

ESPRO 2020: Member consultation

I. Background to consultation

The ECTP-CEU has produced a new mission statement for the forthcoming years, known as the European Spatial Planning Reference Organisation (ESPRO) 2020 (enclosed). The document is built on five objectives, one of which remains open for discussion. A working group, chaired by Janet Askew MRTPI, was set up to consult members and reach a satisfactory conclusion which will inform the future direction of the ECTP-CEU. As part of that, a decision was taken to consult all ECTP-CEU full members and corresponding members, and the working group calls upon them, in conjunction with their own consultees, to respond to the questions given below.

II. Aims of the ESPRO 2020

The aims of the ESPRO 2020 are as follows:

- Increase the influence that ECTP-CEU has in Europe and its institutions and in individual countries;
- Increase membership numbers – representatives from individual countries and from corresponding members;
- Improve the finances of the ECTP-CEU to enable it to meet the first objective through increased activities.

To achieve these aims, five principles were established and principle Number 2 is at issue. It refers to ECTP-CEU being a more inclusive organisation.

'Principle 2: A more inclusive organisation

We establish a membership organisation, welcoming all individuals, organisations, public, semipublic and private bodies who subscribe the Charter of European Planning (Barcelona, 2013, based on the New Charter of Athens, 2003) in an equal way. By signing this Charter as part of the membership process, members contribute to a broad network, striving for quality and sustainability in the field of spatial planning and urban design in Europe. As a result, the planning community includes not only formally certified planners and urban designers, but also organisations of planners, private companies, public institutions and professionals active in related sectors (law, politics, real estate, mobility, architecture, landscape architecture, heritage, environment, economy, society, tourism, forestry, fisheries and agriculture). This means a second step is taken towards a more inclusive organisation, opening up ECTP-CEU's membership for all supporters of planning and those who practise planning in its many forms. At the same time, a special effort needs to be taken to include young planning professionals in a fair and equal way, so that they can become fully engaged in our organisation.'

The objective, that of increasing membership, is not in question. There are two scenarios to achieve this, and the second is contested:

1. The first is to retain ECTP-CEU as the professional planners' body which is highly regarded throughout Europe for consultation by planners, governments, stakeholders, communities and to promote it further to increase membership in eligible countries.
2. The second is to expand the ECTP-CEU to include a wider group, all those who have any interest in planning, including other professions, private companies and public institutions to create more of a network.

III. Questions

The following questions have been devised for consultation with the membership of ECTP-CEU. Question number 1 is the most important – please give it priority.

1. Do you think that widening the ECTP-CEU to include *all* who have a stakehold in planning, rather than just professionally qualified planners, will strengthen the body to give the practice and discipline of planning *more* influence across Europe?

2. The current constitution of the ECTP-CEU allows for membership (for a subscription) from all (47) Council of Europe countries, as well as corresponding members, that is, municipalities, regional governments, planning consultancies. How can the ECTP-CEU increase its membership (and thus its income) amongst this group to create a more inclusive body which earns respect from governments and other stakeholders?

3. What is the main benefit of the ECTP-CEU to your own organisation/association? In your country, how important and effective is ECTP-CEU currently in protecting the professional status of the spatial planner. Can you suggest ways to make it more effective?

4. Do you engage with the current activities of the ECTP-CEU? How should the ECTP-CEU increase its activities to promote itself more widely? What can your organisation or association do to assist with this and become more involved? Do you have any suggestions for new ECTP-CEU activities or events or anything that you are prepared to initiate?

5. In general, how should the ECTP-CEU evolve over the coming years to face the changing context of planning and governance, and in particular to assist those countries which are institutionally weak?

IV. Timetable

Please respond as fully as you wish to this consultation.

Return your replies by **6 March 2018** addressed to Mr Julian Hills, ECTP-CEU Secretariat secretariat@ectp-ceu.eu

We look forward to your responses.

Thank you.

Janet Askew MRTPI

Chair of ESPRO 2020 Working Group
January, 2018