

Helsinki and Vienna, January 2023

To the attention of the AESOP Secretary General,

Hereby we submit the Annual Report for the AESOP Thematic Group **Transboundary Planning and Governance** for the year 2022.

In July 2022, at the AESOP Congress in Tartu, the Thematic Group coordination was transferred to Eva Purkarthofer (Aalto University) and Alois Humer (University of Vienna & ÖAW). The former TG coordinator Giancarlo Cotella handed over a mailing list to the new TG coordinators with approximately 160 contacts interested in the TG activities. Together with the TG website, the mailing list serves as main communication channel for the TG.

The new coordinators organized a TG meeting at the Tartu Congress in which the strategic orientation and future activities of the TG were discussed. Resulting from these discussions, a new simplified name was chosen for the TG: Transboundary planning and governance (instead of Transboundary Spaces, Policy Diffusion, Planning Cultures).

The TG website (<https://aesop-planning.eu/thematic-groups/transboundary-planning-and-governance>) has been updated to reflect the changes in leadership and thematic focus of the group. The website also introduces the main activities of the TG:

TG meetings: The TG meets twice per year: once in person at the annual AESOP Congress and once online in December. Both meetings serve to discuss the focus of the group as well as joint future activities such as special sessions at the upcoming AESOP Congress or calls for special issues. The first online TG meeting was held on December 15th 2022 and attended by approximately 25 participants. It served to introduce the new coordination team and to discuss the activities at the AESOP 2023 congress in Lodz.

AESOP Congress: One track at the AESOP Congress (usually entitled: "Governance") is directly linked with the TG. We are also eager to facilitate the organisation of special sessions or roundtables on specific themes within the scope of the TG at the AESOP Congress. For the AESOP Congress 2023 in Lodz, Eva Purkarthofer will act as co-chair for the Track 4 (Planning over the borders). A roundtable proposal entitled "Planning across borders in times of war and geopolitical conflict" was discussed in the online TG meeting and submitted to the Local Organising Committee.

Journal collaboration: The TG has excellent relations with various scientific journals whose scope is aligned with the focus of our group. We currently have offers from [European Planning Studies](#), [European Journal of Spatial Development](#), [Europa XXI](#) and [Planning Practice and Research](#) to organise joint activities or present proposals for special issues. Naturally, decisions on the acceptance of manuscripts and acceptance of special issue proposals rest with the respective journals, not the TG coordinators.

Conferences, seminars or workshops: Following the initiative of the TG members, other activities such as conferences, seminars or workshops can be organized under the patronage

of the TG. In the TG meeting it was agreed that future TG seminars could be aligned with other events (project seminars, conferences) where possible.

The relaunch of the TG in 2022 has resulted in a lot of interest in the TG (e.g. many new subscribers to the mailing list) and we are optimistic that many activities will take place under the patronage of the TG during the upcoming years.

Best regards,
Eva Purkarthofer & Alois Humer