



**IFLA EUROPE**  
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

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## PRESIDENT'S BULLETIN –

Circulation for National Associations and Delegates

Project Updates and the IFLA World Council in Turin (Torino) in  
April 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>. 2016.

[April 2016]

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Hello to all, and it is a little remiss of me not to have prepared a President's Bulletin before now but we have been busy (and passing on news is not my strong point so I may just publish my reports to EXCO in the future .....). I would like to take this opportunity to update you all on **some of our current activities and in particular the preparation for the World Council in Turin. April 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**Can you please confirm that your delegate is attending and any others OR please send us your proxies if you are not attending.** We understand not all can attend but we urge you to participate actively by providing us with your proxy and by engaging in dialogue with us. We will answer emails and phone of course. **Please don't hesitate to contact us. My phone details are below.**

We have been preparing for this World Council with our colleagues in the IFLA EXCO. The agenda and supporting documents should now be uploaded to the members' area of the IFLA Website and we urge you to read and 'digest' the documents. They can be accessed by logging in to the members' area at <http://iflaonline.org>

This is an important if not vital WC and it is imperative that each National Association is represented in person or that their proxy is passed on to a delegate or IFLA Europe EXCO member for use at the WC. We expect to have an open meeting of IFLA Europe Delegates **and we will meet at the Concorde Hotel on the 17<sup>th</sup> April 2016 around 6 PM** where we will then assemble in a suitable location (yet to be decided) to hold an informal meeting in advance of the World Council. It's good to 'catch up' and share news of the past few months. Hopefully many of you can make it. Otherwise breakfast at 7 AM ?!! on the 18<sup>th</sup>. **The Concorde Hotel** <https://www.hotelconcordtorino.com/en/>

#### 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. REPORT ON ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS –

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

The IFLA Europe EXCO are researching the possibility of having a physical office and are in discussions with the Belgian Association. Once preliminary analysis of current costs and expected costs are complete, a full report and analysis of the costs and benefits will be prepared. A meeting of the IFLA Europe EXCO was held in Brussels on January 29<sup>th</sup> 2016 with the Belgian Association ABAJP-BVTL. The Belgian / Brussels municipal authority have plans to provide accommodation for offices in a historic park and associated buildings. The details of this will be developed over the coming months. This project is led by the Secretary General, Anja Boserup Qvist and assisted by our Executive Secretary, Daniella Miscanovic.

##### 1.2. Landscape Architecture Europe (LAE).

The LAE board and IFLA Europe will revisit 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. 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. This project is assisted by a working group led by Gintaras Stauskis.



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Project Updates

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#### 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. 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.

This is also linked to the Movement of Professionals Project in IFLA Europe.

<http://iflaeurope.eu/professional-practice/strategic-objectives-projects/professional-movement-between-associations/>

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

#### 1.5. Linking Sponsorship to Technical Working Groups. Sharing Knowledge and Continued Professional Development.

We are discussing the possibility of the formation of a technical working group (TWG) 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. The development of the TWGs will perhaps in some cases be 'tied into' the IFLA Europe Young Professional Competition (YPC) <http://youthcompetition.iflaeurope.eu/> and this focused on trees in urban areas in 2015. The current theme of the YPC is 'Resilient Urban Areas' which is a theme shared by the IFLA Europe General Assembly. Details of this will be announced in the near future.

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

**Trees and Vegetation** (with input from the Green **Infrastructure** Working Group). Sponsor – **Van Den Berk Nurseries** (TWG – Manager: Tony Williams)

**Water Management** (**Irrigation, Sustainable Drainage and supply**, Desertification and reversing same etc.). Sponsor – **Hunter Industries**. **(Please note: We need a technical manager for this group who will also act as chair on behalf of the EXCO and members)**

The working groups will be facilitated on our websites and electronic media with a dedicated platform in the medium term (September 2016 as a provisional launch date). This is a collaborative project of all EXCO and requires your assistance. **Please volunteer through the Members Database.**

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#### 1.6. Professional Recognition Assistance Working Group (PRA) – New Working Group

IFLA Europe have been recently asked by the National Association of Landscape Architects in Bulgaria (ULAB) to support their association in a process of ensuring the profession of Landscape Architecture is formally supported by the Bulgarian Authorities. Similar requests have been received from time to time and 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.

This workstream forms 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 includes a small number of 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 Associations of Landscape Architects, that are members of IFLA Europe, with their professional recognition in their home country.

The project is led by the Vice President for Professional Practice (VPPP), Mr. Hermann Gunnlaugsson.

#### 1.7. 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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Project Updates and overall Strategy.

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#### 1.8. 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 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.

<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.

#### 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 Of 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. **With your help and assistance required.....Hope to see you in Torino. Slán go foill, Bye for a while....**

Tony Williams,

Dublin,  
Republic of Ireland (Éire)

April 4. 2016

President,  
IFLA Europe.