

Role Description

These are voluntary roles. The duties outlined below reflect our shared hopes and expectations but do not create any contractual obligations.

European Council of Spatial Planners (ECTP-CEU)

The European Council of Spatial Planners - *Conseil Européen des Urbanistes* (ECTP-CEU) is a membership organisation bringing together professional town planning associations and institutes from any one of the 46 eligible countries in the Council of Europe, who operate alongside corresponding members from organisations involved in planning. It is an umbrella association providing its members with a common framework to promote the visibility of planning across Europe. It recognises the important societal role and practice of planning and urban development through education, research, continuing professional development and the definition of professional responsibilities. It plays an important role in identifying and rewarding examples of good planning all over Europe. The UK and Ireland have played an important and leading role in the ECTP-CEU since its inception in 1985. Its administrative centre is currently located in Belgium and the ECTP-CEU employs one member of secretarial staff.

The RTPI has two representatives on the ECTP-CEU, who report to the International Committee and for any matters relating to Ireland, report to the Irish Executive Committee.

What's involved?

- Represent the RTPI at ECTP-CEU meetings;
- Communicate via reports any updates or decisions made at the ECTP-CEU to the International Committee and to the Irish Executive Committee to inform policy work;
- Participate actively in the running of the ECTP-CEU and its promotion.

Expected Commitment for RTPI Representatives for the ECTP-CEU are expected:

- to attend at least 2 meetings of the general assembly per year, each in a different country in mainland Europe;
- to be available to stand for the Executive Committee (known as ExCo) of the ECTP-CEU, which entails attendance at two general assembly meetings, 4 in-person meetings and up to 6 on-line meetings;
- be prepared to travel to different countries in Europe, for general assembly meetings for at least 2 or 3 days; 2 days for ExCo meetings;
- to accept appointment for an initial two-year period, commencing in the year following their election. Terms can be extended and the maximum term is 6 years;
- to work together, following consultation with the relevant RTPI staff including the international officer, especially in the case of difficult decisions;
- to work closely with the current representative whose term of offices ends in November 2025;
- to produce reports for the International Committee of the RTPI, and the Irish Executive Committee (the latter on any specific matters affecting Ireland);
- The second representative will provide substitute cover for the existing ECTP-CEU representatives in the year before their appointment starts (until November 2025)

All RTPI volunteers:

- act in the interests of the RTPI, irrespective of any commitments to other organisations or groups or any personal interests;

- declare any potential conflicts of interest and seek advice from the governance manager if necessary; and
- adhere to relevant RTPI policies, procedures and behaviours.

Term of office

The ECTP-CEU representative positions are for a term of two years with an opportunity to stand again for a further term. The maximum term is 6 years.

What's in it for you?

The role presents a chance to be part of an international team of professionals and make a real difference to the planning profession and communities across Europe.

There is the opportunity to:

- develop knowledge and expertise in planning approaches of different countries across Europe, including engaging in good practice examples;
- gain an understanding of the implications of the European Union's policy on planning in the UK and Ireland; as well as the role of the Council of Europe and other international bodies that play a role in planning;
- gain experience in European funding or research programmes and in representation to European bodies;
- help shape and influence the internationalisation of the RTPI in line with the Corporate Strategy's objectives;
- access professional networks, including European contacts;
- expand your continuing professional development (CPD) opportunities;
- learn about areas of planning outside of your expertise;
- further understand and influence planning education and the requirements for RTPI accreditation of planning schools.

What support can you expect?

- Support from RTPI staff
- Induction meetings for ECTP-CEU representatives
- Training, briefings or guidance documents on relevant topics.
- Expenses covered in line with our policy.

About you

A role as an ECTP-CEU representative for the RTPI would be suitable for members who are Chartered Town Planners (of the RTPI) with the following attributes and who:

- can demonstrate an understanding of planning issues and systems in the UK or the Republic of Ireland with an interest or experience in European planning;
- show that they understand the RTPI's membership requirements i.e. the process of becoming a chartered planner and an understanding of the Assessment of Professional Competence (APC);
- have experience in the RTPI's governance arrangements for example membership of an RTPI committee, panel, partnership or advisory board;
- have a commitment to be well informed about the work of the RTPI, and can devote the necessary time to the requirements of the role; are strongly committed to planning and the RTPI's strategic objectives and vision; have good communication and interpersonal skills.

Key contacts

RTPI International Manager: Béatrice Crabb beatrice.crabb@rtpi.org.uk

Director of Scotland and Ireland Dr Caroline Brown caroline.brown@rpti.org.uk