

IRISH LANDSCAPE INSTITUTE
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Council of Europe
The Impact of the European Landscape Convention

Michael Oldham

Founding President European Foundation for Landscape Architecture
Hon. Member International Federation of Landscape Architects Europe
Former Vice-President Landscape Institute (UK)

Chair IFLA EU CoE Working Party
(Head of delegation to the Conference of the CoE Landscape Convention, CDCPP
and the Council of International Non-governmental Organisations (CINGO))
Member of the Jury for the 2017/18 European Landscape Awards
Chair of the Jury for the 2022/24 European Landscape Awards
Chair CoE Working Party - Report 'Landscape and Health' 2024

Council of Europe (CoE)

- Established in 1949 by the Treaty of London
- Comprises 46 states, normally referred to as the Parties
- Represents over 700 million people
- Human Rights : Democracy : Rule of Law
- Based in Strasbourg

European Union (EU)

- Established in 1957 - Treaty of Rome
- Represents 27 member countries
- Regulates member countries with a body of laws - Directives
- Based in Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg

Uses the same flag and anthem as the Council of Europe and has a body called the European Council which defines the general political direction of the EU. The supreme court of the EU is the European Court of Justice based in Luxembourg which functions differently and apart from the European Court of Human Rights (ECHT)

Law and the Council of Europe

- does not make binding laws - it creates CONVENTIONS
- has the power to enforce international agreements - treaties
- is responsible for the European Court of Human Rights - ECHR
 - **of the three central pillars of the CoE**
 - **human rights - democracy - rule of law**
- **it is a requirement for a member state of the CoE to be signatory to the European Convention on Human Rights**

Council of Europe Landscape Convention

- also known as the Florence Convention
- signed in October 2000 in Florence and came into being in 2004
- first international treaty covering all aspects of landscape - exceptional as well as degraded
- **protection, management and planning of all landscapes**
- until recently operated under the broad heading of democracy in DG2 - now established in DG1 as part of the Reykjavik Process in Human Rights . - see **REYKJAVIK DECLARATION Appendix V**

Sustainable Democratic Societies

The Bern Convention on the Conservation
of Wildlife and Natural Habitat

European Landscape Convention

Intercultural Cities Programme

Cultural Diversity

Structure

Council of Europe Landscape Convention



Reports to the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP)



Makes recommendations to the Council of Europe Conference of Ministers responsible for regional and spatial planning (CEMAT)

Council of Europe

Reykjavik Summit May 2023

- Precipitated by the illegal invasion of Ukraine and the resignation of Russia and Belarus from the CoE and consequential drop in funding
 - Only the 4th Summit in the history of the CoE
- The future of the Landscape Convention was in doubt

Reykjavik Declaration - Appendix V

- Triple Planetary Crisis
 - Visibility

Preamble to the Convention

" The landscape ...

... has an important public interest role in the cultural, ecological, environmental and social fields, and constitutes a resource favourable to economic activity and whose protection, management and planning can contribute to job creation; ... contributes to the formation of local cultures and ... is a basic component of the European natural and cultural heritage, contributing to human well-being and consolidation of the European identity;

... is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in urban areas and in the countryside, in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas recognised as being of outstanding beauty as well as everyday areas;

... is a key element of individual and social well-being and ... its protection, management and planning entail rights and responsibilities for everyone."

International Federation of Landscape Architects Europe - IFLA Europe

- observer member, as a recognised International Non-governmental organisation, of the CoE Landscape Convention - because
- we have a broad experience in the areas of competence of the CDCPP
- we have an ability to make an effective and high quality contribution to its activities
- we represent the profession at a European wide level, and beyond.

other observer members

European Council of Town Planners (ECTP)

European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools (ECLAS)

International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)

Europa Nostra

European Cultural Centre in Delphi

European Landscape Convention

The landscape is part of the land, **as perceived** by local people or visitors, which **evolves through time** as a result of being **acted upon by natural forces and human beings**.

**NOTE: New report commissioned by the CDCPP
' Landscape - a living environment' (2027)**

"Landscape policy" reflects the public authorities' awareness of the need to frame and implement a policy on landscape. The public is encouraged to take an active part in its **protection, conserving and maintaining** the heritage value of a particular landscape, in its management, helping to steer changes brought about by economic, social or environmental necessity, and in its planning, particularly for those areas most radically affected by change, such as peri-urban, industrial and coastal areas. Identifying and protecting landscapes

The Convention places great importance on identifying and assessing landscapes through **field research by professionals working in conjunction with local inhabitants**.

Landscape quality objectives - the formulation by the competent authorities of the aspirations of the public with regard to the landscape features of their surroundings. **No longer the preserve of experts, landscape is now a policy area in its own right.**



MAJOR PROBLEM
The absence of landscape architects
in public administration at local, regional and national level



Landscape Professionals

The Convention recognises that management in line with landscape quality objectives also calls for

education and training, including training for specialists,

elected representatives and the

technical staff of local, regional and national authorities,

as well as

school and university courses

dealing with values attached to the landscape and its protection, management and planning.

The Convention places great importance on

Identifying and protecting landscapes

Considering the people at the heart of landscape policy - democracy, and

The concept that - landscape has no borders

European Landscape Convention

Landscape Award Alliance of the Council of Europe

Criteria

- **Sustainable territorial development** - includes demonstrating environmental, social, economic, cultural and aesthetic sustainability.
- **Exemplary Value** - setting a good example for others to follow.
- **Public Participation** - dialogue and exchanges through public meeting and debates, consultation and participation in the field.
- **Awareness Raising** - increasing awareness among civil society, private organisations, and public authorities of the value of landscapes, their role and changes to them.
- **Projects have to be promoted by local authorities or NGO's where a degree of democracy can be demonstrated**

MAJOR PROBLEM

The process of communication from the CoE to the member states parties to the Convention

Landscape Award 2017/8

Biennial

1st 2008/9

5th 2017/8

Last - 13 applications from Andorra, Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, France, **Greece**, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Norway, Serbia, Slovakia and Spain.

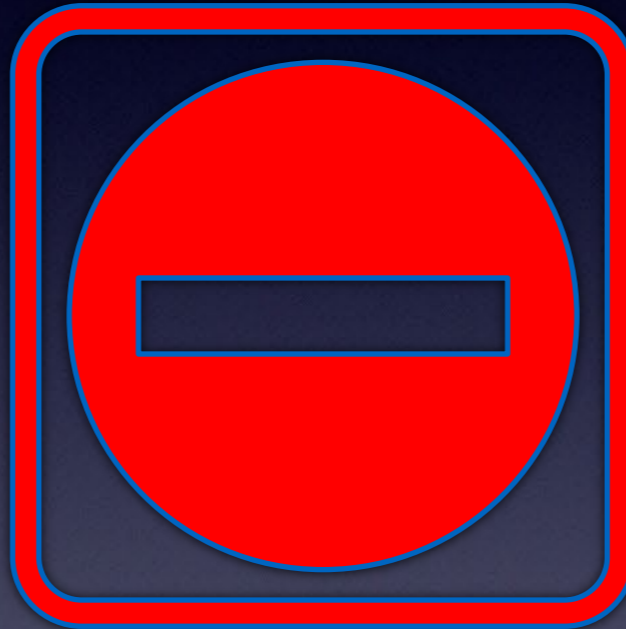
a very wide group of projects
in which **DESIGN** plays a small part

Grouping of Projects

- Strong, forward looking actions, to enhance, restore, or create landscapes - Larissa, Greece
- Actions, from a perspective of sustainable development, to ensure the regular upkeep of a landscape, so as to guide and harmonise change. - Metsahallitus Parks, Finland
- Actions to conserve and maintain the significant or characteristic features of a landscape. - Hrinova, Slovak Republic

(special mention for the 'preservation of a unique landscape under threat.)

Landscape Award 2022/24



Professional Recognition of Landscape Architects

Report presented to the

10th COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF

THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

Council of Europe, Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg, 6-7 May 2019



- **Formal recognition nationally and internationally of the profession of landscape architects**
- **Increasing the diversity of landscape architecture education**
- **Ensuring that finance designated for landscape works is used appropriately**

Urban landscapes and climate change: the contribution of Landscape Architects to improve the quality of life

Report presented to the

11th COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF

THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

Council of Europe, Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg, 26-27 May 2021



Landscape and Health

Report presented to the

12th COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONFERENCE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF

THE EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

Council of Europe, Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg, 29-30 October 2024



Formal recognition nationally and internationally of landscape architects

- IFLA inaugurated in 1948 in Cambridge, England, initial membership 15 countries - currently represents 76 member associations, Europe, Africa, the Americas and Asia Pacific
- Recognised by UNESCO - Cat C 1965, Cat B 1970, Cat A 1987, Cultural Heritage: IFLA/UNESCO Charter agreed for Landscape Architecture Education
- International Labour Office - 1968: ILO (2012) group 2162 next to Building Architects group 2161

EFLA - IFLA

- EFLA - European Foundation for Landscape Architecture - 1989 (created in response to Directive 89/48/EEC), 12 countries, objective - to harmonise education and practice in the EEC and obtain international professional recognition of the profession
- ECLAS - European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools 1989
- ELASA - European Landscape Architecture Students Association 1989
- EFLA - Schools Visiting Panel

IFLA Europe

- EFLA became IFLA Europe 2012, becoming more closely associated with the European Landscape Convention (CoE)
- comprises 34 national professional associations
- adopted a Charter in September 2018
- Since 2014 there have been GA resolutions on Landscape Democracy, Cultural Landscapes, Urban Landscapes, Migration, Climate Challenges.

Extract from paper

Formally recognising this professionally qualified person (Landscape Architect) is a joint responsibility of national governments, the Council of Europe and the European Commission, working in conjunction with the national associations of Landscape Architects.

However, in this last respect there is also a responsibility for national professional associations to play their part in this process becoming, if necessary, **self-regulatory bodies, involved in education and practice, controlling, monitoring and sanctioning where necessary the activities of their members in order to ensure probity, quality of service and consumer protection for the benefit of the public and clients that they serve.**

Increasing the diversity of landscape architecture education

- **CoE recognises the need for “for training specialists in landscape appraisal, and operations, that multi-disciplinary training programmes in landscape policy, protection, management and planning are necessary for professionals in the public and private sector.”**
- **IFLA perceives that Landscape Architects operate under many titles, landscape designers, landscape policy officers, landscape scientists, landscape managers, landscape educators, master planners, urban planners, urban designers, urbanist.**
- **Increasing the diversity of the profession to address the needs of a changing world and contemporary society .**
- **Landscape architecture has less to do with design and more to do with the creation and management of complex inorganic and organic structures that pervade all aspects of life in both the urban and rural context.**

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

...is a strategically planned network that combines all the elements essential to the urban and rural environments, dealing with climatic and environmental challenges by building with nature.

This holistic approach combined with appropriate management is really the core of Landscape Architecture.

Ensuring that finance designated for landscape works is used appropriately

- value of landscape - connection to nature, sense of community and belonging, behavioural choice and control, opportunity for regular exercise, meaningful change and sensory variability, privacy when desired...
- investment benefits - increased visitor numbers, frequentation, shopping numbers, job creation, increased saleability and increased property values, increased productivity, reduced delinquency and criminality...
- environmental benefits - protecting drainage systems, reducing atmospheric CO₂, improved air quality, traffic free communication routes...
- understanding - **NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING**

Budgeting, allocating, managing and misusing funds for landscape works

- Landscape is a relatively cheap commodity of which, when compared to building and engineering costs, the cost benefits are huge.
- Finance for landscape in construction contracts is often used for other purposes.
- Consequences, casualties and impacts are not understood or ignored - end user, community, the environment, the tax payer.
- Exclude landscape works from building and construction contracts, or ring-fence money and use a qualified specialist.

Reflections

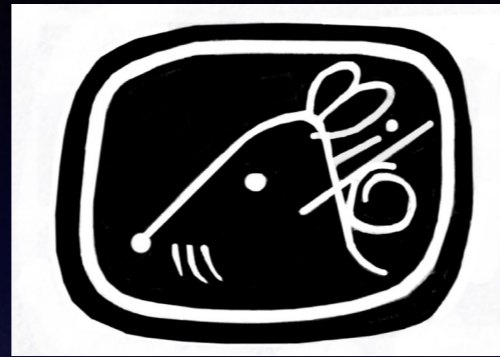
4th Industrial Revolution

Understand how the Internet of Things (IoT) will change the future rapidly and radically;

move away from archaic professional demarcations, sectoral protectionism, and fragmentation of services;

meet the need for developing broad-based multi-professional groups to address the future.

Society needs people with vision.



www.michaeloldham.com