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AGREEMENT ON THE STRUCTURE FOR A EUROPEAN CHAPTER OF IALE

By Jesper Brandt, *brandt@ruc.dk*; Marc Antrop, *marc.antrop@rug.ac.be*

An important preparation meeting for the establishment of a European IALE was held at the IALE Congress in Wageningen in July 2007.

The first suggestions for a European IALE were presented in Estonia in 2003, and a preparation group was established at the European IALE Congress in Faro, Portugal, in March 2005. Progress was obtained especially within the formulation of goals for a European chapter of IALE, and consensus on these goals were formulated and presented to the IALE Executive Committee in late 2006 (see IALE Bulletin Vol. 24, no. 5, November 2006).

At the IALE Congress in Wageningen in July a principle agreement on a proposal for the organizational principles of a European Chapter of IALE was reached. The proposal was circulated after the Congress among all members having been actively interested in the preparation work. Based on comments received up to 1. October, a consensus on the following organizational principles for a European IALE was achieved:

A European chapter of IALE will be open to all members of IALE International. So, every person having paid his or her fee for IALE can be a member of the European chapter of IALE.

Regional (up to now solely national) chapters in Europe can become corporate members of IALE Europe by including an individual membership of IALE Europe in the membership of the regional chapter. Through this all members of the regional chapter (being also member of IALE-international) is automatically also a member of IALE Europe (see figure 1).

A strong European organization of IALE members should also facilitate a close cooperation with other groups and organizations not affiliated with IALE through any membership. The new revised statutes of IALE, promoting working groups based on cooperation with other groups outside IALE related to the application of landscape ecology, should be used to find practical ways of combining the common interests of European IALE-members and the outside world's interest in implementing landscape ecological principles and practise at the European level (see figure 1).

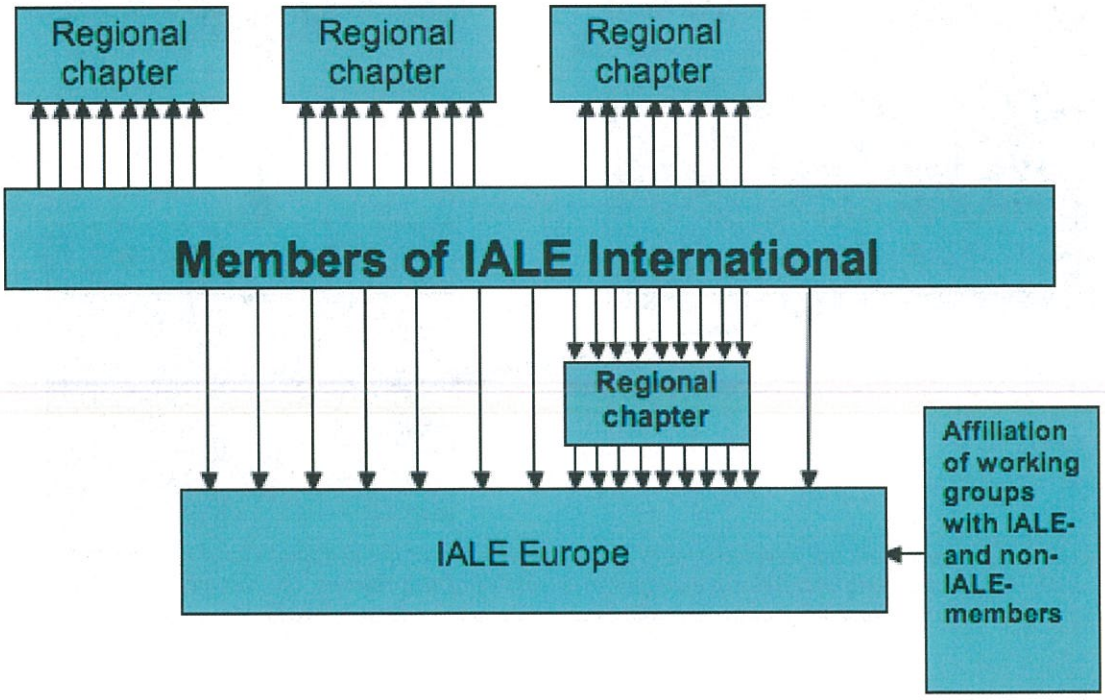

Figure 1. Principle organisational structure of an IALE Europe.

...continued from page 2 (European Chapter of IALE)

Since landscape ecological practise has first of all to be implemented at the local and regional level, regional IALE chapters at a national, sub-national and cross-national level will stay as a main organisational frame for landscape ecologists interested in the application of landscape ecology.

Thus a close and flexible cooperation between a IALE Europe, the regional chapters in Europe, and Working Groups, connecting these to various partners with interests and/or expertise of landscape ecological relevance should be in focus by the organisational development of landscape ecology at the European level (se figure 2).

The fee level of IALE Europe has to be related to the level of activities and alternative ways of financiering. It is however the intention to aim at a low fee (but not free), eventually with a group discount for regional chapters involved in European activities, to promote the formation and preservation of small regional and cross-regional chapters, engaged in the enhancement of the rich European diversity in landscapes and related cultural and linguistic differences.

The meeting in Wageningen also suggested the establishment of four task force groups that will prepare in detail the formation of a IALE Europe up to the European IALE Congress in Salzburg in summer 2009.

The persons listed below volunteered to run the task groups. The list is however not final. If you are interested in joining one of the Task Force Groups, please contact the chair of the group.

Task Force Group I:

European Union and related stakeholders

Chair: Geert de Blust, Belgium, geert.de.blust@instnat.be
Hugo Robilar, Germany
Marion Potschin, UK

The group should establish permanent channels to the European Union and related stakeholder organisations at the European level, emphasising the expertise that can be offered by European Landscape Ecologists by planning and management of European landscapes, in the general promotion of (especially cross bordering) European landscapes as well as in the education of landscape ecologists at a global level, drawing especially on European landscape ecologists experience with problems of cultural landscapes.

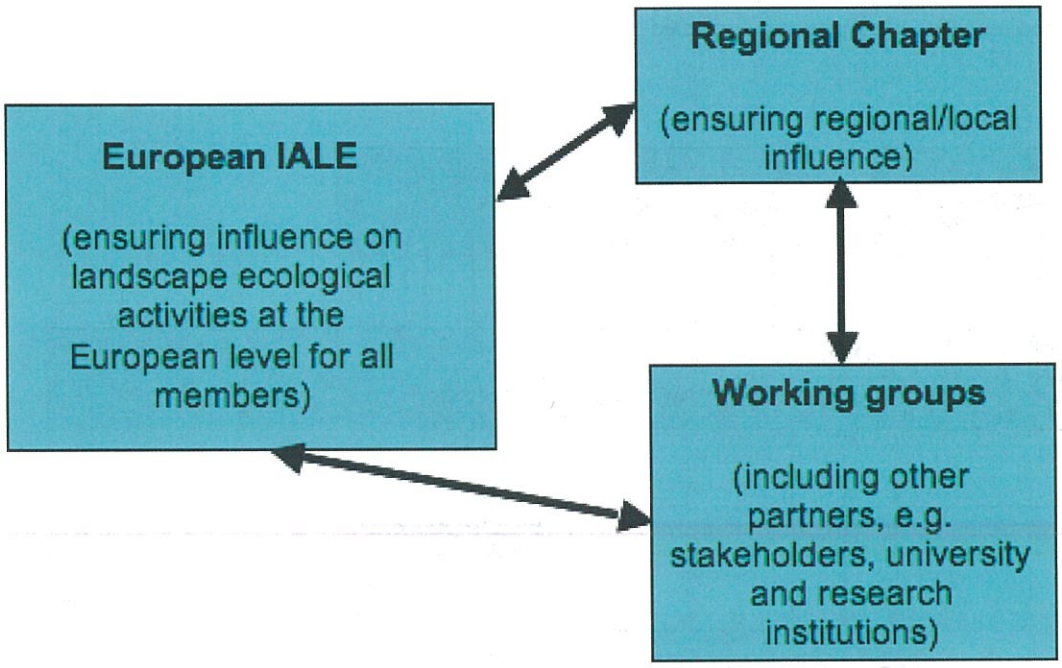

Figure 2. The organizational development of landscape ecology at the European level will depend on a close, but complementary and flexible cooperation between IALE Europe, the European regional chapters and related working groups, including relevant partners outside IALE.

...continued from page 3 (European Chapter of IALE)

Task Force Group II:
Council of Europe and related stakeholders

Chair: Teresa Pinto Correia, Portugal, mtpc@uevora.pt
Pavlina Misikova, Slovakia
Marc Antrop, Belgium (to be confirmed)
Willem Vos, The Netherlands (to be confirmed)
Jesper Brandt, Denmark

The group should establish permanent channels to the Council of Europe and related organisations (including stakeholders organised at the European level) emphasising the expertise that can be offered by European landscape ecologists in the promotion of the European Landscape Convention, not only at the European level, but also at the regional and local level of all types of landscapes in the member states as well as cross bordering landscapes. The group should also map out possible linkages between local, regional and cross-regional initiatives in relation to the European Landscape Convention and existing as well as potential regional IALE chapters.

Task Force Group III:
European educational initiatives for landscape ecology

Chair: Marion Potschin, UK, marion.potschin@nottingham.ac.uk
Geert de Blust, Belgium
Marc Antrop, Belgium
Barbora Engstová, Czech Republic
Katerina Krovakova, Czech Republic
Ülo Mander, Estonia
Sandra Luque, France
Isabel Loupa-Ramos, Portugal
Maria Kosavá, Slovakia
Roman Lenz, Germany
Thomas Wrbka, Austria

In cooperation with the IALE working group on Landscape Ecological Education, this Task Force Group should formulate a strategy for the development and promotion of landscape ecological courses at a European level that can strengthen the education and identity among future European landscape ecologists engaged in landscape development. The strategy should include initiatives that at a global level can promote the special experience of European landscape ecologists on landscape ecological management of cultural landscapes subject to complex social regulation.

Task Force Group IV:
Statutes for an IALE Europe

Chair: Jesper Brandt, Denmark, brandt@ruc.dk
Hugo Robilar, Germany
Emilio Padoa-Schioppa, Italy
Bob Bunce, UK, The Netherlands
Maria Kosavá, Slovakia

The group should formulate a proposal for statutes for a European chapter of IALE ensuring all European landscape ecologists the right and possibility to influence the promotion of landscape ecology in the development of European landscapes in cooperation with other regional chapters of IALE within Europe, as well as in cooperation with working groups affiliated with IALE international, IALE Europe or Regional IALE chapters within Europe, involving institutional and individual interests and expertise of landscape ecological relevance outside IALE. Emphasis should be put on the inclusion of permanent relations to the European Union, the European Council as well as to all types of landscape relevant stakeholder organizations.

Time Schedule for the four Task Force Groups:

The chairs of the four Task Force Groups are free to invite further IALE members for their working groups.

A progress report from each of the four Task Force Groups are expected before 1. May 2008. Each progress report should propose relevant initiatives up to the European Congress 2009, including invitation of representatives from relevant organizations. All proposals from the task force groups should be accompanied by realistic suggestions for financiering.

A final report and recommendation should be compiled by the four chairs of the Task Force Groups and forwarded to the IALE Council before 1. October 2008 for approval and for appointment of a constitutional executive.

If approved, the final agreed constitution will be announced at the European IALE meeting in Salzburg in 2009, as well as through the IALE Bulletin. All members of IALE will then have the opportunity to join. Parallel, there will be a call for candidates for an election of officers. An electronic ballot to elect officers will be organized in the autumn 2009.

Jesper Brandt, Marc Antrop