

UNISCAPE 9th extraordinary GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Sunday 27th September 2015

17.00-20.00 CET

Hotel Piazza Bellini

Naples, Italy

AGENDA

1. Approval minutes 8th General Assembly meeting, (Oscarsborg 4 June 2015) /
Approval of the agenda
2. Overview on UNISCAPE Members / Budget and financial situation
3. UNISCAPE mid-term strategy: Higher Education, Landscape Observatories, Centre
of Studies, European Project (manifesto), En-Route Seminars, publications, awards
and competitions.
4. UNISCAPE Statute, internal regulation and organization (Executive Board, network
office and staff)
5. Next General Assembly meeting
6. Any other business

Members present:

- Andrea GALLI – Polytechnic University of Marche
- Patrizia TASSINARI, Daniele TORREGGIANI – University of Bologna
- Tim COLLINS – National University of Ireland Galway
- Juan Manuel PALERM – University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria – *President*
- Tana LASCU – University Ion Mincu Bucharest
- Cathrine SZANTO – ENSA Paris La Villette
- Rita OCCHIUTO – University of Liège
- Elvira PETRONCELLI, Maria Luce STANGANELLI – University of Naples Federico II
- Anna Laura PALAZZO – University of Roma 3
- Marco DEVECCHI, Federica LARCHER – University of Turin
- Renato BOCCHI – IUAV Venice
- Bas PEDROLI – University of Wageningen – *Director*

Apologized and proxies:

- Mauro AGNOLETTI – University of Florence
- Claudia CASSATELLA – Polytechnic University of Turin – proxy to DEVECCHI
- Martina SLAMOVA – Zvolen University – proxy to the President
- Critobal CRESPO, on behalf of Felipe PENA – University of A Coruna - proxy to the President
- Veerle
- Sasa

Staff

- Tommaso ZANAICA, Office Manager

Draft MINUTES

The Director of UNISCAPE Prof. Bas PEDROLI welcomes the participants reporting the apologies of the members who could not attend the meeting. He acknowledges Prof. Elvira PETRONCELLI and her staff at the University of Naples Federico II for having facilitated the organization of the meeting, in coincidence with the UNISCAPE En-Route Seminar “Reclaiming River Landscape”. He explains that an Extra General Assembly has been organized in 2015 in order to have more time to discuss with the members about the future strategy of UNISCAPE and its action plan for 2016, showing the lively enthusiasm that exists for the activities of UNISCAPE.

1. Concerning the adoption of the minutes of the previous General Assembly, held in Oscarsborg (Norway, 4th June 2015), the document is approved without any remarks.

Concerning the adoption of the agenda of the meeting, Tana LASCU asks to dedicate some time at the end of the proposed points of the agenda to explain the proposal by her University for organizing an En-Route Seminar on 2016. The agenda is adopted.

2. An overview on members situation is given by the President of UNISCAPE Prof. Juan Manuel PALERM. He reports on the work recently done with the support of internal staff of his University for updating the contact list of the members. All contact Universities have been divided in three different lists, to be widespread within the network for comments or modifications: regular members, irregular members (that have not been paying their fees for few years) and potential members. Concerning potential new members, he informs that 8 of them have confirmed that the process of adhesion have already been started. Furthermore, 5 foundations and research institutes, that can now become members of the network, are also interested in joining UNISCAPE, two of them have already send official letters to this regard (Benetton Foundation and Caja Canarias Foundation).

He also refers to the necessity in the future to discuss about the modification of the Statutes, or its internal regulation, in order to make easier the process of adhesion of new members. The ideal objective would be to have around 100 members and a consequent budget to make the network working properly. He admits that it is a difficult goal to reach, but it is useful to

work in this direction to improve the capacity of UNISCAPE to work on its future strategy and with the European institutions.

Another point is the possibility for UNISCAPE to participate successfully at European founded projects. In order to make it possible, a dedicated group of work should be established within the network.

Concerning the Manifesto for European Landscape that has been drafted, the President informs that it will be presented to three European Commissioner in the near future in Brussels. He also underlines the necessity of incorporating Environment and Sustainability in Landscape policies in order to increase the capacity of dialogue within EU institutions.

Concerning the UNISCAPE En-Route Seminars, he underlines that they must be occasions to improve the reflection on European landscape policies, resulting as the contribution of UNISCAPE on the subject.

He also makes reference to the publications of the proceeding of the seminars, now published only in an electronic version. He considers that having them printed on hard version should improve and legitimate the scientific contribution of UNISCAPE on landscape studies.

With regard to the Statutes of the association, the President remarks the lack of regulation concerning the duties of the President itself, as well as of the Executive Board, which members could be reduced and at the same time improving its autonomy with clear tasks for every component of the board, improving the possibility to actively contribute to the activities.

Another point is that the Statutes reports villa Medicea di Careggi as official headquarters, but considering that the concession will expires at the end of 2015, this has to be changed. For all these reasons, a modification of the Statutes and/or the regulation has to be considered.

Concerning the staff of UNISCAPE, he considers that it has to be reinforced, looking for some affordable solution in order to support the work of the office manager. Trainees and short-term collaborators, to be selected even within the staff of members universities, appears to be a possibility.

3. To discuss point 3 of the agenda, concerning the mid-term strategy of UNISCAPE, the President proposes to work dividing the assembly into 3 different groups, with in mind the necessity to strengthen the relationship within members, to evaluate the opportunities and the project suitable for. The first group to discuss on the most important topics for UNISCAPE to develop in the next period; the second group to analyze which possibilities for UNISCAPE to

participate in EU projects, proposal for specific “bandi” and how to decide the consortium of participants. The third group to discuss on the organization of the network: how the tasks should be divided and how adapting the statute and the regulation to make easier and more agile to collaborate.

The director invites all members, before starting to work in groups, to go through an overview on the activities and projects and any other comments on their universities.

- For the polytechnic University of Marche, Andrea GALLI presents the final call for papers of the next UNISCAPE En-Route international Seminar “Smart Landscape & Archaeology” to be held in Fano (Italy) from 23rd to 25th June 2016. Concerning the scheduled dates, the assembly notes that they are very close to the next General Assembly, foreseen in Galway at the very beginning of July. The President asks to take into consideration to slightly anticipate the Seminar. For the future, he suggests to better spread over the year the events organized by UNISCAPE. Galli also informs the assembly of an upcoming conference that his university will organize on Landscape Observatories in November in Ancona.

- Marco DEVECCHI, representing the University of Torino, refers about the upcoming IFLA World Congress, which will be organized in Torino in April 2016. As member of the scientific committee, he proposes to organize a special session with UNISCAPE on education. The President underlines that this is a good opportunity to strengthen the relationship between UNISCAPE and IFLA. DEVECCHI also read a message on behalf of Prof. Roberto GAMBINO

- Federica LARCHER, who is working with the Torino group (Politecnico and Università) on Landscape Observatories, informs about the progress on the research to this purpose. They want to focus not only on Europe but also on other continents, to enlarge the perspective. The aim is to improve the existing website, creating specific working groups also in order to be able to respond to European calls for projects. They will work in collaboration with the CoE if possible and with Civilscape to get in touch with civil society. The President welcomes the initiative, affirming that this kind of research can represent an useful tool for local authorities, not being in conflict with them.

- Cathrine SZANTO stresses on the importance for UNISCAPE to have a link with organizations of landscape professionals such IFLA/ECLAS, for the common issues they deal with. As she was regional secretary of IFLA in the past, she could help in this regard.

- Rita OCCHIUTO refers about the positive experience of the En_route Seminar organized at the University of Liège. Her research group is continuing working on topics such as abandoned spaces, empty spaces, in order to offer formation opportunities and also aiming at participating in EU founded projects. She also mentions St.Etienne University, who is collaborating with her, as a potential new member of UNISCAPE.
- Bas PEDROLI makes reference to the organization of the world meeting on Terraced Landscapes in Venice-Padua October 2016, to which UNISCAPE can contribute.
- Juan Manuel PALERM makes reference to the organization of an International Conference on Tourism scheduled in 2017 with the participation of the CoE.
- Tana LASCU refers that her University is currently working at the Urban Plan of Bucharest, having in mind the landscape principles we promote. She will present the program of the En-Route Seminar she is organizing at the end of the meeting.
- Patrizia TASSINARI and Daniele TORREGGIANI highlight that a particular attention has always been paid so far to foster the circulation of the information arriving from the UNISCAPE staff to all the colleagues of the University of Bologna interested in UNISCAPE activities (UNISCAPE WG of the University of Bologna), and to the management of their feedbacks. The University of Bologna suggests that University representatives could be reference points for some activities, in relation to their availability and expertise, since they can also benefit from a more general view. On this point, with particular reference to teaching activities, the University of Bologna presents its availability to verify the possibility to collaborate with UNISCAPE in order to apply for an Erasmus+ project, starting from the results of some preliminary analyses that have already been done with reference to the green areas and landscape education field, and in particular to verify the possibility to organize a Skype meeting to discuss with the UNISCAPE members interested in joining this opportunity. The University of Bologna has taken part in a series of participatory workshops promoted by the Municipality of Imola (BO), aimed at innovating the participation tools of the Municipality and to define the guidelines for a collaborative and participatory culture. A group of students of the University of Bologna has also joined those laboratories, and successfully participated in a national competition, with a project focused on green areas and landscape as common good. Given the positive results of this first stage, and the next stages under study in collaboration between the university and the local institutions, the representative of the University of Bologna would be glad to verify the possibility to put

Uniscape in connection with this project, in an international perspective. The University of Bologna therefore welcomes the idea to organize a group within UNISCAPE focused on European research projects, and would be glad to take part in such a group.

The University of Bologna is organizing a seminar which will focus on landscape representation, with interdisciplinary contributions involving photography, cartography, cinema, and landscape design. This seminar, promoted by the Ornamental plants and landscape protection degree course, will take place in Imola in late November/mid December.

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- Anna Laura PALAZZO makes reference to an ongoing Erasmus + project proposal that the University of Roma 3 in cooperation with 18 other partners is preparing with the subject Renewable Energies in the Mediterranean Landscapes.

- Renato BOCCHI suggests that the universities members of UNISCAPE should try to involve new members through their international relations offices. He also suggests to think about the possibility to create a UNISCAPE label, in order to strengthen the image of the network and to better communicate what UNISCAPE can give in terms of scientific contribution to landscape studies and research. Concerning the internal situation of IUAV, he informs that a new Rector has recently been nominated and that this could be an opportunity to organize an important conference on landscape for the next year.

- Elvira PETRONCELLI admits that she has been very busy preparing the EN-Route Seminar at her University. Concerning the future strategy of UNISCAPE, she wants to recommend to bring the concept of landscape into the secondary schools, in order to educate students to this topic even before the academic education.

- The assembly splits into three working groups as proposed [...]

5. About the next UNISCAPE General Assembly which will be associated to the International Conference organized by the NUI Galway, Tim COLLINS presents the draft program of the event: the proposed date is from 29th June to 2nd July 2016. The venue is the University

Campus in Galway. The conference will offer the opportunity to gather international experts in landscape studies, after the recent publication of the National Irish Landscape Strategy. The aim is to translate it into tangible effects for the local communities. The Conference is organized by the first Landscape Studies University Department in Ireland, which is based on interdisciplinary approach with a marked social approach. The program will include field excursions in the regions of Burren and Connemara, which strongly characterize the Irish landscape.