

UNISCAPE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2020

27 JUNE, 11.30

ONLINE MEETING - ZOOM

AGENDA

1. Opening (11.30-12.00)
 - 1.1 Welcome
 - 1.2 Approval minutes GA 2019 meeting (La Coruna, 20.06.2019)
 - 1.3 Adoption of the agenda
 - 1.4 President proposals for UNISCAPE 2020-2021 after Covid-19

2. Network organs and regulation (12.00-13.00)
 - 2.1 Network composition - proposals new strategies
 - 2.2 Presentation and contributions from the members for the future of the network
 - 2.3 Elections of UNISCAPE organs - EB proposal for postponement

3. Events and celebrations 2020/2021 (13.30-13.30)
 - 3.1 Conference 16-17 October 2020 and publications
 - 3.2 2020/2021 Landscape online. Events in October 2021
 - 3.3 Workshops W.A.VE (IUAV-UNISCAPE)
 - 3.4 En-Route Seminars proposals

4. Administration and financial situation (13.30-13.45)
 - 4.1 Balance sheet 2019 approval
 - 4.2 Draft budget 2020/2021

5. Next General Assembly meeting - Closing 14.00



MINUTES (DRAFT)

1. OPENING

The Director Tessa Matteini gives welcome to the participants in the 2020 General Assembly meeting of UNISCAPE, remarking that for the first time such an important appointment for the network is held online. Despite of the limitation imposed by the international health emergency, she sees this as an opportunity to facilitate the participation and increase the collaboration and exchanges within the network. She wishes a good work to the assembly and starts the tour of presentation of the participants.

Following the draft agenda, the assembly is called to approve of the minutes of the previous meeting of the General Assembly (2019). The minutes are approved without any remarks. The assembly also approves to follow the draft agenda presented for the meeting.

The floor is then given to the President of UNISCAPE, Juan Manuel Palerm, who makes some comments on the letter of proposals sent to the assembly in preparation of the meeting (*here attached*).

First of all, he presents some consideration made and decision taken in reaction to the Covid-19 emergency, who forced a complete re-thinking of the programme of events and activities planned in 2020: the conference in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the ELC (Florence, 16-17 October) will be held online, but keeping in mind the concept of continuity, as in the title of the conference, and in the sense of looking to the future, it is proposed to organise a series of events who will bring from October 2020 to October 2021, ending with a Conference to be physically held in Florence. He also wants to stress on the concepts of "Imagination" and "Reflection", and the relationship between them, in order to define the perspective that UNISCAPE as network of universities is following, especially in the last 4 years action plan (2016-2020) when contributing to the comprehension of Landscape and of the ELC. He states that it is necessary, in order to adapt the perspective to the upcoming challenges, to have in mind the mission and the organisation of the network and to bring to a conclusion the 4 years period as foreseen.

He then leave the other proposals to the following points of the agenda, and thanks the assembly for their will to be present and part of the network, despite the difficulties of the moment.

2. NETWORK ORGANS AND REGULATION

(Referring to this point, Please see also the president letter of proposals , point. 1)

The Director illustrates the situation of the network composition: at the end of 2019 the members appear to be 42, but only 30 of them have paid their membership fee correctly. The proposal is that, for a matter of correctiveness and clarity, all the members must communicate by the end of 2020 their position in this respect and consequently regulate the membership. The President adds that it is important to clearly define every end of the year who are the members of the network, based in the payment of the membership fee, as it is stated in the Statue of the association.

A further proposal from the President is to give the possibility to university departments to join the network also without the agreement of Rectorate / Directorate of the same university. This is already happening in same cases, and the Stature already include this possibility, so it would be only a formal step in order to recognize it.



In reaction to these points, Iva Mrak agrees on the proposals but asks if it is possible to consider to reduce the annual fee, which for her university is too high. Elvira Petroncelli makes a comment on the importance of having an interdisciplinary approach not only within the network but also inside the universities structures. She then adds that for her university is it impossible to pay the membership in the first part of the year, because the administration of her university requires to have the balance approved first. The Director reacts by saying that the possibility for single departments to join UNISCAPE does not interfere with the possibility of having as member a consortium of departments from the same university, as it already happens in some cases. She also precises that there is time to pay the fee until the end of the current year, but it would be useful to have a manifestation of interest by those who haven't paid last year as soon as possible.

Rita Biasi asks whether in case of more than one Department is interested in joining the network they all should pay the fee. The President replies that this subject has to be evaluated, the aim at this moment is to open this proposal to discussion.

Conor Newman says that it would be appropriate to try to analyse the situation concerning the memberships before asking directly to the members whether they want to continue to be part of the network or not. Referring to a discussion had during the Executive Board meetings, it has arisen the importance of understanding if the problems coming from the missing payments come from economic issues or from the changing in internal dynamics of the universities, or even the way the network is or is not working. It would be possible that in some cases the problem could be the perception of what universities could have from the participation in the network. So it would be better asking first what is the feeling about the memberships and what are the expectatives. He also states that multi-disciplinarity is the bedrock of landscape studies, and in this sense it seems good to open to multiple possibilities, but not to prevent the possibility to join as a whole university.

Veerle Van Eetvelde agrees: it would be good to know what the members expect from UNISCAPE and to understand why fees are not paid. Also Fabio Salbitano, Sara Favargiotti, Iva Mrak and Benedetta Castiglioni agree with Conor Newman considerations. Claudia Cassatella refers to the case in which more than one Department from the same University join, how this would be managed in the functioning of the statutory activities. She points out that if different departments joins separately they have to accomplish to the same duties and have the same rights of a single member.

The Director replies to the general question of guaranteeing the multi-disciplinarity. She underlines that the idea of dealing directly with departments instead of the whole University would simplify the administrative issues, but she also adds that this does not mean that, where existing, the landscape oriented multidisciplinary within Universities will be preserved as a specific and crucial value of UNISCAPE.

The President wants to highlight that the core of the question is how to make the payments of the fee becoming regular. Being so difficult dealing with the central administrations of the universities, we should recognize the reality and dealing directly with Departments giving them the necessary autonomy. He also wants to stress on the importance of dialogue, which is always open with Universities or Departments that may have economic difficulties or participation issues, but that the important is to communicate, make proposals and so find solutions together.

About the proposal of submitting a questionnaire to UNISCAPE members, the Director says that she agrees in repeating this experience. In fact, in Spring 2018 the Head office prepared a similar form enquiring about research and teaching on landscape within the network members. She proposes to send a more complete questionnaire in order to have also an overview on membership issues.

Juanjo Galan says that the questionnaire this time should be more oriented on what we need to know



in order to understand the reality in each universities and consequently orientate the decisions. For instance in which activities they would like to be engaged, ect. So the Director proposes that the Executive Board should study this survey in order to launch it as soon as possible.

Iva Mrak suggests that a draft of the survey could be sent to the members before in order to have their feedbacks and suggestions and everybody agrees.

Then the floor is given to Iva Mrak, who wants to make a presentation on the projects and activities carried out by Faculty of Civil Engineering in the University of Rijeka. (*The presentation is available within the working documents of the GA*). She closes by saying that research is a core issue for them and that they would like to open to new collaboration within the network (i.e. on education, online or summer courses, research and project applications). They also want to make some proposals concerning organisational aspects of UNISCAPE, such as: considering more time to prepare the conferences and other activities, suggesting new tools and devices for collaboration (also in virtual form), having more working meetings and more often, and forming working groups, since a network is based on communication and collaboration.

The floor is then given to Benedetta Castiglioni, who presents a new Master degree of studies at the University of Padova, stressing out the trans-disciplinary approach, based on UNISCAPE Las Palmas declaration. (*The presentation is available within the working documents of the GA*)

Margarida Abreu gives information about the School Recognition Panel of IFLA Europe, who made available a series of documents for the orientation and recognition of professional education programmes. She also wants to refer to the importance of green areas and corridors within the cities, with the aim of pressing majors and municipalities to change car traffic, especially in this moment affected by the pandemic situation. She also refers about the commitment of IFLA in supporting AIAPP (Italian Association of Landscape Architecture) which is now dealing with a crucial issue, as the Italian Council of Architect does no more recognize the specific profile of landscape architect.

Fabio Salbitano wonders how UNISCAPE can act as an international stakeholder. He makes reference to the Italian Society of Ecology and Sciences who is promoting new strategies for bio-cities in Europe, for which to have international stakeholders as UNISCAPE would be crucial. He also asks if there are any common program in UNISCAPE to reinforce the participation on European basis, making the exemple of Landscape Ambassadors, with the aim to develop new opportunities, launching initiatives under the umbrella of UNISCAPE, such as Cost actions for research and education on Landscape.

Marco Tamaro proposes to improve the cooperation inside the network by using more often virtual interconnections: it would be more sustainable - no CO2 emissions - allowing to maintain a more effective relation. Tessa Matteini does agree. Lionella scazzosi also agrees, for her virtual interconnection is and additional and useful tool to work togheter. Sara Favargiotti also agrees with Tamaro proposal of having more frequent online meeting to address specific topics, keeping the physical meeting for the conferences and main events.

The Director then give informations on the fact that in 2020 there were supposed to have the election both for the President, vice-presidents and the Executive Board (and then for the Director, elected by this). For the reason of being a very important year and dense of activities, then affected by the Covid emergency, it is proposed to postpone the election in 2021, as suggested by EB after the meeting held on 2th of March 2020. The proposal is approved unanimously without any remarks.



3. EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS 2020/2021

(Referring to this point, Please see also the president letter of proposals , point. 2)

The Director firstly presents the 2020 Florence October Conference as it has been organised before the Covid emergency: themes, sessions, ateliers (*the presentation is available within the working documents of the GA*) and then illustrates the changes decided to adapt to the new situation (after Covid). The Scientific Committee had to completely change the visions and to draft a new programme for a virtual conference preserving the same dates in October 2020, with a possible live session at the “*Salone dei 500*”, *Palazzo Vecchio* in Florence for the closing sessions (where in 2000, the European Landscape Convention was opened to ratification). Also working tables and landscape Ateliers will be maintained, adapting them into a virtual form. For the thematic sessions a series of video-posters will be realised, produced by the authors of the selected papers, in sostitution of traditional posters.

Moreover, in order to mark the continuity between October 2020 and October 2021, the EB proposed a new initiative for a series of webinars, and Conor Newman take the floor to explain it. In order to maintain the momentum after the virtual Conference on October 2020 until the real Conference on October 2021, UNISCAPE could organise a combination of online events such as webinars series and “lockdown lessons”. The webinars could be a series of 6/8 (one per month until summer 2021) specifically focused on the themes of the conference, with the aim to help in the terms of the presentations and the virtual floor and the emerging of the white paper.

The second proposal concerns using the network educational potential which offers a various range of special expertises. The suggestion is to invite members of the network to give a lecture aimed to under or post graduate scholars on a particular topic and to advertise and use the UNISCAPE website to sign in and let students participate, with the possibility to include them in their curricula.

Fabio Salbitano, Bosse Lagerqvist, Lionella Scazzosi, Anna Laura Palazzo, Andrea Galli, Iva Mrak, Marco Tamaro, Sara Favargiotti affirm that this is a good idea and thank Conor for this promising proposal in which they are interested. Benedetta Castiglioni adds that this would be a great “plus” and a motivation to become member of UNISCAPE and for Tana Lascu it is a way to increase the UNISCAPE visibility and to share expertise for the benefit of students.

The third idea is branding the events organised in 2020-2021 under the same label increasing the visibility of UNISCAPE and the celebration of the ELC anniversary.

Margherita Vanore gives then information on the organisation of WAVE, in collaboration with IUAV, which has been postponed from June 2020 to June 2021. She wants to see it as an opportunity to make a greater connection and to collect proposal from the network. The theme is confirmed “ISLANDS: Architecture and Landscape of Water”, proposals should dreflecty on themes such as Islands and sustainability, island as isolated contects. (*A short presentation of the initiative is available within the working documents of the GA*). Proposals to join the Workshops will be accepted until the end of November 2020. The workshops are open to everyone who wants to participate.

Elvira Petroncelli gives some updating on Landscape at Risk En-Route Seminar, scheduled on May 2020 and postponed probably at the end of May 2021, probably with another programme, including a main workshop on the main topic and a shared discussion based on the papers received.

The President wants to close this point with an invitation to re-think globally the events organised with UNISCAPE and increase collaborations taking into account the new forms of communication we are learning to use, to assure continuity and recognise the potential coming from this as a network.

Sasa Dobricic refers on the scheduled Seminar “Landscape and Migration”: a preparatory meeting for the 2020 Conference which is still on agenda, supporting the idea with videos or artistic films, in the



framework of the specific territory of borders in Nova Gorica. She wants to relaunch this proposal after October 2020 .

Referring to this initiatives, Claudia Cassatella suggests to establish a policy on the use of UNISCAPE logo, because in her view sometimes it has been used uncorrectly. Being member of UNISCAPE is not sufficient to have the patronage on any initiative, it is necessary to ask the permission.

The Director relaunches the invitation to the whole network to actively participate in the organisation of the events presented for the period 2020-2021. She stresses on the importance of having a strong collaboration and proposals to reinforce the programmed activities, in particular the virtual Conference (Workshops, Landscape ateliers, presentation). She also make reference to a white paper/ position paper supposed to be the outcome of the 2020 Conference, for the preparation of which a collaborative work is expected. This document could be then presented in occasion of the Council of Europe Workshops on the ELC to be held in Lausanne on 19-20 October 2020, celebrating also the 20 years of the Convention. Lionella Scazzosi, who is working with the CoE in preparation of this event, points out that it will be focused on the interconnection among different sectorial policies. She suggests that UNISCAPE should draft a position paper on this respect (i.e. Landscape and Environment, Agriculture, ...) as a contribution. The Director adds that it could be appropriate also to include IFLA ECLAS and IASLA in the drafting process of such a document.

Fabio Salbitano asks what happens with the members of Executive Board that are not anymore representatives of University. The Director replies that at the moment there are two similar cases, but in the Statute there is no mention in such a similar case. In order to clarify the situation, the President informs the assembly that he invited these two former members of the EB to continue to be part of Organising and Scientific Committee of the 2020-2021 Conference, albeit no longer covering their role within the EB. Juanjo Galan, who is directly involved wants to makes precisions on his position, renew his availability to continuing working with UNISCAPE and thanks the President and the Director.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCIAL SITUATION

(Referring to this point, Please see also the president letter of proposals , point. 3)

The Office Manager illustrates the Balance Sheet 2019. With 33.500 € of incomes coming from the membership fees paid and 33.228,89 € of outcomes, corresponding to the overall expenses had to run the association, the balance result is positive (+ 271,11 €). He also wants to make the assembly aware on the fact that this is a good result, because in the last two years the balance was negative, even if the financial resources at the end of 2019 was not so high (5.013,17 €). Conor Newman notice that the financial controller / accountant fees in 2019 seem very high. This is due because in 2019 he was paid also for the consultancy and registration of the updated Statute of the association.

The Office Manager then also illustrates the draft Budget 2020. The General Assembly then approves the Balance without any particular remarks.

About the financial situation of UNISCAPE is important to precise that between 2012 and 2014 the payment of employees' taxes was not provided correctly. We are now recovering these outstanding debts (further increased by late payment fees for a total of € 15.240) according with *Debit Payment Plan* defined by the chartered accountant. In 2017 we paid € 6.957, in 2018 we paid € 3010. 67 and in 2019 we paid € 2.421,75, for a total amount of € 12.390. Around € 2.850 still remain to be paid in 2020.

Referring to the document draft by the President on external Costs had for organising all the events in which UNISCAPE was involved in 2019, the President explains that he estimated a global external cost of 150.000 €, to give you a more realistic idea of the amount of funds needed to carry on the



planned activities and events. Furthermore he drafted a document called Estimated Budget 2020-2021 that he wants to share with the Assembly in order to give a general idea of the global budget needed to carry out the activities proposed until the end of 2021. In particular, he considers two main essential contributions: the one coming from the Tuscany region in support of the events planned in Florence and the other coming from the management of the workshops WAVE, with the incomes coming from the inscription of the ISLANDs to be part of the project. He also wants to precise that the incomes showed in the table are not all directly passing through the association account. Referring to some comments on costs, he wants to remind that this is only a global estimation of the costs, that can be also used when asking for external sponsorships.

5. NEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

As discussed in the previous meeting of the Executive Board, the President proposes to organise the next meeting of the General assembly in 2021 in Venice, in coincidence with the workshops W.A.Ve, in the same way it was planned for 2020, before the changes due to the Covid emergency.

The Director closed the meeting thanking everyone for their active participation, hoping to see them in presence for the next meeting.



PARTICIPANTS LIST

- Tessa Matteini - Director UNISCAPE - University of Florence (Italy)
- Juan Manuel Palerm - President UNISCAPE - University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (Spain)
- Catherine Szanto - School of Architecture "Paris La Villette" - Lab. of Architecture (France)
- Claudia Cassatella - Polytechnic University of Torino
- Daniela Colafranceschi - "Mediterranea" University of Reggio Calabria (Italy) - Dep. of Architecture
- Elvira Petroncelli - University of Naples "Federico II"
- Fabio Salbitano - University of Florence
- Lionella Scazzosi - Polytechnic University of Milano (Italy)
- Veerle Van Etveelde - Ghent University - Department of Geography (Belgium)
- Anna Laura Palazzo - Roma Tre University of Rome - Phd Landscape of Contemporary Cities
- Margherita Abreu - vice-President Education of IFLA Europe (*observer*)
- Marco de Vecchi - Master Degree in Landscape - University of Torino - Department of Agriculture
- Margherita Vanore - IUAV University of Venice (Italy)
- Piotr Barbarewic - University of Udine department of Engineering and Architecture (Italy)
- Andrea Galli - Polytechnic University of Marche Region (Italy)
- Barbara Angi - University of Brescia - DICAM Dep. (Italy)
- Benedetta Castiglioni - University of Padova (Italy)
- Bosse Lagerqvist - University of Gothenburg - Department of Conservation and Heritage (Sweden)
- Conor Newman - National University of Ireland Galway
- Fabio di Carlo - Sapienza University of Rome - Master programme in Landscape Architecture (Italy) members/representative of ECLAS / President of IASLA
- Iva Mrak - Rijeka University - Faculty of Civil Engineering (Croatia)
- Juanjo Galan - former repr. Aalto University (Finland) - Executive Board of UNISCAPE
- Marco Tamaro - Director Benetton Foundation
- Marius Fiskevold - Norwegian University of Life Sciences
- Rita Occhiuto - University of Liege - faculty of Architecture (Belgium)
- Rita Biasi - Tuscia University - Dep. Innovation Agricultural e Biological Systems (Italy)
- Sara Favargiotti - University of Trento (Italy)
- Sasa Dobricic - vice-President UNISCAPE - University of Nova Gorica (Slovenia)
- Tana Lascu - Ion Mincu University of Architecture and Urban Planning of Bucharest (Romania)

Apologised:

- Cristobal Crespo - Architecture School University of A Coruna - *proxy to T.Matteini*
- Patrizia Tassinari - University of Bologna - *proxy to T.Matteini*
- Bas Pedroli - University of Wageningen
- Anne Tietjen - University of Copenhagen

UNISCAPE Head Office

- Tommaso Zanaica, Office Manager

