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

0 INTRODUCTION

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 professionals. AESOP wanted to bring together young professionals and experienced academics and practitioners across Europe to discuss spatial issues.

AESOP's aim was to facilitate a better trans-European understanding of planning issues, promote an exchange of ideas and foster a debate on the most important planning topics. These aims corresponded with AESOP objectives set out in the AESOP Charter.

AESOP offers its teaching resources at EUSSs. Members of AESOP – European universities teaching planning – host the event. 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. Tutors do not get any fee for their work.

THE PAST

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 (ISBN 978-83-7493-570-8). 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 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.

This cooperation 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 publication of the proceedings with the same title as the EUSS itself (ISBN 978-0-9927823-0-6).

At this 3rd EUSS, an initiative from the Netherlands government, which challenged young planners to find solutions to contemporary spatial planning problems, was integrated into the School: the Young Planning Professionals Award (YPPA). This is an annual, 3-year international competition (2012-2014) funded by the Directorate responsible for planning at the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment (mI&M). Its aim is to stimulate thinking and

promote innovative ideas on how spatial planning in Europe can adapt its form and methodologies to take on the present-day challenges and transformations facing our human settlements. The underlying thinking is 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 those settlements in the near future.

The winners get free participation at the EUSS and present their papers at a special YPPA session. The papers of winners and runners-up of YPPA form part of the EUSS publication which is also generously supported by the mI&M grant. The theme of the Award is related to the theme of the EUSS, so for 2012 it 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'.

This is the publication of the fourth EUSS held in September 2013 at the Universidad CEU San Pablo Polytechnic School, in Boadilla, Madrid, Spain on the theme 'Strategies for Post-Speculative Cities'. It includes the papers of the two winners of the 2013 YPPA – Clenn Kustermans and Veronika Kovacsova - on the topic 'Ensuring climate resilient cities: innovative ideas for effective measures in a low-level investment environment'.

The 4th EUSS / 2nd 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. We thank them, the tutors and above all Teresa Franchini and Juan Arana Giralt, heads of school, without whose efforts the EUSS would not have been the success it was, and the Dutch Ministry for providing the funds to produce this book containing a lasting record of everyone's efforts.