

IFLA Europe Education – Current Priorities and Future Directions

Over the last year, IFLA Europe has continued strengthening its role in promoting high-quality landscape architecture education across Europe through the work of the School Recognition Panel (SRP). The recognition process has expanded significantly, with a growing number of universities from different European countries undergoing evaluation and review. This demonstrates an increasing interest from higher education institutions in aligning their programmes with internationally recognised standards and strengthening the visibility of landscape architecture education.

Current priorities

1. Strengthening quality assurance in landscape architecture education

The School Recognition Panel continues to develop a European-wide framework for programme recognition. Beyond evaluating individual schools, the process aims to establish recognition as a quality mark for landscape architecture education, supporting programme development and encouraging excellence in teaching and learning.

2. Mapping landscape architecture education across Europe

An important objective is creating a clearer overview of existing landscape architecture programmes, educational structures, and professional pathways. This mapping exercise contributes to better understanding of the diversity of educational models while identifying common competencies across Europe.

3. Supporting student and professional mobility

Recognition activities are closely linked to facilitating mobility between countries and institutions. Comparable educational standards strengthen opportunities for students, graduates, academics, and practitioners to work and study across Europe.

4. Collaboration with educational and academic networks

IFLA Europe continues active cooperation with organizations such as ECLAS, ELASA and UNISCAPE, recognising that future educational development requires stronger connections between academia, students, professional organisations, and policy frameworks.

Future priorities

Towards a Common Training Framework

One of the most significant long-term ambitions is the development of a Common Training Framework for landscape architecture in Europe. This would not replace national educational systems but establish a shared understanding of core competencies, graduate capabilities, and professional readiness. Such a framework

could strengthen mutual recognition of qualifications and support the profession's visibility at the European level.

Future-oriented educational standards

Landscape architecture education increasingly needs to address climate adaptation, biodiversity loss, landscape resilience, social inclusion, cultural heritage, and digital transformation. Future standards should therefore focus not only on curriculum structures but also on the capabilities required to address complex societal and environmental challenges.

Strengthening links between education, research and practice

A key priority is ensuring that graduates are equipped to work across disciplines and sectors. Closer collaboration between universities, professional bodies, public authorities and civil society organisations will be essential for preparing future landscape architects.

Supporting the next generation

Greater emphasis will be placed on student engagement, early-career development, international exchange opportunities, and participation in European educational and professional networks, ensuring that future professionals actively contribute to shaping the discipline.

Opportunities for collaboration with UNISCAPE

Given UNISCAPE's strong connection to the implementation of the European Landscape Convention, there is considerable potential for collaboration in:

- defining future landscape architecture graduate capabilities;
- integrating landscape policy and governance perspectives into curricula;
- promoting interdisciplinary educational approaches;
- strengthening links between landscape research, education and societal challenges;
- supporting young researchers and early-career professionals through joint initiatives and forums.