



ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF EUROPEAN SCHOOLS OF PLANNING 2014

9 July - 13 July, 2014

UTRECHT / DELFT, THE NETHERLANDS

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INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

With this application we wish to tender our candidacy for the organisation of the AESOP Conference of July 2014. This bid for the AESOP Annual Conference 2014 concerns a joint application from

- University of Utrecht, Department of Human Geography and Spatial Planning; and
- Delft University of Technology, Department of Urbanism.

The two universities have complementary profiles in relation to planning research and education, combining socio-geography and institutional expertise (Utrecht), and urbanism, regional design and governance (Delft). Both university departments have very strong international networks.

The proposal offers the combined strengths of two institutions with a very large and experienced body of academic planners together with the simplicity of an easily accessible one-site conference venue including nearby accommodation facilities. The proposal is made in co-operation with the professional conference organisers, Congrex which has extensive successful experiences. The combined team offers certainty that the conference will be carefully managed and delivered to offer a stimulating and enjoyable experience for participants.

The main conference will be held completely at the Utrecht University campus to limit the need to travel and avoid problems of coordination.



Delft University of Technology will host the PhD workshop preceding the conference and will host visitors as part of the associated study tours. It is also proposed to hold a free-standing

one day workshop at the end of the AESOP conference bringing together interested AESOP members with practitioner organisations, to be confirmed.

This combination has resulted in a proposed theme that will accommodate a wide range of interests:

THE REASON TO HOST THE EVENT

The Netherlands has been recognised for many years as having great experience in the theory and practice of spatial planning in its many forms. There continues to be a very high international interest in planning in the Netherlands. However, spatial planning in many places, and particularly in the Netherlands, is currently facing a fundamental transition. This is the challenge to translate the more or less theoretical considerations and arguments with respect to actor oriented, collaborative, relational, governance and (co)evolutionary approaches towards effective, democratic and resilient planning practices. Given the path dependency of spatial planning, it is not a simple thing to do. Nevertheless, at these times some scattered, cautious initiatives have

SPATIAL PLANNING – FROM CONTROL TO CO-EVOLUTION –

emerged with regard to for instance, 'integrated care communities, the energy transition, water management, main/brainport planning 2.0 and resilient regional development practices. These practices will have gained more maturity by 2014.

The last time that an AESOP conference was held in the Netherlands was more than 15 years ago (Nijmegen 1997). Since then, the prominent and internationally-praised Dutch planning system has undergone radical changes. Discussing the outcomes of those changes will be a major focus of the conference.

The new Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment has already lent its support to this proposal. Additional support will come from the Randstad provinces (South-Holland, North Holland, Utrecht and

Flevoland), which have recently gained more responsibilities for spatial planning from the national planning authority.

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Utrecht University and the Technical University Delft have established a local organizing committee composed of six highly motivated professors and researchers from the organising schools.

- Prof.dr.ir. Luuk Boelens (University of Utrecht)
Extraordinary professor, holding the chair of Scientific application in Spatial planning of the ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, acting director of Urban Unlimited
- Prof. Vincent Nadin (Technical University Delft)
Professor of Spatial planning and strategy, core chair in the Faculty of Architecture concerned with knowledge about the formulation, implementation and evaluation of strategic planning tools.
- Prof.dr. Tejo Spit
Professor of Spatial Planning University of Utrecht, core chair the Department of Human Geography and Spatial Planning in the faculty of Geosciences
- Prof.dr. Wil Zonneveld
full professor Planning TU Delft and program leader of the OTB 'Urban Studies' research group
- Dr. Thomas Hartmann
Post doc researcher at the Utrecht University
- Dr. Dominic Stead
Senior Researcher TUDelft and OTB

COLLABORATION AND SUPPORT

Our candidacy for hosting the AESOP 2014 is supported by the new Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment of which the national spatial planning bureau is at this moment one specific Department. Additional support will be given by the Randstad provinces (South-Holland, North Holland, Utrecht and Flevoland), which have gained major spatial planning responsibilities from the national planning authority. Other local support has been announced by the Netherlands Board of Tourism & Conventions and the Utrecht Convention Bureau.

CONFERENCE THEME AND MOTTO

The proposed theme – **spatial planning – from control to co-evolution** – examines the transition of spatial planning from an emphasis on the technocratic control of urban development to the collaborative shaping of territorial co-evolution. Drawing on theories from biology, evolutionary sociology, transition management and economics, coevolution refers to robust and resilient spatial assemblages through a co-evolutionary process of different actors and intermediates, according to general use-maximisation principles and within specific and evolving institutional settings. In this regard, local characteristics, the legacy of former experiences in interaction with a natural selection of ‘give and take’, and variation in evolving actant-networks play a dominant role. But at the same time these aspects co-evolve with a more generic, ethical and representational planning, which ensures legal certainty for the weaker party, avoiding inequality and environmental burdens. They may emerge not from solutions imposed from the outside-in or top-down, but evolve from bottom-up or inside-out. A central element of the conference will be to consider the extent to which planning models and doctrines in education and practice have really addressed the challenge of co-evolution.

The theme is inspired by developments in both the theory and practice of spatial planning and related disciplines such as economic geography and political science. From the 1980s planning literature has increasingly switched from technocratic and control-centred ideas about planning to engage with the increasing complexity of socio-spatial systems. Fresh and novel perspectives on planning have emerged from theories of spatial complexity, self-organisation, actor-oriented and collaborative governance, relational space and other positions. They have addressed the increasing fragmentation of spatial development and society in a context of climate change risks and the need for more socio-economic resilient developments; the retreat and decentralisation of the state; and the overriding challenge of integrated governance coordinating disparate policy actors

across territorial boundaries. The current Dutch national administration recently dropped its primary focus on the governance of urban development and in stead seeks to stimulate economic development while the bulk of the more classic planning agenda is handed over to lower levels of government. This results in planners struggling with finding a new position in the current era of (post-) financial and economic crises.

Many questions are raised about the competence and expertise of planners, forms of planning that can mediate relations between state, market and civil society, and the means to assure accountability. The outcome of these new perspectives has been a reorientation of much of the academic discourse repositioning planning practice away from a technical science concerned with fixed plan and decision making within the government domain and its set boundaries and scales of action. Instead, planning is recognised to be dealing with a much more uncertain world requiring a combination of technical and political approaches, the creation of new institutional or governance settings, and a wider portfolio of tools beyond ‘the plan’.

The headline **-spatial planning from control to co-evolution-** emphasises the transition that has or is taking place in planning theory, planning practice and planning education. In much of the world there have been major steps in the evolution of planning education and practice in response to more complex conditions. In Europe, approaches to spatial planning based solely in the traditions of urbanism or land use regulation or economic development are also now seeking to achieve more strategic and integrated approaches. These developments are sometimes matched in planning curricula.

But this evolution is by no means universal. The technocratic view of planning and its rigid zoning plans divorced from wider stakeholder interests, remain the dominant conception of planning in much practice and teaching in Europe and elsewhere. We propose to give a

special emphasis to comparative studies within Europe and with the rest of the world to investigate the extent to which the evolution of theory and practice has taken place. We are particularly interested in sharing European experiences with participants from other continents.

The theme combines attention to theoretical developments and knowledge of planning practice and would therefore benefit from interaction between a wider range of knowledge domains. The universities of Utrecht and Delft are exploring the potential of organising a separate free-standing one-day workshop at the end of the conference which is devoted to bringing the academic and practice domains together. This is not part of the current proposal and would not form part of the contract with AESOP. We will be discussing this possibility with ISOCARP, INTA, IFHP and others.

The theme will accommodate the list of tracks that AESOP congress participants will expect to see and the needs of AESOP’s special theme groups. It will also provide opportunities for sharing European experiences with those outside Europe, especially in Asia, Africa and Latin America. We feel that this approach would complement the strong relationships that AESOP already has through joint congresses with the US. The Utrecht-Delft proposal gives special emphasis in tracks to international comparative planning and policy transfer. We would also like to emphasise other issues that are particularly pertinent in the current context in the Netherlands including:

- linking public policy and urban design professions and approaches to spatial planning;
- urbanisation and planning in delta regions;
- spatial planning and metropolitan governance in complex networked regions like the Randstad;
- water management and the risks associated with climate change;
- regional development and the role of universities; and
- the role of the heritage and the historic core in planning.

ORGANIZING SCHOOLS

Although the annual AESOP Congress will be organised by both the Utrecht and Delft departments the main conference will be concentrated at one venue – the Utrecht campus. Related activities will be divided between venues on the separate locations. The University of Utrecht will therefore house the actual AESOP Congress itself. The Delft University of Technology would house one track that is particularly relevant to its interests, which would be combined with a visit to the Architecture Faculty. TU Delft would also be pleased to host the PhD workshop preceding the annual conference, and it offers to organise the AESOP Young Academics Network conference in 2014.

THE UNIVERSITY OF UTRECHT



The University of Utrecht is a globally leading university ranked 11th in Europe, 1st in the Netherlands and 50th in the world according to the Shanghai Ranking of World Universities. It has around 30,000 students, 5,500 scientific employees and an annual turnover of around €750 million. The Faculty of Geosciences is the largest academic institute for Geosciences in the Netherlands, with some 2,200 students on five bachelors and nineteen

master's degree courses. It has a leading international position in academic research into the earth sciences, sustainability, migration and urbanisation. In cooperation with the city and province of Utrecht the Faculty is seeking to present the Utrecht region as a centre of excellence on sustainable environmental and spatial planning in the

broadest 'people, planet, profit terms'. The mutual cross-fertilisation between, for instance, the evolutionary theories developed within the socio-economic disciplines, and the actor-relational approaches developed within the spatial planning disciplines, makes a significant research and educational contribution to providing integrated solutions for the complex challenges currently facing society.

DELFT UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Delft University of Technology has around 16,500 students, 2,700 scientific employees and an annual turnover of around €500 million.

The Faculty of Architecture is the largest academic institute for spatial design, engineering and building in the Netherlands, with some 3,000 students on three bachelors and five masters degree courses. With a core of leading international architects, planners and building technologists and prominent scholars, it strives to deliver students and PhD candidates to become high achievers in the international context, based on unrivalled and innovative research. The Department of Urbanism integrates urban design and landscape architecture with technical engineering and spatial planning. In order to address the great challenges of sustainable development in delta areas and metropolitan regions, it is committed to an open perspective, sharing expertise, research and education, both abroad and in the Netherlands.

Through these two organising schools, the AESOP Annual Congress 2014 will have a broad profile, which will be stressed furthermore by involving the regular organisations of ISOCARP, INTA, IFHP and others.



EXPERIENCE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

We have selected Congrex as Professional Congress Organizer (PCO) should Utrecht be granted the opportunity to host the AESOP 2014. Congrex is a solid international PCO, member of two international associations (IAPCO and ICCA), and partner of the Netherlands Board of Tourism & Conventions (NBTC) and the Utrecht Convention Bureau. Congrex has organized numerous large international conferences similar to AESOP, such as the Annual Event of the Community of European Management Schools 2010 in Rotterdam, the Work Experience Travel Market 2011 in Brussels and the World Youth and Student Travel Conference 2011 in Barcelona and the Annual Conference of European Academy of Management 2012.

Congrex will cooperate with the University of Utrecht and their Facilities Service Centre (FSC), which is responsible for the rental and/or organisation of representative areas and facilities for events and conferences. The FSC has experience with housing international conferences, symposia, meetings and events for groups of from 50 up to 1200 people, of which for instance the Annual congress of the Dutch Justice Departments, the International Congress of Social Neuroscience and the ESCP Spring Conference.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

The University of Utrecht houses within its central area (Educatorium, including attached Marinus Rupert Building and new Library Building) three big meeting rooms (ranging from 350-800 people), eight mid-sized meeting rooms (ranging from 100-300 people) and more than 40 small workshop rooms (ranging from 16-80 persons). All have standard AV equipment (computer, projector, screen, sound system etc.) built in. If necessary (for instance with regard to the opening or closing ceremonies) bigger venue rooms can also be reserved in the historic Academic Building of the University (up to 1000 people), or outside the University within or in walking distance of the inner-city area of Utrecht (up to even 10,000 people).



FINANCES

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Bidding for and organizing an international meeting or congress in the Netherlands is comparable with setting up a business, which has a predetermined life span: both require starting capital and equity to cover possible entrepreneurial risks. Costs which the Prefinancing and Guarantee Fund (VGF) can help you meet. The VGF is an initiative of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Association of the Dutch Convention Industry (VNC) and the Netherlands Board of Tourism & Conventions (NBTC).

The organising committee can apply for Prefinancing: starting capital loans to cover your initial costs, and/or Guarantee: riskbearing capital to insure against reduced attendance. Requests are subject to the approval of an advisory board. The steering committee is invited to consider this option

PREFINANCING

Interest-free loans are based on a provisional budget and liquidity forecast drawn up or approved by a PCO and must be backed by a redemption guarantee.

GUARANTEE FUND

A guarantee is based on a balanced budget, formulated or approved by an (in-house) PCO, its level being determined by the VGF, PCO and venue.

MAIN CONDITIONS

A conference must last two days minimum. Starting on the day of the first working meeting as stated in the programme.

A PCO must be in charge of the logistics, with the exception of certain meetings and conferences, which may employ a DMC or in-house PCO. Financial responsibility must be allocated to a separate non-profit foundation, which is to organize the conference.

A written application must be submitted at least one year before the starting date.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The annual budget of the Faculty of Geosciences of the University of Utrecht is approximately €40 million. The annual budget of the Department of Urbanism in the University of Delft is approximately €4.5 million. The organisers have the financial and organisational support from Congrex, who is willing to take financial responsibility for the event (i.e. carrying the risks in case it makes a loss, but earning part of the profit if there is any). The rectors and faculty deans of the two Universities concerned fully support this proposal. To express their commitment they have expressed their willingness to deliver the venue rooms for free.

INCENTIVE FUND UTRECHT

Utrecht offers an incentive fund for initiators of international association conferences which are related to the scientific, medical, economic, creative sector and would like to bring their European or global conference to Utrecht, the municipality of Utrecht is willing to offer its financial support. The incentive fund with a maximum of **€ 10.000** will be assigned when the AESOP 2014 congress will take place in Utrecht.

ESTIMATED BUDGET - AESOP 2014 (€)

					NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS		
INCOME					500	625	750
per delegate							
AESOP Members	Early	avg.	350	20%	35.000	43.750	52.500
	Normal	avg.	400	25%	50.000	62.500	75.000
Non-members fee	Early	avg.	450	9%	20.250	25.313	30.375
	Normal	avg.	525	14%	36.750	45.938	55.125
Accompanying persons	Early/normal	avg.	175	5%	4.375	5.469	6.563
Students	Early	avg.	175	10%	8.750	10.938	13.125
	Normal	avg.	225	6%	6.750	8.438	10.125
PhD Workshop	Early/normal	avg.	325	11%	17.875	22.344	26.813
Income registration					179.750	224.688	269.625
Subsidy Utrecht					10.000	10.000	10.000
Sponsoring & symposia					20.000	20.000	20.000
Socials (farewell dinner)		avg.	80	50%	20.000	25.000	30.000
Partner programme		avg.	150	10%	7.500	9.375	11.250
Total income					237.250	289.063	340.875
EXPENDITURE							
Catering package (lunches + coffee breaks)		avg.	25,00	per day	56.875	71.094	85.313
Signage and decoration					3.000	4.000	5.000
Socials (farewell dinner)		avg.	100	50%	25.000	31.250	37.500
Staff (management, hostess, security)					15.000	17.500	20.000
Dinner TC, AESOP ExCo and key notes					3.500	3.500	3.500
Scientific Program					18.000	20.000	22.000
Excursions					6.500	7.500	8.500
Young Academics Event					1.000	1.000	1.000
Speakers					8.000	8.000	8.000
Marketing & publicity					12.000	12.000	12.000
Printed matters					8.000	10.000	12.000
Partner programme		avg.	150	10%	7.500	9.375	11.250
Organising secretariat					30.000	34.000	38.000
Variable costs per participant*		avg.	50		25.000	31.250	37.500
Subtotal expenditure					219.375	260.469	301.563
Miscellaneous							
				5%	10.969	13.023	15.078
Inflation							
				2%	4.388	5.209	6.031
Contribution to AESOP	10% of the total registration income			10%	17.975	22.469	26.963
Total expenditure					234.731	278.702	322.672
RESULT AESOP 2014					2.519	10.361	18.203

Notes

*Variable costs per participant include registration handling, welcome reception and delegate bag

VAT and taxes are not included

Price level is based on 2012

Although the annual AESOP Congress will be organised by both the universities of Utrecht and Delft, the main conference will be in one venue – the Utrecht campus. Related activities will be divided between the two locations, including the associated PhD training event and some related study tours which will be organised to allow a visit to Delft.

UTRECHT

The City of Utrecht, with its inextricable combination of rich past and dynamic present, is a truly unique place. This 2000 year old city teems with a wide range of interesting museums and cultural events with programmes full of theatre, dance, art and more. Stroll down the quaint streets and along the canals in the Utrecht Museum Quarter and sample the pleasant, intimate atmosphere for which Utrecht is famous. 65.000 students represent the character of this lively city of creative young people. Welcome to Utrecht!

History

This city's rich history began about twenty centuries ago. In 47 A.D. the Romans built a fortress as part of reinforcements along the Rhine

where the Cathedral square (Domplein) is situated today. In the 7th century, when the English missionary Willibrord set himself up in that



old fort, a town began to develop. Utrecht then started to grow into an important city with considerable ecclesiastical power. On church feast days, churches, monasteries, convents and abbeys were full. Many traces of these buildings can be seen throughout the city.

Accessibility

Utrecht is conveniently located in the heart of the Netherlands on a crossroad of rails, roads and waterways.

- By plane: there is a direct train connection to Utrecht (30 minutes) from Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.
- By train: the Utrecht main railway station is a European train junction, where international trains from all over Europe arrive daily: www.nshighspeed.nl.
- By car: Utrecht is located 40 km southeast of Amsterdam, 125 km from Antwerp and 175 km from Brussels.

HOTELS

Congrex has blocked rooms in several hotels in the vicinity of the Utrecht University to assure available accommodation during AESOP 2014.

Hotel rooms have been blocked in the following hotels:

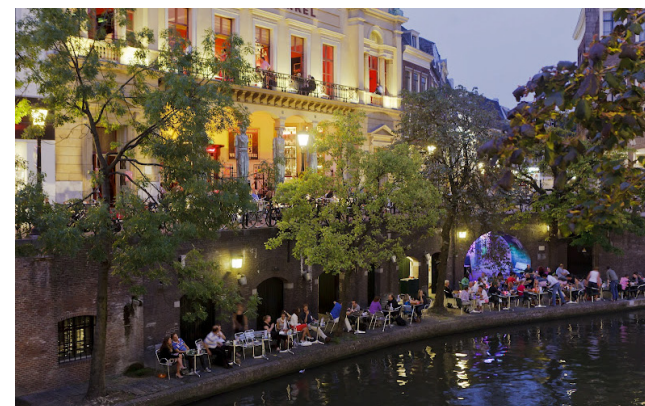
HOTEL	STARS	SINGLE RATES *	DOUBLE RATES*	09-JUL-14	10-JUL-14	11-JUL-14	12-JUL-14	13-JUL-14
Karel V	5	€ 191,50	€ 234,00	20	20	20	20	20
Apollo	4	€ 129,00	€ 139,00	40	40	40	40	40
NH Utrecht	4	€ 105,00	€ 115,00	130	130	130	130	130
NH Utrecht Centre	3	€ 115,00	€ 135,00	20	20	20	20	20
Park Plaza	4	€ 124,00	€ 139,00	55	55	55	55	55
TOTALS				265	265	265	265	265

* Rates are per room per night, including breakfast and VAT, but excluding city tax.

** Rates are based on prices of 2012. Future changes might be applied

If necessary, an additional 500 rooms could be reserved nearby the University of Utrecht in the three or four star range.

Within Utrecht you can travel on the modern and efficient public transport system or you can stroll around the city by foot as everything is located within short distances.



DELFT



Delft is one of the oldest cities in the Netherlands, which was already established as early as 1246. Delft is nicknamed ‘de Prinsenstad’ (the Princes’ City), because William of Orange, the first in the Dutch royal line, held court in Delft in the 16th century. Other famous historical figures who once lived and worked in Delft are the painter Johannes Vermeer and the inventor of the microscope, Antonie van Leeuwenhoek.

Delft has a beautiful, well-preserved, lively historical centre, with characteristic canals, ancient merchant houses, old churches and the splendid city hall, making it valued by tourists throughout the year. Visitors can choose from a variety of good-quality accommodations. Delft has approximately 96,000 inhabitants, including a significant share of students and employees of Delft University of Technology (TU Delft). The university has attracted a large number of technology-oriented companies and institutions.

History

Delft, a beautiful city with a historic city centre with old canals and ancient buildings, is more than 750 years old. The city owes its name to the word ‘delving’, digging the oldest canal, the Oude Delft. In 1246, Delft received its city franchise from the Dutch Earl Willem II. Delft flourished and new neighbourhoods were added. As early as 1355 the city reached the size it would remain until the 19th century.



Accessibility

Delft is 10 kilometres from The Hague; 15 kilometres from Rotterdam and 60 kilometres from Amsterdam. There are very good public transport connections to these cities and also with Schiphol Amsterdam airport. There is also an airport in Rotterdam, which is just 10 kilometres from Delft.

EXCURSIONS

In addition, both Universities will organise the excursions, and some of the supporting presentations. The two Universities are 70 kilometres (an hour’s drive) apart and both located in the Randstad metropolitan region (Delft in the west; Utrecht in the east). The two universities will organise several study tours in and around this area. Possible examples include:

- the specific characteristics of urbanisation and planning in global delta-regions;
- planning and design for coastal regions in the context of climate change risks;
- spatial planning and metropolitan governance in fragmented and polycentric regions;
- main- and brainport planning beyond the quantity driven plans and measures;
- co-evolutionary planning in inner-city areas and with regard to the growing number of elderly people;
- self-organisation with regard to spatial management and energy transition;
- the role of the heritage and historic core in planning;
- etc.

Final arrangements will be made approximately one year beforehand (depending on the maturity of the respective projects), but we are already deliberating if some of those supporting tracks could be given en route in (reserved) trains, boats or other public transport means, in order to be time-effective and get the idea of ‘what you discuss is what you see’.



Colophon

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