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THE EUROPEAN URBAN SUMMER SCHOOL (EUSS) AND THE YOUNG PLANNING PROFESSIONALS AWARD (YPPA)

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PREFACE

I **N** 2010, the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) launched a new annual event: the **European Urban Summer School (EUSS)** for young planning practitioners and academics across Europe to promote an exchange of ideas and foster a debate on important contemporary planning issues amongst representatives of the new generation of planning professionals.

Members of AESOP – European universities teaching planning – host the event and offer their teaching resources at the Summer Schools. Tutors do not get any fee for their work; the EUSS is not a commercial venture. It is meant as a platform of debate to be run on as low as possible fee for participants. On average some 20-30 young professionals attend the School.

The first EUSS was held in September 2010 at the **Wrocław University of Technology, Poland**. The topic was *Heritage and Sustainability*. Izabela Mironowicz was head of school. The proceedings of EUSS 2010 have been published in “*Urban Change. The Prospect of Transformation*” edited by Izabela Mironowicz and Judith Ryser (ISBN978-83-7493-570-8) and sponsored by UN-Habitat. The book is also available for downloading in pdf format from the AESOP website www.aesop-planning.eu and is ready for comments on the AESOP Digital Platform ‘InPlanning’.

For the second EUSS, hosted by **Lusófona University in Lisbon, Portugal** in September 2011, AESOP invited four of its international planning partner organisations to be involved in the Summer School: the European Council of Spatial Planners-Conseil Européen des Urbanistes (ECTP-CEU), the European Urban Research Association (EURA), the International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP) and the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP). Diogo Mateus was head of school and the topic was: *Quality of Space – Quality of Life*. Unfortunately a sponsor has not been found to enable a book of the proceedings to be published.

The cooperation between the five partners was intensified in the third EUSS organised by the **University of Westminster, London** in September 2012. The theme of the School was *Times of Scarcity: Reclaiming the Possibility of Making*. Deljana Iossifova was head of school, and was also responsible for editing the book of the proceedings with the same title as the EUSS itself (ISBN 978-0-9927823-0-6). Again this is freely downloadable in pdf format from the AESOP website or via links on the partner websites.

The publication was possible thanks to the integration of the **Young Planning Professionals Award (YPPA)** into the 3rd EUSS. The YPPA was an annual international competition for three years (2012-2014) funded by the Directorate responsible for spatial planning at the **Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment (MI&M)**. Its primary aim was to stimulate thinking and promote innovative ideas amongst young planning practitioners on how spatial planning

in Europe can deal with important present-day challenges and transformations facing our human settlements and surrounding areas. The underlying thinking was that it is largely the younger generation (< 35) of planning professionals who will have to come up with the answers, as it is they who will have the responsibility to plan and develop our cities and regions in the future. This is very much in line with the aims of the EUSS. Secondary aims were to bring young practitioners and academics in working contact with each other and to encourage a better cooperation between the international planning organisations and try and reduce the fragmentation of their efforts regarding young planning professionals. The integration of the YPPA into the EUSS was on all three accounts therefore very logical, and mI&M was ready to expand its sponsorship of YPPA into an integrated publication of the combined proceedings. The YPPA winners got free participation at the EUSS and presented their papers at a special YPPA session. The theme of the 1st YPPA at Westminster was *'Adapting cities to scarcity: new ideas for action. Trends, perspectives and challenges of spatial development in a phase of de-growth and decline in Europe'*. There were in total four winners and two runners-up.

The fourth EUSS was held in September 2013 at the **Universidad CEU San Pablo Polytechnic School, in Boadilla, Madrid, Spain** on the theme *'Strategies for Post-Speculative Cities'*. There were two winners of the 2013 YPPA the theme of which was *'Ensuring climate resilient cities: innovative ideas for effective measures in a low-level investment environment'*. Teresa Franchini and Juan Arana Giralt were heads of school and responsible for editing the book with the same title as the EUSS (ISBN 978-83-7493-877-8). Once again it is also freely downloadable from the AESOP website or via links on the partner websites.

The present book contains the proceedings of the fifth EUSS which took place in Tours, France, from **1st – 8th September 2014**, organised by the **École Polytechnique de l'Université de Tours, Département Aménagement et Environnement (EPU-DAE)**. The theme is *'Heritage conservation and sustainable urban development'*. It is the third and last of those including the papers of YPPA winners and sponsored by mI&M. The YPPA papers are those from the three winners: Fernando Navarro Carmona - eICASC - from Spain, Cexiang Foo from Singapore and Nasos Alexis from Crete, Greece, and from the runner-up Anna Peralta Zaragoza, also from Spain. Responsible for the 5th EUSS and for editing this publication is Laura Verdelli. The partner organisations are indebted to her for her huge efforts to make both the Summer School and this book a success.

Tours has proved itself a worthy case study for examining the theme of heritage and sustainability as this book shows. We hope you enjoy and get some new ideas from reading its content. The 5th EUSS / 3rd YPPA have once again confirmed that a few days of intensive interaction, hard work and fun can produce many useful new ideas from, and friendships amongst, young planning

professionals and tutors from diverse countries who participated and have contributed to this book.

EUSS will continue. All partners are very grateful for the support of the Dutch ministry the past three years, achieved by integrating the YPPA into its proceedings. The books represent a tangible and lasting reflection of the information and knowledge generated. Without them, a lot of that knowledge could easily just fade into the past with a minimum of impact. It is our hope that we will be able to continue with the series of publications from the following Summer Schools.