

PREFACE



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REAL CORP 2009 asks for future perspectives of cities under the general topic

CITIES 3.0: SMART, SUSTAINABLE, INTEGRATIVE Strategies, Concepts and Technologies for Planning the Urban Future

When the call for papers was launched in September 2008, there was the statement:

„Although major parts of the world are blessed to live in peace and economic wealth at the beginning of the 21st century, the world is facing serious challenges ...“

At that time, only a half year ago, there were some indicators that problems in the U.S. real-estate-market could also influence other sectors, but it was avoided to speak about a general crisis. Meanwhile we are within the deepest and most fundamental world economic crisis since World War II and we do not see an end of this now – on contrary, the daily bad news and outlooks seem to produce a self-fulfilling prophecy for a downward spiral.

The good message: the majority of the world population is still living in peace. But times have become more difficult not only in the so-called developed world where the unemployment rates go up and the social security systems are under a serious test. But it are the poorest people again that face serious threats in their day-to-day struggle to survive.

The global challenges that were mentioned in the call for papers are of course still here:

- climate change and environmental issues as well as rising energy consumption and competition on scarce natural resources,
- ongoing globalisation with fundamental changes in economic and working environment around the globe,
- demographic changes, like aging population in Europe, ongoing population-growth in Africa and rapid urbanisation in Asia.

In this situation it is more true than ever. In a changing world, cities have to advance and to adopt to stay what they are and have always been:

- drivers of innovation and social improvements,
- centers of economic activities, science, knowledge and arts,
- and the best places to live for the vast majority of people.

What we must not forget: Cities have to be places for EVERYBODY – for the poor and the rich, the young and the elderly, the strong and the handicapped, the technology-experts and the illiterate, the ones that have been living in the same place for generations and the migrants.

REAL CORP 2009 deals with the challenges and perspectives for cities and asks how they might look like and be organized and managed in the future, with a special focus on the role of information and communications technologies in urban development. The major questions to be dealt with are:

- What makes cities smart, sustainable and integrative – and liveable?
- How can cities and regions take advantage of globalisation and keep their local character - how to "gLOCALize"?
- How can planners help cities find the way to a successful future?
- Government, governance, mediation, participation and planning - are there models for short-term and long-term perspectives?
- Are there technologies that can support the above-mentioned goals?
- Are there best practises for "liveable cities of tomorrow"?

And there is one question that might be the dominant one in the actual situation:

Can we see the crisis as a chance?

Do we find better and smarter solutions now, when some things on how society and economy work, have to be questioned?

What are the solutions that help us overcome the actual problems and move toward a better balanced world?

What does „quality of life“ mean and how can it be achieved for almost everybody?

How can planners contribute?

There are ongoing discussions by the „world leaders“, the governments of the rich and powerful countries on how to rescue world economy, and for sure these discussions are highly relevant.

But the real solutions and innovations will not necessarily come from the big plans of the G8 or G20-meetings, but evolve from the creativity of people that live together in cities and regions and from day to day find new solutions how to improve their situation – and planners can do a lot to support such innovations and to adopt them for other environments.

I am sure that we will see a lot of great approaches and examples how to make our cities

SMART, SUSTAINABLE and INTEGRATIVE!

Some words on the conference venue in Sitges:

If an annual international congress has been successful for more than 12 years in winter time Vienna, there must be more than just the attractiveness of the venue ... – but of course a great venue contributes a lot to a successful congress.

Sitges is a small city in the vicinity of Barcelona with only about 20.000 inhabitants. With the foundation of a project office of ISOCARP - International Society of City and Regional Planners, and the involvement in numerous projects and activities on the future of cities, Sitges is a pioneer and model for many other cities, with an open, cosmopolitan mind – Sitges can be seen as a prototype place for the creative class - so there is no better place for a congress under the topic “CITIES 3.0: smart, sustainable, integrative“.

Conferences are well known for their special vibrant atmosphere and for their being ahead of the time in the topics – and I am sure we will see many outstanding ideas of cities and regions on how to become smart, sustainable and integrative and how to improve the quality of life.

Have a great conference!

Manfred Schrenk, March 2009



Jordi BAIJET I VIDAL,
Mayor of Sitges, Catalunya/Spain

WELCOME TO SITGES

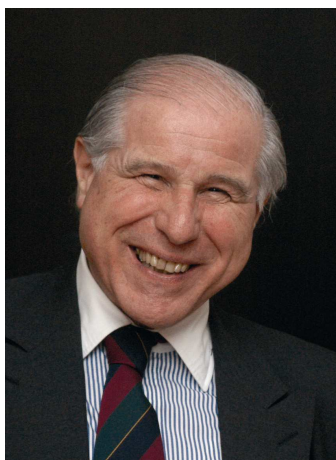
Welcome to Sitges! The say the secret is in the microclimate that seems to have settled in Sitges. The Garraf Mountains and the sea breezes keep the sky clear for around three hundred days of the year. Others add the nights, the beaches, good links to Barcelona, the peacefulness and, of course, its people.

The verb "to negotiate" I derived from the Latin expression "deny free time" or in other words, keep your nose to the grindstone. Taking the word literally you may think that Sitges is not the best place to deny people free time. However, it is more a case of combination than denial, and you only have to look at the statistics to see it. Sitges has more than five thousand hotel beds of all different styles throughout the town, half of them 4 and 5 stars.

The statistics also show the town's ability to organize, with more than two thousand places available for all kinds of events, from meetings to conferences, conventions and

gymkhanas (yes, gymkhanas).

However, these statistics do not reflect dips in the sea or dinners by the beach, useful tools to be able to see the business world from a much less stressful viewpoint. Well, Sitges is strongly interested in the topic of “The future of Cities“ and it is a pleasure to host REAL CORP 2009. I am sure that the Sitges spirit will provide a fruitful soil for new solutions and fire the imagination of the participants!



Pierre LACONTE,
Belgium, President ISOCARP - International Society of City and Regional Planners

ISOCARP WELCOMES REAL CORP 2009

It is my pleasure to address to you all my personal greetings at the REAL CORP 2009, with a special word of thanks to Mr. Jordi Bajet i Vidal, the Mayor of the hosting town of Sitges. It is in the overall interest of us planners to reconsider the current situation and the future of cities again and again. Therefore ISOCARP is very happy to be a co-operation partner of this year's CORP conference with the important topic of CITIES 3.0: SMART. SUSTAINABLE. INTEGRATIVE. Planning experts from all over the world will present and exchange their ideas on the urban future. Allow me to already draw your attention also on the ISOCARP congress “Low Carbon Cities” in Porto/Portugal in October 2009.

I wish all of you some interesting days in Sitges, with inspiring presentations and discussions, and getting in touch with planners with different cultural backgrounds. Finally may I address a special word of thanks to the conference organiser Manfred Schrenk and his CORP team from Austria.