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Published in:
IALE Bulletin

Publication date:
2006

Document Version
Early version, also known as pre-print

Citation for published version (APA):
Brandt, J. (2006). The IALE Council revitalised. *IALE Bulletin*, 24(5), 2-2.

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THE IALE COUNCIL REVITALISED

by *Jesper Brandt, IALE Council Chair, brandt@ruc.dk*

The IALE Council consists of the members of the IALE Executive Committee, an elected representative from each regional chapter, and the Chairs of each working group. It should work as a background group for the Executive Committee but also as a second chamber, especially expressing the regional and specialized membership interests. Through their representatives in the council, the regions and working groups will have direct access to and influence on the affairs of IALE in the periods between the congresses of IALE. The council has a special role as a discussion forum for the nomination of candidates to the Executive Committee, who are finally selected by a nomination committee which is co-chaired by the chairman of the Council.

For historical reasons, the IALE Council has not yet worked very well. But during the last years the Executive Committee of IALE has worked hard to reestablish it, and it has now started to work. Physically the council is only expected to meet during the world congress, but all other meetings will be held as e-mail meetings, where all communication on the agenda will be exchanged by e-mail.

The council has just started its first meeting, focusing on the perspectives and duties of the council as well as the procedures set up for discussions and decisions. The stimulation of nominations up to the coming election of a new executive committee is a central point.

A coming standard item on the agenda will be the approval or rejection of applications from new regions and working groups that according to the IALE statutes is one of the duties of the council. We expect this work to be stimulating for the development of the activities within the regional organisations by the exchange of information on organisation and practise in the work of the regions and working groups. Up to now the regional organisation of members within IALE has concentrated on the organisation of landscape ecologists at the national level, but there are obviously other relevant ways of stimulating the development of landscape ecology: Sub-national and cross-national organisations, united at the landscape level (a mountainous area or a catchment area, e.g. the Alps, the Donau basin) could be just as relevant. A better organisation of universities and research institutes dealing with matters of landscape ecological relevance within a region could be another alternative example, that however probably will demand a more loose affiliation to IALE, due to the involvement of different organisational bodies.

Among issues to be discussed in the council in the coming time will be a proposal from the executive committee for a revision of the IALE Statutes and improvement of the possibilities for publishing landscape ecological papers of different types.
