

UNISCAPE GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023

16 June, 17.00-19.00

IUAV Università di Venezia

Palazzo Badoer | Zoom

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Opening

1.1 Welcome

The President of UNISCAPE, Juan Manuel Palerm welcomes the participants, anticipating that many different topics are to be discussed during this annual General Assembly meeting. He considers that 2023 is a year of transition for the Network, that closes a period full of activities had during the last 3 years and that will lead to the election of the new president, executive board and director next year.

1.2 Approval minutes GA 2022 meeting

The Director of UNISCAPE, Tessa Matteini, asks the Assembly to approve the minutes of the 2022 GA meeting. The minutes are displayed and then approved without any remark.

1.3 Adoption of the agenda

The draft agenda proposed for the meeting is displayed and then approved without any change.

2. Network organs and regulation

2.1 Network composition

The Director gives welcome the recently appointed representative of the NMBU University, Maria Gabriella Trovato, that works in the Centre for Landscape Democracy of the Norwegian University. Trovato is glad to share and develop some lines of work and projects with the idea of collaborating with UNISCAPE in the framework of the CLaD.

2.2. EB internal organisation

Concerning the Executive Board functioning and organisation, the President stresses on the necessity to better specify which are the specific tasks and responsibilities to be covered by the members of the EB, as it has been already proposed, in order to make this organ work in a more clear and effective way.

2.3. Network future organisation and next elections

Regarding the internal organisation and functioning of the Network, the President proposes to nominate a treasurer or

financial responsible for the association, which would be





responsible for the management and overlooking of the financial issues. He would also be in the position of giving orientation on how to consolidate the economic resources made available for the network functioning, together with the President, the Director and the staff of UNISCAPE. In his proposal, the treasurer could be nominated among the GA members and teamed with the Executive Board.

Concerning the next elections of the UNISCAPE organs, he confirms his willingness to resign from the role of president the next year, so that the new president of UNISCAPE will be elected during the 2024 GA meeting, coinciding also with the election of the executive board and following nomination of the director. He considers that having all the organs elections at the same time could be a good timing and strategic for a complete renewal of the associative bodies, giving them new impulse. He so invites to start soon the process of consultations for the possible future composition of UNISCAPE bodies.

The Director wants to give thanks to JM Palerm, for his strong commitment and dedication to UNISCAPE showed in his role of President had so far. The assembly then approves Palerm proposal.

The Director ask Sasa Dobricic to report on the initiative of the “UNISCAPE’s Forum”, which has been initiated in Brussels in 2023, as a collateral event of the EU NEB Festival and which second edition is organised this year in Venice (17 June) with a focus on Africa, in the framework of the Biennale Sessions of Architecture, thanks to the initiative of the University of Nova Gorica. The idea of the Forum is to create a space for discussion, also informal, in order to give voice also to students and young landscape researchers, willing to be involved in the UNISCAPE initiatives and project. In order to reinforce this presence, she also proposes that the student and researcher community could nominate among itself a representative that could be formally part of the UNISCAPE Executive Board.

3. Events

3.1.Brussels papers: Education and research

Palerm gives updates on the following up of the events held in Brussels on June 2022 (the UNISCAPE’s forum for the FAIRER EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE), that were organised around three main topics: Landscape education, research and people and territory. He informs the assembly that the work is ongoing, especially in the relationship with EU Commission representatives with who he has been in contact. He informs that the request he had on this respect is to present a synthetic recommendation document in order to introduce the concept of landscape in EU policies, focusing in particular on research and education. This could be composed with the aim of collecting some clear proposals on specific topics that would represent UNISCAPE position as a network of European Universities. He would like to have this document ready by September 2023 and ask for the collaboration of the assembly.

About the Brussels Forum follow-up, Dobricic informs that the report on the Landscape and Research Session she coordinated is going to be ready and accessible via the UNISCAPE website. It will be a very detailed paper and open to comments that she invites to read and contribute to. She also wants to recall the intervention at the Forum of Vula Tsetsi, (Secretary General, Greens/EFA Group in the European Parliament), that invited to design a new narrative of landscape, stressing on the need to use a certain language that could be



comprehensible to a wider public. The idea is that Landscape is still perceived as something too abstract but it should be like a testing arena for the EU Green Deal. She also wants to underline that it was a very stimulating discussion had during Forum, thanks also to the intervention of young researchers presents.

In line with these considerations Ernesto Marcheggiani suggest that UNISCAPE should work for a proposal in the framework of the upcoming Call for Cost Action, focusing on Landscape, with the core idea of making it more understandable at European level.

3.2 En-Route Seminars and other events 2023

Regarding the UNISCAPE events to be organised in 2023, Palerm informs that the Conference originally scheduled in November 2023 in the Canary Island of La Palma, titled “People in Function of the Landscape” is postponed to June 2024 and in the same occasion the annual meeting of the GA will be organised in Tenerife and La Palma.

3.3 “Where Disciplines Meet” online lecture series 2023

The Director informs that the third Series of the UNISCAPE initiative of online lecture series is ongoing and that the following lecture will be on June 22, before the summer break.

3.4 Events 2024

Concerning the vents proposed for 2024, Antonello Alici gives information about the organisation of an event in collaboration with the Polytechnic University of Marche / CIRP and Italia Nostra on the theme of “Border Landscapes”. They want to launch a call for paper in October 2023 for the organisation of a Seminar with UNISCAPE in spring 2024. This could be conceived as a starting event to further investigate on this topic, in particular collaboration with the UNISCAPE members already working on the theme of border landscape (i.e. Liège, Nova Gorica).

Rita Occhiuto gives information on the related initiative “Borderscapes” organised in Liège in 26-30 June 2023. She wants to stresses on the link with education addressed to young researchers. She also hopes that this could be a starting point for a larger and shared discussion within UNISCAPE and toward the European Commission for political, economical and strategic questions related to the issue.

Dobricic informs about her proposal, in line with the topic of borders, of having an En-Route Seminar in Nova Gorica in 2024 with the theme of “Migrations”, intended not only of people, but also of ideas and cultures. In her proposal this will be a sort of preparatory meeting for then organising a bigger event and to be linked to the GA meeting in 2025 both in Gorizia and Nova Gorizia, as they will be European Capitals of culture in 2025. The intentions are to have a real interdisciplinary event, that will include workshops and forums involving all related disciplines dealing with landscape related issue in the border territories.

Margherita Vanore want to suggest some other keywords / topics that could be investigated also within the framework of the network activities: climate and time / production processes / energy / European heritage. She also suggests to collect them in a sort of UNISCAPE position paper, as a base for working in the next period and also to be integrated in the university courses.



Following these inputs, Gabriella Trovato would like to add “environmental justice” as a further topic, as it is strictly related to Landscape, and of particular importance today in post-democratic societies.

Daniela Colafranceschi wants to stress on the specificity of Landscape, not to be intended a simply result of the mixing other disciplines such as architecture or urban planning, but as a unique concept. Less interdisciplinarity and more specificity is what she would like to propose in order to have Landscape as a recognised research and educational domain.

Antonio Longo wants to stress on the importance on the relationship of Landscape with agriculture and rural transformation. He also proposes to have an online shared documents to work for the EU recommendation.

Marialucrezia Stanganelli would add the topic of equity and landscape, intended as the lack of accessibility to good life condition for all the populations.

In order to recap on these proposals, Palerm suggests that UNISCAPE could select and define a main topic of investigation every year, around which organising the different events and initiatives promoted within the Network, as in a shared programme.

Additional proposal by Tana Lascu: a workshop in Bucharest, in Drobeta Turnu Severin, the ancient Roman city on the border with Serbia, and Lepenski Vir / Serbia, extending an invitation to visit the border landscape of the Danube including Simian Island, and the Djerdap National Park, and proposing a 4-5 day workshop for students, especially dedicated to IUAV students who participated in the WAVE 2021 edition, at the Atelier Ada Kaleh - The Never Never Island.

4. Administration and financial situation

4.1 Balance sheet 2022 approval

The 2022 balance sheet is illustrated by the Office Manager. The annual balance for this year resulted with a negative amount of 3.569,77€, mainly due to the missing payment of the membership fees expected from the network members.

The balance is then approved by the assembly without any further remarks.

4.2 Draft budget 2023

The Director illustrates the draft budget for the current year, highlighting in particular the lines related to the cost for the staff and taxes, that will be substantially reduced, due to the modification of Office Manager job contract, that has been changed from full time to half time employment. There is also an added line related to the anticipation of his severance pay (Italian TFR), which compensates the interruption of his contract for the first 3 months of the year. The assembly then approved the budget document.

4.3. Financial Responsibility

The President reported the situation had at the beginning of the current year, when the economic resources of the network were so limited that the monthly salary of the Office Manager could not have been paid. He call to the responsibility of the members to



accomplish their duty in paying the fees and recall the necessity of having an internal financial controller / treasurer to supervise upon these aspects constantly.

On this respect, the Office Manager stresses on the fact that the core problem besides the cost of work and the fiscal system in Italy, in which UNISCAPE is considered as a regular company and not having any tax breaks as a no-profit organisation, remain the fact that every year there are an important number of members who do not pay their fee.

Dobricic claims for the regular payment of the fees, highlighting that the payment is compulsory and it should be paid also to allow the universities that really have difficulties to be part of the UNISCAPE network.

The Director closes the meeting at 19.10 and thanks all participants for the participation .

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Juan Manuel PALERM, University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain - President

Tessa MATTEINI, University of Florence, Italy - Director

Antonello ALICI, Polytechnic University of Marche, CIRP, Italy

Rita BIASI, University of Tuscia, Department for Innovation and Biological Agrofood and the Forest System, Italy

Daniela COLAFRANCESCHI, University of Naples Federico II, Italy

Marco DEVECCHI, University of Turin, Department of Agriculture

Sasa DOBRICIC, University of Nova Gorica, Slovenia

Andrea GALLI, Polytechnic University of Marche, CIRP Italy

Juanjo GALAN, Polytechnic University of Valencia, Department of Urban Planning, Spain

Antonio LONGO, Polytechnic University of Milan, Italy

Tana LASCU, University of Architecture and Urbanism "Ion Mincu" of Bucharest, Romania

Ernesto MARCHEGGIANI, Polytechnic University of Marche, CIRP, Italy

Rita OCCHIUTO, University of Liège, Belgium

José Luis RIVERO, University of La Laguna, Spain

Marialucre STANGANELLI, University of Naples Federico II, Italy

Patrizia TASSINARI, University of Bologna, Italy

Daniele TORREGGIANI, University of Bologna, Italy

Barbara TEMPELS, Wageningen University, Architecture and Spatial Planning Group, The Netherlands

Maria Gabriella TROVATO, NMBU, Landscape Department, Norway

Angioletta VOGHERA, Polytechnic of Turin, DIST, Italy

Margherita VANORE, IUAV Università di Venezia, Italy

Francisco AZNAR, Fundación CICOP, Spain (proxy to Palerm)

Staff:

Tommaso Zanaica, Office Manager