

ECTP-CEU Executive Committee Elections, 5-6 November 2021

Candidacy of Markus Hedorfer, ASSURB (Italy)

Born and grown up in Southern Germany, in 1984 I moved to Venice, Italy where I studied Urban and Regional Planning at IUAV University. My professional activity started in the 1990s, which involved, besides classical planning activity, multicriteria evaluation, geospatial information systems, cartography and remote sensing. In recent times, I am more and more focusing on vision and scenario building. I collected important work experience for the Eastern Mediterranean Area (valorisation of Venetian historical heritage), in Angola, Germany and of course Italy. During my first 10-15 years of activity, academic research and teaching, mostly at IUAV, occupied an important position, too.

In 2002 I joined ASSURB. 2004-2010 and from 2016 member of its Executive Committee. Since 2017 delegate to the ECTP-CEU. Since October 2019 also president, but I conceive this role as temporary, aimed at shipping the association to a younger directorate. Since its foundation in 1977 ASSURB's commitment is devoted to the recognition of the independent spatial planner profession with its proper academic pathway and professional representation. With Italy's 2001 reform of the professions many, but not all, of these goals have been obtained. Today Italy is one the few countries where planning graduation courses are recognised by law.

ASSURB wishes to share this important experience with the other European organisations in order to achieve a co-ordinated framework of the spatial planner profession across our continent, where we register an increasing need of reciprocal professional integration due to a growing mobility and continuously more important cross-border planning tasks at both, the regional and the urban/metropolitan scale. Spatial planners with a professional qualification of one country must be able to work in all other European countries without any further recognition or registration procedure. Also, a spatial planning student must be able to change university during the studies without incompatibility issues. The ECTP-CEU must become *the* European Reference and Certification Authority for the spatial planner profession, including initial education and CPD.

With my possible nomination, ASSURB wishes also to give more force inside the ECTP-CEU to the Euro-Mediterranean dialogue and to migration and inclusion, which is central to spatial planning in the next years. The work recently started with the Migration & Inclusion WG could be followed in a more efficient way, taking also into account its possible role in the 2023 Biennial, as well as the contingent Afghanistan crisis.