



Dr Alfonso VEGARA
President
Fundación Metrópoli

Dr Alfonso Vegara, an architect-planner, is the President of the Madrid-based Taller de Ideas Group. He was born in Alicante, Spain in 1955. Founded in 1987, Taller de Ideas has developed the Regional Planning Strategies for eight of the 17 Autonomous Regions in Spain, including the award winning regional plan for the Basque Country. Dr Vegara is also President of Fundación Metrópoli, a Spanish foundation dedicated to studying, developing and sharing urban innovations. He also developed and directed the on-going Proyecto CITIES initiative, a study into the urban components of excellence of twenty participating cities from around the world. Using the methodology developed for Proyecto CITIES, the Fundación Metrópoli has undertaken a number of urban research and planning projects including the Fengxian Eco-Linear City, the Madrid Bulevar M30, and the EcoCity of Castilla-La Mancha.

Dr Vegara has been Professor of Urban Planning in a number of universities in Spain, and has lectured at universities and conferences worldwide. He was also appointed Visiting Professor of City and Regional Planning at the University of Pennsylvania for the period 1997 to 2002. Dr Vegara has maintained close ties with Eisenhower Fellowships (EF) since 1987, when he was selected to be the Eisenhower Fellow from Spain. Between 1995 and 2001, he served two terms on its International Advisory Council (IAC), and organised the 1997 EF Congress in Alicante, Spain. Dr Vegara is currently a special "Roving Member" of the IAC. From 2002-2005 he was President of the International Society of City and Regional Planners. In 2007 was awarded the Premio Rey Jaime I in the category of Urbanism, Landscape and Sustainability.