

# 8th LE:NOTRE Institute Landscape Forum 2019

April 9 - 13, 2019 - Zagreb, Croatia

hosted by the University of Zagreb, Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Landscape Architecture

**LE:NOTRE Institute**  
Linking Landscape Education, Research and Innovative Practice

**ECLAS**  
EUROPEAN COUNCIL OF  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
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## Learning Landscapes Zagreb

### Key messages of the LE:NOTRE Landscape Forum Zagreb

April 9 – 13, 2019



Zagreb, like most successful European cities, is growing, with the result that there are increasing tendencies for densification in existing built-up areas and high levels of development pressure on still open/unbuilt land resulting in threats to the remaining green areas and relics of semi-natural landscape.

At the same time climate change is putting increasing pressures on urban areas in particular: the hottest years ever since records began have been in the last few years. Research shows that increasing density and the loss of vegetation will make a bad situation still worse.

Open space and the urban landscape are essential assets of an attractive environment. This ensures the quality of life and well-being of the local population as well as being a key 'soft' locational factor for attracting inward investment and thus safeguarding jobs, something which is vital in the competition as processes of globalization and digitalization transform the economic landscape.

#### Key messages

Against this background, the 2019 LE:NOTRE Landscape Forum has been considering the potentials of the city's landscape resources and makes the following recommendations:

1. **Enhancing Zagreb's existing landscape potential.** The European Landscape Convention makes clear the importance of protecting, planning and managing the urban and peri-urban landscape. Zagreb is particularly lucky in being endowed with a strong and attractive natural landscape structure. The city's major landscape units – the valley of river Sava and the Medvednica Mountain Chain – provide the backbone for sustainable development based on an effective green infrastructure network generating multiple values for society, economy and the environment.
2. **Connecting landscape and democracy.** Planning for landscape strategically at the regional scale, an essential part of the European Union's concept of 'Green Infrastructure', needs to be complemented

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by a bottom-up approach allowing any citizen to participate in the formulation of landscape quality objectives, also as required by the European Landscape Convention.

- 3. Designing multiple functions for multiple benefits.** Green infrastructure, in the form of strategic landscape structure and local green and open spaces, performs multiple functions if it is properly planned, interconnected and accessible. These include creating economic value; strengthening a sense of place and local identity; contributing to food protection and mitigating the impacts of climate change.
- 4. Communicating values.** Landscape quality is a common good that creates substantial economic value for society. It is vital that decision-makers constantly assess, monitor and communicate this value generation across sectors, disciplines and cultural groups. New developments in digitally-based landscape assessment provide city governments with promising new opportunities for capturing and interpreting the value of the urban landscape.
- 5. Building community and identity.** Zagreb's urban landscape reveals the history of the local community: People's present and past experiences in this landscape are fundamental to their identity, place-attachment and confidence in the future. Heritage designation, conservation and development are strategic resources for sustainable development. Any historic layer is relevant in this respect. This includes landscapes developed during the period of socialist modernism, such as the Zagreb Fair and Novi Zagreb.
- 6. Developing foodscapes.** Local food production and agriculture are relevant sectors supporting and sustaining green infrastructure. A multi-functional and attractive foodscape can provide ecosystem services, enhance biodiversity and well-being, and offer space for leisure and local entrepreneurs.
- 7. Creating resilience to climate change.** An urban green infrastructure approach is also vital for climate change mitigation and adaptation. It can contribute to sustainable mobility, stormwater and flood management and combating urban heat island effects.
- 8. Linking landscape and economy.** A better understanding of the urban green infrastructure's economic values enables decision makers to successfully engage in trade-off analysis, promoting dialogue among stakeholders about the management of their landscape, ultimately helping them to identify strategies for improved governance.

The transformation of Zagreb's landscape for a sustainable future will require innovative partnerships between sectors, political entities, societal groups and disciplines. Consequently, landscape strategies need to be communicated to as many societal groups as possible by means of an integrated approach combined with an educational strategy.

As a guiding idea, we propose the **vision of a regional landscape park for Zagreb**, consisting of river Sava and the Medvednica Mountain Chain, joined together by a diverse and interconnected green network. The regional landscape park could become a multifunctional green infrastructure system, integrating all above-mentioned principles and providing multiple values.

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Envisioning the Zagreb Regional Park: Multiple benefits of a green infrastructure network.  
Graphic: Anna Szilagyi-Nagy

## Context of this document

This outcome statement summarizes the main findings of the 8th LE:NOTRE Landscape Forum ‘Learning Landscapes’ held in Zagreb from April 9 – 13, 2019. The forum was organized by University of Zagreb, Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Ornamental Plants, Landscape Architecture and Garden Art in cooperation with the LE:NOTRE Institute.

The ideas presented here may support local and regional stakeholders in shaping more sustainable landscape development <sup>1</sup>processes. The forum outcome statement may also inspire democratic landscape transformation in other metropolitan areas in Europe and beyond.

Relevant supranational policy documents and agreements supporting a sustainable future of Zagreb’s landscape, all valid or in force in Croatia, include the following:

- Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (United Nations<sup>2</sup>)
- New Urban Agenda (UN Habitat<sup>3</sup>)
- Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (United Nations<sup>4</sup>)



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals> (accessed 04.05.2019)

<sup>3</sup> <http://habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda> (accessed 04.05.2019)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/documents/cep43e.pdf> (accessed 04.05.2019)

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- European Landscape Convention (Council of Europe<sup>5</sup>)
- Communication on Green Infrastructure (European Union<sup>6</sup>)
- Water Framework Directive (European Union<sup>7</sup>)
- European Floods Directive (European Union<sup>8</sup>)
- The Future of the Common Agricultural Policy (European Union<sup>9</sup>)
- The EU Biodiversity Strategy (European Union<sup>10</sup>)



## Background of the Landscape Forum and the LE:NOTRE Institute

The LE:NOTRE institute has been established under the auspices of ECLAS, the European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools, as an umbrella organisation for interdisciplinary collaboration between education, research and innovative practice in the landscape field. The goal of the LE:NOTRE Institute is to develop and strengthen the links between landscape education, research and innovative practice, in the public, private and not for profit sectors.

It aims to achieve this by furthering and facilitating communication, collaboration and cross-fertilisation of ideas on an interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral basis, in order to promote the wider and deeper understanding of the cultural, environmental, social and economic role of the landscape for the benefit and well-being of society as a whole.

What makes the LE:NOTRE Landscape Forum different from other European landscape events is the focus on dialogue, debate and discourse. It provides a unique opportunity to interact creatively with colleagues from a range of landscape disciplines in informal workshop and field visit settings. The aim is to create stimulating environment to promote the generation of both new teaching ideas and projects, for research and for collaboration between theory and practice. To date, the forum has been organized eight times: Antalya (2012), Rome (2013), Sarajevo (2014), Bucharest (2015), Paphos/Cyprus (2016), Freising (2017), Gozo/Malta (2018), Zagreb (2019).

**Landscape Forum Website:** <http://www.forum.ln-institute.org>

**LE:NOTRE Institute:** <http://www.le-notre.org>

For feedback on this document please contact: [office@ln-institute.org](mailto:office@ln-institute.org)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.coe.int/en/web/landscape> (accessed 04.05.2019)

<sup>6</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52013DC0249&from=EN> (accessed 04.05.2019)

<sup>7</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/index_en.html) (accessed 04.05.2019)

<sup>8</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/flood\\_risk/implem.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/flood_risk/implem.htm) (accessed 04.05.2019)

<sup>9</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/future-cap\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/food-farming-fisheries/key-policies/common-agricultural-policy/future-cap_en) (accessed 04.05.2019)

<sup>10</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52011DC0244> (accessed 04.05.2019)