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Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP)  
Secretariat / Executive Committee

Dear colleagues,

It is my pleasure to submit this letter of interest and motivation for becoming AESOP's Event Officer and a member of the Executive Committee. My reasons for this application are twofold: a) serving the Association; and b) specific responsibility.

a) Serving the Association

My awareness and interaction with AESOP date back to the early 2000s when I attended the conference in Volos. Ever since then, even while employed in the United States (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), I kept abreast of the ongoing issues and attended meetings when other commitment and logistics permitted. Since joining University College Dublin and more specifically due to the involvement in organising and planning the joint AESOP/ACSP congress (which took place in July of 2013 in Dublin), I have had a much closer exposure and understanding of the inner workings of the Association. I find it to be effectively organised and run and continuously active in ensuring its relevance within the European context and globally. The many initiatives, including the most recent ones such as the InPlanning web platform and the Quality Recognition for the European Dimension in Planning Programmes, are the testament for the Association's interest in contributing to the improvements in both planning education and research. I would be honoured to serve the Association which I value and respect for its principles and actions.

b) Specific responsibility

While I would not presume personal qualifications and capacity to assume the leadership position of the AESOP's Event Officer, upon some reflection it has appeared me as a quite fitting responsibility to take as part of the Executive Committee. My initiation and involvement in organising the 2013 AESOP/ACSP Joint Congress was an extraordinary experience in many respects. The idea to submit a proposal to AESOP's Executive Committee and the Council of Representatives came from my deep sense of the importance of the interactions happening among people (in this case planning scholars) in the right places. I felt strongly that Dublin would fit this purpose and it did succeed not only in winning the bid, but in ultimately providing an excellent environment for productive exchanges of information, thoughts and ideas. The role of the AESOP Secretariat, two presidents and two event officers (as the responsibilities were transferred from the past to the new) was instrumental, along with the whole joint and local organising committees, the professional conference organiser (PCO) and the other colleagues and students involved. It was a matter of good planning, coordination and cooperation that led to the successful event, which I will always be proud of. Taking this positive experience forward and contributing the knowledge and insight into the event development process would be an asset that I would like to bring in service to the AESOP.

I would like to thank in advance for your kind consideration of this expression of interest.

Yours sincerely,

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Zorica Nedović-Budić  
Professor Chair of Spatial Planning

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