



IRES Travel Grant Brings AfRES Leader to 2024 ERES Conference

To promote communication, cooperation, and growth among our sister societies, IRES offers limited financial support to society leaders from less developed countries needing assistance to attend and participate in sister society conferences and the IRES Board of Directors meeting. These travel grants, funded by member society dues, help leaders from emerging markets network and further develop their societies. For example, Raphael M Kieti, PhD, Senior Lecturer, University of Nairobi, Kenya, a leader within AfRES, used this support to participate in the 2024 ERES Conference in Sopot, Poland.

Here is a summary of Dr. Kieti's experience, provided by the grant recipient himself:



The generous support of an IRES travel grant enabled me to attend and participate in the 30th Annual Conference of the European Real Estate Society (ERES) in June 2024 hosted by The University of Gdansk, Poland. This opportunity was truly transformative for me both personally and professionally and enriching in many ways.

The conference provided a remarkable platform for knowledge exchange and networking with experts from around the world. It provided a unique arena to delve into trends and innovations shaping the global real estate industry. I had the privilege to attend insightful sessions and engage in thought-provoking discussions with industry leaders and experts. I shared insights with delegates and new friends from Germany, Slovakia, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, and Poland, among others, on diverse issues in real estate practice including application of latest innovations and technologies in real estate practice, international real estate market performance, and strategies for provision of affordable and social housing. These interactions expanded my knowledge base and will contribute significantly to my ongoing research initiatives back in Africa, and particularly in my home country Kenya, where I lecture real estate finance, valuation and appraisal at the University of Nairobi.

Beyond the conference sessions, my few days in Sopot and Gdansk were inspiring. The cities captivated me with their rich history, traditional architecture, and vibrant culture. Exploring the charming, wide and clean streets of Sopot and the historic sites of Gdansk's old town provided me with a deeper appreciation for European heritage and urban development. Africa (especially sub-Saharan Africa) can learn a lot from Poland about urban management, planning and urban transportation. There was no noise, no dust on the streets, plus vehicles and people strictly obeyed traffic rules! As part of the conference events, we visited The European Solidarity Centre (ESC) and were taken through the events that led to its establishment, and the fall of communism in Eastern Europe.



I am deeply grateful for the investment IRES made in my future and for the opportunity to represent the African Real Estate Society (AfRES-East Africa Chapter) on an international stage.

To learn more about travel support and our other initiatives visit us at <http://iresnet.net/>.