

**EUROPEAN LECTURE SERIES**  
organized by the  
**AESOP Thematic Group Small Towns**

**SMALL TOWNS IN FOCUS**

**MULTI-DIMENSIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON TODAY'S CHALLENGES**

This lecture series explores current research and practices relating to the development of small and medium-sized towns in selected European countries. It discusses ongoing spatial dynamics, ranging from small neighbourhoods and inner cities to regional and national perspectives. These dynamics are closely linked to political debates and planning strategies in the relevant countries, as well as to the wider European context.

Small towns are not only peripheral -both geographically and mentally- but also represent strategic stepping stones for large-scale spatial issues and future development challenges. This applies to the quality of services in regions undergoing demographic change and housing provision in both metropolitan areas and decentralised regions. Small and medium-sized towns are therefore confronted with questions of adaptability and renewal in existing settlement areas, as well as questions of innovation and transformation. We explore how current and future planning cultures can be inspired by small towns and what lessons can be learned from the experiences of various European towns.

This European lecture series is organized by Thematic Group Small Towns of the Association of European Schools of Planning. It brings together scholars and experts from a variety of disciplines across Europe. It addresses researchers, students and practitioners alike.

## PROGRAMM - Mondays 16:30 - 18:00 p.m. (Central European Time)

Participation is online (Webex) via the following link:

<https://b-tu.webex.com/b-tu/j.php?MTID=mba9e62808e998103be257130dd601ea2>

Date	Presentations	Moderation
03.11.2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Common introduction by representatives</b> of the AESOP Thematic Group Small Towns</li> <li><b>Prof. Dr. Anna Growe</b>, Urban Economics, Kassel University (Germany), <b>Dr. Thomas Terfrüchte</b>, Spatial planning and planning theory, Dortmund University (Germany) <b>Size Matters? Spatial Patterns of Metropolitan Functions in Europe's Urban Hierarchy</b></li> </ul>	<b>Prof. Dr. Silke Weidner</b> , BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg (Germany)
10.11.2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Prof. Dr. Agnes Förster</b>, Planning Theory, RWTH Aachen (Germany) <b>Regions in Transition. Transformative Capacities in smaller towns under regional aspects</b></li> <li><b>Dr. Madeleine Wagner</b>, Institute of Geography and Geoecology, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (Germany) <b>Residential Life Beyond the Metropolis: A Geographical Overview of Housing Structures and Trends in Germany' Small Towns</b></li> </ul>	<b>Prof. Dr. Mina di Marino</b> , Norwegian University NMBU, (Norway) & <b>Ass. Prof. Dr. Christian Fertner</b> , University of Copenhagen (Denmark)
17.11.2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Ass. Prof. Dr. Christian Fertner</b>, Landscape Architecture and Planning, University of Copenhagen (Denmark) <b>Small Towns and their activities for the inner-city centers in Denmark</b></li> <li><b>Prof. Dr. Silke Weidner</b>, Urban Management, BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg (Germany) <b>Sustainable inner-cities and centers – cases from Germany</b></li> <li><b>Jeanette Fitzsimons</b>, Department of Planning, University College Cork (Ireland) <b>Small towns and inner urban areas in Ireland</b></li> </ul>	<b>Prof. Dr. Agnes Förster</b> , RWTH Aachen (Germany) & <b>Prof. Dr. Agnieszka Kwiatek-Softys</b> , University of the National Education Commission, Krakow (Poland)
24.11.2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Prof. Dr. Agnieszka Kwiatek-Softys</b>, University of the National Education Commission, Krakow (Poland) <b>Small towns in Poland, state - regional differentiation</b></li> <li><b>Prof. Dr. Hélène Mainet, Dr. Hab. Hélène Roth</b>, Geography and Spatial Planning, University Clermont Auvergne (France) <b>Small towns in France: dedicated national policy and local applications</b></li> <li><b>PD MMag. Dr. Robert Musil</b>, Institute for Urban and Regional Research of the Austrian Academy of Sciences <b>Micro-segregation in small towns. Findings from Upper Austria</b></li> </ul>	<b>PhD Matej Nikšič</b> , Urban Planning Institute of the Republic of Slovenia & <b>Dr. Madeleine Wagner</b> , Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (Germany)
01.12.2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Valeria Francioli</b>, University of Florence (Italy) <b>The National Strategy for Inner Areas (SNAI) and other Italian policies made up for small rural settlements (Italian "borghi")</b></li> <li><b>Prof. Dr. Mina di Marino</b>, Norwegian University (NMBU) (Norway) <b>The future of multilocal work and New Working Spaces in small and medium-sized urban municipalities and in rural municipalities in Norway</b></li> <li><b>Roundtable Discussion</b> Representatives of the AESOP TG Small Towns and participants</li> </ul>	<b>Dr. Hab. Hélène Roth &amp; Prof. Dr. Hélène Mainet</b> , University Clermont Auvergne (France)

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