



29 April, 2021

Colleagues

The April 2021 Professional Committee meeting took place via Zoom from 9:30 – 11:30 CEST, 23 April 2021. The Committee addressed a full agenda of items aligned to the Professional Programme Development Plan (PPDP).

1. Objective 1 - Align work of the professional units with the IFLA strategy
2. Objective 2 - Lead the governance review with regard to the professional units of IFLA
3. Objective 3 - Strengthen the communication and collaboration between all stakeholders
4. Objective 4 - Develop the congress as a professional experience and international forum and participate in the review of the congress

Align work of the professional units with the IFLA strategy

An overview of Professional Units + IFLA Strategy coverage, Professional Unit Virtual Events, and Standing Committee changes was provided, along with the status of several Unit-driven publications, guidelines and standards which are underway. The Professional Committee commends all Professional Units for their outstanding work.

The Call for Nominations for the *Dynamic Unit and Impact Award 2021* was issued on 23 April 2021, following the Professional Committee meeting. The deadline for nominations is 1 June 2021. The nomination form has been revised to make it easier to complete the nomination process. The Award recognises outstanding work from Professional Units – so I encourage you to submit your nomination!

Lead the governance review with regard to the professional units of IFLA

It has been fantastic to see the response to the call for nominations for the [2021 Elections](#). There are 650 nominations for 408 positions. Section elections this year have almost doubled. There will be 25 elections held for Professional Section Members, compared to a usual 12-14 Sections.

A draft transition plan aligned to the elections process and WLIC was discussed by the Professional Committee. This plan will support Standing Committees and Officers in the transition to the new governance structure. To support this transition, a range of tools will be provided, e.g. video tutorials on Basecamp, guidelines for electing Officers, and regional discussions via zoom.

A series of regional open fora led by the PC Chair and Division Chairs will be scheduled for the week of 12 July 2021. An officers briefing, similar to what would usually be held at the WLIC, will be scheduled for week of 23 August 2021.

Strengthen the communication and collaboration between all stakeholders

Division Chairs reported news and information from their Units. Units are active and outputs are plentiful. The attitude and willingness of Units to keep activities moving is greatly appreciated and applauded by the Professional Committee.

A suggestion for an ongoing cycle of reporting requirements was presented, the goal of which is to decrease administrative load on Professional Units, while simultaneously providing data needed for reporting and to determine Professional Unit progress and needed support. Use of a standardized, updatable digital form was approved, and reporting dates and information will be posted in the Officers Corner, Basecamp and the dates entered into the Officer's Basecamp calendar.

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

A *Call for WLIC Session Proposals* was sent to all Professional Units on 8 March 2021, with a deadline for proposals was 9 April 2021. A Congress Proposal Working Group (curation committee)

has met several times, to discuss criteria and pilot curation of the first proposals submitted, and ultimately moderate all submitted proposals. 53 proposals have been received with 21 approved and the remainder under revision. The Working Group has been impressed with the breadth of proposals addressing the conference themes and providing a global perspective. Proposal selection will be completed by 21 May 2021.

A preliminary discussion on Unit Sponsorship was held. The existing *Sponsorship Guidelines* were last reviewed in 2012 and require revision. It was suggested that the existing guidelines be revised to include a due diligence component, guidance for both in-kind and financial sponsorship and that guidance be provided not only regarding the Professional Units and the Conference, but for all aspects of the Organization and its activities. The Professional Committee will refer the Guidelines and their suggestions for changes to the Finance Committee and then to the incoming Governing Board for approval.

Looking forward

It is a very busy (and exciting) time on the IFLA calendar. Elections are underway for Professional Units and the elections for the Professional Council Chair and Professional Division Committee Chairs will open next week.

Work will continue on transitioning new and continuing members into the new governance structure and providing support and guidance for our first virtual WLIC.

On behalf of the Professional Committee, I thank all Professional Units for their outstanding work.

Thank you, Vicki

Vicki McDonald
Chair, Professional Committee