

iale BULLETIN

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR LANDSCAPE ECOLOGY

Dear IALE members!

Soon the old year, 2017, will come to an end. For IALE, it was a year full of inspiring activities and commitments of which only few highlights can be mentioned. The IALE Europe Congress "From pattern and process to people and action", taking place in Ghent (Belgium), 12-15 September 2017 shed light on the huge variety of research topics running under the umbrella of "Landscape Ecology." It was a pleasure to celebrate IALE's 35th anniversary in such a stimulatory atmosphere! We all appreciated a young and highly motivated team to be elected as the new IALE Europe EC on that occasion – congratulations!

The conference series "Rencontres Ecologie des Paysages", October, 13 – 26, Toulouse,

provided insights into the activities in the French landscape community and revealed particularly a growing interest of young scientists in our interdisciplinary research field. A similar trend emerged at the joint conference of the IALE-IUFRO Working group / IUFRO 8.01.02 Landscape Ecology Conference 2017 - The Green-Blue Nexus: Forests, Landscapes and Services; 24 - 29 September 2017, Halle Germany. Despite a tight schedule of international and world conferences, in September 2017, more than 100 participants from ~ 34 countries world-wide took part and remarkable was the good balance of 50: 50 senior scientists and PhD and Master students that brought up highly refreshing discussions and interaction opportunities.

We also successfully the updated our statutes with the great support of the IALE community. Many thanks to all of you! As a result, four new vice-presidents, Sima Fakheran (Iran), Cristian Echeverria (Chile), Liding Chen (China) and Robert Scheller (US) were elected and a team of six vice-presidents represents now our growing regional interconnections with landscape ecologists world-wide. A warm welcome to the newly and re-elected colleagues – it is a great gain to have you all on board!

We wish to warmly congratulate the African chapter for its successful start with conferences and joint publications that document the state of art in landscape

Seasons greetings!!!

VP Andreas A. Christensen
2015 - 2019

VP Robert M. Scheller
2017 - 2021

VP Liding Chen
2017 - 2021

VP Henry Bulley
2015 - 2019

VP Sima Fakheran
2017 - 2021

VP Cristian Echeverria
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2015 - 2019

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2015 - 2019

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Felix Kienast
2011 - 2015

Deputy Secretary General & Communication Officer
Benjamin Burkhard
2015-2019



ecology research in this important continent and contribute to better understanding of the impacts of globalization processes.

New chapters in Belarus, Russia, Spain, Turkey and (still) India are either close to confirmation or started their chapter formation processes. It is a wonderful experience to see again how particularly younger scientists commit their work and dedicate their time to further develop IALE's international network and the understanding which topics and societal challenges are relevant to be addressed in landscape ecology.

Part of our networking and research works in the Intergovernmental Panel for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services will soon (2018) be terminated with recommendations to policy makers. Unfortunately the process of the regional assessments was done under huge time pressure so that the singular pieces might not really add up to a holistic picture what could be done better despite classical nature conservation schemes to halt biodiversity losses and ensure ecosystem services provision for future generations. There is still a high need to bring in our more holistic view on spatio-temporal

pattern and processes in human-nature interactions and on land system properties which all went a bit lost in the attempt to facilitate the up-take of relevant messages by policy makers.

A successful process, where landscape ecological principles reach out to implementation at multiple scales, is the European Landscape Convention. Experiences on national policies how to strengthen the implementation at the local level were exchanged in September, 2017 in Brno, Czech Republic, highlighting particularly the role of landscapes as natural and cultural heritage and demonstrating how to make landscapes being part of regional and urban planning processes. Further measures in the implementation foresee, among others, connecting with sectors such as water management, agriculture and forestry. Even though this process is important to harmonize the approaches for an integrative landscape development, not all of the member states of the Council of Europe have signed and ratified the treaty. Among these are countries such as Austria and Germany, where landscape as a concept in planning plays a key role. There is still room to improve communication between scientists

and policy makers.

To strengthen our collaboration and activities also in 2018 and make them as successfully running as in 2017, we will soon announce a call for chapter and working group activities. We intend to support particularly the participation of young scientists at conferences. We wish to honor and boost the already extremely well running interactions in the working groups whose number and community is continuously growing and excellently connects scientists across the chapters. Please feel invited to respond to this call, additional ideas how to shape the calls further to meet the needs of the IALE community are warmly welcome.

In the name of our EC, I wish you a powerful start into the upcoming New Year 2018! I wish us all successful cooperation, inspiring conferences and the confidence to work in the absolutely most important, most challenging and most rewarding field of research, in landscape ecology.

*Yours
Christine Fürst
(President IALE International)*

Reflections from the IALE 2017 European Congress “From Pattern and Process to People and Action”



From 12 to 15 September 2017, the IALE 2017 European Congress was organised by the Department of Geography of Ghent University and IALE-Europe. About 310 researchers, policy makers and practitioners from 41 countries all around the world gathered during the congress in Ghent (Belgium). The theme of the congress – From pattern and process to people and action – reflects that landscape ecology is considered as a meeting point where pattern and process meet people and action. It is seen as a way of thinking when dealing with landscapes and requires a true interaction of natural and social sciences, and of science, policy and practice.

As IALE has its 35th anniversary this year, the congress was a good opportunity to celebrate this birthday and we were honoured to have some of the founding members among us. It was great they shared some of their thinking on the initiation of IALE and the development of landscape ecology. During the conference, both senior and young landscape ecologists further reflected on the state of the art of landscape ecology today as well as on what the future directions of landscape ecology should be as a social relevant approach.

Through three connecting threads – meeting, reflecting, integrating – in

both the academic and social events, participants were engaged in a wide range of symposia, discussions and excursions. The excursions, which were all highly appreciated, illustrated how landscape ecology is applied in practice in diverse examples of Belgian landscapes and gave a good opportunity for further exchange of ideas and experiences. In total, 27 symposia were organised in seven thematic groups: (1) Landscape ecological methods & techniques; (2) Ecosystem & landscape services; (3) Productive landscapes; (4) Cultural landscapes as meeting point; (5) Transdisciplinarity: landscape monitoring and landscape perception & preference; (6) Landscape planning & management; (7) Landscape ecology education. The speakers and participants in the different symposia discussed current societal, political and global challenges and how landscape ecology can provide answers. Therefore, we have asked the symposium organisers to reflect on the key messages of their symposium and how the research can be translated into practice. The detailed outcomes will be published on the website of IALE-Europe.

Hence, we continuously have to foster the historic roots of IALE and landscape ecology as an integrative and spatially explicit science, continuously reflecting

on what knowledge we want to transfer, also including the ecological topics next the human aspects in landscape ecology. There are still a lot of challenges ahead and we look forward to future research that will be presented at the following IALE congresses. The next international congress where IALE-Europe will engage in organising a symposium and PhD course will be the 10th IALE World congress 2019 in Milan (Italy).

We would like to thank all symposium organisers, excursion guides and participants for their engagement and interesting contributions to the congress. We are also grateful to everyone who helped in one way or another in organisation of the congress.

This congress was financially supported by IALE international, IALE-Europe, the Belgian Federal Scientific Fund (FWO) and the Scientific Fund of the Faculty of Science of Ghent University (FCWO).

Pictures, experiences and more descriptions can be found on the congress webpage, which is organised as the digital proceedings of the congress: www.iale2017.eu.

Veerle Van Eetvelde, Annelies Van Caenegem, Marc Antrop

News from the General Assembly of IALE-Europe and the new Executive Committee of IALE-Europe

During the IALE2017 European Congress in Ghent last September, the General Assembly of IALE-Europe was organised.

In the first part of the meeting, Teresa Pinto-Correia as president of IALE-Europe 2013-2017 presented the activity report since the General Assembly of Manchester 2013 and Emilio Padoa-Schioppa, as treasurer, presented the financial report. This report will be published on the website of IALE-Europe.

The second part included the elections for the period of 2017-2021, chaired by Søren Bech Pilgaard Kristensen (IALE Denmark) as chair of the nominating committee. A new Executive Committee had to be elected as well as a new representative of IALE-Europe in the council of IALE. According to the statutes, also a financial auditor had to be appointed.

The new Executive Committee is composed by Veerle Van Eetvelde (President), Belgium; Simona R. Grădinaru (Secretary General), Romania; Andrzej Affek (Treasurer), Poland; Wenche Dramstad, Norway; Isabel Loupa-Ramos, Portugal; Jonathan Porter, UK and Werner Rolf, Germany. The new IALE Council representative is Teresa Pinto-Correia (Portugal), while Stig Roar Svenningsen (Denmark) is again appointed as financial auditor.

Following the election, the new EC of IALE-Europe presented its position statement and activity plan for the next four years. Naturally, the IALE-Europe Executive Committee (EC) 2017-2021 want to build on the experience gained by the former committee and ensure continuity, but more importantly we want to emphasise the dynamism the new EC will have. The new EC is composed of members of the community of IALE-Europe from across Europe and at different career stages will ensure this.

The main overall goal of this term is to support and continue building the community of landscape ecologists in Europe, particularly to develop activities to complement World, European and national conferences, and to increase the sense of belonging to IALE. Specific activities will include:

- 1. Improving communication with members:** IALE-Europe now has an established website and Twitter profile. We will build on this to increase the regularity of communication with members and the transparency of the organisation. In particular, we will develop a blog on the website that will allow members to share ideas. We will also develop a newsletter to be sent every 6 months by email.
- 2. Supporting national chapters:** We will work to continuously improve the dialogue with and among the national chapters across Europe. We will make sure a minimum of one dialogue is arranged each year with the president of each national chapter. We will also arrange one online meeting with all national chapters each year.
- 3. Nurturing new national chapters:** We will provide support to any European countries intending to establish a new national chapter.
- 4. Collaborating with IALE:** We will continue to work actively to support the activities of IALE international.
- 5. Developing working groups:** IALE-Europe has three **working groups** (WG 1 Europe's Stakeholders - Shaping future policy and science; WG 2 Education in landscape ecology - Sharing knowledge and experience; and WG 3 Landscape Ecology and Practice - Bridging science and society), which we see more as working themes to organise activities. We will continue and enhance the three working groups and encourage

wider participation in their activities.

- 6. Organising PhD courses:** We will organise a PhD course to accompany the IALE 2019 World Congress in Milan and the IALE 2021 European Congress.
- 7. Supporting early-career landscape ecologists:** We will work to support early-career landscape ecologists including self-organised early-career workshops in 2018 and 2020 to increase international collaboration and network development.
- 8. Holding a European Symposium at World Congress:** We will organise a Europe-focused symposium at the IALE 2019 World Congress in Milan.
- 9. Supporting thematic workshops:** We will provide support to members of IALE-Europe and national chapters for locally organised two day thematic workshops to encourage European exchange on particular topics in landscape ecology.
- 10. Leading IALE 2021 European Congress:** We will identify a venue and organiser for the next European Congress and provide support to develop a successful meeting.
- 11. Conducting member survey:** At the start of the term, a survey will be sent to all members of IALE-Europe to canvas views and identify further priorities for activity.

The new EC is very enthusiastic to work for a continued strengthening of a broader community of landscape ecologist in Europe, and we look much forward to your cooperation in this important endeavour. See also information on our activities on www.iale-europe.eu, @ialeEurope or send us an email with news and ideas.

The new Executive Committee members of IALE-Europe (2017-2021) are (left to right): Andrzej Affek (Treasurer), Wenche Dramstad, Werner Rolf, Isabel Loupa-Ramos, Veerle Van Eetvelde (President), Jonathan Porter, Simona R. Grădinaru (Secretary General) (Photo: Marc Antrop)



The previous Executive Committee (2013-2017) is thanked for their engagement in IALE-Europe. The members of IALE Europe toasted on a nice collaboration on the reception after the General Assembly (left to right): Lone Kristensen, Janez Pirnat, Isabel Loupa-Ramos, Teresa Pinto-Correia (President), Emilio Padoa-Schioppa (Treasurer), Veerle Van Eetvelde (Secretary General), Jonathan Porter (Photo: Graça Saraiva)



IALE-Europe PhD course Landscape Ecology - experiences from the 2017 edition



Lecture setting in Dourbes (Photo by Isabel Loupa-Ramos)

Since education in landscape ecology – sharing knowledge and experience – is one of the core objectives of IALE-Europe, its previous executive committee engaged in the organization of a series of intensive PhD courses in Landscape Ecology. The main purpose of this PhD courses is to broaden and rejuvenate the IALE community by facilitating the interchange of knowledge amongst young researchers building on landscape ecology concepts and approaches.

The 4th edition (following Évora 2012, Manchester 2013 and Copenhagen 2015) was organized in conjunction with the IALE2017 European Congress in Ghent (Belgium) 12 to 15 September 2017 (see other contribution in this bulletin). To take best advantage of the congress, the course started one day prior to the congress and continued afterwards until 19 September. In this way, the students got to know each other and the mentors before they all participated in the congress, which made them work as a group during the congress. They were introduced to the organization of the congress, who would participate and during the congress they got the chance to talk to different esteemed landscape ecologist. They also got the task to talk with at least one participant of the congress who was of interest for their own PhD research and discuss their topic with them.

After the congress, we traveled to Dourbes, a remote rural village in the Walloon Region of Belgium located in the beautiful landscape of the Ardennes. This also gave the opportunity to cross and compare the diverse landscapes of Belgium, after staying one week in the historic town of Ghent.

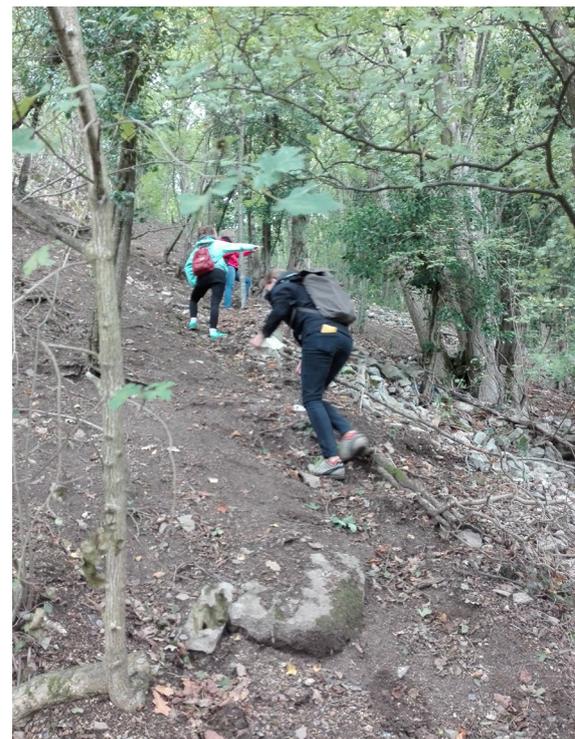
This year we were fortunate to get together a great group of altogether 15 students, from 11 nationalities worldwide - all (but one) engaged in European Universities: Aikaterini Kostara (GR), Barbara Riedler (AT), Damian Ortiz (MX), Diechuan Yang (CN), Eliška Fňukalová (CZ), Hanne Van Den Berghe (BE), Krista Peterson (LV), Lígia Vaz (PT), Luyuan Li (CN), Olga Chesnokova (RU), Sarah Gottwald (DE), Xin Cheng (CN), Xinyi Zhou (CN), Zhaowu Yu (CN), Zuziwe Jonas (ZA).

The most appreciated moments of the course were the joined discussion sessions with mentors, which were structured into four thematic groups: 'Ecosystem services and landscape mapping' (4 students), 'People and perception' (5 students), 'Pattern habitat and modeling' (3 students) and 'Landscape changes, remote sensing and time series' (3 students). Secondly, the fieldwork on how to read and synthesize a landscape was much appreciated. For this work, we explored the "exotic", unknown nearby village of Nismes. The students focused on the hydrology, trajectories of

land use in the village, and the habitat types and had to put their observations together to make a model of the landscape.

The organizing team of the course was Lone Kristensen and Veerle Van Eetvelde (besides myself). In particular we want to express our gratitude to other colleagues who made themselves available to join in as mentors, giving lectures and discussing with the students: Marc Antrop (BE), Andreas Aagaard Christensen (DK), Geert de Blust (BE) and Jean-Paul Vanderlinden (FR). On top of this, we had a special participation of the "Dynamictrio": Simone, Rita and Albert, who prepared for us the most delicious Belgian food ever and contributed to good spirits of everyone. We all are most grateful for their generosity. The course was financially supported by IALE-Europe and IALE-International, the Portuguese Chapter (APEP) supported the participation of one Portuguese student as did Ghent University to five students.

When finishing the course, one of the students asked how we measure the success rate of our courses. The fundamental reason why we continue to organize these intensive courses are the experiences of sharing of knowledge, learning from each other also as mentors. A second issue is to enjoy meeting so many former students



Physical exercise in midst lectures (Photo by Lígia Vaz)

afterwards. Some of the mentors were members of the PhD commission of students, many other students are still active in IALE events for example by organizing symposia on congresses, and others then become very engaged in IALE on the international level: Andrzej Affek (participant in the Manchester 2013) became the treasurer in the newly elected IALE-Europe Executive Committee and Andreas Aagaard Christensen (participant of the Évora edition) is Vice-President in the Executive Committee of IALE International.

The next edition of the PhD course is already scheduled to take place in conjunction with the forthcoming IALE2019 World Congress taking place in Milan (Italy). Please, join in!

Isabel Loupa-Ramos

Below some comments of students on the 2017 IALE-Europe PhD course. They have organized themselves to keep up the sharing experience: www.researchgate.net/project/IALE-2017-PhD-course.

“This PhD course gave a broad view and transdisciplinary methods to tackle various research topics of landscape ecology”. **Zoe**

“The course was well structured. It accommodated all my needs in terms of understanding landscape ecology. The flexibility from our teaching staff was amazing in a sense that the course was customised to our own individual needs. I truly appreciate the flexibility.” **Zuzuwi**

“The Paper writing section is very helpful, reflecting and improving the skill of how to structure the paper, the logical, and the tips of writing the paper”. **Luyuan**

“After the course, I know more about how to write a literature review, gained a lot of suggestion from other researchers, and I think it's really a good way to look at your research again from different researchers with different background and perspective.” **Xin**

“Great idea to have the course before and after the conference (we could follow the presentations of other participants and socialize during the conference) - very helpful discussions about the paper. All the „writing a paper“ comments are much easier to understand if there are examples from what you've just written - great accommodation itself and the idea of being far away from anything else - great food”. **Olga**

“Attending the IALE PhD course was a way to find out what ‘contemporary’ means in landscape research: demanding in terms of methods and communicative in response

to expert audiences. The teaching was very forward-looking, indicating that scientific questions originate in future and reach us as curiosity belonging to times yet to be discovered and shared”. **Krista**

“Many students went home with a big package of new ideas and approaches because a lot of problems in different topics and fields were tackled and discussed. To keep the energy up during the four days, delicious Flemish food was served by very kind people. After the course, a network with all the participants was made to keep in touch with each other.” **Hanne**

“According to this conference and course, I found it changed lots of academic knowledge of me, there is quite different understanding of ‘cultural landscape’, the interdisciplinary subjects exchange can stimulate thinking, which is helpful for my current research.” **Yang**

“This PhD course was an incredible personal and professional experience. It was an opportunity to revisit basic concepts, to share experiences and knowledge with my colleagues and mentors, to expose my ideas and receive feedback. To deepen knowledge, create links. But also to laugh, laugh a lot, eat very well, and meet very nice people!” **Lígia**

The whole group of the 2017 edition of the IALE-Europe PhD course in Dourbes (Photo by Albert Van Eetvelde)



New IALE Working Group “Urban and peri-urban governance”

The objectives of the “Urban and peri-urban governance” IALE working group is to work with environmental governance issues related to urban and peri-urban contexts.

Recently, the “**environmental governance**” term is growing in importance, becoming another key word in environmental sciences and becoming as important as the “sustainability” concept. Researchers and planners, which use this term, assign different meanings to it. Our understanding of this term shifts from “the act or process of governing” (Longman dictionary of English) into wider understanding. Many of actions implemented in the frame of environmental governance are based on participatory processes, including stakeholders, citizens, scientists and of course planners. The notion of environmental governance includes very practical processes. Environmental governance is implemented through formal actions, framed by local legislations, together with many more flexible bottom-up initiatives implemented by local citizens. Scientists also play a large role, who by working on practical case studies are able to implement their knowledge and experience into practice. In the frame of environmental governance different types of instruments are being implemented, like legal and regulatory instruments, rights-based instruments and customary norms, economic and financial instruments, social and cultural instruments.

The vulnerability of **urban and peri-urban areas**, the dynamic processes of urbanization and sub-urbanization, increasing urban populations, and other processes ask for ecological wisdom in environmental governance. Recent research indicates that peri-urbanization processes are very dynamic and extend our understanding of the “urban periphery”. **The peri-urban is therefore a new emerging general type of landscape.** Beyond urban and rural landscapes, the peri-urban landscapes are a new type of anthropogenic landscape.

Urban systems become cross-boundary phenomenon, which challenges even more

the environmental governance in such contexts. Thus environmental governance in such contexts needs to be understood as a highly participatory process with a broader range of actors compared to more classic urban planning processes. It relates to concepts such as metropolitan areas, megacities and conurbations, which characterize the ecological and socio-economic interactions of a city with its environment. More recently the concepts of functional urban areas, introduced by OECD, to compound urban and peri-urban areas. This addresses urban, regional and (cross-) national development goals such as air pollution reduction, integrated watershed-management, transport-management, economy and employment, the provision and accessibility to ecosystem services.

This Working Group provides a forum for two general types of actions:

- **Theoretical**, based on building knowledge concerning to the issues of environmental governance in the urban and peri-urban contexts;
- **Practical**, oriented into actions implementing the theory like working with urban and peri-urban case studies or workshops with stakeholders and students.

Expected activities

Our objectives are to implement the following activities:

- **12ve of March 2018 Berlin, Germany:** A workshop titled “Metropolitan agri-food-systems and peri-urban agricultural landscapes” to be held at the conference “Landscape 2018 – Frontiers of agricultural landscape research”, prepared together with: Ingo Zasada (ZALF), Bernd Pölling (FHS), Alexandra Doernberg (ZALF) and Marcin Spyra (MLU); for more information about the workshop please see the link;
- **28th of May till 1st of June, 2018** study trip in the frame of didactic course for master students titled: “Mapping and governing of the peri-urban landscapes of Upper Silesia”, prepared by Martin Luther University (Germany) in cooperation with Central Mining Institute (Poland) and University of Ostrava (Czech

Republic).

- Research project proposal titled “Innovative solutions for planning ecosystem services in metropolitan regions” submitted in July 2017 to German Academic Exchange Service and to Italian Ministry for Education, University and Research. Authors: Daniele La Rosa (University of Catania), Christine Fürst (MLU) and Marcin Spyra (MLU);
- Proposal of a pre-conference workshop or panel at the 19th Annual International Conference on Digital Government Research, Delft University of Technology, Delft, the Netherlands, 30 May- 1 June, 2018;
- Joint publications in scientific journals and cooperation on special issues of scientific journals focused on urban landscapes issues.
- Joint didactic courses for master and PhD students, implemented in the cooperation between working group partners. Student courses aim to discuss issues of urbanized landscapes in metropolitan, conurbation and cross-boundary contexts.

Finally, we encourage the membership among different planning actors (stakeholders, citizens, planning professionals) to further spread the ideas of urban and peri-urban governance. This we are planning to implement through on-going research projects (e.g. SERVICES project <http://services.eli-web.com/>) and include as important component in future project applications.

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The IALE Bulletin is distributed several times a year to the members of IALE. IALE - the International Association for Landscape Ecology was founded in 1982 to promote communication between scientists, planners and interdisciplinary scientific research.

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New co-operation with open access online journal Land



The International Association for Landscape Ecology (IALE) is now affiliated to Land. Land is an international and cross-disciplinary open access journal of land use/land change, land management, land system science and landscape. It is published quarterly online by MDPI. IALE members receive 10% discount of the article processing charge.

Please contact Christine Furst (IALE International) or Elvis Wang (Land) for further information:

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www.landscape-ecology.org

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