



AESOP YA Conference 2015 |

Beyond the masterplan. A case study on widening engagement in the Romanian planning system

Context

Our experience working with participatory processes in the process of urban development was showcased at the AESOP Young Academics Forum (ninth edition) held in Palermo, 23 to 26 March 2015. The conference was organized by the prestigious international network AESOP (Association of European Schools of Planning) dedicated to research in architecture, design and urban development.

The conference focused on the exposure of inter / multi-disciplinary contributions on theories related to universal urbanism, urban and heritage studies, which explored the size difference and connections between different contexts in Europe and globally. Urban INC presentation was the only one that targeted the context of a Central and Eastern Europe country and one of the 45 contributions selected from over 250 proposals received.

Conclusion:

AESOP conference provided the necessary context for an evaluation activity of Urban INC and other relevant organizations in developing participatory urban development practices. We worked in preparing an analysis of practices in the field alongside recognized experts in Romania. The main findings included:

- Attempts to broaden participation in urban planning processes still remain restricted and formal in Romania.
- Public institutions have developed an "antibody to change", supporting in this way the frail status quo of consultation of only some small groups.
- Civil society organizations succeed to raise questions about "collaborative planning", but their dynamic character and versatility can consume their energy in the long term. Their success depends on the ability to scale and to define better products and target groups.

Guests: Anamaria Vrabie, Irina Paraschivoiu
Organizers: AESOP Young Academics, PUSH Palermo, Palermo University
Supporters: Romanian Cultural Institute

Conference website:
<http://www.aesop-youngacademics.net/meetings/en/2014/08/27/read-about/differences-and-connections-beyond-universal-theories-in-planning-urban-and-heritage-studies>

