

# **DRAFT CODE OF CONDUCT<sup>1</sup>**

## **FOR THE AESOP THEMATIC GROUP**

### **Resilience and Risks Mitigation Strategies**

#### **DEFINITIONS**

**RRMS:** stands as abbreviation of the title of the thematic group ‘Resilience and Risk Mitigation Strategies’.

**Founding Members:** are individuals who started the thematic group RRMS in AESOP Napoli Congress in 2007; namely: Murat Balamir of the Middle East Technical University, Ankara; Angela Colucci of the Politechnical University, Milano; Adriana Galderisi of Federico II University, Napoli; Kalliopi Sapountzakis of Harokopio University, Athens.

**Registered Member:** is an individual researcher from an European university or research organization who has presented a paper related to RRMS in an AESOP Congress and attended an RRMS meeting at or after the 2007 Congress, and/or expressed his/her wish to have an affiliation with RRMS.

**Associate member:** any individual researcher who does not belong to a European university or research organization or a member school of AESOP but who has expertise or a substantive interest in the RRMS field and contributes to activities and events organized by AESOP - RRMS.

**Member Eligible for Coordinating Board:** is a RRMS member who has attended at least 2 AESOP Congresses after the inception of RRMS in 2007 and made at least one presentation related to RRMS over the last 3 years or a graduate planner or a member researcher with distinguished work related to RRMS as recognized by the Coordinating Board.

**Honorary Member:** is a distinguished individual whose affiliation and advice is valuable to RRMS as considered by the Coordinating Board.

**Coordinating Board:** The board is comprised of at least five RRMS members; they lead RRMS’s scientific development, organize and support scientific activities, and manage the group’s affairs.

**Task Committees:** are temporary task groups organized by any number of RRMS members irrespective of status and generally chaired by one of the Board members.

**Coordinator:** Elected member of the Coordinating Board representing RRMS.

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<sup>1</sup> *Murat Balamir drafted this ‘Code of Conduct’ (July 2013) for discussions between members currently operational in running the RRMS thematic group, in order to base the group’s objectives, decisions, and conduct on just, explicit, and transparent principles. It has been reviewed and adapted by the following RRMS members Richard Sliuzas, Angela Colucci, Adriana Galderisi and Kalliopi (Popi) Sapountzaki.*

## **OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF RRMS**

RRMS thematic group aims to:

- Promote the understanding that risk mitigation, resilience, climate change mitigation and adaptation issues fundamentally fall into planning expertise, and that planning is a basic discipline by which not only development and growth is managed, but also a field within which strategies to avoid development and growth that are detrimental to ecological, social and economic systems are devised and implemented;
- Develop a common basis for the development of special curricula in planning schools addressing the transfer of knowledge, methods and skills concerning resilience and risk mitigation issues;
- Focus on research and implementation in spatial/social forms of resilience and risk mitigation as fundamental issues of planning through specialized research and collaborative project development;
- Enable information exchange between group members, AESOP, and the global community regarding the role and achievements of planning with a focus on RRMS;
- Promote international collaboration of planners with other disciplines necessary to RRMS in joint research, project development, and implementation;
- Provide services to, and attract interest, contributions, and support from local, national, international bodies concerned with RRMS;
- Support planners' status and capacities in decision-making at local, national, global policy development concerning resilience and risk mitigation, and promote the penetration of planners into decision-making systems relevant to RRMS at all levels;
- Ensure that the scope and focus of RRMS issues remain relevant within the contemporary scientific debates and practices in planning and other disciplines, and changes in the material and immaterial world which these are focused on.
- Promote active membership of the RRMS Group with a view to increase and influence expansion with respect to curricula in planning schools, qualifications of planning and risk management professions.

## **MODUS OPERANDI**

The Coordinating Board is responsible for running the RRMS thematic group. It leads the scientific development of the RRMS's scientific development, organizes and supports scientific activities, and manages the group's affairs. Members of the Coordinating Board are each entrusted with specific responsibilities, and keep an information base related to their tasks and make this accessible to all members of the Board and when relevant to RRMS members

The Coordinating Board communicates through the internet, meetings at Congresses, and if appropriate at special work sessions.

Members of the Coordinating Board are elected by thematic group members during bi-annual meetings at AESOP Congresses.

In the event that a position on the board is vacated prematurely, the Coordinating Board will call for nominations from the members make a new appointment for the unexpired term.

## **FOUNDING MEMBERS**

The four founding members (see definitions above) are members of the Coordinating Board for two terms from the date of approval of this code of conduct, unless they voluntarily resign, or do not attend three consecutive AESOP Congresses.

## **REGISTERED MEMBER**

An AESOP member can register for membership of the RRMS thematic group by submitting a brief CV and a short written statement of their RRMS interests to the Coordinating Board.

A registered member is entitled to:

- Receive regular information about the RRMS group's activities;
- News updates provided by other group members;
- Participate in RRMS activities of an open nature;
- Initiate activities of interest to RRMS members through the Coordinating Board.

A registered member who has made at least two presentations related to RRMS at AESOP events is eligible for membership of the Coordinating Board. The Coordinating Board may also nominate members who do not fulfill these requirements for Board membership should they find this appropriate given the member's status or standing in the RRMS field.

## **HONORARY MEMBER**

The Coordinating Board may approve honorary members from the AESOP community or external individuals who have distinguished status in the RRMS field, and whose affiliation to RRMS would enhance the thematic group's activities or performance.

## **COORDINATING BOARD**

The Coordinating Board has at least five members one of whom is elected as its Coordinator.

The initial Coordinating Board consists of the four founding members (see above) and additional members chosen by the founding members.

The Coordinating Board must be composed of male and female members of at least three different countries.

Membership of the Coordinating Board is normally for two years, with a maximum of 3 consecutive terms. (NOTE: in the initial board founding members will remain in the Coordinating Board for at most 2 terms of 2 years).

Coordinating Board members are individually or jointly responsible for the tasks below:

- Coordinator – primary focal point for RRMS Board activities, representing RRMS in AESOP meetings and other fora as required. (see separate detailed description below);
- Communications: relations with members, newsletter, website, and information management;
- Education: relations with schools and educational programs
- Research: stimulate joint research projects, publications, and seek financial support for such;

- Practice and Science Collaboration: develop relations with government, non-government and professional organizations at local, national, international levels;
- Building relations with the Young Academic Network of AESOP (should be a YAN member).

Coordinating Board members prepare annual activity and progress reports and submit to the Coordinator, making them available to RRMS members through regular communication channels.

### **TASK COMMITTEES**

Task Committees are temporary and ad hoc groups established by a member of the Coordinating Board with the consent of the Coordinator.

Task Committees with specific objectives to fulfill may engage any member of RRMS or if necessary external individuals as determined by the Coordinating Board member chairing the Task Committee.

### **COORDINATOR**

The Coordinator of the RRMS thematic group is elected from the members of the Coordinating Board, by the Coordinating Board for a period of two years with a maximum of 3 consecutive terms.

The Coordinator, who is the primary representative of the RRMS thematic group, communicates with AESOP Executive Committee and is responsible for synchronizing the activities of the Coordinating Board and the RRMS community.

The Coordinator is responsible for the organizing of programs and preparations for AESOP Congresses. In the preparation of Congresses, the Coordinator cooperates with the organizing committee of the Congress, acts to announce and program the special track of RRMS, and aims to avoid formation of other tracks with similar research interests.

The Coordinator submits a biannual report to AESOP on activities of the past term and of intentions of the next term.

### **ENFORCEMENT AND AMENDMENTS**

This Code of Conduct is effective as it is approved by the members of the Coordinating Board, and submitted to AESOP Executive.

Amendments of this Code of Conduct are possible by the unanimous decision of the Coordinating Board and approval of the majority of eligible members present during a RRMS Group meeting at an AESOP Congress. AESOP administration is informed of any amendments.