

ÜBER **SRL**

SRL

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SRL

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CONCEPT AND FUNCTION OF SRL

SRL is an association of people working in spatial planning, who are aware of the social responsibility connected with their roles. SRL is politically independent and economically autonomous.

The members of SRL consider that the design of the environment through responsible implementation of spatial planning will contribute to securing the future and is a prerequisite for a 'good life' for future generations.

SRL relies on the activities of its members. The SRL network would not be possible without a broad spectrum of voluntary commitment. The diverse professional and life experience of its members provides a broad range of answers to all sorts of planning and design questions. SRL maintains a culture of planning and dialogue that deals with emerging conflict and uncertainties in a seminal way. This is a prerequisite for the vitality, wealth of ideas and creativity in SRL's work. The members maintain a professional network that serves their mutual information and support. This implies that they are committed and take action themselves.

SRL considers its central task to be campaigning for the recognition of planning as a necessity and for an ambitious planning culture. Planning culture relies on processes that are based on characteristics such as broad professional and social cooperation, openness for different solutions, responsibility for nature and mankind as well as securing the future. This requires the shaping of opinion and an exchange of ideas between all players working in spatial planning. SRL cultivates democratic modes of behaviour and seeks to strengthen and extend them.

SRL conveys all potential problems and opportunities concerning spatial developments to the external arena. This implies that SRL gets involved

in political processes relating to planning and forges connections with the involved stakeholders. As a result, it is implicated in all law-making processes pertaining to planning and building law.

SRL advocates the inclusion of all persons involved in or affected by planning processes. In this way, SRL has made a commitment to the principles of sustainability and gender mainstreaming from the outset.

SRL's contribution conveys and communicates the processes and relationships of spatial planning to the public. In order to achieve this goal SRL forms the necessary framework and seeks the cooperation of others.

SRL represents the interests of the profession and influences the quality of education, advanced training and continuing education in the field of spatial planning. SRL contributed to the successful establishment of the 'fourth list' (urban planning) in all chambers of architects. SRL promotes determined representation of the professional interests of all those involved in spatial planning within the meetings of representatives and the executive boards of the chambers. As the chambers only represent listed planners, SRL also supports the professional interests outside the chambers. Some chambers do not protect their minorities sufficiently so that a majority held by over 90% architect members gets to decide matters concerning urban planners. This makes an independent professional organisation for planners all the more important.

ORGANISATION OF SRL

SRL was founded on 26 April 1969 in Bonn by planners from different areas in the professional field.

With over 1,800 members, SRL is comprised of planners in private practice, in public service, universities, associations and other institutions. They work in all areas of spatial planning, urban planning, regional planning, transport planning and landscape planning or are students on one of the related courses of study.

The formation of teams is initiated by individuals and groups within SRL or can be motivated by external people. Individuals, the board, regional forums, specialised working groups, working parties and committees work on current professional, political, legal and methodical problems arising in planning practice, in the setting of fees, education and professional conduct or urban development funding programmes and European questions and requirements.

SRL writes **statements** and **articles for professional journals** and organises **events** and **excursions**. It publishes its own statements on education and the state of the profession as well as planning law, or releases them jointly with other associations, for example on the Federal Building Code (BauGB), Federal Land Utilisation Ordinance (BauNVO), Federal Nature Conservation Act (BNatSchG), environmental impact assessments, the draft Federal Transport Infrastructure Plan and design requirements for mobility issues.

SRL founded **ASAP (Validation Organisation for Study Programmes in Architecture and Planning)** together with other professional associations and institutes of higher education whose goal is to assure the quality of education in the organisation of degrees on Bachelor's and Master's courses. The

committee of experts on urban planning/spatial planning chaired by SRL has produced a manual to this end, it provides the **peers who review institutes of higher education** and contributes to the compilation of its quality audit. SRL supports students in the planning faculties, for example at the Planners' Meetings (PlanerInnenTreffen) and works closely alongside the federal student body of the faculty. Together with other institutions, SRL holds biannual **competitions for students and young professionals** and hosts summer camps with the winners at the Schader Foundation (Darmstadt).

SRL represents the interests of urban planners at the **working groups of the nationwide associations of architects, engineers and urban planners** and regarding the **National Urban Development Policy** of the **German Federal Ministry**. SRL is instrumental in advising on the topics of the **Federal Foundation for Building Culture (Bundesstiftung Baukultur)** and supports the **Friends of the Federal Foundation for Building Culture (Förderverein Bundesstiftung Baukultur)**. Since the beginning of 2016, SRL has been leading the office of the **Council for Building and Heritage Culture in the German Culture Council (Rat für Baukultur- und Denkmalkultur im Deutschen Kulturrat)**. At the professional level, SRL works closely with the **Federal Chamber of German Architects** and helped define the standards for setting fees together with the **Committee for Fee Scales (Ausschuss für die Honorarordnung)**.

SRL has been awarding the biannual **German Mobility Planning Prize** since 2010. The German Mobility Planning Prize honours successful mobility planning achievements, mainly in view of the complexity of the task, innovative implementation and cooperation with other players in transport and mobility planning. In 2010, the award went to projects related to 'mobility in the neighbourhood',

2012 to 'transport and climate protection' and 2014 to the planning of mobility interfaces in ecomobility. In 2016, the focus was on the 'planning and design of arterial roads, reclaiming urban streets and local streets as amenity space!'. In 2018, the topic will be 'housing and mobility'.

SRL hosts **conferences** that serve the exchange of experience, advanced training and the personal meetings of both members and non-members. Annual meetings are held in the autumn, augmented by half-yearly meetings in May/June. The People and Transport Forum (Forum Mensch und Verkehr) has been holding conferences on transport issues since 1988. Regional conferences, lectures and discussions are organised by the regional forums. SRL conferences are generally accepted by chambers of architects as continuing professional development events.

Bimonthly issues of **PLANERIN** report on relevant planning topics as well as the work of regional forums and specialised working groups, the board, committees, working parties, project groups and the management. The voluntary editorial team sets the focus for each issue and edits all contributions.

A SRL series published at irregular intervals **reports** on nationwide SRL conferences and events by the regional forums and specialised working groups, and follows up relevant topics from the working parties. Volume 54: 'SRL – guarantor for 40 years of planning culture' appeared in 2009, volume 55: 'Sustainable spatial and environmental planning using the example of climate policies' in 2010, volume 56: 'The big plan. Current contributions to urban design' in 2013 and volume 57: 'Models. Contributions to urban development and design' in 2015.

Naturally, SRL hosts a continually updated **website** (www.srl.de) which not only provides information for SRL members but everyone interes-

ted in planning. It also documents the work and activities of the various bodies within SRL. The SRL events calendar, current nationwide job postings and the register of practices are only a small part of the services.

THE BOARD

SRL considers itself to be a democratic network that provides all its members with the same and individually chosen access to all internal and external networks. The single structural elements are determined by the activities of its members. The board comprises seven board members and the director. The board members are elected by the members' meeting for three years and can serve for a maximum of two terms. The board sets up nationwide working parties, project groups and committees, as required.

Alongside the board as the governing body, the regional forums and specialised working groups, and increasingly the working parties, form the main nodes in the network.

THE BOARD

B.Sc. Laura Bornemann

Dipl.-Ing. RBM. Johannes Dragomir

M.A. Silvia Haas

Dipl.-Ing. Jutta Kalepky

Dipl.-Ing. Andreas Kaufmann

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Detlef Kurth

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Oscar Reutter

Dr. Gabriele Schmidt, *General Secretary*

REGIONAL FORUMS

At regional level, the SRL members are organised in regional forums that develop their own individual programmes tailored to the specific interests of its membership and regional planning issues. Currently, there are nine regional forums:

Baden-Württemberg

Bavaria

Berlin / Brandenburg

Bremen / Lower Saxony

Hamburg / Schleswig-Holstein

Hessen / Rhineland-Palatinate / Saarland

Mecklenburg-West Pomerania

North Rhine-Westphalia

Saxony / Saxony-Anhalt / Thuringia

In addition, regional planners' meetings and round tables have been set up for the exchange of ideas about professional issues and problems.

Planners' meetings and round tables are currently held in the following regions:

Kiel, Hanover

Bremen / Oldenburg, Hamburg

Rhineland, Ruhr area, East Westphalia

Kassel, Rhine-Main area

Magdeburg, Leipzig / Halle, Dresden

Stuttgart, Karlsruhe

Northern and Southern Bavaria

PEOPLE AND MOBILITY FORUM

The People and Mobility Forum (Forum Mensch und Verkehr) provides the competence network on transport reform within SRL, with over 400 experts from various disciplines.

The People and Mobility Forum has taken on the task, alongside and in cooperation with existing specialist associations, to promote the interdisciplinary discussion about all current mobility issues arising in science, policy and planning practice, and their dissemination to the public. It is based on the comprehensive and integrated consideration of transport and settlement structures that reaches beyond a professional engineering perspective. The planners involved in urban and transport planning and other disciplines seek to achieve an improved spatial integration and incorporation of traffic in other areas of life. A model for this is environmental, economic and social sustainability and efficiency relevant to the goals of urban, regional and federal state planning.

The People and Mobility Forum develops new professional principles and takes a stand on current transport policy issues. At conferences, workshops and excursions it promotes an interdisciplinary exchange of experience.

The Speaker's Council coordinates the working parties and represents the People and Mobility Forum both externally and within SRL. The members of the specialised group elect the Speaker's Council for three years.

The People and Mobility Forum's project work is done by the working parties which are organised in different ways, depending on the issues in hand and modes of operation. Members of the working parties exchange experiences. Working parties produce publications, statements and prepare conferences. New working parties can be formed.

Working parties are currently working on the following topics:

Local mobility and the topic of pedestrian and bicycle traffic

Mobility management and the topic of local public transport

Street space and the topic of shared space

Planning tools of sustainable mobility

EUROPE

The project group for Europe looks at the various European funding programmes and has the task of connecting planners at the European level. The Charter of European Planning agrees mutual principles of planning and planning education. One important component is the cooperation in the European planning biennial and the hosting of shared events with planners from neighbouring countries.

ECTP

SRL is a founder member of the European Council of Spatial Planners (ECTP) which is the European umbrella organisation that represents spatial planning in the EU in Brussels. Key words describing the spectrum of tasks include services directive, professional qualifications directive, territorial agenda, social cohesion.

The ECTP's Founding Charter of 1985 formulated essential statements about the function of urban and regional planning as well as the profession and education of planners. Since 2013, our SRL delegate, Michael Stein, has been a member of the ECTP Executive Committee. Martin Reents is an additional delegate who represents the SRL. The focus of the work lies on mutual recognition of education and professional qualifications. Specifically in the field of regulations for the regulated profession of urban planners, the SRL works closely with the Brussels office of the Federal Chamber of German Architects.

In 2016, the ECTP adopted the Charter of European Planning, which sets quality standards in planning and planning education. SRL translated the Charter into German.

SRL also represents members of the German Academy for Urban and Regional Planning (Deut-

sche Akademie für Städtebau und Landesplanung)
at the ECTP.

DRAFT PRINCIPLES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Based on Annex C of the founding charter (1985
Charter of Amsterdam) and updated 2012

1. The objectives of the ECTP-CEU as defined in its Statutes are to collect, study and promulgate information related to the exercise of the profession of the planner in the Member States of the Council of Europe and across their Institutes and Associations, the defence of the rights of planners and research into a definition of their obligations. The association works towards this objective regardless of any political, linguistic or philosophical consideration.
2. This Charter of Professional Conduct sets out the principles by which all the professional activities the members of the ECTP-CEU will be guided. All members are expected to observe the provisions of the Charter.
3. Professional Town Planners shall conduct themselves in such a manner as to uphold the reputation of the profession in general and their Institute or Association in particular. They shall respect and uphold the professional ethics of the Institutes or Associations of each of the countries within which they undertake work.
4. Each Institute or Association will draft its own detailed Code of Professional Conduct and will be responsible for the observance by its members of its Code. This will embody the following Principles, to which all Planners in Europe agree to subscribe:

5. Professional planners

- a. shall act with integrity and honesty with the interests of the community being their paramount consideration;
- b. shall exercise their independent professional judgement to the best of their skill and understanding;
- c. shall maintain their professional competence throughout their working lives through continuing professional development, including adhering to the advice of their Institute or Association
- d. shall support their staff in developing and maintaining their competences, to expand their knowledge, experience and ability;
- e. shall rely solely on professional capability to obtain commissions and not to seek to supplant another practitioner; and always to notify a previous practitioner on being approached to proceed with work on which such practitioner had been engaged.
- f. shall discharge their duty to their employers, clients, colleagues and others with care and diligence;
- g. shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, sex, sexual orientation, creed, religion, disability or age and shall seek to promote equality of opportunity;
- h. shall respect other related professions and shall collaborate with them and seek their expertise whenever appropriate to the nature of the task.
- i. shall not bring the profession or the ECTP-CEU into disrepute.

6. In particular, members will not make or subscribe to any statements or reports which are contrary to their own bona fide professional opinions and shall not knowingly enter into any contract or agreement which requires them to do so. All the

activities of members will be legal, decent, honest and truthful and must avoid exaggeration and show respect to other members.

(<http://www.ectp-ceu.eu/index.php/en/publications-8/the-charter-of-european-planning-213>)

COMMITTEES, PROJECT GROUPS, WORKING PARTIES

SRL committees are permanent, continuously working, voluntary bodies which are set up to address specific issues. They are appointed by the board and develop drafts concerning matters of sub-regional importance. Project groups are appointed by the board, to work alongside the committees and consider current topics, in order to exploit the voluntary commitment of members in a direct, temporary way.

The Committee on **Issues of the Profession** deals with all questions concerning the profession that involve SRL as a professional association. These are questions concerning the legislation for architects and chambers as well as the fee scales, in addition to questions related to private practice. This also covers the development of the profession, educational courses, advanced training and quality management. The committee works closely with the urban planning committee of the Federal Chamber of German Architects and with the Committee for Fee Scales, where SRL has been a member since 2009 on issues relating to fees.

The field of **education** is now largely dealt with by the Validation Organisation's Committee of Experts on Urban and Regional Planning. The fact that SRL has been operating the ASAP offices since 2008 has brought about tremendous synergy effects. Most of all the production of manuals to secure the quality of courses of study and the joining of education and practice has supported the Bologna process in transferring study courses to the Bachelor's and Master's system.

The Working Party on **Planning Law** considers the current relevant amendments of the law and regularly works on proposals for the efficient rest-

ructuring of legal planning processes, often under great pressure to act quickly.

In recent years, the **Urban Development Funding** Project Group has campaigned concertedly to the Federal Ministry for an increase in funds for urban development and has influenced federal and regional administrations in drafting the relevant funding programmes.

Based on mega-trends such as globalisation, climate protection, demographic change, peak oil / scarcity of resources, wider income gaps, development of communication and information technology, the **Future of Mobility** Project Group is working on complex mobility issues.

The Working Party on Social **Cities/Preventative Urban Development** has been concerned with all issues relating to social urban development and the social city funding programme since 2003.

The Working Party on **Urban Redevelopment** has been hosting workshop discussions on various aspects of urban redevelopment in the east and west since 2002 and leads excursions to urban redevelopment areas in order to learn about problems and solutions on site.

The Working Party on **Urban Design** organises excursions and visits interesting urban design projects. The working party encourages processes that not only pursue planning and building culture in the course of required processes but also to achieve sustainable results regarding architecture, space and culture.

The Working Party on **Active Centres** was set up in 2010 and seeks to develop concepts for strengthening cities, particularly city centres, beyond the relevant funding programmes.

The working party on **Rural Areas** has developed a discussion paper to analyse the various problems and interests in different regions and to propose appropriate solutions.

The **Linked Information System** Working Party considers its task to be the development of solutions for problems related to computer assisted design in the field of planning and to relay them to the SRL membership. To this end, the working party hosts its own web page and reports regularly in the PLANERIN journal.

The **Energy and Climate Working Party** will consider topics which include neighbourhood energy development, development of networks and their spatial effects as well as climate protection issues and adaptation to the effects of climate change.

