

Creating our futures

ECTP-CEU

European Council of Spatial Planners
Conseil européen des urbanistes

Bruxelles, 7th November 2025

Université Libre de Bruxelles
Campus Solbosch
Tram 8 or 25, stop ULB or Solbosch
Bus 71, stop ULB

14th Young Planners Workshop 2025

Call for Projects and Workshop Programme

Planning of Small and Medium-Sized European Towns Since 2000



Saint Egidius Square in Poprad. The Evangelical Church in the background (in Slovak "Námestie svätého Egídia v Poprade. V pozadí evanjelický kostol"). This is the title Wikimedia user "Cepom" gave his work. The photo is taken from the roof of the nearby Obchodné Centrum (Shopping Mall) "Eterna". Poprad is a district town with about 50,000 inhabitants in Slovakia's High Tatras region

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14th Young Planners Workshop 2025

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1 About the ECTP and the Young Planners Workshop

The ECTP-CEU (European Council of Spatial Planners – Conseil européen des urbanistes), founded in 1985, brings together 40.000 spatial planners of 38 professional planning associations, institutes and agencies from 28 European countries. It is an umbrella association providing its members with a common framework for planning practice, planning education, continuing professional development and the definition of professional responsibilities. ECTP-CEU sets standards of education and conduct for the planning profession; identifies, celebrates and rewards examples of good planning all over Europe; and engages in dialogue with local, national and European governments.

In accordance with these objectives, the initiative of the Young Planners Workshop seeks to set out young planners' perspectives and experiences within the context of new European paradigms. It is dedicated to empowering young practitioners in the planning profession and placing their perspectives and experiences at the forefront of the discussion. This initiative strongly advocates for the creation of young professional networks and the exchange of practical knowledge between them, fostering collaboration and innovation among the next generation of spatial planning professionals.

1.1 This year's edition

Similar to last year's edition, when participants presented ideas, strategies, plans, programmes and projects they already had worked out or were working on, once again the ECTP-CEU strongly encourages young practitioners to apply for the workshop. The experience they want to share should possibly be part of one of their first work experience and must refer to their own projects or their own contributions to major projects. The evaluation commission will not accept works from senior planners that are only presented by younger colleagues or in which the young planners are or were only marginally involved.

The applicants whose contributions will be accepted must participate in at least two online meetings: a first one at the end of September and a second one three weeks later at the end of October. During these meetings, the contributions will



The Sassi neighbourhoods in Matera, Italy, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, being continuously inhabited since the Paleolithic and becoming an important settlement during the Neolithic. The first buildings outside the “Sassi” were constructed in the 16th century. Relocation of its inhabitants in the 1950s gave rise to the innovative neighbourhoods of the “City of the Plan”

be discussed and the presentations co-ordinated. They may also be an opportunity to get to know each other better in advance. To permit the young planners in-person participation in Brussels each admitted candidate will receive a financial contribution of 400 euros. In addition, they will be invited to the anniversary dinner on Friday evening free of charge, and their posters will be printed at the expense of the ECTP-CEU.

The presentations will be made and discussed during ECTP-CEU’s 40th Anniversary Conference in Brussels on Friday 7th November 2025. The complete conference programme has not been published yet, but the conference will last the whole day. In addition to the invited conference speeches about “Reflections on 25 years of planning”, the winning and mentioned entries from the 13th European Urban and Regional Planning Awards will be presented and discussed, as will the five selected entries from the Young Planners Workshop. The day will be concluded with the dinner, during which the 40-year history of the ECTP-CEU will be presented in an enjoyable manner, with the active participation of the protagonists of the time.

2 Theme Description

“Planning of Small and Medium-Sized European Towns since 2000” seeks to explore the evolution of urban planning prac-



Rovinj, sometimes referred to as the Pearl of Adriatic, is a town in Istria, Croatia with about 13,000 inhabitants. Its historic center has been continuously inhabited since the Bronze Age, but gained regional importance only under the Serenissima. Today it suffers overtourism and, although less than other parts of the country, population loss

tices over the past two decades. By focussing on towns in Europe, this initiative aims to uncover how societal changes, and technological advancements have shaped urban landscapes, transformed planning methodologies, and redefined expectations. It wants to take a critical approach to assess whether the urban designs and strategies of the early 2000s have successfully addressed evolving needs, and if they have indeed prepared these towns for the future they now inhabit.

2.1 Description of the main focus

The focus of this year's edition centres around the evolution of urban planning practices over the past two decades. By focusing on towns in Europe, this initiative aims to uncover how societal changes, such as demographic shifts and growing environmental consciousness, along with technological advancements, have shaped urban landscapes and redefined planning methodologies.

2.2 Call for projects

We invite submissions that critically evaluate the evolution of city planning in small and medium-sized European towns since 2000. Proposals should focus on identifying key trends, challenges, and opportunities that have emerged over the years. We are particularly interested in exploring how societal changes, such as cultural expectations, ecological needs, and



Haugesund is a coastal town of about 38,000 inhabitants in Western Norway. Historically known as the “Norwegian Capital of Herring”, its identity is deeply rooted in the port and fishing industry. Today, the urban planning efforts focus on the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy, transforming its waterfront and securing a sustainable future for its inhabitants

digital lifestyles, have influenced urban design and planning priorities.

Submissions should also explore how economic shifts have reshaped these towns, from the decline of traditional industries to the over-reliance on tourism, and how this has impacted housing affordability. Participants are also encouraged to analyse the role of technological advancements, including Geographical Information Science (GIS) for spatial analysis and 3D media for stakeholder engagement, in reshaping planning processes.

Finally, proposals should include reflections on whether past planning efforts have adequately prepared these towns for the unpredictable demands of the present and future. This requires an analysis of practical case studies to ensure that findings are rooted in real-world examples rather than theoretical conjecture.

2.3 Evaluation criteria

Proposals will be assessed based on their ability to fulfil the following tasks

- **Contextual analysis:** effectively frame societal and technological changes and their influence on urban planning.
- **Innovation:** present forward-thinking approaches in addressing planning challenges and utilising advanced tools.



Hechingen is a classical mid-sized town in Southern Germany with about 20,000 inhabitants. Its history dates back to the 6th century, while Roman and even Bronze-Age settlements were found within the municipal boundaries. Although it played a certain regional role in the past, its importance is now under threat, partly due to its topographic conditions

- **Practicality:** showcase examples of implemented projects, highlighting successes, failures, and lessons learned.
- **Outcome reflection:** critically evaluate how past strategies have met — or failed to meet — future needs.

This initiative emphasises practical applications and real-world scenarios, encouraging participants to ground their proposals in tangible examples from European towns. By doing so, the project aims to foster collaboration and innovation among planners, ultimately shaping more adaptive and resilient urban strategies for the years ahead.

3 Application

Applicants must be qualified professionals in spatial planning, aged under **35 years** or with less than **10 years** of post-qualification experience in planning. Submissions are open to **individual** candidates only, i.e., unlike previous editions of the Young Planners Workshop, groups will not be admitted this year. This call specifically seeks contributions from practitioners actively engaged in the field. Undergraduate or PhD students, as well as post-doc researchers and academics are not admitted this year.

Only **five** young planners will be selected for the final presentation. Selection will be based on how well the proposals



Kendal is a market town of 28,000 inhabitants. Its location in the south of Cumbria, England earns it the status of 'gateway' to the Lake District National Park. Once a major wool trade centre, it evolved into a commercial hub for the rural area. As in other small towns, this economy declined in the 19th century, and it now largely relies upon its retail centre and seasonal tourism

meet the criteria, with additional consideration given to ensuring representation from all European regions and a diversity of topics across submissions. Submissions must include:

- name and surname;
- e-mail address;
- current professional situation;
- short biography up to 100 words;
- summary up to 300 words without images;
- up to three illustrations as self-standing attachments;

Please submit your application with your summary via e-mail to ECTP-CEU's young planners project board at yp@ectp-ceu.eu

Summary Submission **Deadline: 14th September 2025**

The evaluation commission ("Young Planners Project Board") will select the applicants to be invited to present and discuss their projects at the 40th anniversary conference in Brussels.

Communication of **acceptance**: 22nd September 2025.

Guidelines for summaries:

- project title as the top line;
- applicant's name and e-mail address as the second line;
- summary text of no more than 300 words;
- only in British English; please refer to the BBC News style guide at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsstyleguide>;
- Microsoft Word or LibreOffice Writer format; left and right



Wells is one of England's smallest cities, with 12,000 inhabitants. Located in the agricultural county of Somerset, its city status is due to the presence of its 850-year-old cathedral, palace, and gardens, which attract a considerable amount of tourists during the summer months. The photograph shows the Market Square, which forms part of the Wells Conservation Area

margins 4.5 cm each; any common font at 12 points;

- no footnotes;
- references not required; if necessary, please apply the 'Harvard style';
- figures added as self-standing attachments (TIFF with LZW compression, PNG with compression level 9 or JPEG with 80% or "high" quality) and short captions included at the bottom of the summary.

By submitting the application, participants grant ECTP-CEU all copyrights and full permission to publish their summaries.

4 Presentation at the 40th Anniversary Conference in Brussels

The young planners' works will be presented during ECTP-CEU's 40th Anniversary Conference in Brussels, Belgium on 7th November 2025. It is expected that a Microsoft Power Point presentation (or a PDF file) is shown while explaining in a 10-minutes speech the main goals, issues and achievements of the project, as well as the context where and why it has been worked out. Be also prepared to answer questions in English that might come from the public. Additional information to those listed hereafter will be provided during the on-line meet-



Serres, 60,000 inhabitants, is the capital town of a “regional unit” in Central Macedonia, Greece. During its nearly 4,000 years of history, it has experienced periods of both prosperity and decline. In the 1950s and 1960s, the then prevailing quid pro quo (“αντιπαροχή”) system completely transformed the cityscape and destroyed much of its urban history and identity

ing shortly after the communication of acceptance.

4.1 Slides

Please ensure that the number of pages (“slides”) is within acceptable limits. People is often becoming inattentive if speakers quickly jump from one slide to the other. As the file format you can choose between Microsoft Power Point (animations permitted) or Adobe PDF (animations not possible). If choosing the Microsoft **Power Point** format, please provide a version 2007 (or above) file with *.pptx extension and apply a 16:9 widescreen page ratio. If choosing the Adobe PDF format please set the page size to 24.0 cm width and 13.5 cm height.

To avoid last-minute technical problems, please submit the Power Point presentation a few days in advance (not later than 5th November 2025 or provide a PDF version of your presentation in addition to the Power Point file.

The presentations should mention in their cover page the participant’s name, the place (“Brussels” or “Bruxelles”), the date (“7th November 2025”) and the workshop’s theme (“Planning for Small and Medium-Sized Towns since 2000”) as well as the expression “14th ECTP-CEU Young Planners Workshop” and the ECTP-CEU official logo, which is made available to the participants as an SVG file.

Please also ensure that all fonts are displayed correctly on



Yecla is a town with 36,000 inhabitants in the Region of Murcia, Spain, located on the Altiplano. Its history dates back to the Bronze Age. It is today a key hub for Spain's renowned furniture and wine industries. Facing contemporary challenges of urban planning in arid regions, the town's development focuses on balancing economic growth with sustainable practices

other computers. To avoid technical problems, please use standard fonts for Microsoft Windows 11 or embed the fonts used in the Power Point or PDF file.

4.2 Poster

In addition to the presentation you are also required to prepare a poster summarising the content of your presentation. Please ensure that the poster contain the same textual information and official logo as the presentation cover pages.

Dimensions: ISO-A1 (594 mm × 841 mm) portrait leaving a white border approximately 1 cm wide along all four edges, so that the actual working area does not exceed 575 mm × 820 mm. The graphical and text elements on the poster should still be readable from a viewing distance of 1 metre.

File format: TIFF with LZW or without compression.

Resolution: 300 dpi for raster elements.

The posters will be displayed at the conference venue. Please do not prepare posters before receiving the communication of acceptance.

4.3 Booklet

After the conference, the ECTP-CEU will produce an electronic



Sopot, Poland, 31,444 inhabitants on 31st December 2024, has massively and continuously lost population (-47%) since 1977 when it reached its peak of 54,539. In the first half of the 19th century, the small fishing village was transformed into a seaside resort town, a function that continues to be expanded to this day and has led to this significant population decline

publication with all the contributions presented in Brussels and a foreword and an introduction by the ECTP-CEU president and by the young planners project chair. For this purpose, the participants must illustrate their works on four A3 pages that will then be included into the publication (“booklet”). These booklet pages can be produced at a later stage. Cover pages for each single project will be produced by the ECTP-CEU.

Dimensions: ISO-A3 (420 mm × 297 mm) landscape.

Number: 4 pages.

Layout: Please leave a 2.5 cm white border around the page content to allow editors to place running heads, footers, ECTP-CEU logos, page numbers etc.

Text: Four columns with 8.5 cm width and 1 cm spacing. Main text font Calibri 12 pt. Please do not use footnotes.

Graphic parts: Schemes, plans, local views and other non-textual elements shall be placed to fill the width of one column or spreading them over two or three columns or over the whole content area width (370 mm).

File format: To be agreed.

4.4 Use of copyrighted materials

ECTP-CEU is vigilant about copyright and applies the European Directive 2019/790 to all its publications, especially when using graphics, photos and diagrams. In the event of copyright violations, the participant will be liable to pay the fine and the affected image will be removed from the publication. We strongly recommend systematically documenting the origin of each non-textual element used in the slides, posters and booklets. Please ensure that the use of copyrighted materials is permitted also for publication on websites and social media. The text of the directive is available on EUR-Lex at

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2019/790/oj>

As a guide about how to correctly reference the materials you can follow how photos and graphics are documented in this Call for Projects. For elements produced by the author/s or co-author/s of the work presented it is sufficient to declare them as “own work”, but more detailed information can be provided if desired. For elements produced by others the permission to use and publish must be obtained and included to the materials or, if applicable, the text of the licence granting these rights must be included. In the case of a Creative Commons licence it is sufficient to indicate the licence level (e.g., “CC-BY-SA”) paying attention to the “ND” baseline right which imposes that it is not allowed to alter the licenced work. The “NC” baseline right (non-commercial use) is acceptable.

5 Young Planners Project Board

Coordinator: **Martin Baloga**, ZUUPS (Slovakia)
Administrator, ECTP-CEU

Members: **Markus Hedorfer**, ASSURB (Italy)
President, ECTP-CEU

Janet Askew, RTPi (UK)
Vice-President, ECTP-CEU

João Belard Correia, APU (Portugal)
Delegate to the ECTP-CEU

Maroš Finka, Professor,
Slovak University of Technology

6 Financial Support and Grants

Every selected participant will be supported by **400,- €**. This financial contribution is intended to cover, at least in part, the travel and accommodation costs. Submission of receipts is not required. In addition, the participants are invited to attend the



The venue of the 14th Young Planners Workshop, the Solbosch Campus of the Université Libre de Bruxelles; scale 1:50,000

anniversary dinner on Friday 7th November free of charge, and their posters will be printed at the expense of the ECTP-CEU.

In-person presentation at the Brussels Conference is compulsory. Financial support will be disbursed after the conference and is granted by the **ECTP-CEU**.

7 Format Summary

7.1 Deadlines

Summaries: 14th September 2025.

Notification: 22nd September 2025.

7.2 Participants' Recruitment

All applicants (selected and non selected) will be notified.

7.3 Online Meeting/s

Theme: Available materials.

Form: Online presentation and discussion.

Dates: 29th September – 4th October 2025.

20th October – 25th October 2025.

If necessary, the meetings will be split over two dates. During the mentioned time periods the participants should reserve sufficient time in their calendars for attending the meetings that will be scheduled as soon as possible.



The site of the venue as it appears on the Ferraris Map of the Austrian Netherlands produced in 1777; scale 1:50,000 (original scale 1:11,520)

7.4 In-person Conference

Theme:	Final presentation.
Form:	In-person presentation during ECTP-CEU's 40 th Anniversary Conference.
Date:	7 th November 2025.
Venue:	Université Libre de Bruxelles Campus Solbosch Tram 8 or 25, stop ULB or Solbosch Bus 71, stop ULB from Airport bus 12, stop Meiser, then tram 25 from Gare du Nord tram 4, stop De Brouckère, then bus 71 from Gare Centrale bus 71 from Gare du Midi metro 2 or 6, stop Luise, then tram 8, or from Gare du Midi metro 2 or 6, stop Porte de Namur, then bus 71

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European Council of Spatial Planners – Conseil européen des urbanistes
c/o Hive5

Cours Saint-Michel 30B – B-1040 Brussel

Sint-Michielswarande 30B – B-1040 Bruxelles

T +32 (0) 470 350 432

E secretariat@ectp-ceu.eu

<https://www.ectp-ceu.eu>

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