

## ***In Memoriam to one of the founders of ECLAS:***

### ***Professor Helmut Weckwerth, TU Berlin, 1934-2019***

*Prof. Dr. Elke Mertens has written the following text in preparation for the ECLAS Lifetime Achievement Award nomination of Helmut Weckwerth in 2016. Published here with small amendments.*



Professor Weckwerth (1934 – 2019) was one of the founders and member of the committee of ECLAS in 1991, when it was still called *European Conference of Landscape Architecture Schools*. This first phase of ECLAS was very important for the international exchange of knowledge and for fostering landscape architecture in many countries facing dramatic political changes in the early 1990's.

However, his work for international exchange has begun much earlier. Already in 1969, he wrote an open letter in *Garten und Landschaft*, the traditional German magazine for landscape architects (3/1069), demanding international conferences of delegates under power of national conferences to coordinate teaching and research within a comparable level of education.

In 1979, Professor Weckwerth founded the Hochschulkonferenz Landschaft (HKL) to support the exchange between the German-speaking landscape architecture schools and other landscape related fields, stakeholders and institutions. The HKL exists until today and for more than 10 years he has been one of two honorary members because of his achievement.

He and his teaching assistants made contacts to educational institutions in other countries such as the UK in 1988, organized international conferences, for example in 1989 in Brussels, Belgium. Here, the following declaration was signed which led to the foundation of EFLA, today IFLA-Europe:

## DECLARATION 8 p.

with signatures of Associations or Institutions of 10 European Countries: Belgium, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Great Britain & N., Netherlands, Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain, Italy:

*“The National associations or Institutions for Landscape Architects in the European Community do hereby agree:*

- 1. to form a ”European Foundation for Landscape Architecture” and to adopt its principles and aims included in Appendix A;*
- 2. to adopt the “Aims and Objectives for Landscape Architecture Education” included in Appendix B;*
- 3. to give **reciprocal recognition** to the academic qualifications awarded by courses and countries as detailed in Appendix C;*
- 4. to adopt the **model structures** for undergraduate and masters, graduate and postgraduate courses as being representative of the minimum **education requirements** for the training of Landscape Architects as detailed in Appendix D;”*

Professor Weckwerth translated the declaration and published it in Germany. He became the contact person between the German HKL and the European Foundation of Landscape Architecture Schools. He then organized the first European conference of landscape educators in Berlin (September 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of 1989) where the following resolution was announced:

**Resolution of the 1989 European conference of Landscape Educators in Berlin (29.9.89) 1 p.:**

*“1. The European Conference of Landscape Educators in Berlin supports the **reciprocal recognition** of the academic qualifications in Landscape Architecture awarded by the courses and countries of the European Community and proposes the formation of a **working group on this subject for Europe as a whole.***

*2. The European Conference of Landscape Educators supports those European Countries who have until now no equivalent academic education in Landscape Architecture in **introducing an academic curriculum** which meets the standard of the European Foundation for Landscape Architecture.”*

Helmut Weckwerth

EUROPEAN FOUNDATION FOR LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE,

Notes for the Education Working Party, September/October 1989, 3 p.

*“together with other regional Conferences (for example CELA) there might be the possibility and we think the necessity to have a World Conference of Landscape Educators, who make sure, that the world problems of the global environment disaster, the overcrowded cities and the impoverished rural areas will be considered in a sufficient way in the Landscape Architecture Education Programs of each country.*

*In this world level there should be a close cooperation with the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) as the global institution of professionals.”*

Included is a scheme of the **“Organisation of the Education Branch of the European Foundation for Landscape Architecture in the EC-countries”**, proposal by M.F. Downing/H.Weckwerth, 30. 9. 89

For the Landscape Architecture Education Conference on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 1990, Professor Weckwerth was listed as member of the Education committee:

*...”4. A European Conference of Educators: within or outside the Foundation? Helmut Weckwerth, Member Education Committee”...*

In 1990, at the EUCL - European Universities Conference Landscape (Vienna Sept. 26 to 29, 1990), the main themes were discussions about study programmes, communication between universities and exchange programmes. Professor Weckwerth’s special interest and presentation was about the consolidation and development of European exchange programmes (ELEE, ERASMUS, TEMPUS) together with the support of the European cooperation through EU-funded programmes.

In 1991, Professor Weckwerth became one of the founding members of ECLAS, formerly E.U.C.L. and continued working for the development of ECLAS. Since then, he has supported the ideas of European and international exchange in the academic field. His last active involvement in our international community was probably during the first LE:NOTRE Thematic Network Meeting at Kassel University in 2004 where he shared valuable ideas with the professional practice working group and obviously enjoyed the dynamic of the international network.

We have dedicated the ECLAS Lifetime Achievement Award 2016 to Helmut Weckwerth for his unique contribution to the establishment of the European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools. He had the right vision in the right moment.

Helmut Weckwerth has passed away on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2019 in Berlin, Germany.

### **Short CV Helmut Weckwerth**

Born March 28<sup>th</sup>, 1934

1953: Abitur

1953-55: apprenticeship as gardener as a requirement for studying garden and landscape design, graduation with an award

1955-56: practical work as a gardener in Switzerland and England

1956-62: studies at the Technical University, Berlin, garden and landscape design including urban design. During this time, he continued working in other countries and in different fields of what we call today landscape architecture

1962: Graduation as diploma-gardener (Dipl.-Gtn.), this diploma was changed to a "Diploma-Engineer" in 1973

1962-65: work as a landscape architect in Wiesbaden

1965-71: position as senior engineer at the Technical University, Berlin

1971: Full Professor at the Technical University, Berlin, for: Landscape planning, particularly open space development

1997: retirement