

Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP)



2011 AESOP PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

AIM OF THE PRIZE

Teaching in the broad field of planning is one of the main activities of our member schools. Thus, in 2002, AESOP introduced a new prize which recognises and encourages Excellence in Teaching. Through this award, AESOP would like to celebrate and disseminate the good practice in teaching to be found at our member schools. The broad aim of the prize is to stimulate the development of planning courses or groups of courses in order to better prepare students for their forthcoming practice and also to further educate practitioners.

The specific purpose of the prize is to promote and encourage planning schools to apply new pedagogy, theories and/ or technologies/ techniques in ways that enhance the theories, knowledge and skills necessary for planning. The award provides an important opportunity to disseminate effective practice and teaching quality amongst European schools.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Planning is conceptualised broadly. We expect that nominations represent a critical and constructive contribution to teaching, which inspires students and fosters curiosity, rigor, creativity, critical thinking, and the development of lifelong learning habits.

Planning courses, or modules, or an integrated series of course or modules, of maximum length of two semesters can be nominated - BUT NOT A WHOLE PROGRAMME OF STUDY.

The nominated course(s) should:

- Define the perspective which the course takes on the concept of planning
- Be taught in a creative way and to high pedagogical standards
- Engage students in dealing innovatively with planning problems;
- Provide a basis for students to combine theory and practice in their future practice?

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Only AESOP member schools can be nominated for this prize. The course must have been successfully implemented for at least one year. Applicants can either be:

- A planning school;
- A planning department within a university; or
- A group of teaching staff or an individual belonging to an AESOP Member school.

Young academics are warmly encouraged to apply.
Resubmissions from the past are admitted.

HOW TO APPLY

Please, use the electronic application form available from the AESOP web site. All material must be submitted electronically to the chair of the jury, Francesco Lo Piccolo.

Applications must be received by 15th of May 2011. Please send the nomination electronically to <fpiccolo@unipa.it>

Applications must include a full description of the course or module, specifying:

- The content of the course;
- The perspective on or concept of ‘planning’ used in the course;
- The context/ instructional setting (country, educational system, institution, etc);
- The learners (type, students on the course, stage in education);
- Justification of why this course/pedagogy/technique is important for planning;
- Explanation of why the approach is creative and of high quality;
- Learning objectives for the students, including a critical assessment of the extent to which these were achieved;
-
-
- How any difficulties were overcome;
- How the successful elements of the course can be reproduced and applied at other institutions, with the aim of stimulating international cooperation and in order to promote forms of innovative partnerships in planning courses.

THE JURY

A panel of six academics will judge the nominees. The panel will consist of AESOP members, including a representative from AESOP’s Young Academics Group.

The panel of judges will select and evaluate the applications, according to the following points:

- In what ways is the pedagogy creative and of high quality?
- Why and how is the nominated course/module and/or pedagogy innovative for planning practice?
- How is theory and practice integrated in the course/module or in the pedagogy?
- How are students prepared for a life of “reflective practice”?
- What difficulties were met in developing the course and/or pedagogy and how were they overcome?
- How can the successful elements of the course be reproduced and applied at other institutions?

AWARDING THE PRIZE

A prize of 1000 EUROS will be presented to a representative of the winning programme during the annual AESOP congress.

The winner will be expected to make an audio-visual presentation of the programme at the subsequent year’s congress. He/she/they will also be expected to allow the programme to be presented on AESOP’s website. CEBE Transactions (<http://www.cebe.heacademy.ac.uk/transactions/>) will publish an article on the winning module(s).