



PRESIDENT'S BULLETIN

OUR PROFESSION, OUR VOCATION

[September 2014]

IFLA EUROPE

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

SILVER JUBILEE - 25 YEARS CARING FOR LANDSCAPE

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For 25 years now, our Federation has been serving our interests, its landscape architects members', so as to widen the profession throughout Europe to effectively respond to the many challenges our environment is facing.

Three years ago, we undertook a detailed study on the situation of landscape architects throughout Europe. Its results proved that the profession is facing serious problems: whilst in many countries National Associations have managed to successfully establish our profession, in other countries there is not an official recognition of the profession.

Based on these findings in **2012** we suggested the European Commission, in the course of the evaluation of the Professional Qualification Directive (PQD 2005/36/EC) a more flexible model, which would too grant at the same time full market access. The EC considered the proposals and finally, in **December 2013**, included them in the final version of the Directive (RL 2013/55/EU). Important contents are that the Common Training Framework which will enable professionals recognition and a wider mobility have to fulfil a series of conditions, especially that of being regulated at least in 10 Member States, which it is.

As regards 2014, we continue to work on the Directive's implementation for our profession together with the *Federal Chamber of German Landscape Architects*, which we have to thank for their help throughout these years, and specially Fritz Auweck, for his invaluable work leading this task. Right now, steps are being taken by compiling the necessary documents, information and reports as to support our claims. Meetings are productive and work is progressing steadily.

In parallel, **IFLA** has worked nonstop over the last six decades to strengthen our position worldwide: thanks to IFLA's initiative, "Landscape Architect" is mentioned by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in the International Standard Classification of Occupations, ISCO-08, as a separate profession and not anymore under "Architecture" as it was in the previous publication (ISCO-88).

During all this time, **National Associations** have given us the feedback and the support to continue strengthening our position in Europe. This, together with the requirements of an everyday more demanding society, makes us feel positive about the outcome. The recognition, earlier this month, of the profession both in Estonia and Romania only help strengthen our situation. It will not be an easily accomplished task, but **our members'** – yours- conscientious work over the past 25 years make us feel positive about the result, which is of foremost importance to all of us so that we can continue practising our profession... We will keep you informed about its progress!