



PRESIDENT'S BULLETIN

GETTING YOUNGER EVERY YEAR!

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IFLA EUROPE

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

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New year, new challenges... And none more important than those of insuring the renewal not only of our Federation –this year we will have elections for President, Vice-President Education and Vice-President Professional Practice at IFLA EUROPE- but also of all of us as landscape architecture professionals. Daily work rightly demands experimenting with new materials, being alert to technological advances and contemporary trends, responsive to social issues and environmental developments.

As to enhance the quality of our education and insure that all these abilities and capacities lie at the basis of our lifelong learning, major efforts have traditionally gone into the education-oriented working groups of IFLA EUROPE. Following on since our constitution as the European Foundation of Landscape Architecture in 1989, when a solid education working group was already established, our Education Committee has recently revised and updated its Action Plan.

This envisages **strengthening our relations with other organisations** active in education at an European level. Amongst these, **UNISCAPE**, the network of Universities especially dedicated to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, is fundamental to support and reinforce interdisciplinary co-operation; Margarida Cancela D'Abreu will be the new project leader of this group. **ENQA** –the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education-, this will greatly assist us in ensuring the quality of our accreditation methodologies. A joint working team led by Tony Williams with Fritz Auweck, our Professional Recognition Advisor, is being currently established as to integrate the European Qualifications Framework -as recommended by the European Parliament- in our existing education documents as a necessary step to achieve professional recognition. Last, but not least, we have created solid working relations with **ECLAS** –the European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools- with who, thanks to the joint IFLA EUROPE-ECLAS working group led by Marina Cervera, we are working towards the publication of the 'Pathway to the Profession' which will outline the variety of routes to both the education of Landscape Architects and their further development as professional practitioners.

Besides these external relations, **IFLA EUROPE keeps on with its daily homework** amongst which the Survey of Landscape Architecture Educational Programmes & Courses. Last year, four additional new courses were acknowledged via its School Recognition Panel. This highly academically valued, non-profit activity of our Federation, has managed to create over the years a corpus of sound teaching programmes in landscape architecture throughout Europe.

As to bridge the gap between education and professional membership, aware that new and fresh visions of landscape architecture do not forcibly lie in mature practitioners but in **newly arising visionaries**, SCAPEWORLD is starting under the leadership of Manuel Sánchez. This action group will enable learning and sharing landscape knowledge by means of workshops, research and publication, adding to the Students & Young Professionals Competition which, thanks to the unrelenting efforts of Krzysztof Herman, will go for its second edition this year. **ELASA**, the European Landscape Architecture Student Association, will surely play a significant role in it.

So... do keep track of us in our social media, as **the new year starts afresh!**