

Proposal for the *standard phase* of the AESOP Quality Recognition project for the European and International Dimension in Planning Programmes

According to the previous CoRep discussions and resolutions and on the base of broader discussion held during the HoS Madrid Workshop on the AESOP Quality Recognition for the European and International Dimension in Planning Programs (see report from the Madrid workshop, March 2015, in the Exco and CoRep repository), here are the proposals for moving from the pilot to the standard phase of the Project:

Due to the positive feedbacks of the CoRep members and participants at the Madrid Workshop, the QR WG proposes to move from the pilot to the standard phase of the by CoRep approved Quality Recognition Project. The application and the procedure is going to be arranged continuously based on the **single programs` recognition, initiated by the AESOP school members on voluntary base.**

Characteristics, aims and scope remain those already discussed and approved also considering the valuable feedbacks during the work of the pilot phase.

The recognition of the programs will be structured as follows:

- *A standard section certifying the quality of the planning program according to the European standards expressed by AESOP Core Curriculum.*
- *A specific section highlighting the quality of the programs specialisation and/or European and international dimension. In the application, schools will be invited to indicate this specialisation and demonstrate its quality.*

In addition to the issued written certificate awarded for the respective program, the related information included in the application form and the recognition itself will be displayed on the AESOP web, in order to promote a proactive and cooperative process of collective improvement of the quality in planning education among the AESOP member schools.

Next steps:

When the standard phase will be approved and established, a large number of applications may be expected, reflecting high quality of the programs among the AESOP member schools. It is suggested that in the standard phase, *a larger number of colleagues contribute to the assessment.*

The composition of the expert panels of the standard phase for each evaluation must combine the knowledge of the national context, an international dimension/footprint, and the relation with planning practice.

Accordingly, each application will be reviewed by a panel of:

- One academic from the same country
- One academic from another European country
- One practitioner, nominated in coordination with associations such as ECTP.

Consequently, it is proposed to ExCo and CoRep to establish the AESOP Quality Board (or Excellence in Education Board), becoming the AESOP responsible unit for undertaking – on a larger scale – the work already undertaken by the Working Group during the pilot phase (plus other already established commitments, such as reviewing on request of the Secretary General the proposals for becoming new AESOP members), according to the following guidelines.

Guidelines and proposal for the role and structure of the AESOP Quality Board / Excellence in Education Board

- The members of the newly established AESOP EEP have to be selected amongst people which have experience in preparing and running educational programs in planning in the last years (Ba, MA, PhD, etc), preferably with an experience in evaluation procedures.
- They will sign an ethical commitment.
- Country representatives shall address each AESOP Full Member in their country to nominate up to three members per country (the appointed members would preferably be not from the school which nominates them).

The Chair of AESOP QB / EEB shall be appointed by the Council and this person shall fulfill criteria of an expert described above and offer the experience with the quality assessment in the AESOP structures (best paper, best teaching practice, etc.)

The AESOP Quality Board (or EEB) as a group of experts will also be the guardians of the process.

Consequently, they will be collectively responsible for:

- harmonizing the evaluations, updating the list of specialisations.
- developing the evaluation process, keeping in mind that it needs to avoid time-consuming bureaucracies and remain simple.

The CoRep remains the decisional body with regard to any important evolutions in the quality recognition.