



## **Urban Thinking Festival** **1<sup>st</sup> Edition: Smart Planning for Cultural Heritage**

The Romanian Professional Association of Urban Planners (APUR), together with Urbasofia SRL and the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) - Romania, proposes the organization of an international *Urban Thinking Festival*. The theme for the festival's 1<sup>st</sup> edition will be *Smart Planning for Cultural Heritage*, in close connection to other events related to the European Year of Cultural Heritage - 2018.

### **Goal and expectations**

The Urban Thinking Festival aims to propose, through the work of selected students and young professionals, invited international experts and capitalizing on existing local knowledge, new methodologies for tackling planning for cultural heritage in small and middle-sized cities. The output of the festival is twofold: a manifesto for smart planning, including possible approaches and methods for developing cities based on cultural heritage, as well as a spatial **cultural** concept for the host city, that can be detailed in subsequent projects to improve the city's image in relation to the conservation and capitalization of its cultural heritage.

We expect a group of 30 young professionals participating in the *Urban Thinking Festival*, along with 5 international experts, 6 urban planning professionals from the organizing institutions (facilitators), local experts and other invited guests.

### **When and where?**

The festival will take place between the 25<sup>th</sup> of August and the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2018, in the city of Braşov in Romania - a former medieval city of Transilvania and one of the country's most important economic centres, now facing multiple challenges related to its economic development, metropolitan growth and the necessity to conserve its significant cultural heritage.

### **What are we offering?**

- One-day study visit in a Romanian city with significant cultural background, facilitated by local and international planning experts (26<sup>th</sup> of August).
- Five days of lectures and workshop / debate activities, each day coordinated by another international expert in different fields related to planning for cultural heritage:
  - o sustainable development (27<sup>th</sup> of August)
  - o innovative touristic capitalization of cultural assets (28<sup>th</sup> of August)
  - o cultural heritage and digital solutions (29<sup>th</sup> of August)
  - o urban regeneration and architectural restoration (30<sup>th</sup> of August)
  - o a governance pact for cultural heritage (31<sup>st</sup> of August)
- Each working day followed by an informal round table with the invited international expert and other local experts (planners, public administration,



NGOs) discussing different topics related to cultural heritage issues - open to public.

- Artistic events, informal debate sessions - in the evenings.

Besides access to the above-mentioned activities, the attendance fee for students will also cover the welcome reception (Saturday - 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2018), a welcome pack, as well as lunch breaks and coffee breaks for the five working days.

Transportation and accommodation costs will have to be covered by the participants.

**Preliminary programme:**

Date	Morning	Early-afternoon	Late-afternoon	Evening
Sa - 25.08	-	-	Introductory session. Ice-breaking event	Welcome reception
Su - 26.08	Introductory Lecture - local expert	Study visit coordinated by local experts		Artistic event
Mo - 27.08	Lecture by guest international expert	Workshop / debate session coordinated by guest international expert	Informal round-table - public access	Artistic event / informal discussion
Tu - 28.08				
We - 29.08				
Th - 30.08				
Fr - 31.08			Final public presentation of results	Gala dinner / Party
Sa - 01.09	Feedback session: Follow-up activities + next year's edition	-	-	-

**Who can participate?**

We encourage applications from master degree students, PhD students or young professionals (age limit: 35 years) who showcase their interest in the domains of urban planning, architecture, cultural heritage, tourism or technology / smart cities. We consider interdisciplinarity a key to providing quality expertise in cultural heritage related issues, as a result we encourage applications from professionals in



a wide range of domains: architecture, urban planning, history, geography, economy, sociology, IT, engineering.

The following documents will be attached to the application form:

- CV (Europass format, maximum 3 pages).
- Cover letter (500 words)
- List of references (two experts in fields closely related to planning / cultural heritage issues)

**Important dates:**

**19<sup>th</sup> of April** - Launch of call for young professionals

**25<sup>th</sup> of May** - Deadline for applications

**1<sup>st</sup> of June** - Announcement of selected applicants

**15<sup>th</sup> of June** - Deadline for payment of participation fee (150 EUR)

**1<sup>st</sup> of August** - Announcement of final programme for the Urban Thinking Festival

**25<sup>th</sup> of August - 1<sup>st</sup> of September** - Urban Thinking Festival *Smart Planning for Cultural Heritage*, Braşov, Romania.