

UNISCAPE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2024

10 July, Centro Cultural CajaCanarias
Santa Cruz de Tenerife | ZOOM

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Opening

1.1 Welcome

The Director of UNISCAPE, Tessa Matteini chairs the meeting, welcoming all the participants in the room and connected online.

1.2 Approval minutes GA 2023 meeting

The Director expresses sincere thanks to Sasa Dobričić for her substantial efforts related to the organisation of the 2023 GA and Landscape Forum in Venice. She invites the participants to review and approve the minutes. No objections or suggestions are raised. The minutes are unanimously adopted.

1.3 Adoption of the agenda

The Director presents the proposed agenda. Participants are invited to suggest modifications or additions. No objections or suggestions are raised. The agenda is unanimously adopted.

2. Network organs and regulation

2.1 Network composition

The Office Manager presents the updated network composition document, presenting a list of 35 active members. A new member, the Lusíada University of Portugal, is welcomed.

2.2. Candidatures for elections: President and Vice-presidents

2.3. Candidatures for elections: Executive Boards members and Director

The Director explains the election process for the president, two vice-presidents, eight executive board members, and the director, who is elected by the executive board. The candidacy letters received are presented:

- Sasa Dobričić, University of Nova Gorica, Slovenia, for the role of President
 - Margherita Vanore, Università IUAV di Venezia, Italy, for the role of vice-President
 - Conor Newman, National University of Ireland Galway, for the role of vice-President
- Rita Biasi, Tuscia University, Italy (EB)
- Benedetta Castiglioni, University of Padua, Italy (EB)



- Laura Cirpiani, TU Delft, The Netherlands (EB)
- Tana Lascu, Ion Mincu University, Romania, (EB)
- Ernesto Marcheggiani, Politecnica University of Marche, Italy (EB)
- Iva Mrak, University of Rijeka, Croatia (EB)
- Marialuce Stanganelli, University of Naples Federico II, Italy (EB)
- Maria Gabriella Trovato, NMBU, Norway (EB)

The Director asks the assembly to confirm that all members reviewed the candidacy letters. As the number of candidates matched the number of positions, the Chair proposes to approve the list by consensus. No objections are raised. All candidates are accepted without a formal vote.

3. Events

3.1. Report of past events 2024

A brief report by Tana Lascu is given on the seminar titled “Borderscapes as Continuities and Contexts”, held in Bucharest and Drobeta Turnu Severin in May 2024. The event included lectures and cross-disciplinary research conducted in Drobeta Turnu Severin and on Chimian Island. The seminar, with an emphasis on the Danube River, aimed to foster cross-disciplinary cognition, a concept presented as key to addressing complex subjects in landscape studies.

3.2 Next scheduled events 2024-2025

Sasa Dobričić presents plans for a new event series in Nova Gorica in 2024-2025, connected to the European Capital of Culture 2025. The events will focus on themes around borders—geographical, social, economic, and cultural. There will be a working meeting in autumn 2024 where participants visit the site and prepare, followed by a conference in June 2025 to showcase ten months of collaborative work and discussion. This event will be linked with the 25th anniversary of the European Landscape Convention in Florence, aiming to share ideas with an international audience.

The discussion moves to another 2024 event organized by the Politecnico Ancona, with Ernesto Marcheggiani providing updates. He explains that the event will be hosted in the municipality of Camerano. The event aims to engage participants with the themes of borders and boundaries, continuing the network's focus on landscape and cultural crossovers.

3.3. Proposals for 2025

Marco Devecchi from the Turin University launches a proposal for an event on Historical Rural Landscapes, in collaboration with the Polytechnic of Turin. The event should align with Italy's National Landscape Day (March 14) and could include visits to registered historic landscapes in Piedmont near the Alps. The aim would be to share strategies for protecting and promoting rural heritage across Europe.



4. Administration and financial situation

4.1 Balance sheet 2023 approval

The Office Manager shares the financial balance document 2023 and explains the main lines: Total incomes: €22,000, generated from 22 membership fees, noted as the lowest number in the organization's history.

Total expenses: 22.854€, including standard costs such as taxes, salaries, and network office and communication expenses, including website maintenance.

The balance result for 2023 is - 852,73 €

A positive report from the financial auditor is presented. Members are invited to approve the document. No objections or questions are raised, and the budget is approved unanimously.

4.2 Draft budget 2024

The Director shares the draft budget document noting that Membership fees should be up with 35 members, but that the expected fees are approximately 30,000.

The increase in office staff salaries and related costs from the previous year is highlighted. The budget is put forward for approval, and participants confirm their agreement without objections.

4.3. Financial Responsibility and proposal for the role of Treasurer

The executive board proposed creating a formal role of Treasurer within the organization, emphasizing the importance of financial oversight and clear communication about fees and budgets. The Treasurer will be appointed by the executive board, may or may not already be a member of the organization, and upon appointment will become a member of the executive board. Responsibilities include managing the network's financial resources, liaising with the accountant, preparing annual records and balances, proposing fundraising actions, and communicating financial information to members. The assembly agrees to approve this role.

5. Web and Communication

5.1 Activities Report 2018-2024

A short report on activities from 2018 to 2024 was prepared and will be uploaded to the new website. This report highlights major events such as forums, workshops, conferences, and foundation support.

5.2 New website

The Office Manager reports that the current website is outdated, and a new website is under development to improve usability. The new website is expected to go live after the summer, around September.

6. Elections

6.1 Election of President and Vice-presidents

6.2 Election of executive Boards members



Since the candidatures received coincide with the positions to be elected, the assembly expresses the agreement unanimously without having to go through the voting procedure. The Assembly accepts the proposal without further comments and proclaims the candidates elected for the next 4-year term (2024-2028), as by the Statute of the association (art. 8.2).

The new elected President of UNISCAPE, Sasa Dobričić, takes the floor thanking the GA for the trust granted. She also recalls that she has been present in UNISCAPE since the beginning of its activities in 2008 and that she considers this trust also as a sign of esteem and friendship, as well as a will to continue working towards common goals.

She also wants to thank in particular the outgoing president, Juan Manuel Palerm, for the dedication with which he has carried out his work for UNISCAPE, considering challenging but at the same time very stimulating to continue the same mission, as friends as well as colleagues. For this reason, she wants to invite all the representatives of the network members to keep their participation alive, because only with the active collaboration of all, UNISCAPE will be able to continue to pursue its mission for the sake of the European Landscape.

She also wants to thank the new elected members of the Executive Board for the desire and availability to collaborate to make UNISCAPE a network capable of representing the different academic approaches to landscape matters. She also invites them to broaden the network participation by inviting new members to join the network.

The outgoing president offers support to Sasa and expresses gratitude toward colleagues, particularly highlighting Tessa Matteini's dedication and resilience in managing difficult situations.

Next General Assembly meeting

The 2025 General Assembly meeting is announced to take place during a conference "On the Border of the Planet" in Nova Gorica, which is geographically accessible and offers a chance to explore smaller academic centers.

Closing of the General Assembly

The outgoing president Palerm affirms the importance of making the conference impressive. He stresses that the general assembly must remain actively engaged in its work rather than merely attending. The assembly's purpose is not only to share knowledge but also to engage in dynamic discussion and exchange of ideas, conflicts, and critiques. He highlights the need for maintaining continuity and openness to unconventional ways of exchanging ideas, rather than just disseminating information.

The chair reiterated thanks for the ongoing commitment and support from all members, encouraging continued collaboration and enthusiasm moving forward.

Participants were reminded that while challenges remain, the collective effort and shared vision provide a strong foundation for future success.



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

- Francisco AZNAR, Fundación CICOP, Spain
- Rita BIASI, University of Tuscia, Department for Innovation and Biological Agrofood and the Forest System, Italy
- Claudia CASSATELLA, Polytechnic of Turin, DIST, Italy
- Laura CIPRIANI, TU Delft, The Netherlands
- Daniela COLAFRANCESCHI, University of Naples Federico II, Italy
- Marco DEVECCHI, University of Turin, Department of Agriculture
- Sasa DOBRICIC, University of Nova Gorica, Slovenia
- Antonio LONGO, Polytechnic University of Milan, Italy
- Tana LASCU, University of Architecture and Urbanism “Ion Mincu” of Bucharest, Romania
- Luigi LATINI, Fondazione Benetton, Italy
- Ernesto MARCHEGGIANI, Polytechnic University of Marche, CIRP, Italy
- Iva MRAK, University of Rijeka, Croatia
- Tessa MATTEINI, University of Florence, Italy - *Director*
- Rita OCCHIUTO, University of Liège, Belgium
- Juan Manuel PALERM, University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain
- Bas PEDROLI, Wageningen University, The Netherlands
- António Campinos POCAS, Universidade Lusíada, Portugal
- José Luis RIVERO, University of La Laguna, Spain
- Marialuce STANGANELLI, University of Naples Federico II, Italy
- Catherine Szanto, University of Paris La Villette, France
- Maria Gabriella TROVATO, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway
- Margherita VANORE, IUAV Università di Venezia, Italy
- Tommaso ZANAICA, UNISCAPE Office Manager

