

EDITORIAL

This issue (4.2) of Transactions of AESOP brings together a series of papers which reflect on the European Spatial Development Perspective (ESDP) document which was adopted by the then member states of the European Union (EU) in Potsdam, Germany in 1999, and is published shortly after the adoption in December 2020 of a new EU Territorial Agenda 2030 document under the recent German EU Presidency. It features an introduction and five original papers which explore the legacies of the ESDP and the present and future prospects for European territorial development and urban policy. After a year of great uncertainty marked by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and all the immediate worries and concerns it has engendered, the papers offer an opportunity to step back and take a 'long view' of some of these matters – to 'look back to look forward' as the introductory piece terms it.

The past year has seen the project of Transactions reach a new stage in its development. The management structure has evolved, with the appointment of an Editor in Chief who continues to work with the Working Group that has piloted the launch of the Journal and its development over four volumes. The Working Group met in Autumn 2020 to discuss the further evolution of journal governance and management arrangements including a transition towards the constitution of a core Editorial Group with an expanded membership and clearly identified remits for its members. More details and a call for expressions of interest in joining the Editorial Group will be forthcoming in the course of 2021 events permitting. On a more technical level, the AESOP AEKOM Working Group has provided invaluable support to us over the past year on the planned move to an Open Journal System for Transactions. Getting the right package in place will be a huge bonus for contributors and reviewers and in facilitating the management of the journal.

It is very positive that the Journal continues to attract excellent contributions in a competitive field of academic publishing, especially given the period of disruption and adaptation to new working practices which have affected academic life and life in general over the past year.

As the last issue of this volume it is appropriate to end with a note of thanks to all those who have chosen to publish their work in Transactions over the past year and who continue to support and foster the Journal's development, including: the members of the Transactions Working Group - Ela Babalik, Andrea Frank, and Nikos Karadimitriou; the Secretary General and President of AESOP; the AESOP Treasurer; the members of the AEKOM Working Group; members of the Transactions Editorial Board; all those who have acted as reviewers; and last, but by no means least, Dr. Bertie Dockerill whose proofreading helps maintain the high editorial standards of the Journal.

Olivier Sykes

Editor in Chief of Transactions of AESOP