

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

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# PRESIDENT'S BULLETIN -

Circulation for National Associations and Delegates

Project Updates and the IFLA Europe General Assembly Belgium 2016

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Hello to all,

This President's Bulletin is prepared to inform you of some of the projects currently underway and to also ask for your assistance and that of your colleagues in achieving the aims and aspirations of our Federation. This bulletin in based on my previous communication in April and so many of the items are similar but with short updates where appropriate.

I would like to take this opportunity to update you all on some of our current\_activities and in particular the preparation for the....

### IFLA Europe General Assembly from 14th to the 16th October 2016.

As you will now be aware of, we have had to change the location of our GA from Istanbul to Belgium due to the political circumstances in Turkey. We sincerely hope that the situation becomes 'normalised' and that our Turkish colleagues and their compatriots may be are safe and well.

We have been preparing for this GA with our colleagues in ABAJP and thank them for their kindness and support in assisting us at short notice in moving the GA. At present, we are looking into the possibility of the GA being in Charleroi, south and east of Brussels and close to a regional airport and public transport. We will shortly be in touch with further updates.

### 1. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

### 1.1 Provision of a Physical Office for IFLA Europe and general Administrative Review.

We continue to investigate the possibility of having a physical office and are in discussions with the Belgian Association. We feel it necessary to have this facility both as a physical focus for our members but also to allow us to 'grow' our organisation. The details of this are being developed and we will be providing a final report for the GA in October.

This project is led by Immediate Past President, Ana Luengo, the Secretary General, Anja Boserup Qvist and assisted by our Executive Secretary, Daniela Micanovic.

### 1.2 Landscape Architecture Europe (LAE).

The LAE board and IFLA Europe are revisiting the Memorandum of Understanding to further develop the co-operation between the associations. This is to ensure the visibility of IFLA Europe within the LAE process and publications. We look forward to a continued engagement with our colleagues in LAE. We will be reporting further on the cooperation with LAE at our GA.

This project is led by the Vice President Communications, Laure Aubert with our Board Membership of LAE represented by Nigel Thorne.

### 1.3 Setting up of a Project Office.

As part of the development of services to our members, IFLA Europe is continuing the process of developing a project office by which the procurement of member services to international organisations may form a service. This would involve bidding at the highest level within the region of European Union/European Commission EU/EC, Council of Europe, CoE and others. As the project develops it would of course be important that this be considered as a possible evolution to an IFLA wide project and development of links to UNESCO and the advisor groups internationally.

In recent discussions, we are considering the genesis of this project office as involving the facilitation of the Technical Working Groups (TWG) referred to below.

We now have an urgent need for your help in making this a reality and have a number of groups that require active participation by you (as Delegate or President of your association) and your colleagues. We are a membership of Landscape Architects and as such we have a very wide range of skills (both individually and collectively). We would therefore ask that you

- register your skills in the members' database and so inform us of the possibilities for your involvements (or that of your colleagues). <a href="http://iflaeurope.eu/ifla-europe-projects/members-database/">http://iflaeurope.eu/ifla-europe-projects/members-database/</a>
- 2. We would further ask for this to be disseminated through your National Association and within your jurisdiction.
- 3. We feel this will ensure we are more visible regionally and internationally and your help and efforts are required.

This project is assisted by a working group led by Gintaras Stauskis.

This project is led by the President Mr. Tony Williams and Immediate Past President Ana Luengo.

### 1.4 School Recognition Panel (SRP).

The SRP is completing the reviews of 6 Schools which presented in 2015 for the IFLA Europe Recognition Process. The SRP Dissemination Project is to be implemented in order to foster a 'quality mark'. The regularisation of the rules governing the education requirements form a focus of this project.

The development of an IFLA Accreditation body will form part of the focus of this project and the procedures and documents available will be used as the basis for IFLA Europe's involvement with the IFLA Committee on Education and Academic Affairs.



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It is anticipated that the accreditation procedures will become part of the global accreditation processes to ensure a coherent (and somewhat transposable) education and training framework may be established so ensuring ease of movement of professionals. We are working closely with our colleagues in IFLA World to expand the possibilities of the SRP to a global framework.

The process of the SRP and the linkage to professional qualifications is joined to the work of the professional practice group both within IFLA Europe and IFLA World. Within Europe (both within the European Union and the Council of Europe jurisdictions), there is a need to ensure that our profession is organised in a coherent manner both nationally and regionally. This is a key requirement to ensuring we have formal recognition for our profession and also that our profession is regulated to ensure that landscape architects have reserved functions such as 'signing off' on projects and policies.

This project is thus linked to the Movement of Professionals Project in IFLA Europe. <a href="http://iflaeurope.eu/professional-practice/strategic-objectives-projects/professional-movement-between-associations/">http://iflaeurope.eu/professional-practice/strategic-objectives-projects/professional-movement-between-associations/</a>

This project is led by the Vice President for Education (VPE) Emilia Weckman.

### 1.5 Professional Recognition Assistance.

IFLA Europe have been asked by the National Association of Landscape Architects in many countries to support their association in a process of ensuring the profession of Landscape Architecture is formally supported by their national Authorities. These requests have been received from time to time and over an extended period. Rather than dealing with each request individually it has been decided to develop a specific working group which will address the issues. In the first instance, this will be done within the European Region but managed as an IFLA project 1.

It would appear that the recognition of our profession within various jurisdiction would benefit from the support of the Institutes/Unions of Architects in each jurisdiction and by default the Union International de Architecture (UIA) of which most associations of architects are members. It will also require support from allied professions in the built environment including the Engineers and we can hopefully set up some communication with both the national organisation and their international 'parent'.

This work stream may form the basis for a joined project involving the IFLA/UIA working group and the IFLA Europe Working Groups on professional recognition and associated education projects. The project would include three to four countries where similar situations have arisen or require assistance and perhaps others in the future. The following countries have already requested assistance with these issues and thus considered as the preliminary candidates for support in this matter, namely Croatia, Ireland, Spain and Bulgaria. Other countries would of course be welcome to participate and it is expected the project will expand beyond the initial candidates and, where required, to IFLA jurisdictions generally.

**Purpose / Tasks:** To build a new working group that assists and supports National Association of Landscape Architects, that are members of IFLA Europe, with their professional recognition in their home country.

IFLA and UIA have an agreement at international level from 2006 and renewed in 2012, where both parties agreed on supporting and recognising both professions as two unique, separate and complimentary professions of architecture and landscape architecture. The working group would focus on ensuring both organisations respect the obligations of the memorandum of understanding between IFLA and UIA.

This project will be linked to the work of the Professional Qualifications Directive (PQD) with Fritz Auweck as Project Manager and the IFLA/UIA Working Group chaired by Helena Gutmane. The project is led by Vice President for Professional Practice, Hermann Gunnlaugsson.

# 1.6 <u>Linking Sponsorship to Technical Working Groups. Sharing Knowledge and Continued</u> Professional Development.

We are working towards the formation of a technical working group (TWG) whose aim is to investigate and develop solutions to current issues facing our global landscape and the planet as a 'closed system'. We are currently developing a project focusing on technical aspects of trees (and vegetation in general) and their use in all situations and contexts.

The operation of these technical working groups (TWGs) will help in providing technical assistance and guidance on procurement of materials used in landscape projects. We are currently considering how best to set up and manage these groups to both provide a 'service to our members' but also to foster the commercial aims of those involved when and if appropriate.



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We will require your involvement in ensuring the success and vibrancy of these working groups and please use the Members database to record your preferences. We would like your involvement, ideas and energies to be part of this initiative and see it as part of a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) culture which we aim to foster and encourage.

http://iflaeurope.eu/ifla-europe-projects/members-database/

We intend that the membership of the TWGs will expand and include other professional institutes, universities and commercial sponsors, and Governmental and Non-Governmental Agencies (once all necessary protocols are satisfied).

We are now in the process of forming these TWGs for:

<u>Trees and Vegetation</u> (with input from the Green <u>Infrastructure</u> Working Group). Sponsor – <u>Van Den Berk</u> Nurseries

<u>Water Management</u> (<u>Irrigation</u>, Sustainable Drainage and supply, Desertification and reversing same etc.). Sponsor – **Hunter Industries.** 

(Please note: We need technical managers for these groups who will also act as chair on behalf of the EXCO and members). We will also be appointing a liaison officer for each TWG in order to have a physical presence and coherent dialogue with the sponsors.

<u>If you are interested in these roles, please contact us.</u> Ana Luengo has agreed to act as liaison to Hunter Industries but we need to fill the other roles.

The working groups will be facilitated on our websites and electronic media with a dedicated platform in the medium term. We are working to solve technical issues with our website, and as yet we have been unable to develop an online presence.

This to a collaborative project of all EXCO and requires your assistance. Please volunteer through the Members Database.

## 1.7 Green Infrastructure (GI) Working Group Update

We would like to inform our members of the acceptance of IFLA Europe as a member of an expert group on 'Nature Based Solutions' (NBS). The project is titled 'EKLIPSE'. This is a fifteen (15) member panel and we were selected after a call for members to our Green Infrastructure Working Group though the Project Manager, Leor Lovinger. The expert group has met and our involvement i.e. the involvement of Landscape Architects is considered a key component to ensuring NBS are adopted within Europe and of course globally.

This is a very strategic project for IFLA Europe and ensures our profession have visibility to the European Commission and of course, we expect, to other European Institutions namely Council of Europe. In addition, we have a project under development between IFLA World and UIA and involves the investigation of ecological connectivity as part of urban, rural and infrastructural development. The project is titled IN+C (Indigenous Nodes and Corridors). This project is to be linked to the GI Working Group but will be an IFLA World / UIA joint project. I will be working with Prof. Allan Rodger (Professor of Architecture in Melbourne) on this and we are working on the project whilst awaiting formal approval from both IFLA and UIA.

The Green Infrastructure Working Group is under the chair of Vice President Professional Practice, Herman Gunnlaugsson and with Leor Lovinger as Project manager.

### Strategic co-operation with IFLA

The further development of the Strategic Plan for IFLA is expected as part of the Financial and Business Planning Committee report and the development of a budget strategy which provides adequate funds for both projects and the functioning of IFLA working groups and committees must be a focus.

The further development of the overall strategy is considered a key aspect of the further development of IFLA and IFLA Europe will assist in ensuring the continued development of the organisations and ensure appropriate synergies.

### 1.9 Possible Global Action and Integration with policies assisting CoP2

Along with our colleagues in IFLA World, we are seeking ways and investigating measures which we could develop to assist in ensuring that there is a continued and developed engagement between professionals, civil society and the commercial world to the benefit of all (and the achievement of the aims and aspirations Green Infrastructure and of the CoP2.

Please provide us with some idea of what you think your Institute, Association or regional Governments and NGOs are undertaking in order to ensure we reach the targets set by CoP2. We would like to develop/initiate projects and encourage collaboration to ensure our profession engages actively in ensuring a sustainable and responsible future for our planet.

Your ideas and engagement are sought.



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### 1.10 Development of Landscape Observatories in Europe

Recommendation CM/Rec (2008)1 on the Guidelines for the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, "landscape observatories, centres and institutes" considers landscape observatories to be one of the main instruments for the implementation of landscape policies (II.3.3). They allow collection, exchange of information and study protocols between states and local communities.

We will of course develop these observatories in tandem with inter regional projects (and in time Global projects) including the evolving MedScapes project which is being developed to become a Landscape Observatory of the Eastern Mediterranean. The initial steps have been taken in the in Beirut in late 2015. The framework of this European project MedScapes is an interesting initiative and one which we expect to inform the development of the wider concept within Europe and hopefully globally. Projects such as this are beneficial from a scientific point of view but also are instrumental in fulfilling the aspirations of the European Landscape Convention, the recent climate change agreement, CoP2, and its' environmental targets, by assisting in ensuring a co-operative approach to Landscape and of course ultimately planet management.

The project is being assisted by the Observatori del Paisatge de Catalunya. We have nominated the Observatory as corporate members of IFLA Europe and hope to confer this at our GA in October.

http://www.catpaisatge.net

We are working to establish these observatories within the IFLA Europe region (and neighbouring regions) and establishment of a communications to explore the idea of a European Observatory made up of National associations (with adjacent jurisdictions sharing the information).

This project may also inform IFLA global strategy and the setting up of such observatories has been cited in IFLA reports of the past (particularly IFLA 2000 yearbook) and we will be engaging actively. We also expect that you our members will assist, set up and investigate the possibilities of landscape observatories both locally regionally and globally.

This project is managed by Tony Williams and will need to be a collaborative project. I expect to be able to provide more time on this project in the coming year as other issues within the Federation have required my attention. I believe this project to be a key strategy and ensures we are at the 'coal face' of the development of landscape management as envisioned by the European Landscape Convention.

### 2. OVERALL STRATEGY

## 2.1 IFLA Europe Strategic Action Plan 2015 /2016:

Implementation of the IFLA Europe Strategic Action Plan as agreed at Lisbon October 2015 is a focus of the EXCO and Working Groups. Additional Projects by the IFLA EXCO and the Honorary Treasurer Mr. Marc Claramunt. are presented in the Action Plan. Available under a separate cover as Item 2\_IFLA\_EU\_action\_plan\_2015.pdf (Provided with the General Assembly Documents 0f 2015) This was presented and agreed at Lisbon General Assembly in October 2015 and provides a more detailed view of the work of IFLA Europe EXCO and Working Groups. This project is managed by Ms. Anja Boserup, IFLA Europe Secretary General.

The realisation of these plans and projects rely on your help and assistance and that of your colleagues. It is imperative that our members are engaged in these activities as otherwise we will be unable to perform as a Federation.

Your help and assistance and that of our wider membership are required. It must be understood that we are volunteers and so much of our effort needs to be supplemented and in some cases substituted by the work of you and your colleagues.

Hope to see you in Belgium. Slán go foill, bye for a while....

Tony Williams
President, IFLA Europe.
Dublin, Ireland.

August 8th 2016