



To Athens-Anaplis S.A.

Brussels, the 25th of June, 2023

Dear Sir, Madam,

We had our attention drawn to the “Announcement of architectural competitions for the renovation of the open public spaces and surrounding areas of the new metro stations in Athens”, from the Panhellenic Association of Landscape Architects (PHALA). Although these competitions are important for the city of Athens, we have noticed a serious misinterpretation regarding the definition of the Landscape Architect. The announcement defines as Landscape Architect, the person who has undergraduate studies in Architecture and two years master studies in Landscape Architecture, but also presupposes this person to hold an engineering license.

We are aware that in Greece, Landscape Architects are mostly holding a two-year master’s in landscape architecture and an undergraduate degree in a related subject (e.g. Horticulture, Forestry, Biology, Architecture, Spatial Planning, etc). However, there are also exceptions of people from abroad, holding a first-professional undergraduate degree in Landscape Architecture. PHALA is one of the effective members of the European Region of the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA Europe) and the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA). IFLA Europe, as a non-governmental organization, is representing the profession across Europe which aims to defend the Landscape Architecture profession, recognizing excellence in professional training courses and promoting the best practice operations in all member States, but also strives to influence and enhance the quality of the landscape. IFLA Europe has a close collaboration with the Council of Europe, in pursuit of the aims and objectives of the European Landscape Convention and as such being observer to the Council of Europe’s Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) and the Council of Europe Conferences on the European Landscape Convention and has consulting NGO status related to landscape architecture matters. IFLA Europe has a close relationship and collaboration with many related disciplines such as UIA and ACE.

Therefore, we would like to draw your attention to the proper definition of the Landscape Architect as precisely stated by IFLA/UNESCO CHARTER FOR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION and also based on GUIDANCE DOCUMENT for RECOGNITION or ACCREDITATION-Professional Education Programs in Landscape Architecture-, approved by IFLA World Council in 2008: *“The education and training of landscape architects encompasses both the academic and the postgraduate/professional elements. First professional degrees in landscape architecture may be offered at the undergraduate or the graduate levels. An undergraduate degree is generally not be less than four years of full-time studies in a university or an equivalent institution. A graduate degree will normally require a minimum of two years of full-time study or for an acceptable period on a part-time basis. Entrance into graduate programs will require an undergraduate university degree in landscape architecture or other fields accepted by the institution”*.

At the same time, the European Region of the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA Europe), set up the same general standards for landscape architecture education required for effective membership in IFLA Europe:



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- *Undergraduate entry*: a minimum of 4 years full-time academic study (or part-time equivalent) + 2 years professional practice.

- *Graduate entry* (following a first degree in a related subject of at least 3 years duration and after a selection procedure): a minimum of 2 years full-time academic study (or part-time equivalent) + 2 years professional practice.

At this stage, we would like to express our disappointment at this narrow definition of Landscape Architects, given by your announcement, which is simply in favor to advantage one group of people to the gross disadvantage of others and in itself is discriminatory and rather contrary to the Human Rights Convention of the Council of Europe, to which the Greek Government is a signatory. It may also be useful to mention that Landscape Architects are not universally recognized in Greece as a liberal profession in the same way that other professionals are, despite Greece also being a signatory to the Council of Europe Landscape Convention which encourages all States members of the Council of Europe to formally recognise the profession of Landscape Architects at national and international level; to support a multidisciplinary approach to landscape, through co-operation of all relevant professions in all phases of the planning process; and to increase the diversity of disciplines in the training of landscape professionals, particularly regarding science, management and planning.

Regarding these competition calls, we urge the organizing committee to rephrase them and to provide the proper definition regarding the title of Landscape Architect, as was presented above.

In IFLA EUROPE we have high professional and educational standards, therefore it is advisable, Landscape Architects who are interested in participating in these competitions, to send you a membership of certification from PHALA, member of IFLA EUROPE.

The European Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA Europe) is always here to assist you since we believe that the above competitions a very prominent projects for Athens as a cultural and tourist destination.

The president of IFLA Europe

Katerina Gkoltsiou