



**UN-HABITAT & AESOP**  
in association with:  
**ISOCARP**

# EUROPEAN URBAN SUMMER SCHOOL

**EUSS 2010 WROCLAW UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY**

**UN-HABITAT WANTS TO BRING TOGETHER YOUNG PROFESSIONALS  
AND – THANKS TO COOPERATION WITH AESOP – EXPERIENCED ACADEMICS  
AND PRACTITIONERS ACROSS EUROPE TO DISCUSS URBAN ISSUES.**

UN-Habitat expects that it will facilitate trans-European understanding of planning matters and, as a consequence, will help with improving quality of life. These aims correspond with AESOP objectives enumerated in AESOP Charter. UN-Habitat wishes to involve both EU and non-EU countries into the project knowing that AESOP has no geographical limits of membership. AESOP has offered its resources in teaching at European Urban Summer Schools. This idea may facilitate trans-European exchange and foster a debate on the most important planning topics. It may promote every involved actors as bodies being able to help politicians

and other stakeholders in spatial development and management issues. This concept doesn't involve economic profit. European Urban Summer School should be a platform of debate and exchange. Summer School should be for free for participants. UN Habitat provides basic funds for travel, accommodation and expenses reimbursement for tutors. A first edition of EUSS in 2010 will be hosted by Wrocław University of Technology; the hosts for the next summer schools will be chosen in a call for proposals procedure.

## CONCEPT OF A FIRST EDITION OF UN-HABITAT & AESOP EUROPEAN URBAN SUMMER SCHOOL IN 2010, HOSTED BY WROCLAW UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY IS 'OLD' SUSTAINABLE? IS 'PAST' SUSTAINABLE? IS HERITAGE SUSTAINABLE?

Wrocław, a city in Central Europe, was chosen as the host because of two reasons. First, being a medium-sized European city it may serve as a good example to study important topics of this – the most common in Europe – class of cities. Secondly, having multi-cultural roots and unique experience of changing population after the WW2, it may be an interesting case study of building local identity and overcoming historical burden.

There has been wide debate concerning how bad impact we – as a mankind (or more precisely modern mankind) – made on natural environment as well as on social and economic relationships. There is a widely accepted opinion that our influence made things worse rather than better. UN-Habitat European Urban Summer School 2010 aims to look for an independent answer rather than follow the common opinion how good old times were. We want to study three main aspects of urban development – environment, society and economy – in terms of comparing 'old' and 'new'; trying to recognise essential differences and similarities, focusing on asking good questions followed by reasonable answers. And consider if future should be like the past.

**ECONOMIC ASPECT OF SUSTAINABILITY** reflects the essential question if European urban heritage should be preserved, retained, developed, or transformed. We want to analyse if preservation itself has a value. And what sort of value – social, economic, spatial. Could we consider heritage and the costs of its preservation as an investment? Who should pay for this? Is there 'demand' for 'old'? We are going to consider if 'real' preservation of the heritage exists or we use this heritage for our own purposes and in our own way. As a consequence – is the heritage element of transformation or element of preservation? And what is more essential for cities – change or persistence of its form? What is 'more historic'? How was it in the past? Were there economic reasons for retaining the form of Toledo and change the form of Paris? How did new ideas (i.e. 'garden city') relate to the past? Were they 'historic' or 'innovative'? We need to study what 'heritage' really means and in what way it affects urban form and welfare of citizens. We need to analyse if 'heritage' may help with creating good city. As a consequence we have to define essential features of revitalisation – as a process of not preserving but using heritage as an important part of sustainable life. Hence, sustainability in urban economics may mean not 'pure' economic profits but 'social' profits as well.

### WORKSHOP TASK:

define sustainable model of successful revitalization or more general urban transformation.

### CASE STUDY:

'heritage' areas of Wrocław: historic centre, industrial sites, historic gardens and parks.

### METHODS:

study tour, analysing documents/maps, debate, brief, brainstorming, quick concept of revitalisation.

**SOCIAL ASPECT OF SUSTAINABILITY** reflects both quality of life and cultural differences. We are going to focus on the topic of social mixture and rights to the space which relate to both aspects. Are our European cities balanced in terms of 'right to the space'? Are modern gated communities kind of sickness in the city or it is only a new way of expressing power, separation and differences? Could we consider towers of San Gimignano or Bologna as the early way of this trend? This leads to the crucial question what is (or might be) private and what is (or should be) public in cities. How to translate citizens' right to the 'common space' into spatial solutions. Citizens' right to the common places evolves the problem of managing public places. Next aspects of this problem are cultural differences and their influence on quality of life. Do we have a right to express our cultural identity in cities? Where are the limits of this expression laid? Do we have the right to 'cultural overtaking' of our cities? What is better: social mixture or separation? Can we identify 'urban division' in European cities? What is spatial expression of this division? Are we able to 'bridge' this division? How was it earlier? Was it social mixture in Paris described by Balzac in his 'Le Père Goriot'? All this investigation leads to a more general question if cultural model of an European city exists? How might 'shared places' be arranged and attract all? What is the best policy for public spaces? Concerning residential areas we are going to learn from history, but the main area of research will be 20th century housing tradition. We will analyse different models of housing developments trying to identify strengths and weaknesses of each model. We will study public facilities and the way they affect quality of life. A very special issue in Wrocław is population change which took place after WW2. We want to ask the question how it influenced the form of the city and 'use' of the city. And we will analyse cultural identity and heritage in terms of 'social memory'. We want to ask the question if the 'historical bridge' between past and future citizens has been already built.

### WORKSHOP TASK:

(a) define sustainable model of residential area; (b) find the way to express public rights in the space through public spaces policy.

### CASE STUDY:

(a) housing developments in the city of Wrocław and its agglomeration: early 20th century social housing, high-rise block of flats residential area, gated community, suburban housing; (b) important public spaces.

### METHODS:

study tour, analysing documents/maps, debate, brief, brainstorming, quick design (how to improve or regenerate existing housing development); brief concept of policy for public space.

### PARTNER:

#### ISOCARP

(THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF CITY AND REGIONAL PLANNERS)  
PLEASE CONTACT HEAD OF EUSS IN CASE YOU ARE INTERESTED IN COOPERATION.

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### DATE:

**10-19 SEPTEMBER 2010**

### ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECT OF SUSTAINABILITY

has to take into consideration the new form of city as a consequence of urban growth, which is commonly considered as urban sprawl. We want to ask the question if urban sprawl was something completely new in human settlements? Across European space we can notice many examples of 'sprawl' – not connected with cities: rural residences and farming including vineyard houses and factories. What is the essential difference between Boccaccio's rural residence around Florence in the 14th century described in his great 'The Decameron' and modern housing development around cities? What kind of congestion, or more general, transportation consequences produces the modern model of sprawl (or simply expansion)? What kind of urban sprawl or 'settlement heritage' we can find in different European countries? In what way the model of settlement affects climate change? Was it better in medieval Europe or it is better now? What is 'good model' in terms of environmental sustainability? What is more important: ecological footprint or climate change? How to cope with quantity which requires new quality? Since 2007 more than half of world's population lives in the cities – these questions are important for the majority of living people. Discussing these issues we will use as a case study city of Wrocław with its different traditions of settlements, analysing general rules and trying to find a local solution.

### WORKSHOP TASK:

define a sustainable model of spatial development of medium-sized cities, discuss new urban forms.

### CASE STUDY:

agglomeration and metropolitan area of Wrocław.

### METHODS:

study tour, analysing documents/maps, debate, brief, computer simulation of growth, computer simulation of transport flows, quick design.

**LET'S MAKE FUTURE HAPPEN**



Wrocław University of Technology



**UN-HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE