

Nomination Statement for IFLA Committee Chair on Education and Academic Affairs

Dear IFLA Delegates and Presidents,
Dear colleagues and friends,

I am honoured that I have been asked to stand for election for the IFLA Committee Chair on Education and Academic Affairs. It is the great challenge to stand for this position, knowing that IFLA has established an Education Committee to assume leadership in landscape architectural education. Arriving from the country where our beautiful profession is still trying to find appropriate place in the society, but also having the privilege to have insight of the systems where landscape architecture have better position, helped me finding the balance in the variety of situation which are common for organizations such as IFLA and IFLA Europe. The amazing experience I gained serving as the IFLA Europe Vice President of Education and in School Recognition Panel, but also the knowledge acquired involving in the EU funded Educational Projects such as TEMPUS and ERASMUS, enriched my professional life and helped me understand diversity of educational systems in Europe. Cooperation with colleagues from IFLA Europe, schools across the Europe and through recent engagement in the Joint IFLA Europe - ECLAS (European Council of Landscape Architectural Schools) Working Group, brought many new contacts and friendships and a chance to constantly learn more.

I believe that the Education Committee is critical to the success of any professional organization of such a kind. Thanks to the colleagues who engaged lot of voluntary work in the past, and most recently to Professor James Taylor, education was always one of the strongest qualities of IFLA. Having in mind also ongoing organisational changes in IFLA, I would like to outline the few activities that I believe Education Committee should be dealing with:

- Coordinate education opportunities between IFLA Regions and National associations, in the same time encouraging diversity of schools that support a broad definition of practice of landscape architecture;
- Build further on existing IFLA Educational Documents, especially those related to the common means of evaluation of programs for accreditation or recognition;
- Help IFLA Regions to organize Education Committees where there is none, by sharing the successful experiences from other Regions and National associations;
- Offer guidance to the associations wishing to set up accreditation systems if not already in place and offer advice for the development of full education programmes where needed;
- Encourage practitioners, educators and student exchange, working in the close cooperation with IFLA Regional committees and enable transfer of successful educational practices;
- Work with IFLA Regions and National association to maintain and promote a comprehensive worldwide database listing of landscape architecture programs.

That is just a list of the goals that could be considered important at the moment. Cooperation, hard work, open communication and listening to the problems, ideas and objectives of IFLA member countries is the prerequisite for success in achieving those and other identified goals.

At the end, I would like to state that I have great privilege and pleasure to accept the nomination to serve as IFLA Committee Chair on Education and Academic Affairs in the next two years.

Sincerely yours,



Andreja Tutundžić,
IFLA / IFLA Europe Delegate of the
Serbian Association of Landscape Architects