



# PATHS ARE MADE BY WALKING - PLANNING IN A WORLD OF CHANGE

## 28th AESOP Congress 2014 Application

by  
**TU Dortmund University**  
**School of Spatial Planning**

in cooperation with  
**ILS – Research Institute for**  
**Regional and Urban Development**



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## 1. THE TOPIC

As a systematic place-based approach spatial planning has the task to formulate decision premises for future actions that meet economic, environmental, social and physical needs of society. Planning also provides strategies for implementing the plans and it offers techniques to manage conflicts by coordinating interests of various stakeholders. In doing so spatial planning is always place-bound and time-bound. Promoting and managing spatial change is a highly complex task which has to take account of a wide variety of locally specific factors ranging from unique development paths of certain places to the changing values of actors involved.

Planning is not implementation, just as design is not construction. Yet, planning and implementation are closely related and intertwined. Plan implementation in the face of complexity, uncertainty and conflicts is a key challenge for meaningful spatial planning to the benefit of the society.

The congress theme

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reflects this challenge. It is based on a quote often attributed to two famous European authors, the Spanish poet Antonio Machado and the Bohemian novelist Franz Kafka. Here, it refers to the ambiguous nature of spatial planning and some of its fundamental challenges:

- the strained relation of planning and implementation,
- the need to step off the beaten tracks and strike new paths,
- the limits of planning and foresight,
- the usefulness of looking back, and
- the guiding value of experiences.

Spatial planning is always a work-in-progress, an ongoing effort to serve the common good. Planning inherently entails planting the feet firmly on uncertain ground without a ready-made map of the predetermined path to follow. Like pioneers, planners from all over Europe have set foot upon different paths. The 28th AESOP Congress 2014 in Dortmund aims to highlight and illustrate the multiplicity and diversity of paths planners have taken in the past and it offers a platform to discuss new directions for spatial planning beyond the beaten tracks.



## 2. THE LOCATION

### Attractiveness of Dortmund from the perspective of planners

Traditionally famous for coal and steel, football and beer, Dortmund has become one of the largest economic hubs in North-Rhine Westphalia and an important high-tech location with 580.000 inhabitants. It is the biggest city in one of the five largest agglomerations in Europe, the Ruhr region, which is today home to 5.2 million residents.

Germany's largest industrial region consists of 11 major cities (Dortmund, Essen, Duisburg, Bochum, and others) and four counties with 42 smaller communities on a total area of 4,435 km<sup>2</sup>. Traditionally it has no regional capital and only a weak regional administration. Largely based on the industrial mono-structure of coal and steel production it was once the powerhouse of the German economy and the centre of the German economic miracle of the 1950s and 1960s.



In the 1970s the Ruhr went into a structural crisis with persistently high unemployment up to 20%. German coal was no longer competitive and likewise the steel industry went into sharp decline, as its prices were undercut by lower-cost suppliers from overseas. Many cultural, environmental and structural legacies of the past were hindering the structural change and various attempts to move into service industries and high technology.

Over the past twenty years Dortmund, like the whole region, has transformed itself from a coal and steel industrial site to a service and knowledge-based metropolis. The Ruhr became a much-appraised model for transition regions. It is an excellent laboratory to learn about the challenges and strategies of transforming and revitalizing a post-industrial region. The IBA Emscher Park strategy (1989-1999) is known worldwide as a particular innovative planning practice. The unique strategy of re-imaging and revitalizing the industrial landscape has raised considerable interest among planners and policy makers in Europe, America and Asia.





Thus, the Ruhr region is a unique and fascinating field of study for spatial planners. The former heartland of industrial Germany and prototype of an old industrial region has become a model for regional restructuring and innovative planning approaches. Nowhere else in Europe or beyond that many factory premises, mine buildings and industrial properties have been transformed into museums, recreational parks and fascinating event venues. The whole region with its 53 municipalities converted the industrial legacy of the Ruhr into innovative and high quality offers in arts and culture. Culmination of this development was the selection of the Ruhr as 'European Capital of Culture' in 2010 with the main theme "Change through Culture - Culture through Change". To name just a few examples, the Zollverein World Heritage Site in Essen, the Duisburg-Nord Landscape Park, the Gasometer in Oberhausen, the Jahrhunderthalle in Bochum and the Zollern II/IV mine have all been preserved and, together with many other locations, constitute the Industrial Heritage Trail. Today these preserved features of the industrial heritage are some of the main attractions in the Ruhr, a "metropolis in the making".

In and around Dortmund many places with historical links to the Hanseatic League time or monuments of the industrialization in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century with its coal mining and heavy steel industry facilities can be found. After the long struggle with extensive structural changes in the Ruhr region, Dortmund nowadays is characterized by new trends, for instance emerging new technologies facilitated by TU Dortmund University, creation of industrial landscape parks, and the revitalization of the river Emscher back to its natural streaming water character within a regional green belt over a stretch of 80 km. As a 5 billion € project the latter is the world's largest land recultivation project that has been going on for twenty years now. The Emscher that has been used as an open sewer for more than a hundred years since the beginning of the industrial revolution has been restored as a verdant natural riverscape with recreational value and new sites for art and cultural events. Furthermore the "Dortmund U", a former brewery, became a new incubator for the creative economy.



## Accessibility and accommodation capacity of Dortmund

### Accessibility

Dortmund is situated centrally in Europe in the eastern part of the Ruhr agglomeration. It is surrounded by a dense motorway network that provides excellent road connections.

The city's regional airport connects Dortmund with important German and European centres. There is an hourly public transport connection from the airport to the city centre, which takes approximately 25 minutes. An additional route runs directly to TU Dortmund University campus. The international airports of Düsseldorf, Cologne / Bonn, and Frankfurt are also close to the Ruhr region and provide regular train connections to Dortmund that take 45 min. from Düsseldorf, 90 min. from Cologne, and 130 min. from Frankfurt.



The Dortmund Hauptbahnhof (central station) is one of the most important rail hubs in Germany. Besides the hourly high speed train (ICE) connections in western (Cologne), northern (Hamburg) as well as eastern (Berlin) directions and the two-hourly ICE connections in southern direction (Frankfurt, Munich), numerous regional trains meet here and therefore ensure excellent connections to the region around Dortmund. A commuter train to TU Dortmund University campus is running from here every 20 minutes. The city centre is only a few minutes' walk from the Dortmund Hauptbahnhof.

### Accommodation

About 5,500 hotel beds in every price range are available in the City of Dortmund. International hotel chains can be found, as well as private houses. There are also numerous inns, guest houses, and inexpensive hostels in the city centre. More accommodation facilities can be found in the City of Bochum, whose centre is located less than a 20 minutes ride by commuter train from TU Dortmund campus.

In cooperation with the Dortmund Tourism Website the congress organizers will provide information about accommodation and offer an easy to use online service for booking hotel rooms in and around Dortmund with special rates for congress participants.

### **3. THE CANDIDATES**

#### **Reasons for which TU Dortmund and ILS wish to organize the event**

AESOP was born 25 years ago on a snowy weekend at Schloss Cappenberg on the northern edge of Dortmund in January 1987. By the invitation of Klaus Kunzmann, Professor at the Dortmund School of Planning, a group of distinguished planning scholars started in Dortmund a networking project that became a tremendous success story for spatial planning in Europe. From the very beginning, the Dortmund School of Spatial Planning and many of its members were strongly committed to AESOP. Klaus Kunzmann served as the first AESOP President until 1990. For celebrating its Silver Jubilee in presence of all AESOP Presidents and almost all Secretaries General AESOP returned to Schloss Cappenberg on the 28th January 2012.

Considering this background, it seems astonishing that since its early days in the 1980s there has never been an annual AESOP Congress in Germany. TU Dortmund wishes to invite the European planning community to its birth place. A place that has fundamentally changed since 1987 and that has become a much-appraised model for transition regions - a region that has broken new ground in spatial planning.

In 2014 – 25 years after the political changes in Central and Eastern Europe and the fall of the Berlin Wall - Europe will celebrate another Silver Jubilee. Since a quarter of a century new paths were made by planners all over Europe working on 'integrating' the planning academy in Europe. Dortmund is a perfect place for the AESOP family to look back on 25 years of European integration and to assess it from a planning point of view.

#### **Profile of TU Dortmund School of Spatial Planning**

The Dortmund School of Spatial Planning pursues an interdisciplinary approach to planning integrating all spatial levels. It was founded in 1969 as the first institution of this type in Germany. In terms of number of students and the wide range of subjects and disciplines, it is currently the biggest educational facility for spatial planners in Europe. Since 1975, more than 3,000 students have graduated from the School.

Fourteen departments represent a broad range of scientific activities from European Planning Cultures, Urban and Regional Planning to Sectoral Planning issues like such as Landscape Planning or Transportation Planning. Central research facilities of the School of Spatial Planning are the Institute of Spatial Planning (IRPUD), founded in 1974, and the International Spatial Planning Centre (ISPC), founded in 2008. They integrate the different disciplines by interdisciplinary research projects and services.

***Departments of TU Dortmund, School of Spatial Planning***

<b><i>Planning Basics</i></b>	<b><i>Sectoral Planning</i></b>	<b><i>Integrated Planning</i></b>
Urban and Regional Sociology <b>Prof. Dr. Susanne Frank</b>	Landscape Ecology and Landscape Planning <b>Prof. Dr. Dietwald Gruehn</b>	Land Policy, Land Management, Municipal Geoinformation <b>Prof. Dr. Benjamin Davy</b>
Spatial Information Management and Modelling <b>Prof. Dr. Nguyen Xuan Thinh</b>	Real Estate Development <b>Prof. Dr. Michael Nadler</b>	Spatial Planning and Planning Theory <b>Prof. Dr. Thorsten Wiechmann</b>
Spatial Planning and Environmental Law <b>Prof. Dr. Klaus Joachim Grigoleit</b>	Supply and Disposal Systems in Spatial Planning <b>Prof. Dr. Hans-Peter Tietz</b>	Urban and Regional Planning <b>Prof. Dr. Sabine Baumgart</b>
Regional and Urban Economics <b>Prof. Dr. Franz-Josef Bade</b>	Transport Planning <b>Prof. Dr. Christian Holz-Rau</b>	Urban Design <b>Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Christa Reicher</b>
	European Planning Cultures <b>Dr. Frank Othengrafen</b>	
	Spatial Planning in Developing Countries <b>Prof. Dr. Einhard Schmidt-Kallert</b>	

Since its early days, the Dortmund School of Spatial Planning has been committed to excellence in planning research and teaching. The school is not only a founding member of AESOP; it has also strong ties to universities in North and Latin America as well as Africa and Asia.

In education, it combines practice orientation with a strong academic basis. Distinct features of Dortmund's planning curriculum are the planning studios where small teams of students are working independently on practical planning issues. Currently, the Dortmund School of Spatial Planning awards a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in "Spatial Planning" as well as Master's degree in "Spatial Planning for Regions in Growing Economies (SPRING)".





## Profile of ILS Dortmund

The ILS – Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development is a non-university research institute for the spatial sciences. Under the principal theme of “New Urbanisation Processes in the European Context and the Urban Future” the ILS is committed to analysing the causes and consequences of new urbanisation processes and concepts for sustainable development, adopting an interdisciplinary and internationally comparative perspective. Within this framework the ILS concentrates its research on two main research topics, namely “urban development and mobility” and “urban development and urban design”. The Institute’s activities cover the entire spectrum ranging from theory- and concept-driven fundamental research (with a strong empirical orientation) to application-oriented and academically underpinned consultancy services.

Since 2008 the ILS is a non-profit limited liability company, which has taken on the core research competences of the former ILS NRW, founded 1971. The sole shareholder of the ILS today is the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, represented by the Ministry for Economic Affairs, Energy, Building, Housing and Transport. Since 2008, the ILS is associated member of the Leibniz Association – a network of 86 scientifically, legally and economically independent research institutes and scientific service facilities. ILS research activities are organised around 5 interdisciplinary research areas, which represent the most important organisational units within the Institute. The team of the section “Information and communication on the spatial sciences” (known as R.I.K.) provide services, which are essential both for the Institute’s research activities and for external presentation to the general public, especially event management.

The Institute regards itself as a hub linking a diverse array of networks in the fields of spatial and built environment research in North Rhine-Westphalia, but also at the national and European levels, especially through its partnerships with universities and other renowned research bodies. Focusing its research on urbanization processes in Europe, the ILS is actively involved in international research networks and carries out joint research projects with partners from different countries, often funded by EU-programs. Since 2011 the ILS is affiliated member of AESOP. On regional scale the close and long-lasting cooperation with the Dortmund School of Spatial Planning is of special importance. In summer 2003 a formal co-operation agreement between the two institutions was concluded and substantive points of contact have been agreed for effective co-operation. Subsequently the skills and resources have been bundled in a variety of research groups, projects and forums.

## Organizational and Financial Capacity

The Dortmund School of Spatial Planning employs 14 professors and more than 80 scientific staff members (35 permanent full time equivalents with additional third-party funded employees). The school is headed by the dean, currently Professor Christa Reicher. Strategic decisions are made by the faculty board, which is composed of elected professors (6), staff members (3), and students (2).

The ILS employs about 50 scientists (35 full time equivalents), 20 administrative staff members and numerous student assistants. ILS Managing Director of Research, Professor Rainer Danielzyk, is head of the Institute together with the Commercial Managing Director, Dr. Claudia Burger. The steering group consists of the two managing directors, the heads of five research areas, R.I.K. and the research coordination unit. Furthermore, external advice is provided by the Scientific Advisory Board, which is composed by eminent academics of high international standing, and the User Advisory Council, consisting of nationwide distinguished personalities in the field of urban development.

The total annual budget of the Dortmund School of Spatial Planning amounts to 4.24 million € (state funding without third-party funds). The ILS total annual budget amounts to 4 million € funded by the State of North Rhine-Westphalia plus additional third-party funding. The financial capability of both applicants allows the absorption of preparatory cost in advance and to bear the financial risk that is associated with the organization of major congresses. At this stage of the organization process, fund raising and sponsoring acquisition for the Congress has only recently started. As local hosts of the 2014 AESOP Conference, the Dortmund School of Planning and the ILS will be happy to make the usual contribution to AESOP's budget.

Both, the Dortmund School of Spatial Planning and the ILS, have successfully demonstrated their capacity to host major congresses in the past. Experiences of the Dortmund School of Spatial Planning include for example the 42<sup>nd</sup> congress of the European Regional Science Association (ERSA) in 2002, the Fourth International Conference on Planning, Law, and Property Rights in 2010, and the Dortmund Conference on Spatial and Planning Research 2012, which in future will take place every two years. The ILS is likewise experienced in hosting conferences of different scale. Regularly, the event management team of R.I.K. organizes the annual conferences for planners in North-Rhine Westphalia (250 participants). Further recent examples of major events are: (1) 'Metropolitan Discourse – Quality of Life in the Ruhr Area' in February 2012 in Essen (200 participants); (2) Conference 'Spatial Management of retail development' in January 2012 (150 participants); (3) Conference 'Ruhr.2011: From the Capital of Culture to the Metropolis of Culture' in September 2011 (120 participants).

## Organizational matters

Central venue of the AESOP Congress 2014 is the TU Dortmund Campus, three stops from Dortmund main station by suburban train. The buildings of the Dortmund School of Spatial Planning have more than 5,000 m<sup>2</sup> floor space, thereof approx. 2.900 m<sup>2</sup> office space and 1.500 m<sup>2</sup> lecture and seminar rooms, including 2 lecture rooms (120 / 160 seats), 15 seminar rooms (20 to 40 seats), and four rooms with PC pools. The central lecture building next to the school provides five additional lecture rooms with 74 to 338 seats. Plenary sessions of the AESOP congress will be held on campus in the main auditorium with 735 seats. Social events like the Welcome Reception and the Congress Dinner will take place at historic sites in the city centre.

As usual, the AESOP Congress will take place in the first half of July, preferably in the 28<sup>th</sup> week from July 9 to July 13. In Germany, similar to some other countries, the courses in the summer term last until mid-July. To facilitate the congress organization and allow the full participation of staff members as well as students the School of Spatial Planning already decided that the congress week will be lecture free. This will also guarantee full access to the school premises.

The Dortmund School of Planning will offer a PhD workshop, organized by Professor Ben Davy, and invite 30 PhD students to three days of creativity and productivity.

The track structure of the AESOP Annual Congresses with twelve to fifteen well established tracks will be continued in the proven way. In addition, the host institutions would like to propose a special congress theme related track on 'Path-dependency and change management in spatial planning'.

The Local Host Committee will consist of seven members from TU Dortmund and ILS:

- Prof. Dr. Sabine Baumgart
- Prof. Dr. Rainer Danielzyk
- Prof. Dr. Ben Davy
- Prof. Dr. Susanne Frank
- Prof. Dr. Dietwald Gruehn
- Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Christa Reicher
- Prof. Dr. Thorsten Wiechmann (Chair)

All 14 professors from the School of Spatial Planning (see table on page 6) and the former AESOP president Prof. Dr. Klaus Kunzmann as well as Prof. Dr. Hans Heinrich Blotevogel, Vice President of the Academy for Spatial Research and Planning, will be members of the Local Scientific Advisory Committee. In addition it is envisaged to invite selected outstanding personalities in the field of Spatial Planning and Planning Education in Europe to the Local Scientific Advisory Committee.