



Dear Colleagues,

I would like to share with you the highlights of the Professional Committee meeting which took place via Zoom from 14:00-16:00 CET, 19 February 2021. The Committee addressed a full agenda of items aligned to the Professional Programme Development Plan objectives:

Objective 1 - Align work of the professional units with the IFLA strategy

Objective 2 - Lead the governance review, with regard to the professional units of IFLA

Objective 3 - Strengthen the communication and collaboration between all stakeholders

Objective 4 - Develop the congress as a professional experience and international forum and participate in the review of the congress

As you will see – from the summaries below, there is a lot of work happening at the moment. In the coming weeks you will receive further updates on the election process and the WLIC 2021.

### **Objective 1: Align work of the Professional Units with the IFLA strategy Professional Unit Updates:**

#### **1.1 Professional Units – updates**

The Professional Committee noted an update on the work of the Professional Units and the exemplary work being done by units to align to the 2019-2024 IFLA Strategy. It is also fantastic to hear of the virtual events that are being hosted by Professional Units. Thank you for your efforts to continue to deliver professional development.

It was also noted that there have been some changes in Officers of Standing Committees since December 2020.

#### **1.2 Mid-term Updates**

An online form will be provided to Units for submission of their mid-term update. The link to the form will be posted to Basecamp on Friday 26 February 2021 and will be due on 15 March 2021. Minimal reporting is required, and it is anticipated that Units spend between 15-30 minutes completing the form.

### **Objective 2: Lead the IFLA Professional Units Governance Review**

The Secretary General provided an update on the progress of the Governance Review. As detailed on the [IFLA website](#), at the extraordinary General Assembly on 12 February, IFLA's Members expressed their strong support for changes implementing our Federation's Governance Review. IFLA will now move rapidly to launch the nominations and elections process for 2021.

The next step is to launch the process of electing and appointing the volunteers who will breathe life into IFLA's new structures, not least a new President-elect, Treasurer and Governing Board.

IFLA will issue a call for nominations on 1 March, and there will be further communication about the

possibilities open to you in the coming weeks.

Work will also progress on the finalization of the handbook to accompany the Statutes and Rules of Procedure.

In relation to the implementation of the new structure, the Professional Committee endorsed recommendations to the Governing Board Transition Committee, for Division structure and Division Chair elections. Details of this structure will be released with the 2021 election process.

### **Objective 3: Strengthen the communication and collaboration between all stakeholders**

#### **3.1 Professional Committee Funds**

An update on PC funds, including a list of projects pre-approved from 2020 for 2021, and the status of in-progress funding requests was provided. The Professional Committee discussed and approved €400 for Marketing and Management and €2000 for Children & Young Adults project funds.

#### **3.2 Publishing Update**

An update on the status of Unit-driven publications and standards materials was provided to the Committee.

#### **3.3 Division Reports (Division Chairs)**

The Division Chairs provided an overview of their Division's Unit activities, including those who may be in need of additional support. Difficulties related to the pandemic were identified, along with those successes achieved by Units. It was noted that Professional Units are eager to prepare for WLIC 2021 and are interested to know details related to their roles in the Congress.

### **Objective 4 - Develop the congress as a professional experience and international forum and participate in the review of the congress**

#### **4.1 WLIC 2021**

WLIC 2021 will be IFLA's first virtual conference. It is an opportunity to boldly try new ways of providing learning, information and networking to delegates.

An update on the WLIC 2021 programme and platform was provided to the Professional committee. IFLA HQ is progressing with negotiations and pricing discussions with three platform vendors. A recommendation on the platform vendor will be made to the Governing Board March 2021 meeting.

In 2021, the WLIC programme will be more strongly curated by the Professional Committee and will be aligned to the Congress theme and sub-themes. There will be a range of different formats for sessions, with an emphasis on presentations rather than submission of papers. Professional Units will be invited to submit proposals for their participation in the conference.

The *Call for Proposals* aligned to the conference theme and subthemes will be issued to Professional Units on 25 February 2021, with proposals to be submitted by 9 April 2021. The *Call for Proposals* will outline the different formats of session delivery that will be available on the online platform.

WLIC 2021 will be held during the second half of August 2021 – the actual dates will be advised following the Governing Board's approval of the platform vendor.

An update on the progress of the conference planning, including timeline will be outlined in the *Call for Proposals* on 25 February 2021. Although our timelines are tight - we are committed to delivering an exciting and rewarding programme. Once you receive the *Call for Proposals*, I encourage you to consider how your Professional Unit can participate in WLIC 2021.

**Looking forward**

So, as you can see there is a lot of work happening now. The Professional Committee appreciates your patience as we work together to implement IFLA's Strategy. I also acknowledge the great support of IFLA HQ staff!

In the coming weeks we will continue to provide more information about this exciting work.

I look forward to continuing to work with you over the coming months.

Regards, Vicki

**Vicki McDonald**

**Chair - Professional Committee**