

## Ref. UNISCAPE Report President Magnani/5GA/DOC.7.2012

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Notes for a working plan  
Faro 4/5 May 2012

1. 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2008. It was cold in the Villa of Careggi when we adopted UNISCAPE's Statute that was created thanks to the generosity of all, but we can not forget the determination of Riccardo Priore and the interest of the former President of Regione Toscana Claudio Martini. There were thirty of us with a high number of Italian universities and we were hoping that the entire Villa could host the activities of the three networks dedicated to the implementation and development of the ELC. This did not happen, but we keep on hoping that the restoration project of the Villa will be accomplished.

2008 was also the year when the financial and economic crisis which we are still facing manifested itself in all its evidence and this is not irrelevant for having distracted the attentions from the most bright hopes arisen during the Conference of Lisbon and focussed the principle interests of the European Union on economic problems.

2. Nevertheless, with the Assemblies of Malmö 2009, Turin 2010, Ghent 2011 and today Faro 2012, the adhesions to our Association have increased in time and are more articulated geographically. I think that we can say that the various origins and the diversity of the Universities that are part of UNISCAPE represent an extraordinary group of competences and possible contributions. It is worth remembering the Conference of Florence “*Living landscape*” 2010, masterfully promoted and organised by Bas Pedrolì with our staff Tessa Goodman, Eva Lorenzoni and Andrea Tramontana, the instant *book “Landscape as a Project”* proposed and promoted by Franco Zagari, the discussions and interventions on the “*Manifiesto del paisaje*” proposed by the Landscape Observatory of the Canary Islands and Juan Manuel Palerm, the *Master Classes*, the annual photographic contest Peoples Landscapes, the proposal and organisation of the Careggi Seminars, thematic and agile seminars that are involving young researchers and PhD students in order to give continuity to the reflections and discussion, the creation of a “Map of Researchers” with the aim to trace the structure of the researches that are currently developed in our Universities and contribute to the construction of more organic networks for scientific cooperation. The map is already on our website and its activation and update is always provided by the precious activity of our staff. We can't forget the many conferences in which the activities of UNISCAPE were presented in particular by our Director and those which request our sponsorship to witness the multiple activities of our members.

3. With a certain pride we can say that we have some growth problems. These problems regard:

- **Problems related to UNISCAPE's balance.** Our balance is basically determined by the Membership fees that are paid in unpredictable periods of time. The balance is also committed to general running expenses therefore it is substantially rigid and creates planning problems and, with even more difficulties, allows us to make long term plans. The associative form that we

have opted for is the less expensive one from a financial point of view (and related management and control fees), but it can with some difficulties acquire external donations (see the experience with Florens 2012 thanks to the initiative of Mauro Agnoletti). The Bank Foundations that could support us are experiencing in these years on their side problems related to their balance and are organised by areas, while the Public Administrations are in the conditions that we all know. We will keep searching for forms of *fund raising*, despite the difficulties encountered as we have done for Living Landscape, the Seminar in Bruxelles 2011, for ATLAS. As self-financing methods, I think we can explore those related to the offer of “services” like Master Classes, Conferences etc. otherwise become an organisational and administrative structure of an international research programme, a group of our members wanted to choose this solution.

- **Problems related to the forms of representation.** Opportunely our Statute gives a vote to a representative for each University, but this doesn't resolve the problem of representiveness, sharing and participation to the life of our Association. During these years the lists of contacts have grown beyond the problem of formal representation involving in new forms of dialogues a mayor number of researches. It is an invitation that we can further on address to all the representatives formally delegated to create “UNISCAPE groups” in their University and provide us with **lists of interested researchers** that want to receive *news* directly from our Offices.

If it can be considered an aim of UNISCAPE to promote the constitution of a broader scientific community safeguarding the transcalarity of the approaches, the multidisciplinary of the contributions and the diversity of national cultures, the problem of representiveness can be articulated in many ways. First of all it is important to not consider our forms of internal organisation “closed”. Any proposal for initiatives and activities can be presented to the **executive board** whose meeting's information will be communicated and to which you can participate as proposers or observers. The same is valid for the General Assemblies and even the recent proposal to formalise the role of **Honorary Members**, as well as those for a functional articulation of the vice-Presidents towards the direction of increasing the involvement and developing an image of dialogue for the Association. In second place especially if we are able to increase the number of our Members, we could think that there are **initiatives for each country** that make the point on the implementation of the ELC or in-depth examinations distinguished in **specific disciplinary sections** to assess the state of art, verify the innovation elements and encourage a worthwhile exchange of ideas. Finally the attentions that we could dedicate to our website, beyond its constant updating, should promote the possibility for a debate and active participation. All of this could also support the idea of an *on-line* review or annual publication produced by UNISCAPE in the form of “Reports from...”

- **Problems related to education.** It is an even more complicated topic where diverse traditions and national cultures confront themselves beyond juridical aspects, administrative forms and diverse disciplinary traditions, proving the long history of European universities. The diversity and variety of the approaches seem to me a richness that needs to be explored proposing the construction of a **map of education** in analogy with the research one, but going beyond and overcoming the title of the courses trying to understand

which forms of learning and which knowledges belong to the diverse operative and professional figures that arise from educational processes. Already existing on ATLAS.uniscape.EU and that requires to be updated year in year.

But which are the educational aims? Which knowledge they represent? This is valid mostly for the basic approaches, the evaluation of second level degrees can be more articulated (the last two years. I think, with this regard, it is worth highlighting the initiative promoted by Annalisa Calcagno Maniglio and Marco De Vecchi for the activation of an inter university degree course) and even more different can be the evaluation of the third level of education activities more independent from administrative commitments. Especially in this level I think it is interesting to promote the multidisciplinary origins of the students, on the tracks of the experience of Florencio Zoido in Sevilla and the attempt to create a specific Master UNISCAPE, with the aim to verify the complementarity of the different origins and the possibility to promote complex and responsible education levels on the multiplicity to which the notion of landscape can refer to. As we have already in part discussed, it would be interesting to represent the proposal for a “**Master UNISCAPE**”. We are all waiting for the important conference proposed and promoted by Yann Nassaume in Paris 2013 that we hope will give a significant contribution also to these issues.

**- Problems related to the relations with the other networks.**

All three the networks RECEP-ENELC, CIVILSCAPE and UNISCAPE have faced in these years the difficulties related to the constitution of the organisation, consolidation of relations and geographical articulation of the memberships and diverse internal problematic have arisen. In this moment RECEP-ENELC's situation seems difficult, but beyond this, we must think that the coordination of the three networks is a value to support and promote with the aim to create a collective and shared culture that, encouraging new social sensibility on landscape thematics, collaborates to a general change of mentality.

So, indeed, growth problems. Each problem embodies opportunities to be transformed into a terrain of initiatives to which we can focus our activities, nevertheless without forgetting the difficulties associated with them. I feel that the fertility of the notion that landscape represents a provocation to the knowledge and power systems as we know them and have inherited them, will remain. Every proposition to design a framework for discourse should keep away from the temptation to develop classifications homologues with the phenomena we appear to be confronted with. Each soothing ‘naturalisation’ is confronted with expressions of discomfort resulting from the ways current phenomenology is obtaining shape; discomfort with regard to the processes of degradation and to a new societal sensibility, and with regard to the goods and patrimony to leave in heritage to future generations. This all requires a reform in the sense of a radical change of mentality and behaviour, a reform in the ways of governance of spatial transformations. From this point of view the organisational structures of national states that we have inherited show inherent problems both in confronting globalisation processes and with regard to local identities related to specific regional characteristics. In this sense there is a deficiency in well elaborated juridical cases and in a philosophy of law that takes the concept of landscape serious, especially if we want to connect this with the concept of common goods.

Certainly the degrading forms of a certain eurocentrism (of which we ourselves are perhaps the product) will have to be revised in view of the geopolitical scenarios to come. What we can cultivate and teach is the lesson of a slow stratification process as it has characterised the European landscapes and cities, the lesson of synergy between anthropisation and geographical forms. I am thinking of the landscape and the spatial structure of our cities as a sort of primary infrastructure for the quality of life and for the collective well-being, basic structure of some forms of welfare. We should have the courage to consider the substantial artificial transformation of the European landscape as a boundary condition for taking more responsibility for it, but also for promoting the reconciliation of the incompatibility between a deepening of knowledge, the activation of both industrial and general economic policies that fail to consider the territorial development as an endogenous variable, and forms of spatial planning as a way of inquiry, giving shape to the future. A desirable future, fruit of a participative sharing of objectives and values, but at the same time breaking away from the easy purely conservative appeals or from the myths of wilderness.

The Landscape Observatories could be the place where these statements may find expression and be implemented in relation to especially the basic challenge of deepening knowledge and disseminating the information to which the Universities could substantially support (also in this sense an organic relation with the other networks is needed).

The consolidation of UNISCAPE as a community that promotes the sharing of knowledge and the dissemination of information may to my opinion be an objective that can well be identical to the search of forms and modes through which this may realised and developed. I feel that the role of the managing bodies, given the variation and multiplicity of initiatives, can not and should not be authoritarian, but rather listening and stimulating, especially towards the younger researchers.

Opportunely according to our Statutes the terms of the presidency and those of the direction and Executive Board do not coincide. Therefore UNISCAPE already has a renewed direction and Executive Board, to which I believe should go a word of thanks of all for their commitment, availability and dedication.

I am glad to use this opportunity to render thanks to our staff for their precious activities, even sometimes under indigent conditions. In this respect we have to mention that Andrea Tramontana and Eva Lorenzoni have found other jobs, and all organisational aspects are now overloading the shoulders of Tessa Goodman. Also this situation, apart from being problematic, may be an occasion to find a more balanced stability. I could imagine that a limited spending on running costs could leave room for the promotion of annual activities.

I have had the honour to see the birth of our Association and to contribute to its development and I hope to have played to my best the role that you have accredited me with. Much has been realised and much remains to be done. Having arrived at the end of my mandate I wish to present these short considerations to you and the executive bodies as a further contribution to the continuation of the discussion.

C.M.