



Università Politecnica delle Marche

CENTRO DI RICERCA E SERVIZIO SUL PAESAGGIO



WAGENINGEN
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH

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Dear colleagues,

As members of the EB of UNISCAPE, you must be already aware of our initiative. Either way, in the wake of the celebrations for the twentieth anniversary, the Center for Research on Landscape-CIRP at the Polytechnic University of Marche has recently drawn the members attention to the need for fresher relations with the EU institutions.

Before making all UNISCAPE members aware, we wish to share with you the following information to be presented in the General Assembly of July the 5th.

In a few words, in these last months, we have been strengthened contacts with the European Parliament to encourage greater recognition of our network and the ELC. Thanks to a positive outcome and a shared view on a possible roadmap to get to a debate with the European Commission, we have been encouraged to set up a working group of selected members from within the UNISCAPE's network. A first core group (undersigning the present document) was formed respecting gender and geographic balance, in the last month. Of course, the participation to the group activity is open to all others willing to bring their contribution.

Given the momentum, all EU's institutions are committed to raising engagement towards successfully implementing the Green Deal's strategies and programmes. In this context, the critical issue of landscape and the ELC might be considered game-changers in the greener approaches of the EU's sectoral policies and programmes (climate, agriculture, natural environment, energy, transport, urban environment, etc.).

As you know, on May the 10th, 2021, UNISCAPE's board accepted our proposal to set up a group (**Green strategy team**) to represent the network before the EU institutions. As a result, we could resume contact with **Ms Vula Tsesti**, the Secretary-General of GREENS/EFA, one of the seven groups in the European Parliament. The meeting was held on June the 2nd. The outcome is a shared proposal of short and medium-term lobbying actions. The key issues that will be drawn to the member's attention on July the 5th are synthesised in the following points:

- The **absence of UNISCAPE**, as a network of researching and governing institutions, from the structured civil dialogue between the European institutions and the stakeholders at various levels is a gap that should be filled as soon as possible.
- UNISCAPE is of utmost importance for not only the GREENS/EFA groups at the European Parliament. In particular, in the wake of **the Green Deal**, where the ecological and social paradigm represents the leading idea, other groups can be interested in our proposal, particularly **SD** and **Liberals**.
- The **positioning actions before the leading institutions** will interest not only the Parliament, Committee of the Region, the **European Commission** (mainly DG Agri, DG Envi, and the Cabinet of President Ursula von der Leyen) will also be contacted.
- The first efforts of the Green Team will be dedicated to making UNISCAPE more visible in two key platforms: the **new European Bauhaus** and the **Conference on the Future of the Union**
- This will set the ground for other mid-term activities **exploiting the UNISCAPE's "natural" attitude** to perform research, providing institutions with solid knowledge and contents catalysing territories, people, and the scientific community. The network has proven resilient with its more

than fourteen years of activities (seminars and workshops, thematic territorial networks, knowledge transfer and academic activism, etc.).

- If the short and mid-term actions prove to be effective. A long-term goal could be to reopen the possibility of **reaching a European Commission formal act on ELC** to finally bringing the debate within the institutions, twenty years after the Council of Europe.

We will be delighted to share these considerations and the results of our activities with you during the works of the GA, July the 5th. With the occasion, we could present the entire operation in detail, getting to a first discussion on potentially shared visions about the best way to bring UNISCAPE back in closer contact with the EU institutions. The team member will elaborate the results to get to a document to be presented in October, pointing out and underlying all the synergies with the With Strategy in a special conference session to be scheduled in the next months.

We trust your cooperation

Truly yours,

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