178

Most of the prominent planning schools in Europe are members of AESOP as well as key schools and persons in the world of planning. A number of organisations concerned with planning aspects of government, property and development are also associated with us. In total 29 European countries are represented in AESOP and an additional 8 countries from outside of Europe.

The development of membership gives rise to two comments. First, after rapid growth in the beginning of the 1990's only a minor increase in numbers can be observed over the last years. This observation should be seen in light of the fact that there are still planning schools in Europe which have not joined and that relatively very few schools from Eastern Europe are members. Second, the number of Affiliate Members has remained on a low level. (Affiliate Members are organisations with a genuine interest in planning, which wish to support us in our aims).

These developments have caused the Executive Committee to initiate various measures. Information about AESOP has been

improved (see below) and AESOP documentation and publications have increased and will expand even further in the year to come. The Executive Committee has also worked out a proposal suggesting a more active role for the members of Council. Among other responsibilities it is proposed that representatives should have an active role in the recruitment of new members.

2.2 The Council of Representatives

At the congress in Istanbul, August 1994, the elections for the Council of Representatives were confirmed. The Council of Representatives now holds 37 members from 27 European countries. A list of current Members of Council by name, school and country can be found in the Appendix.

The Council of Representatives has had two meetings during the year; one in conjunction to the Glasgow Congress and one in Lyon, March 1996. Decisions taken by the Council are reported in sections 2.4 - 2.6.

The role of the National Representatives has been under discussion this year. Suggestions that the roles and responsibilities of the representatives should be expanded have been put forward. Thus, it is suggested that the representatives should have greater responsibilities for contributions to the work in AESOP's Working Groups, for recruitment of new members, for information about AESOP in their respective countries and for participating actively in other AESOP activities. This proposal and the future role of the National Representatives will be discussed and decided at the next Council Meeting.

2.3 Executive Committee

At the congress in Glasgow, August 1995, a new Treasurer, Ernst Heer was elected and Marcel Bazin Senior Vice President. At the Council Meeting in Lyon Alex Fubini was elected Secretary for international affairs. In June 1996 the Executive Committee consisted of the following:

President:	Patsy Healey	University of Newcastle
Senior Vice president	Marcel Bazin	Universite de Reims Champagne- Ardenne
Vice-President	Tadeusz Marszal	University of Lodz
Past President	Louis Albrechts	Catholic University of Leuven
Past-President	Klaus Kunzmann	Universität Dortmund
Past President	Giorgio Piccinato	Terza Univ. degli Studi di Roma
Secretary-General	Göran Cars	Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm
Treasurer	Ernst Heer	ORL-Institut, Zürich
Secretary for International Exchanges	Alex Fubini	Politecnico & Università di Torino
News Editor	Taner Oc	University of Nottingham

The Executive Committee has had four meetings during the year. The issues addressed at the meetings are described below.

2.4 Important decisions in the Executive Committee and the Council of Representatives

At the Executive and Council meetings, a large number of issues have been addressed. Issues relating to Congresses and AESOP's Working Groups are described under other sections in this report.

Other important issues that have been brought up are the following:

Seminars

During 1995 it was decided that AESOP should develop a more focused discussion of key academic issues in planning and planning education. The Congress provides a broad arena within which the range of research interests of AESOP members can be displayed. But it is difficult in such a large arena to give concentrated attention to any one topic.

In addition to the annual congress AESOP will, starting in 1997, arrange an annual seminar. The Seminar will have a clear theme, an informal workshop style, focus in depth on a topic, be limited in size and be relevant to AESOP's concerns with developing understanding and education in the planning field within Europe.

It has been decided that seminars can be based on any of the three following areas:

- an issue-based Seminar
- a Seminar focused on the development of some aspect of the planning curricula
- a Seminar focused on the interface between Education Policy and Practice

In March the Council of Representatives decided that a joint seminar with ISOCARP on planning education and practice should be arranged. The theme is "Planning for the third millennium: from knowledge to action". The seminar will take place in Monte Verità, Switzerland, April 17 - 19, 1997. Council of Representatives expressed its support of the initiative.

The following tentative outline for the seminar has been decided:

- Thursday, April 17: AESOP and ISOCARP business meetings

- Friday, April 18: In the morning the seminar opens with a plenary meeting based on papers prepared ahead addressing the need for academics and practitioners to develop new routes for interaction between education and practice.
- The afternoon should be devoted to workshops in which specific questions are addressed by small groups of participants. The main objective should be to explore and describe the current needs of the profession and how they are met by academia. In this workshop more specific questions also should be addressed, for example values and ethics and equal opportunities.
- Saturday, April 19: The morning should offer a second workshop session. The starting point should be "best practice in learning". Cases should be presented and discussed in the groups.
- The afternoon the seminar will close with a plenary session synthesising the seminar. Results from the workshop should be brought to the plenary in a structured manner and discussed.

The relation between the seminars and congresses has been discussed. The seminars should be organised and focused in such a way that they are complementary rather than competitive to the congresses. The importance of close relations between the organisers of future congresses and seminars has been stressed.

Future congresses

The 1997 congress will be held in Nijmegen, the Netherlands and the University of Aveiro in Portugal will host the 1998 congress. A number of member countries has offered to host the congress of 1999. The idea of a World Congress in the year 2000 has been addressed and will be further considered during the fall of 1996.

Doctoral Research Workshop

In conjunction with the Glasgow congress a Doctoral Workshop was arranged. Responsible for planning were Giovanni Caudo and Francesco Lo Piccolo from the University of Palermo. The workshop took place in August 13-16. Responses to it were enthusiastic. A well composed program, qualified lecturers and a spectrum of students with different scientific backgrounds and from a variety of countries were factors that contributed to the success.

The Doctoral Research Workshop planned for 1996 in Palermo has unfortunately been cancelled. The number of participants was too low.

During the past year it has become evident that the administration of the Doctoral Workshops requires careful preparation and a not insignificant amount of time. Future Doctoral Workshops will be organised in conjunction with AESOP's annual congresses. Starting with the Aveiro congress, organisers will be requested to include planning for and administration of Doctoral Workshop in their bid for the congress.

Directory

The new AESOP Directory has been completed by Tadeusz Marszal and colleagues in Lodz. Copies has been mailed to all members. Additional copies of the Directory can be purchased from the Treasurer (ECU 20 members, ECU 30 non-members).

AESOP on the WWW

AESOP is now on the world wide web (WWW). The URL is:
<http://regplan.kth.se/aesop/>

3 TREASURERS REPORT

The take-over of AESOPs treasure took place with the transfer of the accounts on November 6 and 7, 1995. The financial statements from the Treasurer refers to the time period after this date. A few remarks are necessary to understand the statement.

On the income-side, we could credit the Glasgow congress revenue in July and we are expecting the contribution from Toronto. This might inflate the income a bit. In addition, there was a complementary transfer of bank interest from the former treasurer of ECU 850. Advertisements in the Newsletter started nicely and we hope, that the sale of the directory as well will expand a bit more. In my view, all major libraries should have one, but may be, they are not aware it exists at all and perhaps more efforts are needed to advertise AESOP publications.

I am glad to observe, that most members paid their annual fee within the period noted on the invoice (end of April). It is, nevertheless, regrettable, that we had to suspend 7 members for not having paid since 1993 and even earlier, and that 15 members had to be declared "sleeping members" for having not paid since 1994. About a dozen schools and the equal number of individual members still owe their 1996 fee, despite a reminder in June. The national representatives will get the complete list shortly and are kindly asked to make a few calls. As far as the figures are concerned, the amount of roughly 3400 ECU is missing from the reminded members and close to 3000 ECU from the suspended and the sleeping.

Unfortunately the number of sponsoring affiliated members felt from 6 to 1 so far. The VISA payment offer so far has been accepted by 15 members respectively customers of the directory.

On the side of the expenses, there are some fix costs over the years. The largest amount, the expenses for business meetings, covers barely half of the average expenses of the executive

council members. Relatively stable are the costs for the Secretariat and the Newsletter. The hardship fund was used 3 times (including Toronto). On the other hand we had to register substantial "savings" because of the omission of the PhD Workshop in Palermo. Besides, there were no ongoing projects to support. On the other hand, the Joint Seminar with ISOCARP will debit the account by 1000 ECU and finally, the bank so far has failed to present itself as sponsor.

For some of these reasons, this years result will be somewhat distorted to the positive side.

Due to the different mode of investment (Union Bank of Switzerland, Money Market in XEU) there will be no bank interest on the income side, but a steady growth of the value of the investment equivalent to an interest of about 4%.

The outlook for 1997 is not so good, but a bit better than anticipated. There will most likely be just one congress contribution, but the congress organisers will take over the costs for the PhD workshop. This would save 4000 ECU. With additional efforts in the field of membership and fees, a good congress contribution, Newsletter advertisements and sales of publications, we might be able to manage with an affordable deficit. Hopefully, the products presented could eventually include a CD with the congress papers (the Congress of the Regional Science Association, held late August in Zurich, had produced 400 pieces for extremely low costs by the end of the congress). With these activities and products, eventually in addition to some more projects and results, AESOP could be able to raise its fees in a year or two with a much better justification.

AESOP Financial Report 1996

all monetary values in ECU

INCOME 1996	numb	fee	total 96	real Jan-Okt	expected Nov/Dec
Theoretical fees 1996					
Full members	93	200	18600		
Associate members	38	100	3800		
Corresponding members	5	50	250		
Individual members	33	50	1650		
Affiliate members	6	500	3000		
Honorary member	1	0	0		
Total theoretical fees	176		27300		
Deductions for possibly not paid fees			-4800		
Membership Fees				21683	817
Congress Revenue Glasgow				4200	0
Congress Revenue Toronto exp. in 97				0	0
Advertising Newsletter				630	0
Sales of Directory				175	175
Bank Interests 1995 transfered in 1996				850	0
Total expected income 1996				27538	992

EXPENSES 1996	real Ja-Okt	expected Nov/Dec
Publications incl. Printing	0	3000
Banc&VISA Charges (not in Budget)	450	50
Newsletter Univ. of Nottingham	3000	0
Secretariat, Royal Inst. of Technology	6500	500
Bus.meet. Lyon Stockh. Toro. Newcast.	14000	0
Hardship fund	1164	336
PhD Workshop Palermo	800	0
PhD Workshop Newcastle	0	1000
Joint Seminar	0	1000
Total expected Expenses 1996	25914	5886

State of Investment MM	33887.09
Value End of October	34974.60
Bank status End of October	13700.00

4 OTHER ACTIVITIES

4.1 The Congress in Glasgow, August 1995

Introduction

The 9th Annual Congress of the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) was hosted by the Department of Environmental Planning (formerly the Centre for Planning) at the University of Strathclyde between 16th and 19th August 1995. This was the first time the Congress had been held in Scotland and only the second time in the United Kingdom.

The theme of the Congress was the regeneration of peripheral regions, looking at both urban and rural experiences and current policies throughout Europe. Given the location, there was a particular focus upon Glasgow and the Scottish experience.

The Plenary Sessions

The programme was structured around four plenary sessions and five parallel tracks. The opening plenary session looked at the regeneration experiences of Glasgow and the role of the city, region, Glasgow Development Agency, and Scottish Homes. This provided a context for the various study tours and a common case study for the examination of regeneration Europe wide.

The second plenary session looked at Planning Education and Professionalism. Marcel Bazin, Director of IATEUR, Université de Reims, talked about planning education throughout Europe from an AESOP perspective. He was followed by the President of the United Kingdom's Royal Town Planning Institute, Jed Griffiths, and David Fryer, the RTPI's Secretary General. The latter's theme was that the diversity of European international planning organisations (for example AESOP, ECTP, ISoCARP

and IULA) were potentially dissipating and diffusing the efforts of both planning academics and professionals. He felt that there was considerable merit in all coming together to form "a single organisation...to act as a strong single international focal point and voice for planning".

The third plenary session looked specifically at the impact of the European Union on physical planning. Here the "Europe 2000+" document formed a central theme. Charles White, from the European Commission Directorate General XVI (Regional Policy and Cohesion), gave delegates an insight into European funding for environmental projects, while Janice Morphet of SERPLAN looked at the role of regional planning in delivering European policy. Louis Albrechts from Leuven saw "Europe 2000+"s key strength in the fact that it provided a comprehensive and integrated approach to sustainable development, while Peter Roberts from Dundee University agreed that "Europe 2000+" provided a useful base from which to develop sustainable spatial planning.

The final plenary session, which closed the Congress, looked at "Policy for European Planning and Regeneration". Tadeusz Markowski from Lodz, Poland, looked at regeneration in Poland in the context of changing political and economic circumstances. He was followed by Charles Gray, the Head of the United Kingdom's Delegation to the Committee of the Regions, who looked at the growth of the structural funds and their impact upon regional development. Robert Brown, from the Ouverture Programme which promotes co-operation between local and regional authorities in the European Union and Eastern European countries, outlined areas of co-operation and initiative in which local and regional authorities were involved.

Parallel Track Sessions

In the 9th congress, 171 papers were presented in eight themed tracks spread over eight parallel track sessions. The themes were:

- (a) education and professionalism;
- (b) urban design, conservation and regeneration;
- (c) planning theory;
- (d) housing-led regeneration;
- (e) regional regeneration theory and practice;
- (f) comparative planning systems;
- (g) government reform and social justice; and
- (h) metropolitan planning.

For each of the 40 individual themed track session, a chair was appointed to whom abstracts of all papers were sent in advance. Unlike previous Congresses, there was editorial control over the papers. This was done in an attempt to ensure that papers reinforced the track into which they were placed and to ensure that they were not too parochial. Feedback indicates that these attempts to impose editorial control were appreciated by both those presenting papers and by the delegates.

Study Tours

To allow delegates to gain an appreciation of the City and the surrounding area, five study tours were organised:

- (a) a Glasgow Conurbation Tour, which was run twice. This allowed delegates to see some of the key regeneration sites in the city and obtain an appreciation of its historical development;
- (b) a City Centre Walking Tour;

- (c) a Housing and Community Regeneration Tour focusing on the initiatives underway to regenerate the outer housing estates;
- (d) a Loch Lomond and Glasgow's Countryside Tour which looked at the rural areas immediately to the north of the City including Loch Lomond;
- (e) a Clyde Valley Tour which looked at some of the main regeneration projects to the south-east of the City in the Clyde Valley and visited New Lanark, the location of Robert Owen's pioneering attempts to develop a more equitable form of society.

The Study Tours were over-subscribed and well received, and helped by the exceptionally warm weather.

Social Programme

With generous sponsorship from Strathclyde University, and the City and Regional Councils, it was possible to put on a range of social events. The key ones were:

- (a) a welcome receptions which took place in the University's Barony Hall;
- (b) a Civic Reception held in the world-renowned Burrell Art Collection in Pollok Park to the south of the City Centre;
- (c) a Congress Dinner which was held in the splendid City Chambers. This took the form of traditional Scottish hospitality. Despite the hot weather, delegates appreciated the toasting of the haggis and Scottish country dancing.

Interspersed with these formal occasions were many informal opportunities for delegates to mix and exchange ideas.

Delegates

The Congress attracted a total of 186 fee paying delegates. With the non-fee paying speakers and non-fee paying attendees from the University and sponsors, there was a total audience of some 250. Delegates came from all around the world: Venezuela, China, Canada, Turkey, Australia and Russia being some of the most far-flung countries represented. However, as one would expect, the majority of the delegates came from countries within the European Union, with around 60 delegates coming from the United Kingdom, with all other member states being represented.

Funding

The Congress was only possible with generous sponsorship provided by eight organisations. In total they contributed £24,997 with the two largest sponsors being Fanny Mae (the North American Housing Agency) and the European Union, but with Scottish Homes, Scottish

Enterprise, Strathclyde Region and the City Council all providing assistance. This money was used to defray a variety of expenses, in particular providing subsidies to allow East European delegates to attend.

Conclusions

The Congress was successful in bringing together a large number of planning academics and practitioners from all over the world. For three days they were able to hear some of the latest thinking on the way planning theory and practise were developing.

Glasgow provided its usual hospitable welcome, both within and without the Congress, and a good time was had by all. The organisers would particularly like to thank the sponsors of the Congress, the AESOP Executive for their advice, and the delegates for their contributions on both academic and social fronts.

4.2 Working Group on Planning Education

The good attendance of the sessions about planning education during the Glasgow congress showed renewed interest towards education problems in our association. It was thus decided to devote a significant part of the AESOP's activity to these topics during the next years, especially by developing a "thematic network" submitted to EU funding in the framework of SOCRATES programme and organising a joint AESOP / ISOCARP seminar on planning education in 1997 (see the following points).

Preparing the new AESOP directory gave the opportunity to updating available data on curricula in all the member schools. This material gathered by Tadeusz Marszal was handed to Marcel Bazin and Vesselina Troeva (Sofia) in order to pursue the comparative study. The problems raised by reorganising planning education in some countries such as Germany and Italy seemed to deserve a special attention and were given in charge to Carl-Heinz David (Dortmund) and Alex Fubini. Whereas Göran Cars and Taner Öc undertook to examine the links between the professional world and planning education.

SOCRATES

AESOP paid much attention to the new European Union SOCRATES programme, which is the successor of the ERASMUS programme with a widened scope, since it concerns

networks. On the one hand, many AESOP member schools were and still are involved in classical ERASMUS exchange programs, which are left to their individual initiative; all these institutions has to sign in 1996 with the EU. On the other hand a new possibility was opened through the "thematic networks".

Thus Marcel Bazin and Alex Fubini paid a visit to DG XXII in Brussels on 12 September 1995 and gathered information about the objectives and "rules of the game" of this new SOCRATES programs. It was then decided at the AESOP ExCo in Zürich (11 November 1995) to introduce an application for a thematic network on planning education in Europe. At the first stage a "manifestation of interest" was prepared by Marcel Bazin, submitted to the EU on 29 December 1995 and completed with some additional details in February. It received a positive response from the EU and AESOP was encouraged to come forward with a formal proposal, which was completed by Marcel Bazin, and Ernst Heer for financial details, and sent to DG XXII on 1st May 1996.

Financial support is requested from the EU in order to deepen the work undertaken by AESOP towards a comparative evaluation of planning curricula and to determine common requirements regarding both the content of planning education and its links with professional practice. Other objectives of the application include promoting the European dimension within planning curricula and facilitating exchange of pedagogical experiences. A joint seminar with ISOCARP is planned in this framework (see above mentioned item) in order to rely on deepened relations between academics and professionals to enhance improved planning education patterns.

The application covers a three year period starting in October 1996 and the request is for the amount of ECU 13, 000 to 16, 000 per year. Finally the project was not selected by the European Commission: Its ideas and rationale were found interesting butt

insufficiently developed in the application. A revised application will be elaborated and submitted in early 1997.

4.3 Working Group on Doctoral Education

The Working Group on Planning Research is an informal network of AESOP members interested in the problems of planning, education and research. The Group was established in 1991. Chair is Alessandro Balducci and Secretary Ingrid Lundahl.

The main objective of the Working Group according to its programme has been to survey doctoral programmes in AESOP member schools. Such a survey entitled *Doctoral Studies between Academy and Profession* has been implemented by the secretary of the Group Ingrid Lundahl. It is composed of three parts:

1. What are doctoral studies for? The aim of a doctor's degree and new systems of training
2. Short overviews of doctoral studies in 17 European countries with AESOP member schools
3. Member schools' responses to a questionnaire

Council members and contact-persons of the member schools have in a very positive way contributed to the survey and the 54 participating schools form a network for further co-operation.

Some results of the survey were presented at one of the sessions of the AESOP Congress in Toronto 1996, based on a paper by Ingrid Lundahl and also to the General Assembly of AESOP. The Survey will be printed as an AESOP report and distributed to the members in the autumn 1996.

The Working Group which already was familiar with the content of the Survey when it met at the Congress, devoted its discussion to the continuation of its work. The issues discussed dealt i.a.

with: limitation or no limitation of the diverse planning field for doctoral theses, the need of common knowledge and improvement of information by means of a manual, bibliography, directory or a journal, meetings of the teachers for discussion of common problems.

Since the most important part of the Group's programme now is completed the Group has to develop a new programme. It was suggested that this may be concerned with international co-operation in projects or programmes between university departments; perhaps oriented to studies on the effects of EU programmes on the role of planning and funded by EU. It was decided that the chair and secretary should investigate the interest in such a co-operation and present a draft programme to the Group for discussion at the next AESOP Congress in Nijmegen 1997.

Members in Council of Representatives

Dieter Boekemann

Technische Universität Wien
Regional Science Institute
Karlsplatz 13
1040 Wien
Austria

Dimiter Dimitrov

Department of Urban Planning
University of Architecture, Civil
Engineering & Geodesy
Christo Smirnenski Boulevard No. 1
1421 Sofia
Bulgaria

Hans Mammen

University of Aarhus
School of Architecture
Department of Urban Planning
Noerreport 20
8000 Aarhus C
Denmark

Alain Motte

Université d'Aix Marseille III
Institut d'Aménagement Regional
18, Rue de l'Opera
13100 Aix en Provence
France

Gyula Horvath

Janus Pannoniusunit
Centre for Regional Studies
PARNovéde u. 22, PE 199
7601 Pécs
Hungary

Vittorio Borachia

Politecnico di Milano
Indirizzo Urbanistico
Dipartimento Scienze del Territorio
Via Bonardi 3
20133 Milano
Italy

Chingiz Ismailov

Azerbaijan University
Department of International
Relations
Prospekt Narimarov 203 fl.18
370065 Baku
Azerbaijan Republic

Karel Schmeidler

Brno Technical University
Faculty of Architecture
Urban Design and Planning Institute
Porici 5
Cz 639 00 Brno
Czech Republic

Hilkka Lehtonen

Helsinki University of Technology
Centre for Urban & Regional Studies
Otakaari 1
02150 Espoo
Finland

Carl-Heinz David

Universität Dortmund
Fakultät Raumplanung
Aug. Schmidtstrasse 6, Postfach 50
05 00
D 44221 Dortmund 50
Germany

Michael Bannon

University College Dublin
Department of Urban and Regional
Planning
Richview, Clonskeagh
Dublin 14
Ireland

Dino Borri

Università di Bari
SPPUT, Istituto Architettura &
Urbanistica
Via Re David 200 no 4
I-70125 Bari
Italy

G. Allaert

Université Gent
Faculteit Toegepaste
Wetenschappen
Vakgroep Ruimtelijke Planning
Krijgslaan 281, gebouw S8
9000 Gent
Belgium

Finn Kjaersdamm

University of Aalborg
Institute of Development and
Planning
Fibigerstraede 11
9220 Aalborg O
Denmark

Philippe Mathis

Université de Tours
Centre d'Etudes Supérieures
d'Aménagement
Parc de Grandmont
37200 Tours
France

Bernd Streich

Universität Kaiserslautern
Fachbereich Architektur/Raum- und
Umweltplanung/Bauingenieurwesen
Postfach 30 49
D 67653 Kaiserslautern
Germany

Full Corresponding member

Rachelle Alterman

Faculty of Architecture
Urban and Regional Planning
Program
Technion
32000 Haifa
Israel

Jekabs Trusins

Riga Technical University
Faculty of Architecture

16 Azenes str
Riga LV 1048
Latvia

Vytautas Dicius

Vilnius Technical University
Faculty of Architecture
Sauletkio 11
232054 Vilnius
Lithuania

Edwin Mintoff

University of Malta
Faculty of Architecture and Civil
Engineering
Msida
Malta-town
Malta

Ton Kreukels

University of Utrecht
Faculteit der Ruimtelijke
Wetenschappen
G&P/Planologie
Heidelberglaan 2
NL-3584 CS Utrecht
Netherlands

Henk Voogd

University of Groningen
Faculty of Spatial Sciences
Department of Urban & Regional
Planning
PO Box 800
NL-9700 AV Groningen
Netherlands

Sigmund Asmervik

Agricultural University of Norway
Department of Land use and
landscape planning
P.O. Box 5029
N-1432 Aas
Norway

Arild Holt-Jensen

University of Bergen
Department of Geography
Helleveien 30
N-5035 Bergen-Sandviken
Norway

Ewa Maluszynska

University of Economics Poznan
Department of Spatial &
Environmental Economics
Al. Niepodleglosci 10
60-967 Poznan
Poland

Tadeusz Marszal

Uniwersytet Lodzki
Department of Environmental
Management & Spatial Policy
Al. Kosciuski 21
90 418 Lodz
Poland

Artur Da Rosa Pires

Universidade de Aveiro
Departamento de Ambiente e
Ordenamento
Campo Universitario
P-3810 Aveiro
Portugal

Manuel Fernandes de Sa

Universidade do Porto
Faculdade de Arquitectura
Rua do Golgota 215
4100 Porto
Portugal

Maros Finka

Slovak Technical University
Faculty of Architecture
Nam Slobody 19
SL-81245 Bratislava
Slovakia

Andrej Pogacnik

University of Ljubljana
Faculty of Architecture, Engineering
& Geodesy
Dept of Town & Reg Planning
Jamova c.2
61000 Ljubljana
Slovenia

Kristina Nilsson

University of Karlskrona/Ronneby
Department of Physical Planning and
building construction
Grasvik, Valhallavagen
371 79 Karlskrona
Sweden

Lennart Tonell

Stockholm University
Department of Human Geography
School of planning
106 91 Stockholm
Sweden

Rosmarie Müller

Ingenieurschule Interkantonales
Technikum Rapperswil
Abteilung für Siedlungsplanung
Oberseestrasse 10
CH-8640 Rapperswil
Switzerland

Willy Schmid

ORL-Institut, ETH
Hoenggerberg
8093 Zurich
Switzerland

Gönül Tankut

Middle East Technical University
Faculty of Architecture
Department of City and Regional
Planning
Middle East Technical University
Ankara
Turkey

Rifki Aslan / A. Ökten

Yildiz Universitesi
Mimarlik Fakültesi - Sehir ve
Bölge Planlama
80750 Istanbul
Turkey

Vince Nadin

University of the West of England
Oldbury Court Road Fishponds
Bristol BS 16 2JT
United Kingdom

Mike Thomas

Oxford Brookes University
School of Planning
Headington
Oxford OX3 0BP
United Kingdom

ABOUT AESOP

The Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) was established in 1987. The aim of the organisation is to articulate a European dimension within planning education as part of the process of institutional co-operation and integration within Europe, also keeping in mind the prospect of increasing professional mobility within Europe. The ambition is to foster and enrich higher education in planning across Europe by mutual support, including facilitating dialogue, exchange visits and spread of information and to defend the cause of expanding and enhancing higher education in planning.

The key event of AESOP is the annual congress which brings together the broad spectrum of the work of member schools. It incorporates presentations and discussions of papers on planning, planning-related and planning-education subjects. Congresses also include local study visits, business meetings and meetings of special interest groups.

In addition to the traditional congress a new annual AESOP Seminar will be organized. The Seminar will have a clearly delineated theme, and be modelled on an informal workshop style. The seminar will focus in depth on a topic, be limited in size and be relevant to AESOP's concerns with developing understanding and education in the planning field within Europe. The first seminar will be held in 1997.

The AESOP Newsletter is published twice per year and contains information about member-schools, working groups, office-bearers and other representatives. It also provides news of our corporate activities. Information about AESOP is also given in AESOP News Items which are distributed via e-mail. Information about AESOP is also available on the World Wide Web (WWW). The URL is:

<http://regplan.kth.se/aesop/>

For additional information about AESOP contact the
Secretary General Göran Cars
Royal Institute of Technology
Department of Infrastructure and Planning
100 44 Stockholm, Sweden
Tel: 46+8 790 7938
Fax: 46+8 790 67 61
E-mail: cars@regplan.kth.se