ISOCARP WOMEN IN PLANNING AWARDS 2026

Award Nominations Submission Guidelines

ISOCARP
Knowledge for Better Cities

ISOCARP WOMEN IN PLANNING AWARDS 2026

WIPA AWARD NOMINATION – SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

The global ISOCARP Women in Planning Awards (ISOCARP WIPA) celebrate the outstanding contributions of women and allies across the global planning profession. Awards are made across three pillars: (1) Inspiring Individuals, (2) Inclusive and Equitable Organisational Culture, and (3) Gender-Responsive Practice, Policy and Research. Nominees may come from academia, private practice, public sector, NGOs, multilateral organisations, or community activism.

All shortlisted candidates:

- Will be announced in October and promoted through all official ISOCARP communications platforms (website, social media and newsletter) as well as through platforms of partner organisations.
- Are highly encouraged to promote their shortlisted profile (by reposting/sharing) and to invite their networks to join the event in Glasgow.
- Are highly encouraged to attend the event.

Where and how will we announce the winners?

The official public announcement will be made during the ISOCARP Women in Planning Awards 2026 Ceremony on 23rd November, as part of the ISOCARP Women in Planning Awards and Planning Day.

The winner of each category will be awarded the following:

- An official ISOCARP award and award certification.
- One year of individual or institutional membership with ISOCARP. Existing members will be contacted to discuss their membership benefits.
- Promotion of their profile, submitted work, and received award(s) across all ISOCARP communication platforms (website, social media, newsletter).

Award timeline

- Call for Nominations Open – second half July 2026
- Call for Nominations closure– 8 September 2026
- Announcement of shortlisted nominees' – October 2026
- Announcement of winners and Special Mentions – 23 November 2026 in Glasgow, Scotland

**For any changes or updates, please refer to our website.*

Award categories

The award categories are split into three pillars: (1) Inspiring Individuals; (2) Inclusive and Equitable Organisational Culture and (3) Gender-Responsive Planning Practice, Policy and Research.

Eligibility

- You do not need to be an ISOCARP member to enter.

- You can submit in more than one category by sending in more than one application. Separate fees may apply.
- Entries should be provided in English.
- All nominations should reflect work or impact in the twenty-four months preceding the nomination deadline unless otherwise stated.
- You can nominate another individual only in Pillar 1.
- For marketing purposes, we require all submissions to include **a)** one short paragraph with the profile/bio/introduction of the nominee, whether individual, organisation or project team, together with a description of the submitted work/policy (150 words max.), **b)** a profile photograph/organisation logo/team picture (depending on the submission category), **c)** official websites/social media account links (LinkedIn/Facebook).
- You are expected to provide relevant evidence to support your submission, in the form of Supporting Documents; all evidence should be provided in a PDF format.
- No submissions will be accepted after the closing date.
- Some nominees will be required to pay submission fees to enter. If you or your organisation are based in a Low-Income Country or Low Middle-Income Country, we would like **to offer a 25% discount on the cost of submission**. Discount will be automatically applied during payment checkout.

Supporting Documents

Based on the criteria of the category you are submitting in, you can include the following as supporting documents (up to 5 PDFs):

- Organisational/HR policies, processes and schemes,
- Internal Policy outcome/progress reports,
- City and Regional Planning policies/strategies,
- Toolkits/policy tools,
- Plans: Urban, Normative, Strategic
- Design projects/urban design projects,
- Bachelor's, Master or PhD theses (summary) and link to full document,
- Books and/or book chapters,
- Essays or journal articles,
- Published project reports or research works,
- Software/smart tools facilitating planners,
- Feedback/commendations received on your work,
- Visual supporting materials, such as drawings, maps, posters, graphic representations, or charters (up to 5 pages),

The above list is not exhaustive and merely indicative. Ineligible entries include exhibition catalogues, and/or unpublished reports. Unpublished journal articles are eligible if the publisher's acceptance letter is attached to the article submitted.

PILLAR 1: INSPIRING INDIVIDUALS

This pillar recognises **women planners** who have made exceptional contributions to the profession at different stages of their careers. Eligible candidates include women engaged across the full range of planning activities, including practitioners in the public and private sectors, academics, public authority representatives, and activists. Nominations are welcome from all sectors.

There are four categories in this pillar:

1. Early Career Women in Planning
2. Mid-Career Women in Planning
3. Senior Women in Planning
4. Lifetime Achievement Awards (conferred by ISOCARP)

Nominations: You can nominate yourself, or another individual, provided they are aware of this nomination in advance. In this category we accept nominations made only by individuals.

Submission materials for all three categories:

- Introduction of the nominee and short description of the submitted work/policy - 150 words max. This will also be used for publicity purposes.
- Statement addressing all criteria of selected category – 500 words max.
- Two recommendation/recognition letters from peers – in PDF format, signed by recommender.
- Supporting documents that evidence your statement (see list above for examples). Please submit 2-5 supporting documents in PDF format.
- High-quality profile picture.
- Links to personal webpage(s) and social media accounts.

Submission Fee: Submissions are complimentary.

1.1 Early Career Women in Planning

Eligibility: Open to women with up to 10 years of post-qualification experience in planning or a related field.

Criteria: Submissions should demonstrate the following or equivalent:

- Demonstrate achievement and impact within their area of planning practice or research.
- Evidence of professional development and commitment to the planning profession.
- Contribution to advancing planning outcomes, policy, or community benefit.
- Recognised by peers as a rising voice in the profession.

1.2 Mid-Career Women in Planning

Eligibility: Open to women with approximately 10 to 20 of post-qualification experience who are advancing the profession through leadership, innovation, or significant contribution, but who have not yet reached the most senior executive tier.

Criteria: Submissions should demonstrate the following or equivalent:

- Evidence of leadership, innovation, or significant professional contribution in their field.
- Demonstrated impact on planning practice, policy, research, or community outcomes.

- A track record of advancing the profession at a pivotal stage of their career.
- Recognition by peers as a significant contributor to planning.

1.3 Senior Women in Planning

Eligibility: Open to women at the most senior levels of the planning profession, including directors, chief executives, heads of institution, or equivalent leaders in any planning sector.

Criteria: Submissions should demonstrate the following or equivalent:

- Sustained record of high-level leadership and professional excellence in planning.
- Demonstrable influence on planning outcomes, policy, or the direction of the profession.
- Evidence of impact at an organisational, national, or international scale.
- Recognition as an outstanding leader and role model within the profession.

1.4 Lifetime Achievement Award

Eligibility: Awarded by ISOCARP to recognise a woman whose career has made a transformational and enduring impact on the global planning profession. This award is not open for public nomination; it is conferred by ISOCARP.

PILLAR 2: INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE ORGANISATIONAL CULTURE

This pillar recognises **public service entities, organisations, academic institutions, and private practices** that have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to enabling women to thrive in the planning profession. Awards are made across seven sector categories. The criteria are consistent across all categories: nominations are assessed on the organisation's internal policies, culture, and outcomes for women, rather than on the planning work itself.

All organisational nominations should provide evidence relating to the 24-months months preceding the nomination deadline, with reference to longer-term trends where relevant.

Women-led organisations, planning practices and public service departments are highly encouraged to apply.

Criteria for all categories:

Submissions should demonstrate the following or equivalent:

- HR and organisational policies that actively support women to thrive and progress, including recruitment, retention, and progression. This could include family-friendly provisions including maternity, paternity, and flexible working policies.
- Gender balance across the organisation, with evidence of meaningful representation at all levels including representation of women in leadership and senior decision-making roles.
- Evidence of measurable progress or outcomes for women in the twenty-four months preceding nomination, with reference to longer term trends.

Submission materials for all categories:

- Introduction of the nominee organisation and short description of the submitted policy/measure/outcome/impact - 150 words max. This will also be used for publicity purposes.
- Statement addressing all criteria of selected category - 500 words max.
- Supporting documents that evidence your statement (see list above for examples). Please submit 2-5 supporting documents in PDF format.
- High-quality profile picture/organisation logo
- Links to official website and Social Media account

2.1 Micro Planning Practice

Eligibility: Open to independent planning consultancies and practices with up to and including 9 employees, in line with OECD definition of SMEs and its sub-categories.

Submission Fee: Submissions are complimentary.

2.2 Small Planning Practice

Eligibility: Open to independent planning consultancies and practices with 10 up to/and including 49 employees, in line with the OECD definition and sub-categories of small and medium-sized enterprises.

Submission Fee: 500 Euros (including a complimentary ticket to attend the Women in Planning Awards and Planning Day in Glasgow)

2.3 Medium Sized Planning Practice

Eligibility: Open to independent planning consultancies and practices with 50 up to and including 249 employees, in line with the OECD definition and sub-categories of small and medium-sized enterprises.

Submission Fee: 1500 Euros (including a complimentary ticket to attend the Women in Planning Awards and Planning Day in Glasgow).

2.4 Large Planning Practice

Eligibility: Open to planning consultancies and practices with 250 or more employees, in line with the OECD definition of large enterprises.

Submission Fee: 3000 Euros (including a complimentary ticket to attend the Women in Planning Awards and Planning Day in Glasgow).

2.5 Academic Institution

Eligibility: Open to universities, research institutes, and higher education bodies with a planning or built environment faculty or department.

Submission Fee: 500 Euros (including a complimentary ticket to attend the Women in Planning Awards and Planning Day in Glasgow).

2.6 Public Service (cities & regions), City & Region-networks, Multilateral or Non-Profit Civil Society Organisation

Eligibility: Open to non-profit organisations and public service entities operating in the public interest, including municipal, metropolitan, regional, national planning authorities and agencies,

intergovernmental bodies, multilateral organisations, NGOs, and civil society groups with a planning or urban development remit.

Submission Fee: Submissions are complimentary.

2.7 Development Banks

Eligibility: Open to development banks operating in the urban, city, and regional planning and development sector

Submission Fee: 4000 Euros (including a complimentary ticket to attend the Women in Planning Awards and Planning Day in Glasgow)

PILLAR 3: GENDER-RESPONSIVE PLANNING PRACTICE, POLICY AND RESEARCH

This pillar recognises outstanding gender-inclusive, gender-sensitive, or gender-informed **planning work** delivered in the twenty-four months preceding the nomination deadline, with reference to longer-term work or trends where relevant. Awards are made across three sector categories. Nominations may relate to a project, policy, programme, toolkit, or development (for public and private sector categories) or to a research contribution (for the academic category).

Submission materials for all categories:

- Introduction of the nominee and short description of the submitted project/programme/toolkit - 150 words max. This will also be used for publicity purposes.
- Statement addressing all criteria of selected category – 500 words max.
- Supporting documents that evidence your statement (see list above for examples). Please submit 2-5 supporting documents in PDF format.
- Profile picture/organisation logo.
- Links to official website and social media accounts.

3.1 Gender-Informed Planning: Public Sector & Non-Profit Organisations

Eligibility: Open to any public authority, government body, or planning department that has delivered gender-inclusive, gender-sensitive, or gender-informed planning work in the preceding twenty-four months. Nominations may relate to a project, policy, programme, toolkit, or development.

Criteria: Submissions should demonstrate the following or equivalent:

- project, policy, programme, toolkit, or development with clear evidence of gender-inclusive, gender-sensitive, or gender-informed planning principles applied to the work.
- Demonstrable impact on planning outcomes for women and girls, or on the communities served.
- Commitment to embedding gender equality in planning policy or practice.
- Innovation, ambition, or replicability in the approach taken.
- Evidence of outcomes or progress achieved in the twenty-four months preceding nomination

Submission Fee: Submissions are complimentary.

3.2 Gender-Informed Planning: Private Sector

Eligibility: Open to any private planning practice, consultancy that has delivered gender-inclusive, gender-sensitive, or gender-informed urban, city or regional planning work (in the preceding twelve months). Nominations may relate to a project, public policy, programme, toolkit, or development.

Criteria: Submissions should demonstrate the following or equivalent:

- project, policy, programme, toolkit, or development with clear evidence of gender-inclusive, gender-sensitive, or gender-informed planning principles applied to the work.
- Demonstrable impact on planning outcomes for women and girls, or on the communities served.
- Commitment to embedding gender equality in planning policy or practice.
- Innovation, ambition, or replicability in the approach taken.
- Evidence of client or community benefit from the gender-informed approach.
- Evidence of outcomes or progress achieved in the twenty-four months preceding nomination.

Submission Fee: 1500 Euros (including a complimentary ticket to attend the Women in Planning Awards and Planning Day in Glasgow).

3.3 Gender-Informed Planning Research

Eligibility: Open to academics, research teams, or institutions that have produced or published research advancing gender-inclusive, gender-sensitive, or gender-informed approaches to planning in the preceding twelve months.

Criteria: Submissions should demonstrate the following or equivalent:

- Original contribution to knowledge in the field of gender and planning.
- Clear relevance to planning policy, practice, or professional development.
- Rigour, innovation, and significance of the research.
- Potential for real-world application or influence on planning outcomes.
- Evidence of publication, dissemination, or impact in the twenty-four months preceding nomination.

Submission Fee: 500 Euros (including a complimentary ticket to attend the Women in Planning Awards and Planning Day in Glasgow)

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO RECEIVING YOUR SUBMISSIONS.

For any questions contact us at *womeninplanning@isocarp.org*